



MASTER HUNTER ADVISORY GROUP WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

MHAG Meeting #31, Meeting Notes
 April 24, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Washington Cattlemen’s Association, Ellensburg

MHAG Members		WDFW Staff	Guests / Coordinators
Region 1	John Glenewinkel	Dave Whipple Hunter Education Division Manager Olympia	Scott Phelps Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group
	Shawn Woodard		
	Tim Bruya (excused)		
Region 2	Carissa Craghead, Secretary	Aaron Garcia Region 3 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Bernard Brown (excused)		
Region 3	Lance Ostrom	Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Tom Conrads		
	Robert Cernick		
Region 4	Jim Fitzgerald, Chair	Bill Montgomery Region 6 Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	John McGlenn, Vice Chair (excused)		
	Jim Slyfield (excused)		
	John McAuliffe		
Region 5	Chris Brong	Christine Redmond Volunteer Program Manager	
	George Dennis		
Region 6	James Zimmerman		

Procedural Business

- Meeting called to order at 0905
- Introduction of Members and Guests
- Welcome to new members!
 - Thanks very much to outgoing MHAG members: Jim Sutton Region 1; Jim Reinbold Region 2; Roger Hurst Region 4; Dave Berg Region 6. Plaques will be given by Jim F/ Dave W in appreciation of efforts to MHAG. Chris Brong was reappointed to represent Region 5.
 - Welcome to new members: Shawn Woodard (Region 1); Tim Bruya, (Region 1); Bernard Brown (Region 2), Robert Cernick (Region 3); John McAuliffe (Region 4); Chris Brong, (Region 5, reappointed).
- Meeting #30 notes were approved
- Officer elections:
 - Chair: Jim Fitzgerald was nominated by Jim Zimmerman to continue as MHAG Chair, seconded by George Dennis. All approved. Thanks Jim!
 - Vice-Chair: George Dennis was nominated by Chris Brong to serve as Vice Chair, seconded by Carissa Craghead. All approved. Thanks George!
 - Secretary: this is a 2-year appointment and not up for election; Carissa will continue as MHAG Secretary.

New Business

- WDFW Reports and Updates (*Dave Whipple*)
 - An overview was provided for new (and existing) MHAG members, of the MHAG statutes, rules, operating procedures, strategic plan, expectations, etc. These materials are available on the WDFW MHPP page.
 - Hunter Education Instructor In-service Training (IST)
 - As summary of the IST (held in Wenatchee March 26-28) was provided, including the PowerPoint outlining the status of Hunter Education in Washington. Approximately 350 Hunter Education Instructors attended, including MHAG members Carissa Craghead and George Dennis.
 - “Hunting is Conservation”
 - An article from RMEF’s “Bugle” describing conservation contributions that hunters make was handed out. Master Hunters are urged to promote this message as appropriate. WDFW will be working on similar messaging in appropriate venues.

- Wenas Wildlife Area shooting range proposal
 - WDFW is proposing to develop an official shooting/target area to help eliminate problems such as safety of other recreational activities, trespassing, fires, trash, etc. Input from MHs is desired. Public meetings to be held to discuss the proposals:
 - 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 29, at the Hal Holmes Center, 209 N. Ruby St., Ellensburg
 - 6 p.m., Thursday, April 30, at the Selah Civic Center, 216 S. First St., Selah.
 - Please see press release: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/news/apr2315a/>

- Fish & Wildlife Commission Action - 3-Year Package highlights
 - Hunter orange required to be worn by Master Hunters during any and all times that are open for modern firearm, EXCEPT as authorized by department permit.
 - MH 2nd tag requirements-see pamphlet but generally 2nd tag required at reduced rate for early MH/3911 elk season.

- Master Hunter Elk Area 3911
 - WDFW is working to better understand issues regarding 3911; ethics, safety, landowner complaints, MH violations, WDFW goals, etc.
 - Aaron Garcia is working with conflict specialist and hunt coordinator for the 3911 to improve relations between landowners, hunters, etc.

