



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

Agenda for MHAG Meeting #36
 July 22, 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	Rich Mann Retired Region 3 Captain
	Shawn Woodard	Kris Thorson Hunter Education Division Specialist	
	Tim Bruya (excused)	Aaron Garcia Region 3 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
Region 2	Carissa Craghead, Secretary	Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	VACANT	Bill Montgomery Region 6 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
Region 3	Lance Ostrom (excused)	Captain Bob Weaver Region 3 Enforcement	
	Tom Conrads	Christine Redmond Volunteer Program Manager	
Region 4	David Floyd		
	Jeff Larsen		
	John McAuliffe, Vice Chair		
Region 5	Chris Brong		
	George Dennis, Chair (excused)		
Region 6	Jim Fitzgerald		
	James Zimmerman (excused)		
	Howard “Shane” Briel (excused)		

Procedural Business

- Call to order and announcements – 9:10 am
- Introduction of members and guests
- Introduction of Captain Weaver
- Thanks to Rich Mann.
 - The Department presented Rich with a plaque thanking him for all of his involvement and support of the Master Hunter Permit Program (MHPP).

New Business

- **WDFW Reports and Updates (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - MHPP 2016 Applicants update (*Kris Thorson*)
 - There are 317 applicants this year.
 - Seventy of the applicants have taken the test (22%).
 - Twenty-seven passed the test the first time (39%).
 - Twenty-three retook the test at this point (53%).
 - Eighteen passed the test the second time (78%).
 - Seventeen have completed all of the requirements to date (5%).
 - Volunteer Program Update (*Christine Redmond*)
 - Christine informed the group that the 2015 ALEA grant report has come out and that the first grant reviewed was the master hunter grant.
 - Christine and Bill went to Bass Pro Shops and talked to the manager about prizes for the bookmark contest. They donated \$100, \$50, and \$25 gift cards as prizes for each age group in the bookmark contest.
 - Christine helped organize a take your kids to work day event with the Hunter Education Division. Kids were given a brief safety talk and were able to use the Laser-shot.
 - Christine also worked on getting entries for the bookmark contest at the event.
 - Christine has been working diligently on planning the National Hunting and Fishing Day events.
 - Region 3 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Aaron Garcia*)
 - Aaron tried to get volunteers for a Teanaway community forest project, but was unable to get any participants.
 - He has also worked on setting up master hunters to survey the Wenas Wildlife Area to determine use of the shooting range
 - Aaron is going to make a trip to Regions 1 and 2 to talk to Department staff in those regions about MHPP volunteers and how to use them.
 - He is also coordinating volunteers for a deer hazing project.

- Aaron has been working on the MHPP PowerPoint with Steve, Bill, and Kris for the MHPP orientations on July 31 and August 1.
- Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Steve Dazey*)
 - Steve, Bill, Aaron, Dave, and Kris met with conflict staff in May on the MHPP and master hunter volunteers.
 - Steve is coordinating a wood duck box repair and installation project.
 - He is marketing the Bookmark Contest at every opportunity.
 - Steve sent an email reminder to the MHPP applicants for Region 4 about the deadline approaching.
 - He also emailed the hunter education instructors and master hunter on the limited-entry deer hunt on the Charles and Mary Eder Unit of the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area in northeastern Okanogan County and helped them get into the drawing.
 - Steve has sent emails on the MHPP orientation meeting and helped with the PowerPoint to be presented at the meetings.
 - He has invited the Region 4 MHAG members to speak at the MHPP orientation.
 - Steve is also working on a volunteer project that involves a high school group and will need assistance from master hunter volunteers.
- Region 6 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Bill Montgomery*)
 - Bill had some master hunters remove a fallen tree on a wildlife area and repair the damaged section of fence.
 - He has been working with the Northwest Chapter of SCI and master hunters to remove fences at the South Puget Sound Wildlife Area.
 - Bill has been organizing volunteers for a fawn capturing project.
 - He also is working on organizing master hunters in Buckley for fence repairs.
 - Bill worked on getting some volunteers for the metheny project that is cleaning up slash piles and thinning operations.
 - There have also been some inquiries on mentors for youth hunting opportunities.
 - Bill sent two master hunters to work on repairing a disabled waterfowl blind.
 - He is holding a kids event on August 27th at Paul Bunyan Rifle and Sportsman Club in Puyallup and will be promoting the bookmark contest.
 - Bill and Christine went to Bass Pro Shops and talked to the manager about prizes for the bookmark contest. They donated \$100, \$50, and \$25 gift cards as prizes for each age group in the bookmark contest.
 - He is working with Christine on a National Hunting and Fishing Day event on September 24 at Bass Pro Shop in Tacoma.

- Hunter Education Division Specialist (*Kris Thorson*)
 - Kris has been working on updating the hunt coordinator guidelines and hunt coordinator volunteer job description with the conflict staff.
 - He is also working on a document about the expectations of master hunters when on damage removals.
 - Kris is working with Dan Boes on updating the trapping education manual.
 - He is also working with Aaron to purchase pheasants for youth clinics that will be held during the youth season opener.
 - Kris has updated the clinic booklets and PowerPoints.
 - He has also been working on the Strategic Plan and securing ways for the MHPP to assist in getting youth hunting access.
 - Kris is helping Aaron, Steve, and Bill with the master hunter orientation PowerPoint.
- Hunter Education Division Manager (*Dave Whipple*)
 - Dave used this time to talk about the Wild Future initiative and went through the PowerPoint that is on the WDFW website.
 - He asked for feedback from the MHAG members on the Wild Future initiative.
- **MHAG Member Updates (*MHAG members*)**
 - MHAG member volunteer work/activities, news/issues from your region, etc.
 - John McAuliffe
 - John has classes for hunter education coming up in August and September.
 - He will be speaking at the MHPP orientation meeting on August 1.
 - Jeff Larsen
 - Jeff has been working on social media as a way to contact MHPP members.
 - He will also be attending and speaking at the August 1 MHPP orientation meeting.
 - Jim Fitzgerald
 - Jim has been teaching in hunter education courses.
 - His team has certified 105 students since the beginning of this year.
 - Chris Brong
 - Chris is working on a National Hunting and Fishing Day event.
 - He has also volunteered with Scott Harris for the hunt on Julia Butler elk removals.

