



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

Agenda for MHAG Meeting #35
April 29, 2016, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Washington Cattlemen’s Association, Ellensburg

MHAG Members		WDFW Staff	Guests / Coordinators
Region 1	John Glenewinkel (excused)	Dave Whipple Hunter Education Division Manager	Janice Jarmen Region 4 Master Hunter
	Shawn Woodard	Kris Thorson Hunter Education Division Specialist	
	Tim Bruya (excused)	Aaron Garcia Region 3 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
Region 2	Carissa Craghead, Secretary (excused)	Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	VACANT	Bill Montgomery Region 6 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
Region 3	Lance Ostrom	Captain Rich Mann Region 3 Enforcement	
	Tom Conrads (excused)	Christine Redmond Volunteer Program Manager	
Region 4	David Floyd		
	Jeff Larsen		
	John McAuliffe, Vice Chair (excused)		
Region 5	Chris Brong (excused)		
	George Dennis, Chair		
Region 6	Jim Fitzgerald		
	James Zimmerman		
	Howard “Shane” Briel		

Procedural Business

- Call to order and announcements
- Introduction of members and guests
- Welcome to new MHAG members, introductions, background, goals, etc.
 - Introduce new members David Floyd, Jeff Larsen, and Shane Briel
 - David Floyd has been a Master Hunter the past two years.
 - David currently proctors the MHPP exam in Anacortes and is a police sergeant.
 - Shane Briel is an EITW member.
 - Shane has been attending MHAG meetings and providing Eyes in the Woods (EITW) updates as the EITW liaison, and is eager to contribute as a full member
 - Jeff Larsen was an AHE grad and been a Master Hunter ever since.
 - Jeff went to school in Eastern Washington and lives in Western Washington.
 - Jeff is in the MHPP to ensure our hunting heritage continues for his 11 year old daughter and 16 year old son.
 - Welcome returning members Tom Conrads and Jim Zimmerman
- Approval of Meeting #34 notes from January 29, 2016
 - Unanimously approved.

Old Business

- **Bernard Brown Resignation (*George Dennis*)**
 - Bernard Brown tendered his resignation to the department and the Chair of MHAG on April 14. His seat will remain vacant until the MHAG recruitment in 2017 ensues where the department will seek to fill the seat for one year.
 - Jim Zimmerman asked if there was an alternate for Region 2 to possibly fill the void but there were no applicants. The seat will remain vacant until the next recruitment period.
- **MHPP trends by region (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - The 2015 Master Hunter trends show a slow drop in master hunters. In 2015 the program had 158 master hunters that did not recertify and 150 that did. The program added 97 master hunters in 2015. Kris distributed the table that shows the regional trends:

2015 MH Trends					as of 03/25/2016	
Region	Lost	Gained	loss/gain	Recerts	current MH #s	% drop
1	22	8	-14	25	279	5%
2	8	4	-4	7	83	5%
3	18	11	-7	27	314	2%
4	53	57	4	41	433	-1%
5	18	3	-15	24	187	8%
6	39	14	-25	26	328	8%
	158	97	-61	150	1624	4%

- **MHPP Annual Report approval (*David Whipple*)**
 - The annual report has been reviewed and edited by the MHAG members and is now up for approval.
 - Unanimously approved.
- **Update on MH test tracking (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - Kris is tracking all of the tests that are taken for 2016. When the year ends he will bring the findings to MHAG for discussion.
 - George asked the question on if there should be a different avenue to the MHPP test.
 - Shawn said that maybe someone could read the questions to the applicant but that we should not lower the standards of the test.
 - George asked Dave to weigh in on if they could read the test to the MHPP Applicant. Dave said that there would be a possibility but we would want to structure it accordingly.
 - Shane brought up comprehension issues/reading issues may inhibit the MHPP applicants from enhancing their knowledge.
 - Steve Dazey brought up the test may be a filter for the MHPP. How many are too many or how few are too few?
 - George asked if Dave would entertain the idea of going through the side bar discussions on proctor guidelines for reading comprehension issues. Dave said the department could look into and possibly bring those guidelines to the July meeting.
 - David suggested the possibility of having a CD or something that the proctors could use to read the test to reading comprehensive issues so there is consistency.
 - Jim Z. suggested that we continue working with the current standards.
 - Aaron suggested there be an orientation on the MHPP and Jim Z. agreed.
 - Dave thinks the value of an orientation is a good idea; however it takes time and money. WDFW will shop this internally to see if it is feasible.

- Jim Z again suggested adding the requirement that each MHPP applicant be a WDFW Hunter Education graduate at the time of applying or complete the course along with all the other MHPP requirements.