- MHPP Update; 2014 Numbers & 2015 Status
 - 2014 Numbers:
 - Reference the 2014 Annual Report
 - 521 applicants and 135 certified. The total MHs in 2014 is 1, 701. The number of MHs renewing remains fairly constant @50%. MHAG generally agrees that because the renewal rate is relatively constant, the slight overall decline in total number of MHs isn't cause for concern.
 - 2015 Numbers To-Date:
 - 375 applicants, 2 have finished all requirements to date.
 - Issues with MHPP – Some landowners and the general public have had negative dealings with MHs, and these issues tend to live a long time. However, some landowners have also had positive experiences and are supportive, even in areas that historically have not wanted to use MHs to address elk damage issues.

- Hunting license trends, 2010 – 2014
 - License trends were discussed in a general way, but it was recognized that due to changes in license package options and prices, identifying meaningful trends is very difficult and would be very time consuming.

- Wolf Population Status
 - Excerpts from WDFW's wolf status PowerPoint were provided and discussed
 - WDFW's goals are to recovery wolves, manage wolf-livestock conflicts, maintain healthy prey base, develop public understanding and promote coexistence.
 - Guidelines for delisting wolves from protected status depend on specific breeding pairs, known packs, etc. Currently at 16 confirmed packs, 5 successful breeding pairs.
 - Legislation for 2015: 12 bills were introduced, 2 are currently still alive, which are dependent on the state budget and are on the Senate Floor awaiting a vote (SHB 2107 and SHB 1676).

- Status of Washington's Bighorn sheep herds
 - This agenda topic was postponed.

- Elk Hoof Disease Update (*George Dennis*)
 - WDFW Region 5 held five meetings to train volunteers to help with determining the prevalence of hoof rot disease. Over 300 hunters and non-hunters attended. Studies have been done to study prevalence, distribution, and survival of elk hoof rot disease. It has been determined that the cause of the disease is bacterial.

- MHAG Member Updates (*MHAG members*)
 - MHAG members each discussed exciting, current issues and activities they've been involved with or that are occurring in their region. This will be a revolving agenda item.
 - MHAG members are doing great things around the state, such as:
 - Teaching and expanding the number of Hunter Education classes
 - Managing MHAG
 - Serving as a MH exam proctor
 - Helping to translate the w/ hunter ed online quiz to Spanish
 - Trail brushing/clearing/repairing
 - Tracking elk hoof disease and communicating accurate information to hunters
 - Communicating issues such as public lands for hunting, ESA issues, Gifford Pinchot National Forest Collaborative, USFS Northwest Forest Plan re-write, etc.
 - Participating in the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council's Bighorn Show Hunter Education booth; Spokane Rifle club sight-in days (fall), etc.
 - Participating in building the I-90 elk fence (11 miles)
 - Participating in the Yakima Sportsman's Show TIP Trailer to provide MHPP info
 - Starting a new group, the Columbia Basin Archers
 - Volunteering at the Ringgold hatchery, coordinating other MHs and volunteers on a USFS bridge replacement project
 - Volunteering as a National Dog Trial Association judge, National Archery in the School Program coach, CORT class instructor, recruiting CORT trainers
 - Volunteering w/ WDFW on clam dig surveys (size, uses), possible writing a white paper on how to mentor youth/new hunters.

- MHAG Strategic Plan (*John M./Jim F./Dave W./Capt. Mann*)
 - The Strategic Plan was handed out & discussed
 - Jim F, Dave W. looking at ways to develop opportunities for youth mentoring, develop MH opportunities to participate in educational and training activities, and make the benefits and accomplishments of MH's and MHPP visible to the public.
 - MHAG comments, ideas, etc. are asked for by May 1st to Jim, Dave, George and John M.

