



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

**Notes for Meeting #15**

Cattlemen's Association Offices, Ellensburg  
March 3, 2011  
9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

**Preliminary Activities**

- Call to Order - The meeting was called to order by Chair Bob Cromwell at 9:06 a.m.
- Guest introductions – Chair Cromwell introduced guests:  
Dave Ware, WDFW; Anthony Novack, WDFW; Mike Kuttel, WDFW; Walt Christensen, GMAC;  
Ken Harris, GMAC.  
Members Present – Existing members: Chair Bob Cromwell, Vice Chair Kent Keller, WDFW  
Liaison Eric Anderson, Mike Britton, Mike Estes, Richard Mathisen, Ron Poppe, Jim  
Zimmerman, George Coulbourn, Bill Vincent, Secretary Jim Reinbold; new members: Jim  
Fitzgerald, Ted Wolkenhauer, Dennis Clay, and Craig Broadhead  
Members Absent – Harold Costa, Tani Iwashita, Mike Ward

**Agenda Items**

- Introduction of new Master Hunter Advisory Group members – Chair Cromwell also introduced the newest MHAG members: Jim Fitzgerald, Ted Wolkenhauer, Dennis Clay and Craig Broadhead.
- Recognition of outgoing Master Hunter Advisory Group members – Chair Cromwell and WDFW Liaison Lt. Anderson honored out going members George Coulbourn and Bill Vincent with words and a plaque noting the contributions they made to MHAG and wildlife conservation. Each outgoing member offered words of encouragement to the rest of the membership.
- Approval of meeting notes from December 2010 business meeting – Guest Christensen noted that the notes needed to be corrected in that the meeting with members of GMAC noted in Lt. Anderson's report were two separate meetings between Bob Cromwell and Walt Christensen and one with Lt. Anderson and Dave Ware rather than all together. Motion by Mike Estes, seconded by Bill Vincent to approve the notes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.
- Anthony Novack, WDFW - Deer and Elk Damage Specialist update -
  - ACTION ITEM 14-1 Report back to MHAG results of January notification – Anthony gave a report on Elk Area 3911 and the elimination of 2 elk limits. The area was also closed for 9 days. The elk population trend is good but the bull to cow ratio is of concern. There was a handout given to the members on the trends.
  - Mr. Novack stated that the grant for "Evaluating Illegal Hunter Behavior and Promoting Master Hunters to Resolve Deer and Elk Agriculture Conflicts" was not awarded in January. The grant is funded by the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Mr. Novack will be re-applying and working with Central Washington University on implementing this program. It was decided that there should be a workshop of critical players to review the results and set the program. The grant application is due in April. There was much discussion on the questions being used and where the results would be taken. Mr. Novack will be involved at every step of

the way to alleviate concerns of misuse of the information gathered. The grant request is for \$25,000 to conduct the survey for one and possibly 2 years. Another grant would need to be obtained to conduct another survey in 5 years to compare results of any programs developed as a result of the initial survey. MHAG members Jim Zimmerman moved and Dennis Clay seconded that the word "Illegal" be removed from the title of the grant. Motion passed unanimously.

- Mr. Novack reported on the road closure meeting held in January. It was decided that the elk winter range be included in the road closure area which is north of the Vantage Highway, south of Quilomene Ridge Road, east of the Wild Horse Wind Farm and west of the Columbia River. No vehicles will be allowed in that area but hikers will be allowed.
- Dave Ware, WDFW Wildlife Program Game Manager – Dave spoke about category changes and the permit drawing system. He stated that he observed that changes to the permits for Master Hunters were the least supported. There was general discussion on adjusting the point system to possibly eliminate the point system entirely. No decision was made. It might be that time will eventually eliminate the system if it is determined not to continue adding points in the MH permit system. There was discussion of developing a "no point loss" if the permit area is "uncertain" and a "point loss" if the permit area is certain. Certain meaning the permit area is open to Master Hunters without invitation from a hunt coordinator. Uncertain is an "on-call" area. Mr. Ware also talked about hotspot hunts and how to get a list for call outs. The list currently comes from those applying for permits. He also noted concerns for regional damage areas. There was also limited discussion on incentives outside of damage hunts. The thought behind incentive hunts would be to recruit and retain Master Hunters in the program to continue with damage control hunts. Mr. Ware also talked about volunteer solutions as it was noted by several Master Hunter members that the WDFW has strict criteria that discourages volunteerism. A possible solution would be for training and awareness of the WDFW criteria so the liability is reduced. He also discussed the possibility of regional contacts for projects. There would be a need for someone to organize and coordinate volunteer projects for the WDFW. Other types of programs that could work are: Interactive Scheduling, Herding/Hazing Form, Volunteer Wall of Fame, Projects on Website and Eyes in the Woods.
- Lt. Eric Anderson - Liaison update – Lt. Anderson reported that there have been 707 MH applicants for 2011 with 13 being denied. In 2010 there were 806 applications with 155 being certified. There are currently 1936 Master Hunters.

Lunch Discussion – Use of schedule sheet – Google Docs – and its use for hazing projects and other administrative tasks.

**WEATHER CONDITIONS DICTATED THE CANCELLATION OF THE REST OF THE MEETING.  
MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 1:00 P.M.**

**THE REST OF THE AGENDA WILL BE HELD OVER TO THE JUNE 16, 2011 MEETING TO BE HELD AT  
THE CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION OFFICE BUILDING IN ELLENSBURG.**

**NOTE:** Subsequent to the meeting, a motion was put forth electronically (e-mail) to the group by Chair Bob Cromwell to change the current crossbow qualification requirement: "I move that the qualifying standards for crossbow be changed to read as follows: 'Crossbow shooters must shoot a minimum qualifying score of 35 points for five (5) offhand shots at 20 yards, and 40 points for five (5) shots from a rest at 40 yards, on a B3 target (10 shots total)'"'. The motion was seconded and discussion took place electronically with a favorable passage of the motion.

**Committee Issues**

- Grants
  - ACTION ITEM 14-3 Apply for new ALEA grant for 2011.
- Qualifications
  - ACTION ITEM 14-5 CORT class.
  - Archery and crossbows – See note above.
  - Volunteerism.
- I&O
  - ACTION ITEM 13-6 I&O Meetings
- Hunt Management
  - ACTION ITEM 13-5 Hunt Coordinator Protocols and Guidelines
  - ACTION ITEM 14-4 Hunt descriptions
- Continuing Outreach
- Website
  - ACTION ITEM 13-7 Master Hunter Application Orientation Meetings in 2011 being replaced by website.

**Other Business:**

- Next meeting: date and location
- Good of the Order
- Adjournment