



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

**Agenda for MHAG Meeting #38**  
**January 27, 2017 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Washington Cattlemen’s Association, Ellensburg**

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

## Procedural Business

- Call to order and announcements
  - Dave inquired as to which of the members needed to have name tags printed.
    - The following members needed name tags: Shane Briel, Jeff Larson, David Floyd, and Tim Bruya.
- Introduction of members and guests
- Approval of Meeting #37 notes from Oct 7, 2016
  - Notes were approved by unanimous vote.

## Old Business

- **Letter to county prosecutors (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - This agenda item was proposed during the last meeting. Master Hunter Advisory Group (MHAG) member(s) wanted to re-send the letter sent previously to the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.
  - The original letter was developed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) & MHAG with the goal of urging prosecutors to not treat Master Hunters differently, and in fact hold them to their higher standard.
  - The letter was sent from Chief Crown to the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys regarding prosecution of wildlife crime violators. Not just Master Hunter violations.
  - We recently found out that Scott Bird, Enforcement's Legal liaison is working on educating county prosecutors about this issue. I don't think we want to duplicate the effort.
    - Sean Woodard asked if the department could possibly send a reminder letter every year.
    - MHPP staff can talk to Enforcement to see if there is continuing contact with the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys.
- **Business cards for MHAG members (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - Kris distributed WDFW policy 4035 on business cards to the members.
  - The members read over policy and were told to talk to Kris if they would like to proceed in getting business cards.
  - George asked if there was a need for a MHAG business card. Some members felt that it was needed.
  - WDFW will work with individual members if they would like to get business cards.
- **Social media presence for MHPP (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - Someone would have to manage the site if it was a WDFW group and that may take quite a bit of hunter education staff time.
  - We also run the risk of Master Hunters posting negative comments about WDFW or the Master Hunter Permit Program (MHPP).

- There was a suggestion that staff could possibly use the WDFW Facebook to spread the message of great conservation work to the public without creating a Master Hunter Facebook page.
- Jeff Larsen asked, “What is the demographic of the MHPP? To attract the younger crowd we will need to adapt.”
- Jeff feels that Facebook might be a good place to do this.
- Currently there are three unofficial Master Hunter Facebook pages.
  - Currently no activity on the three accounts.
- Shane Briel started a Master Hunter Facebook page for R6.
  - There was a lot of people that started complaining and the tone went negative fairly quickly.
- There is a possibility that WDFW or MHAG could have multiple moderators to alleviate work load.
- Jeff Larsen and John McAuliffe will do some thinking and will bring back a proposal for a Master Hunter Facebook page.

### **New Business**

- **WDFW Reports and Updates (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - MHPP 2016 Applicants wrap-up (*Kris Thorson*)
    - 317 applicants
    - 89 (28%) certified
    - 198 renewed
    - 104 expired
      - Tim Bruya asked “Why are the Master Hunters lapsing?” and “What is the # of applicants that took the test?”
      - Kris explained that currently WDFW does not track why Master Hunters lapse, but if there is a drive to retain those Master Hunters we could survey lapsing hunters. The percentage of applicants that took the test was 40%
  - MHPP 2017 Applicants (*Kris Thorson*)
    - As of 1/24/2017 we have 95 MH applicants
    - Last year for the same time frame we had 89 applicants
      - Currently have 7 applicants in 2016 that did not finish the program reapplied as of 1/24/2017.
  - Volunteer Program Update (*Christine Redmond*)
    - No report
  - Region 3 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Aaron Garcia*)
    - Aaron is working on having mentored youth turkey hunts during the April youth season.
    - Thorp hazing of elk went well. No harvest was allowed.
    - The 4-O ranch is going to have a new project funded by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.
    - The I-90 fencing had some difficulties in communication. WSDOT didn’t give the information to Aaron to get volunteers. Once he got the info,

Master Hunters were recruited and volunteered to help. There was a negative article that was published before Aaron got the information to send to Master Hunters.