New Business

- **WDFW Reports and Updates (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - MHPP 2016 Applicants (*Kris Thorson*)
 - As of 4/20/2016 there were 317 applicants. Four of those applicants have completed all of the requirements and become master hunters.
 - Applicant numbers per region are: R1 – 49, R2 – 29, R3 – 65, R4 – 87, R5 – 23, R6 – 64
 - Commission items passed on April 8 and 9 update (*David Whipple and Kris Thorson*)
 - Hunter Education Deferral Update of WAC 232-12-228.
 - The rule revision removed the need for the white deferral card.
 - It also allows clarifies the deferred hunter will not receive a special WILD ID but will be allowed to use their current WILD ID or have one created by the licensing division staff.
 - The changes also clear up that the accompanying hunter has to have had a license for the previous three license years instead of them having to prove they had the licenses.
 - Applicants will also be able to apply by email, and pay the processing fee with a credit card over the phone.
 - Possession and importation of dead wildlife
 - On April 8, 2016, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a measure allowing people to salvage deer or elk killed in motor vehicle accidents under certain circumstances. This was not previously allowed under state law.
 - The new rule will not take effect until July, 2016 to give the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) time to develop the administrative procedures.
 - It will be permissible to salvage and transport a deer or elk that is accidentally killed by a motor vehicle collision except for any deer killed by a motor vehicle collision in Clark, Cowlitz, and Wahkiakum counties. (These three counties were excluded to prevent potential conflicts with laws regarding the area's Columbian white-tailed deer population, which is listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act.)
 - A salvage permit must be obtained from the department within 24 hours of taking possession of the animal. Permits may be

obtained on the department's web site or at department regional offices.

- Big game licenses and tags cannot be used for the purpose of salvaging motor vehicle-killed deer or elk.
- The entire carcass, including entrails, of the animal must be removed from the road right of way.
- Any meat an individual deems unfit for human consumption or unusable animal parts must be disposed of pursuant to WAC 246-203-121.
- Only individuals authorized by the department (Law enforcement, etc.) may euthanize an animal injured in a motor vehicle collision and that deer or elk may be taken for salvage.
- Possession of wildlife in violation of subsection (4) is punishable under RCW 77.15.750.
 - There was a question on the possible cost of the permit.
 - Checking in with Game Division staff revealed that there will not be a cost associated to the salvage permits.
- Baiting of Deer and Elk
 - On April 8, 2016, the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission approved a measure that restricts the use of bait to hunt deer and elk (WAC 232-12-245). The basic purpose of this rule is to regulate the use of excessive amounts bait while recognizing that baiting is a legitimate hunting method.
 - The amount of bait cannot exceed 10 gallons.
 - Bait sites cannot be placed within 200 yards from another known bait site.
 - "Bait" is any substance that could serve as a lure, food, or attraction for deer or elk.
 - Hunting on or over agricultural fields, orchards, vineyards, food plots, or naturally occurring mineral deposits does not count as baiting.
 - Scents used for cover and attractant that are not consumed by animals are exempted
 - Salt/mineral blocks put out for the purpose of attracting deer/elk are considered bait.
 - "Feeders" can still be used as long as not more than 10 gallons of feed is distributed onto the ground at any one time.
- Deer General and Special Permit Season and Regulations

- There were no changes that affected Master Hunters in this agenda item.
 - Elk General and Special Permit Season and Regulations
 - The Game Division has added a Master Hunter Special permit hunt for Elk Area 5090 with 5 permits available.
 - Two Long Beach Master Hunter Special permit hunts were added for GMU 684 with 5 permits available for each.
- Volunteer Program Update (*Christine Redmond*)
 - Christine gave a quick update on National Hunting and Fishing day (NHFD).
 - The honorary chair is Johnny Morris, founder of Bass Pro Shops.
 - The NHFD have grant opportunities for organizations to secure some funding to assist in having a NHFD event. The grant requests are due by May 31.
 - Christine will email out the grant application to all MHAG members.
 - You don't have to do an event on the actual date, but sometime in August or September is ok as well.
 - To new members, please see Christine during lunch or for a few minutes after and she will get you squared away with how to get reimbursed for your travel costs and getting added to the CERVIS MHAG project.
 - Christine also reminded the members to report ALL of their volunteer hours because we are required by state law to pay Labor and Industries for insurance on the volunteers.
 - Christine proposed to the MHAG a statewide poster contest for NHFD. Wanted to invite participants to create a poster one or more of the ten basic safety rules.
 - General consensus from MHAG was this was a good idea.
 - Question on parameters on what to put out there for possible participants.
 - MHAG thoughts on participant parameters.
 - Look at Wyoming for bookmarks criteria for agriculture. Similar program to what is being proposed.
 - Could the contest idea be moved to homework for HE classes?
 - Lance suggested having Licensing division market this to dealers to post at the dealers.
 - Possibly have the winning poster in the pamphlet?
- Region 3 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Aaron Garcia*)