- Volunteer Program Update (*Christine Redmond*)
 - Christine showed new MHAG members what CERVIS is about, how to navigate the system, etc. Emails will be sent out reminding people how to log their volunteer hours, update their profiles, etc.
 - National Hunting & Fishing Day - Sept. 26
 - WDFW is looking for MHAG/Hunter Education Instructor involvement
 - Some ideas forwarded include:
 - School classroom presentations
 - Partnering w/ NGOs to create synergies (Pheasants Forever, NWTF, DU, TU, etc.)
 - Rich: NWTF has inflatable air rifle range; Cabela's in Union Gap has one.
 - Booth at Cabela's, Bass Pro Shops, etc.
 - George Dennis & Chris Brong will ask Sandra Jonker (WDFW) if an event is possible, perhaps w/ WHEIA/HERO contribution for youth activities, etc.
 - MHAG Supports MH involvement
 - WDFW take lead in development of some options
 - See: <http://www.nhfday.org>

- Region 3 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Aaron Garcia*)
 - Some recent projects Aaron has coordinated include:
 - 3911 assessment
 - Possible MH involvement in the Wenas WLA shooting range
 - Barbed wire fence removal at the wind farm
 - Durr Road & Sheep Co. shooting areas cleanup
 - Yakima kids fishing day
 - Future projects will include fence cleanups, Wenas shooting range, WLA projects

- Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Steve Dazey*)
 - Some recent projects Steve has coordinated include:
 - Ebey Island barbed wire removal (old grazing lease)
 - WLA survey regarding running dogs during pheasant hunting (illegal)
 - CC Flats habitat restoration
 - I-90 elk fence repair/construction
 - Dead Trumpeter swan removal
 - Volunteers with welding experience and tools
 - Light Duty Project; scanning slides into digital format
 - Coming; pygmy rabbit project

- Region 6 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Bill Montgomery*)
 - Some recent projects Bill has coordinated include:
 - Shane Belson (WDFW) recruited a Super MH Volunteer to do maintenance, signage, etc.
 - Snowy Plover project; MHs educate clam diggers on plover nest protection
 - Working with MH's and biologists in the area to coordinate volunteer opportunities.
- ALEA Grant Update (*Jim Fitzgerald, for Mike Britton*)
 - Mike Britton is willing to assist in writing ALEA grant proposals, finding ideas, etc.
 - ALEA grant proposals are on a 2 year cycle and the next time for submitting proposals will be latter part of 2017.
- CORT Updates (*Shane Briel*)
 - No update; Shane was not present.
- Crossbow shooting proficiencies – need clarification
 - 3 distances are listed on the MHPP page
http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/masterhunter/scoring_your_shooting.html
 - Crossbow shooters must shoot a minimum qualifying score of
 - 30 points for 5 shots at 40 yards, and
 - 35 points for 5 shots at 30 yards, and
 - 40 points for 5 shots at 20 yards,
 - on a B3 target (15 shots total).
 - The MH Shooting Proficiency Certification form has only 2:
 - **Crossbow shooters** must shoot a minimum qualifying score of
 - 40 points off a rest at 40 yards
 - 35 points off-hand at 20 yards **and**
 - on a B-3 target.
 - WDFW is unsure which requirement is correct, and how long the discrepancy has been there
 - Jim F. will check w/ George Coubourn, who likely has the history.

Conclusion

- Recap Action Items (Secretary Craghead)
 - Strategic Plan; comments due to May 1 to Jim F. /George
 - Consider hosting a pre-service training (PST) for MH applicants
 - Consider requiring MH applicants complete a Hunter Education course
 - National Hunting and Fishing Day; MHAG/MH involvement in WDFW event(s)
- Agenda Topics for Next Meeting
 - Future meetings will include educational presentations on wildlife such as moose populations, wolf vs. ungulates, etc., and the potential for MH involvement in the research &/or implementation of agency actions.
 - Bighorn sheep and pneumonia (Rich Harris) will be a priority for the next meeting.

- Next Meeting Date and Location
 - July 17, 2015, 9:00 a.m. at Cattlemen's

- Meeting adjourned at 1515