



MASTER HUNTER ADVISORY GROUP
WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, W 98501-1091

Notes for MHAG Meeting #41
January 19, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Washington Cattlemen’s Association, Ellensburg

MHAG Members		WDFW Staff	Guests
Region 1	Marji Bobiak	Dave Whipple Hunter Education Division Manager Kris Thorson Hunter Education Division Specialist Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator Captain Bob Weaver Region 3 Enforcement	
	Shawn Woodard		
	Tim Bruya		
Region 2	Carissa Craghead, Secretary (excused)		
	Jim Hope		
Region 3	Kyle Smith		
	Tom Conrads (Absent)		
Region 4	David Floyd		
	Jeff Larsen		
	John McAuliffe, Vice Chair		
Region 5	Chris Brong		
	George Dennis, Chair		
Region 6	Scott Vousboukis (excused)		
	James Zimmerman (excused)		
	Howard “Shane” Briel		

Procedural Business

- Call to order and announcements
- Introduction of members and guests
- Approval of Meeting #40 notes from October 6, 2017
 - Approved unanimously.

Old Business

- **Social Media Discussion (Kris Thorson)**
 - Kris went to Public Affairs to talk about the feasibility of having a WDFW Master Hunter Facebook page/group.
 - WDFW has a policy governing WDFW use of social media, policy 7015.
 - Under this policy, Public Affairs staff are responsible for posting and maintaining content on WDFW social media sites.
 - In talking with Public Affairs staff, they would not support an official WDFW Master Hunter Facebook page/group because the staff time required to manage the site.
 - John asked what the feasibility would be to have a bulletin board or forum that was run by MHs if they complied with the records retention process.
 - Jeff asked, could the MHPP post projects to the WDFW Facebook Page.
 - David asked if there was a way to have a subgroup or subpage from the WDFW Facebook Page that could be Master Hunter oriented.
 - There was a suggestion to have a non-official Master Hunter Facebook run by other people.
 - This was determined to be a risk to WDFW since if there was a public disclosure request to the department on this page, a judge could rule that since the Master Hunters are at times volunteer employees of the department that the records from that page would be disclosable and WDFW could be in violation of the law.
 - George brought up the point of public view on the MHPP and putting a finer looking glass on the program.
 - Jeff mentioned that we need to increase MH contacts with other MH to garner participation.
- **Master Hunter Qualifications (David Whipple)**
 - George had received emails from members of MHAG asking if there was a way to screen MH applicants to see if they have in fact harvested a big game animal.
 - George asked Dave if he envisioned changing the MHPP Qualifications.
 - Dave reported that there are a lot of challenges in determining the level of proficiency and character of MH applicants.
 - He also stressed that we are working to address these challenges through education and MH Orientations.
 - Jeff asked if there was a way we could require an attestation of knowledge of field care of animals.
 - Shawn suggested that WDFW have available for inexperienced hunters YouTube videos on field dressing.

- MHAG members will send links of videos from YouTube to Jeff and he will look them over and send recommendations out to the members for review.
- George mentioned that we might want to put into the orientation the 5 stages of a hunter and make sure to hammer folks who are not in stage 5.
- **Master Hunter Orientations (Kris Thorson)**
 - Kris thanked the MHAG members for their help in reviewing the MHPP Orientation PowerPoint.
 - The orientations will be on the following dates and locations.
 - January 20 from 11:30 am – 4:30 pm at 30pm at the Richland Library, 955 Northgate Dr., Richland, WA 99352.
 - January 27 from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the CB Tech commons, 900 East Yonezawa Boulevard, Moses Lake, WA 98837.
 - January 31 from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the Natural Resources Building room 172, 1111 Washington St Se, Olympia, WA 98504
 - February 3 from 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm at the INWC building, 6116 N Market St, Spokane, WA 99208.
 - February 10 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at the WDFW Mill Creek Office, 16018 Mill Creek Boulevard, Mill Creek, WA 98012. *This orientation includes a CORT class.*
 - February 15 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm at the Lower Columbia College, 1600 Maple St, Longview, WA 98632
 - George made sure to ask the members of the MHAG to attend the meetings in their regions and talk about MHAG and what its goals are.

