



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

MHAG Meeting #29  
 October 3, 2014, – 9:00am to 3:00pm  
 Washington Cattlemen’s Association Offices, Ellensburg

**Meeting Attendees**

<b>MHAG Members</b>		<b>WDFW Staff</b>	<b>Guests / Coordinators</b>
Region 1	John Glenewinkel	David Whipple Hunter Education Division Manager, Olympia  Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator  Captain Rich Mann Region 3 Enforcement  Christine Redmond Volunteer Program Manager, Olympia	Mike Britton Master Hunter, ALEA Grant Recipient & former MHAG member  Mike Estes Master Hunter & former MHAG member
	Jim Sutton (absence excused)		
Region 2	James Reinbold		
	Carissa Craghead, Secretary		
Region 3	Lance Ostrom		
	Tom Conrads		
Region 4	Jim Fitzgerald, Chair		
	Roger Hurst		
	John McGlenn, Vice Chair		
	Jim Slyfield		
Region 5	Chris Brong		
	George Dennis		
Region 6	James Zimmerman		
	Bill Zachmann		
	Dave Berg		

Meeting called to order at 0912 by Jim Fitzgerald, Chair.

Approval of meeting notes of #28 by members present.

## **WDFW Reports and Updates**

**A plaque of appreciation** was given to Mike Kuttel by Jim Fitzgerald, expressing gratitude for Mike's years of dedication to the Master Hunter Permit Program and MHAG.

**WDFW Director** Phil Anderson is retiring at the end of the year. The job announcement was distributed to MHAG as an FYI. The timeline for hiring a new director was briefly discussed.

**Staffing** - The Hunter Education Division created two new full time positions, which will be 75% Hunter Education, 25% volunteer Coordinator positions. These positions will be located in Region 3 (Yakima) and Region 6 (Olympia), and will be filled soon. It is anticipated that Mike Kuttel's vacated position will be filled in the future.

**2014 MHPP enrollment updates** - 522 applicants for 2014. We expect around 100 applicants will complete all requirements. As of Oct 1, 65 applicants newly certified. Deadline Nov 15, 2014. 1,715 total MHs; lowest we have had.

**Background checks** - Interstate Wildlife Violators compact-35 states participate. The JIS (Judicial Information System) lists ALL violations, not just game violations. Hunter Ed instructors are going through more stringent inspection via a paid database that includes national data; cost is covered by WDFW.

**Media Releases** - the question was raised as to whether WDFW can issue media releases on game violations, the fact WDFW does background checks, and that there are laws & rules requiring suspension of MHs for any fish & wildlife law violation. This would show that all hunters and MH's are held to high standards. Also could provide the public with information on what the MHPP is, what it is for, etc.

**Letter to Prosecutors** - Chief Crown can't attend next WDFW-WAPA (Wash. Assoc. Prosecuting Attorneys) meeting. Joanna Eide may attend & brief WAPA on the issue, or Chief Crown may send a letter to WAPA similar to the one drafted by Captain Mann & MHAG.

**Game Management Plan** - 6 yr plan vs 3 yr package updates. Whipple provided some of the slides from the longer Power Point presentation that was provided to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. Public process; major issues are private lands access, wildlife conflict, predators, baiting, etc. Over 8000 people participated in survey in May, six meetings around the state, hunters-only survey done in August. WEB SITE- <http://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/game/2015/>

**2015 Hunting Pamphlet Cover Photo Contest** – 2015 theme is "*Women: hunting through the generations*". Submit photos online by March 1, 2015 at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/sharephotos/contest.html>

**2015 Sports shows** - WDFW starting to plan for the shows, what will be covered, etc. HEI and MH may be called on to help staff the TIP trailer & possibly help delivery some clinics.

**2014 MHPP Annual Report**- progress report from 2013 passed out to MHAG. Topic again brought up about a survey for non renewing MHPP holders to determine reasons why numbers are decreasing. Do we need more MH's, do we need more volunteer opportunities, how do we get willing volunteers utilized by those in a position to lead a volunteer opportunity? WDFW will draft the report, distribute to MHAG for review/comment in Dec/Jan. MHAG comments by end of January. Finalize report end of January/early February.

