



UPOM, INC. NEWSLETTER

May 20, 2008

UPOM, INC. CO-FOUNDER/DIRECTOR SUFFERS INJURY

Don Proue, co-founder and director of UPOM, Inc., suffered a severe injury May 9 in Laurel. The injury occurred while Don was participating in a team roping event, and he remains in a Billings hospital. Don and his family need all of the support we can give them at this difficult time. Don has been instrumental in the founding of UPOM, Inc. and getting it off the ground. We would like to ask everyone to remember Don and Betty and their family in their prayers.

WHAT UPOM HAS BEEN UP TO:

UPOM PARTICIPATES IN WATER RIGHTS NETWORKING CONFERENCE

Unwarranted government intrusion into water use, a drastic decrease in recreational opportunities, and the further erosion of private property rights were the primary concerns aired at a grassroots networking conference held this week in Butte. The conference, hosted by the Montana Stockgrowers Association and Citizens for Balanced Use, was focused at organizing opposition to S 1870 and HR 2421, titled "The Clean Water Restoration Act of 2007."

Despite the benign title of the legislation, it has far-reaching negative effects on Montana's resource industries and outdoor recreation. Of primary concern was the elimination of the term "navigable" from the 1972 Clean Water Act. According to water policy experts at the meeting, eliminating "navigable" from federal code could take away Montana's ability to control water decisions.

Three UPOM board members, Deanna Robbins, Mark Robbins, and Toby Dahl, attended the conference. "It's pretty clear that this is bad legislation intended to further the environmental movement's agenda," said Deanna Robbins. "Putting all water decisions in the hands of the federal government, and away from the states, sets the stage for them to begin chipping away at our other property rights."

"We're getting assaulted from all fronts," added Dahl. "UPOM got started to address hunting and fishing access issues, but we see a tremendous value in working with groups like MSGA and CBU and all the others on property rights issues. We either stand together and work together, or we're all going to get steamrolled by those who would take our rights away."

The tenor of the meeting in Butte was optimistic that the federal water legislation could be stopped, and all groups in attendance were encouraged to organize grassroots opposition that would be recognized by Senators Baucus and Tester and Governor Schweitzer. "Unfortunately, sometimes it's not about right or wrong, it's about which side makes the most noise," said Mark Robbins. "This isn't just a fight for what's right, this is a fight for our livelihood, for our way of life. I want my kids to have all the advantage I had in rural Montana, but they're trying to take that away. This legislation is just one example."

"Property rights are the next battleground in the environmental movement," Dahl added. "We either pick up the fight now, or there's going to be nothing left for us to fight for."

WHAT THE FWP HAS BEEN UP TO:

FWP SEEKING VENDOR FOR LANDOWNER RELATION SURVEY

The Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is [seeking a vendor](#) to conduct a survey to "gather information from landowners regarding their relations with FWP." A start date for this survey has not been announced, but we'd like to take this opportunity to alert landowners that an opportunity to comment on FWP may be forthcoming. This will be a great opportunity for landowners throughout the state to have a united voice on the issues developing around property rights.

WHAT THE FWP COMMISSIONERS HAVE BEEN UP TO:

FWP COMMISSIONERS JUMP ON OBAMA BANDWAGON

Presidential candidate Barack Obama held a press conference call recently to tout his strong "commitment to the rights and traditions of Montana's sportsmen."

[According to a report by Bill Schneider of NewWest.net](#), "An impressive line up spoke on Obama's behalf, starting with Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission chairman and former state senator Steve Doherty, who pointed out that roughly half of the people in Montana's hunt or fish and that he

believed Obama would more strongly represent hunters, anglers and gun owners than Hillary Clinton...Doherty also said Obama supports the North American Wildlife Conservation Model, the backbone of wildlife management in United States, because it proclaims that wildlife is in the public trust, not owned by private landowners."

The Obama campaign also released a list of "Montana Sportsmen for Obama", which included Doherty and FWP Commissioners Shane Colton and Dan Vermillion.

Now we shouldn't have to point out that Senator Obama's positions on private property, hunting rights, and gun ownership are a little more in line with that of a liberal from Manhattan than a rancher from Miles City, but apparently our FWP Commissioners feel a closer kinship to Obama than they should.

Even [Hillary Clinton has pointed out](#) that Barack Obama has advocated for a ban on the "manufacture, sale, and possession of handguns." Said Clinton Montana campaign spokesperson Matt McKenna of Obama, "It's awfully hard to shoot a gun if you're not allowed to have one."

For any who doubt that there is a problem with the direction the FWP Commission is taking in Montana, look no further than the cozy relationship they're developing with the far-left Barack Obama.

JOIN US!

You can now join UPOM as a Landowner Member, Allied Business Member, or Supporter.

Please take the time to go to our website, where you will find more information on our organization. You can join online or print out a membership form and mail it to us. If you have already contributed to UPOM, your contribution can be credited toward your membership.

Don't like to do things "online?" Give us a call or send us an email, and we will put a membership application in the mail to you.

We must stand together if we are going to have a voice!

United Property Owners of Montana, Inc.

www.unitedpropertyownersofmt.com

Mark Robbins – President

Toby Dahl – Vice President

Don Proue – Director

Deanna Robbins - Treasurer