New Business

- **MHAG End of Term Recognition**
 - WDFW recognized those members who are at the end of their appointed term by giving them an award of appreciation.
 - Those members are Tim Bruya, Shawn Woodard, Jim Hope, John McAuliffe, and Chris Brong.
 - During these member's tenure WDFW made several improvements to the program.
 - Started to update the Master Hunter Materials
 - Completed and implemented the Master Hunter Strategic Plan.
 - Challenged the staff to start a NHFD celebration
 - Encourage the creation of a Master Hunter Newsletter
 - Encourage and shape the MHPP Orientation PowerPoint
 - Update the current test to be more effective in testing applicant's knowledge.
 - Researched ways to implement social media presence for Master Hunter Permit Program
 - Communicated with MH in their respective regions
 - Attended MH Orientations
 - Communicated with CORT representatives regularly

- Assisted Department with selection of new MHAG members
 - Thank you all for your dedication and insight during your term.
- **Proposed MHPP Materials and Test (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - MHAG members took the proposed test that will accompany the MHPP materials update.
 - The members will then have until March 30 to look over the test and provide comments to Kris for discussion in the April 13 meeting.
 - Kris thanked the members for their time and work reviewing the proposed materials.
 - There were 46 comments from MHAG members sent to Kris before January 5.
 - Kris walked the group through the comments.
 - Other comments on the materials were discussed.
 - Dave asked the MHAG members about quality and amount of information on the history of hunting section.
 - Chris said that he would like to see a little more on the history of hunting.
 - Consensus seemed to indicate members liked the changes to the document.
 - There was also consensus to put the materials online.
- **WDFW Reports and Updates (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - MHPP 2017 Applicants (*Kris Thorson*)
 - As of January 18, we had 57 applicants.
 - As of January 24, 2017 we had 95 applicants.
 - Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Steve Dazey*)
 - There was a North Bend fence repair at a Christmas tree farm for elk damage.
 - Steve coordinated a lite duty project to prepare Mylar strips for a Judson lake project.
 - He is working with bill on having MHs build Mt. Goat transport boxes.
 - Steve is also coordinating a CORT class with his MH orientation.
 - Hunter Education Division Specialist (*Kris Thorson*)
 - Kris worked with George on the test updates.
 - Kris is also compiling the MHPP Annual Report.
 - Kris is starting to work on an Outdoor Recreation textbook for a possible class for high schools.
 - Also he worked on updating the Master Hunter Handbook to incorporate the comments supplied by MHAG members.
- **MHAG Member Updates (*MHAG members*)**
 - MHAG member volunteer work/activities, news/issues from your region, etc.
 - Shane Briel
 - Worked with EITW on several projects.
 - David Floyd
 - He noticed second half of year the amount of people taking the test was down from previous years.
 - Dave is recruiting new MHPP applicants.

- He has had a couple of MH hunting opportunities.
 - Jeff Larsen
 - Jeff mentored two teens on their first duck hunt.
 - He also helped two master hunters plan and prepare for some MH permit seasons in Loowit.
 - John helped two other hunters with information into Pumice Plains. He is suggesting adding information of hunting suggestions to MH drawn for hunts that do not allow pre-scouting.
 - George Dennis
 - George helped Bill set up a MHPP Orientation.
 - George shared a status summary of hoof disease studies compiled by WDFW Hoof Disease Coordinator Kyle Garrison.
 - Jim Hope
 - Jim mentored two novice hunters.
 - Shawn Woodard
 - Shawn mentored a few novice hunters.
 - Tim Bruya
 - Tim is looking for NHFD sites for 2020.
 - Chris Brong
 - Chris had discussions with conflict staff and damage is very light.
 - He is also going to work the Portland sports show.
 - Kyle Smith
 - Kyle got out and did some hunting.
 - He is working the tri-cities sportsman show.
 - Marji Bobiak
 - Marji did some survey work with a BLM wildlife biologist.
 - She also wants to help with scouting a NHFD location for 2020.
 - John McAuliffe
 - John's first Hunter Education class is scheduled for March.
- **MHPP Tracking Document Status (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - Kris passed out a newly updated tracking document.
 - In the appendix is the information on which changes have been made and which sections were affected.
 - Kris asked if members felt that the document was clear or if there might be a need to go through the document more thoroughly at the next meeting.
 - There was a suggestion to put information within the document about changes to the program to the website to show that improvements are happening.
- **Wildlife Damage season discussion (*David Whipple*)**
 - There was a change in some of the regions for the current damage season to generate more consistency throughout the state.
 - Conflict staff will work on right sizing the permit levels.
 - Dave gave an update on the possible changes to the Hunt Coordinator Guidelines.

- **MHPP Newsletter and MHAG involvement (*David Whipple*)**
 - Dave reiterated the need to have MHAG members submit articles for the newsletter.
- **Legislative Update (*David Whipple*)**
 - Since this is a short session, all bills not passed in the long session are still viable to be passed in the short session.
 - Couple pieces of agency legislation:
 - HB 2505 and SB 6198. Companion bills regarding youth age rates.
- **CORT update (*Shane Briel*)**
 - CORT Training calendar has had some technical difficulties but is getting back up soon.
- **Items for next meeting**
 - Consideration of adding MHPP Improvements online
 - Review of YouTube videos for deployment to WDFW web
 - Discussion of proposed test
 - Finalization of MH Handbook
 - Discussion on Social Media presence from Records Officer
 - Legislative Update
 - NHFD Update
 - Practice test
 - Discussion of Ray Boone letter