- Shawn Woodard
 - Shaun has submitted comments to the Game Division on proposed rules and regulations.
- David Floyd
 - David has proctored two exams for the MHPP test.
 - He has also had inquiries on how to enroll in a hunter education course.
- Tom Conrads
 - Tom published the bookmark contest in the Tri-city range flyer.
 - He proctored a MHPP test in June.
 - Tom is proctoring a MHPP test in August and currently has three applicants signed up.
- Carissa Craghead
 - Carissa participated at a ladies night out clinic in Wenatchee at the Sportsman's Warehouse.
 - She has also participated in a couple of podcast interviews.
 - Carissa was also involved with a female-oriented class for hunter education.
 - She has also been teaching hunter education online courses.
 - She is also working on an archery range at the Ephrata gun club range.
- **National Hunting and Fishing Day Update (*Christine Redmond and Kris Thorson*)**
 - WDFW is celebrating at Bass Pro Shop in Tacoma on September 24.
 - There is a large event scheduled for October 1 in Wenatchee at the North Central Washington Gun Club.
 - Youth will be able to shoot WDFW firearms under Hunter Education Instructors guidance.
 - .223
 - .22
 - 20 gauge
 - .177 air rifle
 - Genesis bows
 - The Hunter Education Division has asked Fish, Habitat, and the Capital Asset Management Program to join the celebration this year
 - No firm commitments from Fish or Habitat yet
 - The Capital Asset Management Program is donating bags for the giveaways.
 - Free lunch will be available for the first 150 youth and their parent/guardian.
 - The WDFW TIP trailer will also be present.

- **Bookmark contest update (*Christine Redmond*)**
 - Currently WDFW has 15 entries.
 - Since the low turnout, WDFW decided to move the deadline to September 1.
 - Christine and Bill secured a donation of \$100, \$50, and \$25 gift cards to Bass Pro Shops as prizes for each age group.
 - We have 17 applications to date.
 - Christine will scan and send the bookmarks out to the MHAG members in September for judging.
 - WDFW is asking each MHAG member to choose their top three bookmarks.
- ~~• **SCI How to talk about Hunting Presentation (*Dave Whipple*)**~~
 - Moving to next agenda
- **Master Hunter orientation (*Aaron Garcia*)**
 - Went through the MHPP orientation PowerPoint to give the members an idea of what we are doing and going to talk about at the meetings on July 30 in Ellensburg and August 1 is Mountlake Terrace.
 - The PowerPoint is draft and not ready for the public at this point.
- **Hunt Coordinator Guidelines Update (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - Kris is working with the conflict staff to update the guidelines.
 - The Hunter Education Division is working to try to standardize the guidelines so master hunters will know what to expect when drawn for the Master Hunter Special Permits.
 - Kris will soon be sending out a second draft for comments from regional staff.
 - The guidelines will not be enacted until next damage removal season.
 - The guidelines are being drafted to give the Conflict Specialists the freedom to address the damage caused by wildlife in the most effective fashion.
 - Doing this may not feel equitable to master hunters because the Conflict Specialists can choose from the list who will best meet the needs.
 - Also a thought that has come up is to have each region have guidelines that they follow when addressing damage with master hunters instead of a statewide guideline.
 - Master Hunters would then just need to be familiar with the guidelines for the region before applying for a permit.
- **Master Hunter Expectations on damage removals (*Kris Thorson*)**

- In a meeting with conflict staff back in May, the Hunter Education Division staff met with Conflict Section staff on the MHPP and perceived issues.
 - An overwhelming issue was that the master hunter's expectations of damage removals are what should not be expected during permit hunts.
 - "Gimmie" hunt
 - Farmer will load the elk
 - Etc.
 - The Hunter Education Division and Game Division are drafting a document that will outline the expectations that WDFW expects of Master Hunters when participating in a damage removal as well as what the MH can expect from WDFW.
 - Expectations are still in draft stage and the regional staff will need to comment on them at least one more time before they are final.
 - The expectations document will most likely be enacted for the next damage removal season.
- **MHAG Strategic Plan (*George D. /Jim F. /Dave W. /Kris T.*)**
 - To promote more youth hunting as outlined in the Strategic Plan, the Department identified a current program that may be able to assist in gaining more youth access.
 - The Corn stubble program in regions 2 and 3 will allow the MHPP to help get more youth days for duck hunting in those regions.
 - The MHAG members reviewed the documents drafted up by the Hunter Education staff and Corn Stubble managers.
 - Suggestions:
 - Have the MH ask if the landowner might be able to participate in the program in the future?
 - Possibly go to the grain silos of granges to talk to the farmers at the single point of contact.
- **CORT Updates (*Kris Thorson for Shane Briel*)**
 - No information to update.

Conclusion

- **Recap Action Items (*Secretary Craghead*)**
- **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**
 - SCI Presentation
 - NHFD Recap

- MHPP orientation Debrief
- **Next Meeting Date and Location**
 - October 7 at the Washington Cattleman's Association in Ellensburg
- **Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG*)**
- **Adjourn - 230**