- Aaron has been coordinating volunteers on Elk Hazing in region 3.
- He has been coordinating volunteers for fence building.
- Aaron has been working on the Wenas shooting range with Dave and headquarters staff. He is working on putting together a Master Hunter corps that could possibly be range hosts.
- There has also been elk fencing that was needed to be built in Region 3 and Aaron coordinated the volunteers.
- He worked to get volunteers for the Teanaway forest installation of hot fence to keep cattle out of a creek.
- Rattlesnake area has been historically difficult to hunt, working with conflict bio on getting information to MH's to more easily hunt
- There were no incidents during Master Hunter hunts in area 3911 last year.
- The 3911 overview and orientation that Aaron presented in August 2015 may become an annual event for Master Hunters.
- The 3911 overview and orientation meeting may morph to more info on Master Hunters and have a smaller bit of information on 3911.
- Aaron has been working with the Oak Creek WLA and Observation Witness League project from Eyes In The Woods. He helped steer OWL into more an outreach with observation and reporting for rule breakers.
- Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Steve Dazey*)
 - In January, Steve coordinated a fencing project in Enumclaw area.
 - In February he pickup snap traps that MH varnished for district bio, coordinated volunteers for a fencing project in the green valley area, and coordinated volunteers for some work on the Corson unit trails with the Snohomish sportsman group.
 - Steve answered Master Hunter's questions on how to become a Hunter Education Instructor as well as sending welcome letter to new Master Hunter applicants. He also answered questions on sending in service hours and how to renew their Master Hunter Permit.
 - Steve assisted a WLA manager to create a recognition certificate for Kathy Fries, a Pheasant Program super volunteer.
 - In March Steve assisted a Master Hunter applicant apply to become a Hunter Education Instructor, coordinated volunteers for geese hazing from agricultural land in the Stanwood area as well as a fencing project in the Enumclaw area.
 - He assisted a Master Hunter applicant find a proctor and sign up for the MHPP exam.
 - Steve also picked up sandwich sign boards a Master Hunter built with lumber, paint, and materials he donated. The Master Hunter built 10 sandwich boards to be used at HE classes.

- Region 6 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Bill Montgomery*)
 - Early March Bill had one disabled Master Hunter volunteer to help the Wildlife Program Admin team on small game surveys.
 - Currently Bill has three teams of three to four Master Hunters working with Conflict Specialist Matt Blankenship hazing elk in Buckley, Rainier and Littlerock.
 - Bill received a call from Conflict Specialist Scott Harris for the annual Green Diamond Clean. He only got confirmation from three Master Hunters to show up, but when it came time, eight out of 28 Volunteers were Master Hunters.
 - Bill is currently working with South Puget Sound Wildlife Area Manager Belson and Super Volunteer Bob Brown on the Lakewood Hatchery. They will start the project by removing lots of fence. Bill had to secure a “Men Working” sign and safety cones for working alongside a busy street. Along with the fence, there are derelict structures, and tons of Scott’s Broom to be removed, as well as other rehab projects
 - Bill has also helped recruit Master Hunters for the Matheny Elk Habitat project on the coast.
 - In Region 5 Bill has been working with Conflict Specialist Tammy Conklin on recruiting three Master Hunters for elk fence damage repair, recruiting for hazing throughout the region, and she also asked Bill to assist in finding Volunteers for a signage project on U.S.F.S. lands that’s being Spearheaded by a Master Hunter.
- Hunter Education Division Specialist (*Kris Thorson*)
 - Kris has been tracking the MHPP test answers for 2016 to see if there are questions that may need to be addressed.
 - He is also working on the MHAG Strategic plan with agency staff to get youth hunting access and have Master Hunters assist with the access.
 - Kris is working with Conflict staff on Small Forest Landowner bear damage training for master hunters and examining the Hunt Coordinator guidelines.
 - The Hunter Education Division will be meeting with the Conflict section on Tuesday, May 3, in Ellensburg.
 - Kris is also working on basic maintenance on the program such as suspension and denials of applicants, webpage updates, and cleaning up files from lapsed Master Hunters.
- **MHAG Member Updates (*MHAG members*)**
 - MHAG member volunteer work/activities, news/issues from your region, etc.
 - George Dennis
 - He is planning on holding a clinic at Bob’s Sporting Goods as a NHFD event in September.