**CORT Updates** - Shane Briel (EITW rep) not available. Dave W. gave update. More classes being done in various areas of the state. More classes being scheduled as venues become available. Continued issue with people registering but being no-shows for class. Improvements for next year include: class calendars to be put in the application packets, on web sites, etc., waiting list feature for EITW website, 12 fixed classes (2/Region) advertised in Hunting Regs., MHPP website, etc., improved EITW calendar, etc. Emphasis needs to be on getting the class done early in the MHPP application process, even if they don't pass the test, etc. Is there a better way to get the class done; possibly online? Does it need to be a continued part of the MHPP process? Should it be implemented into HE classes? Sportsman's shows? Future sub-committee to be formed specifically to deal with issues surrounding CORT and/or be incorporated into the strategic plan work group?

#### **Volunteer updates-Christine Redmond**

Volunteer business cards-idea has been well received. Policies and Procedures being drafted-hopefully by January cards will be able to be used.

Travel time-Does it count for service hours? IT DOES NOT COUNT unless specifically told otherwise by volunteer coordinator. It still continues to be counted for travel vouchers/mileage and reimbursement. Christine to discuss within the WDFW and report findings to MHAG

CERVIS reporting for MHAG-custom link for each member.

**National Hunting and Fishing Day**, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Possibly try to have event outside of Cabelas to reach more of the general, possibly non hunting public.

**WDFW Lands Division Winter Meeting**, December 4<sup>th</sup> in Wenatchee – Dave, Christine, etc. will present the Volunteer Program to Lands Division staff, and will focus on the benefits of enlisting MHs for volunteer work on WDFW lands.

**Region 4 Volunteer Updates** - Steve Dazey. Pheasant transfer, pygmy rabbit project, habitat restoration due to the Taylor bridge fire damage have been recent volunteer projects. MH's can go to the WDFW website for list of approved volunteer activities available in all areas. MHPP applicants and MH in need of hours need to be reminded to not wait until last minute for completion of hours.

**ALEA grant update** - Mike Britton. "Volunteer for coordinating volunteers" grant continues for another 3 quarters. Multiple volunteer projects available. Landowners very happy with the interactions with MH's. Identify MH certified in archery to help with nuisance animals (deer) within city limits.

**3911 issues updates** - Dave Whipple. 3911 is a “general” season-not a permitted hunt, not a depredation hunt. Intent this year was to reduce cost of the tag. The WAC did not reflect the changes that had been decided upon by WDFW for 2014, therefore the intention of requiring a second tag to be purchased at a discount rate was not implemented. See Agency Requested Legislation below.

**Agency-request Legislation** - Major provisions are to set maximum fees (vs. specific fees) so FWC has more flexibility to offer reduced fees; have a MH license w/ reduced fee; allow the Director to offer special promotional licenses; expand hunter reservation system. The proposed changes will help efficiently track accurate harvest reporting.

**Elk Hoof Disease** - George Dennis. Many questions regarding hoof rot, not as many definitive answers. Currently there is no correlation between the use of herbicides and hoof rot disease. Four different studies have concluded that it is a bacterial condition. This topic continues to be a strongly argued debate.

**MHAG Recruitment & Officer Elections** - Dave W. Several members’ terms are expiring. WDFW to get a news release and website announcement posted as soon as possible. Existing members that desire to re-apply are encouraged to do so.

**MHAG Selection Subcommittee Members** - George Dennis, Jim Fitzgerald, and John McGlenn will review letters of interest.

**Strategic Plan/work plan Update** - John McGlenn, Dave Whipple. Still a work in progress to try and streamline the wording. A draft was distributed to MHAG members for feedback. \*\*3 month target for development of a work plan\*\* What is the role for MHAG vs WDFW? What does the WDFW need from MHAG? What do hunters do for the general, non-hunting public? Work group, led by John McGlenn, with Jim F, Dave W, Jim Slyfield, and Rich Mann has been established.

**Next meeting:** January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. Proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of January, April, July and October for MHAG meetings.

**Agenda topics:** Fire damage activities/depredation hunts for MH’s, web-site updates

Meeting adjourned at 1500