



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

MHAG Meeting #28
July 18, 2014, 2014 – 9:00am to 3:00pm
Washington Cattlemen’s Association Offices, Ellensburg

Meeting called to order by Chair Jim Fitzgerald, 9:15 a.m.

Introduction of Members and Guests

Members present:

Jim Fitzgerald, Chair	John McGlenn, Vice Chair	Carissa Craghead, secretary
Jim Sutton	Jim Reinbold	James Slyfield
Tom Conrads	Roger Hurst	Lance Ostrom
Bill Zachman	Dave Berg	James Zimmerman

Excused absences:

Chris Brong
George Dennis
John Glenwinkel

Guests/Coordinators:

Shane Briel, Eyes in the Woods Program

WDFW Staff present:

Dave Whipple, Hunter Education Division Manager
Sgt. Carl Klein, Marine Division
Captain Rich Mann, Region 3
Anthony Novack, Region 6 Conflict Specialist
Christine Redmond, Volunteer Program Manager
Steve Dazey, Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator

Approval of Meeting Notes

Meeting #27 notes approved unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Kuttel appreciation plaque will be given to him by MHAG chair as schedules allow for both.

Future Meetings - It was suggested that the quarterly meetings take place on a day other than Fridays but it was determined that Fridays are the best day for the majority of members.

MHPP applicants - For the 2014 application period, there were 522 applicants. To-date, there are 22 new MH's with an additional 5 persons only needing their completed background checks. It was mentioned that a higher percentage of people are passing the exam.

Background Checks- Currently there is an issue, as the ACCESS database (nationwide) is limited to criminal justice use only. Hunter Education (outside of enforcement purposes) does not have the authority to use ACCESS. WATCH is an option but it is WA state only and may be cost prohibitive. WDFW is researching short & long term options.

HR3AG (Hunter Recruitment, Retention and Re-engagement Advisory Group) - Getting started with what it is, where it is going, etc. Nationwide, there are over 400 efforts targeting R3, but there is virtually no monitoring of what is working and not working. Dave Whipple will be sending out a summary of a study done. MHAG and HR3AG will be working together to achieve common goals and develop designated roles to attain a true partnership.

Shooting Range Updates - In 2015, \$200,000 for ranges on WDFW properties will be allocated. This will be for construction of developed ranges on WDFW Wildlife Areas, to reduce/eliminate the unsafe dispersed shooting that currently occurs. The hope is that areas that are currently "gravel pit" type of ranges can be made into true designated ranges. WDFW is also looking into developing a larger shooting and educational facility. There is also \$50,000 of grant money to be given to private ranges with a stipulation of being open to the public a minimum number of hours/days each month, as per WDFW policy.

MHAG Operating Procedures -The final draft was handed out to the MHAG. A motion was made and approved by members to accept the final draft.

Strategic Plan/Work Plan - Dave Whipple presented a summary update on the origins of the strategic plan, progress to-date, etc., and recommended we re-think the matrix approach in order to keep the plan simple. MHAG is in consensus to keep it as simple as possible. It was determined that Dave Whipple, Jim Fitzgerald and John McGlenn will re-configure and present a draft at the next meeting.

Volunteer Update - Christine Redmond - The formal agency policy for utilizing volunteers is done. The website is to be updated with volunteer opportunities and a CERVIS link on the MHPP page. The idea of a formal recognition program for volunteers, as well as business cards for volunteers was discussed. Christine and Tracy will discuss and clarify if travel time would be allowed to be claimed for the volunteer hours. Christine to report on this issue at next meeting.

Region 4 Volunteer Projects and Coordination - Steve Dazey - Master Hunters have received a lot of praise recently from WDFW and the public, for their time and effort working on volunteer projects. Agency satisfaction is very high. Also, a number of Master Hunters have become certified Hunter Education Instructors, and the number of Hunter Ed students has increased by 30% in the first half of 2014 over same period in 2013.

Hoof Disease Update - Dave Whipple - In approx. mid-August, a hoof-rot disease biologist is to be hired. The WDFW will be working with MH's to coordinate participation in reporting observed diseased animals, and possibly collecting specific data from regular survey transects. George Dennis may be interested in being "super volunteer" for this project, and helping to coordinate MH participation. Dave and Christine will meet to coordinate the volunteer efforts that are needed.

MH Second Elk Tag - The current WAC (rule) allows WDFW to reduce the fee for 2nd tags associated w/ MH special permits & drawings. 3911 is a MH general season, and are not connected to a drawing or damage/kill permit according to the WAC. Therefore, the WAC inadvertently doesn't allow WDFW to reduce the fee for 2nd tags for 3911. Questions need to be addressed to Dave Whipple. He can be reached via email listed on the WDFW webpage.

Letter to the Prosecutors - Capt. Mann and Dave W.- Letter has been approved. Chief Crown supports the letter, and will deliver the message to WAPA (Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys), so he can put into context with Enforcement's other priorities for prosecutors.

CORT Update - Shane Briel - To date there have been about 20 classes held this year, with 314 participants. Many non-MHs are taking CORT. If there is a need for a class, contact the CORT regional coordinator. Encourage MHPP applicants to take the class early. Perhaps those that are proctoring the MHPP exam can become CORT instructors and administer both at the same session. The phone numbers of the regional coordinators will be added to Eyes in the Woods website.

Shooting Proficiency - The adequacy of the targets used for MH proficiency was discussed. It was decided to be a non-issue. No further discussion or action needed at this time.

ALEA Grant Update - Bill Zachman - The grant proposal was not funded. This year seemed to be very competitive, with most funded projects being "boots-on-the-ground" vs. a pilot/test project. Bill intends to reapply next year. Christine Redmond will review the application and help Bill revise the proposal. Jim Fitzgerald mentioned that Mike Britton's ALEA grant is a good tie-in to having a MH coordinate other MHs on the hoof disease monitoring efforts.

Hunting Clinics - Dave Whipple - MHAG is supportive of clinics. It was recommended to start simple, small & focused. More input is needed from MHAG as well as more volunteers and ideas. Email Dave W to give ideas on subject matter, topics, species, location, Etc.

Next Meeting - October 3, 9:00, at Washington Cattlemen's Association, Ellensburg

Meeting adjourned at 2:40