- As a Range Safety Officer for the Cowlitz public shooting range, George has been promoting the MHPP to shooters and hunters.
- Jim Fitzgerald
 - Jim has been proctoring MHPP exams in Region 6.
 - He taught in three Hunter Ed classes.
 - Jim also participated in the strategic plan conference call that was held in April.
 - Jim also attended a strategic plan meeting in person in late February in Olympia.
 - Jim assisted Bill Montgomery at his Instructor In-Service Training in Sequim.
- Shawn Woodard
 - Shawn volunteered at the Inland Northwest Council's Big Horn show in March, staffing their Hunter Education booth to register students and talk about the MHPP.
 - He also helped at the Hunter Ed booth.
 - Shawn had a personal comment on news article which included comments about baiting. He felt the article was written more on personal opinion than scientific fact.
- Jeff Larsen
 - Jeff created the huntwashington.com website and has been running it for eight years.
 - Jeff attended a public meeting at the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area to learn about a draft management plan, specifically as it relates to dog trials.
- Jim Zimmerman
 - Jim is thankful for more Region 6 support
- Shane Briel
 - Shane is helping with the Matheny habitat project (link on EITW website and on CERVIS)
 - The project helps remove deadfall and commercial thinning slash piles to allow species to return to their historical habitat.
 - Shane also started some outreach to Master Hunters in Region 6 by sending an email introducing himself and asking for input.
- Lance Ostrom
 - Lance is going to start some outreach to Region 3 Master Hunters.
 - His grandson had a successful first hunt hunting turkey.
- David Floyd
 - David is an exam proctor. His first exam date was in early April.

- David is coordinating CORT with exam dates so Master Hunters could get two pieces of the application process completed at once.
- **Update on Small Forest Land Owner (SFLO) Timber Damage Program (Kris Thorson)**
 - The advisory committee that the Game Division has been working with has recommended that Master Hunters be used to remove bears damaging timber.
 - The group has also recommended that the Master Hunter be able to retain one bear that they are able to remove.
 - The group has recommended that the Master Hunters be able to use bait to address the damage to the property.
 - The department in conjunction with multiple stakeholders has developed a baiting protocol to be used by Master Hunters conducting the removals.
 - Currently Master Hunters are being used by timber companies. Some may be in contact with the conflict specialists recommend them to the Timber companies.
 - Game and Hunter Education staff members are working with a contractor on a way to train the Master Hunters on how to remove the problem bears for the 2017 removal year.
 - Our Conflict Section Manager believes there will only be around 10 permits a year for the first couple years.
 - Two bears are authorized to be removed within each permit the department issues.
 - Master Hunters who are selected by the timber companies are allowed to retain one bear that was removed. The second bear has to be donated to an approved donation center.
 - What happens to the second bear?
 - The meat is donated by the Master Hunter to a donation center. The hide has to be given to Centralia Hide and Fur.
- **Report on CORT Teaching for MH Hours (Kris Thorson)**
 - The group asked that WDFW look into Master Hunters teaching CORT classes could earn MH service hours for teaching the class.
 - Dave and Kris discussed this idea and have concluded that master hunters could receive service credit hours for teaching CORT classes.
 - Any master hunter that would like to start teaching CORT classes should contact the Eyes in the Woods program to find out more.
- **WDFW Clinics update (Kris Thorson)**
 - In 2015 WDFW started holding clinics on how to hunt. There were three pheasant clinics and one turkey clinic. All three of these clinics had hunts attached to them.
 - In 2016 WDFW held eight turkey clinics before the April 15 opener. There was at least one clinic in each region. Region 6 had three.

- The average age of the clinic participants in 2016 has been 49.
- Participants have been between 9 and 81 years old.
- Hunter Education Field Coordinators are planning on having more clinics in the near future. Region 5 has an introduction to bowhunting clinic in May.
- If you would like to assist with clinics please contact your volunteer coordinator and they can discuss this with you.
- The clinic booklets are posted online for the public who cannot make a clinic at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/huntered/clinics/booklets.php>.
- Also WDFW is developing an access guide for hunting access in Washington. The guide will be posted online on the WDFW Hunting Access webpage, http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/hunting_access/.
 - There was a suggestion by George to have Hunter Education Instructors go to the clinic web site and hunting access web site to give new hunters information on how to gain access and how to hunt those five species.
- **MHAG Strategic Plan (George D./Jim F./Kris T./Capt. Mann)**
 - Kris gave an overview of the corn stubble program available in regions 2 and 3. This program is a great avenue into getting youth hunting access.
 - Kris also gave a brief overview of the strategic plan for the new members and to refresh the plan in the current membership.
 - The Hunter Education staff will be meeting with Conflict section staff on possible damage hunts being a good avenue to get youth involved.
 - Kris gave an overview of what the Master Hunters would be expected to do if it is determined the corn stubble program is the route to increase youth participation.
- **MH Damage Hunts Process Update (Kris Thorson)**
 - Kris gave a brief overview of the current Hunt Coordinator guidelines.
 - Currently Regions 1, 3, 5 are following those guidelines. Region 2 has the pool of hunters but randomly selects the hunters. Region 6 has been a pilot location for new Hunt Coordinator guidelines based on emergent issues.
 - George believes that the guidelines should be crafted so that the Master Hunters can effectively assist the landowners.
 - There was a suggestion to add a Master Hunter expectation guide to let Master Hunters know what to expect and what is expected of them.
 - There was a suggestion that WDFW may want to add information into the Hunt Coordinator guidelines that Master Hunters may not be called in order.
 - The Master Hunter expectations should also point out that the damage permit hunt is a second tag.
- **SCI Conference and R3 update (David Whipple)**

- Dave attended a “Summit” on Changing Public Perceptions of Hunting in Oregon & Washington during the Safari Club International (SCI) chapter meeting in Vancouver.
- The “Summit” was engineered by Deb Barrett from SCI. Deb is the Region 1 SCI rep (WA) and she contacted WDFW, ODFW, and other groups about their willingness to participate in the summit. She received a very positive response.
- SCI is one of many groups concerned about this how to talk about hunting and the public perception of hunting.
- Non-hunters can be highly influential in the legislative process. This is evident by the recent past and the public initiatives that have been passed.
- Attendees included WDFW, ODFW, Conservation Visions, Inc. (Shane Mahoney’s organization), Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance, Pheasants Forever, Wild Sheep Foundation/FNAWS, National Wild Turkey Federation, Hunters’ Heritage Council (Washington), Mule Deer Foundation, NRA, Oregon Bow Hunters’ Association, Oregon Hunters’ Association, Oregon Outdoor Council, Safari Club International and Safari Club Foundation, and Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation. Other groups were not available, but committed to participate in the future.
- The Agenda included the following topics:
 - Dave Whipple, WDFW: “How to Talk to the Public About Hunting”
 - Chris Willard, ODFW: “The National Hunting & Shooting Sports Action Plan – We all have a role”
 - Shane Mahoney: “Perception and the Wild Harvest Initiative”
 - “Creating a Coalition”
- The summit identified many issues related to public perceptions of hunting and influential factors to hunting.
- There was also a commitment from the attendees to some type of coalition that will work together and capitalize on individual strengths.
- There was also an intent to involve other groups, such as:
 - Ecosystem/plant groups
 - Non-hunting groups like TNC, CNW, Audubon, and National Wildlife Federation.
 - Big Tent Outdoor Recreation in WA.
 - Washingtonians for Wildlife Conservation
 - Outdoor Products Industry leaders from Oregon and Washington like Leopold, Nosler, Bowtech, Columbia, and REI.
- There was a suggestion to send out the PowerPoint that Dave presented to the summit attendees. However, Dave and Kris decided to place this on the next MHAG agenda as the PowerPoint is set up to be interactive.

- There was a question from Shawn Woodard, “Did the summit address the anti-gun thrust?”
 - The answer was not specifically. The summit was more directed at the recruitment, retention, and re-engagement of hunters in Oregon and Washington.
- **CORT Updates (*Shane Briel*)**
 - No CORT classes had been canceled so far.
 - Sometimes students do not sign up and just show up.
 - There have been problems when not enough people have signed up for the class and it is then canceled and then there are a large number of walk ins.
 - Shane recommended that MHAG members refer any callers with questions on CORT to contact the regional EITW coordinator.

Conclusion

- **Recap Action Items (*Jim Fitzgerald*)**
- **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**
 - Dave to present the SCI PowerPoint presentation on Public Perception of Hunting.
 - Possible MHPP orientation classes
 - Statewide NHFD Poster Initiative
 - Standard language on MHPP Proctors for tests and what they can and can't do.
 - Look into possibly getting the Notes completed faster and by email. Check R and R's as well as Department Advisory group procedures.
- **Next Meeting Date and Location**
 - July 22, 2016 at Washington Cattleman's association.
- **Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG*)**
- **Adjourn**