- He held two pheasant clinics.
- There is also one planned for February in Richland in association with the Richland Rod and Gun Club.
- Aaron will be attending all four of the MHPP orientations.
- He is also working all of the sportsman shows in eastern Washington.
- **Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Steve Dazey*)**
  - Steve helped get volunteers to release pheasants on the Snoqualmie Wildlife Area.
  - He facilitated volunteers for gate duty for a GMU 418 hunt.
  - Master Hunters volunteered to clean out a wildlife corridor culvert near Everett.
  - He worked on the Master Hunter Newsletter.
  - Steve helped coordinate volunteers for several projects, including securing Mylar strips to haze geese out of a lead contaminated area.
  - Steve answered questions from several potential MHPP applicants.
  - He also previewed materials for the Hunter Education Instructor In-Service Training PowerPoint on non-toxic ammunition.
  - Steve sent emails to hunter education instructors reminding those interested of the open enrollment period for MHPP.
  - He secured assistance for the upcoming Master Hunter Orientation.
  - He also recruited assistance for the elk fencing project on Vantage hill.
- **Region 6 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Bill Montgomery*)**
  - No report other than the volunteer opportunities in the MHPP Newsletter.
- **Hunter Education Division Specialist (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - Kris worked on updating the Trapper Education Student Manual and associated documents.
  - He has started leg work on updating the MHPP Guidelines.
  - Kris also cleaned up the MHPP hard copy files in Olympia so only current active Master Hunters files are filed.
  - Kris drafted the 2016 Annual Report and would like MHAG comments before it is finalized.
    - Comments are due to Kris by February 15.
  - He is also working on updating the MHPP exam and going to add the questions that are decided in this meeting.
  - Kris is looking into new MHPP possible materials for future iterations.
- **MHAG Member Updates (*MHAG members*)**
  - MHAG member volunteer work/activities, news/issues from your region, etc.
    - Lance Ostrom
      - Lance has been busy moving households and not had a chance to volunteer lately.

- He did bring up the I-90 crossing near Ryegrass and the project that WSDOT is managing.
  - Jeff Larsen
    - Jeff is working with the Upper Snoqualmie Elk Management Group on elk fencing in North Bend.
  - Shane Briel
    - Shane is working with the Matheny habitat project headed up by Eyes In The Woods (EITW).
    - He is also working with Bill on the MHPP Orientation on February 9.
    - Shane works with EITW and is working on posting CORT on the website.
    - He is working on fixed classes and classes on demand.
  - Carissa Craghead
    - Carissa taught two online classes for Hunter Education.
  - Jim Zimmerman
    -
  - John McAuliffe
    - John is starting to schedule the Hunter Education classes for 2017 to be held at Seattle Skeet and Trap Club.
  - Tim Bruya
    -
  - John Glenwinkle
    - John helped a new archer hunt deer. Unfortunately she missed a deer at 13 yards.
  - Shawn Woodard
    - Shawn will be working at the big horn show in Spokane.
    - He will also be working on construction of big horn show materials since he works with the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council.
  - George Dennis
    - George wrote several letters of thanks to NHFD participating and donating organizations.
    - He contacted Brooke George on the hoof disease issue in Region 5.
    - George helped put up fladry fences to keep elk off a golf course near north Bonneville area.
    - He also volunteers to work for a farmer and helps with silage.
    - He sent a notice to Region 5 Master Hunters on hoof disease and the orientation meeting in Longview.
- **Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - Carissa Craghead proposed the vote for Chair and vice chair to the April meeting of the MHAG.

- Seconded by Jim Zimmerman.
  - Unanimous vote to move the election of the chair and vice chair to the first meeting after the new members are placed on MHAG.
- **Update on Small Forest Land Owner (SFLO) Timber Damage Program (Kris Thorson)**
  - Previously MHAG had a presentation by a conflict staff member on the ability for the conflict section to use Master Hunters on bear timber damage removals on small forest lands.
  - MHPP staff worked with the conflict staff to help get some of the materials together and come up with a timeline.
  - The MHPP staff held a meeting in November with the conflict staff on how the department would certify Master Hunters to be a part of the SFLO program.
  - In that meeting, it came to light that the number of permits that the conflict staff normally issue are between five and 10.
  - Since this is such a small scale issue and it would be a difficult program to ensure fairness to all Master Hunters, the MHPP has decided to opt out of this program.
  - The program will still continue forward with the boot hunters that they have had working with the SFLO's since it started. Some of those hunters are also Master Hunters.
- **NHFD 2017 update (Kris Thorson and Steve Dazey)**
  - Steve Dazey has secured a net pen for fishing at the 2017 National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHFD).
  - The Hunter Education Division has also secured the TIP trailer to be at the event.
  - Bill and Christine were not at this meeting because they were soliciting interest and commitment from a number of non-government organizations to possibly attend.
  - There was a suggestion to give save the date cards to chief Hunter Education Instructors at the regional In-service Trainings to pass out to classes.
  - After some discussion, MHAG agreed that the NHFD flyer would probably be a better and more cost effective tool.
- **Discussion on Master Hunter test materials and questions (Kris Thorson)**
  - When building this year's packets a Hunter Education staff member was trying to order *The Hunter* and *Inherit the Hunt*. These publications were no longer available.
  - WDFW decided to pull those from the curriculum this year.
  - There are seven questions on the Master Hunter exam on these books.
  - We need to replace the seven questions
  - MHAG members were sent a draft set of questions with the instructions to look over the questions and come prepared for discussion.
  - There were nine possible replacements for the seven questions.
  - MHAG agreed on the seven replacement questions out of the nine proposed.
  - Currently there is a 30 day waiting period on taking of the test. This was implemented when applicants had unlimited chances to pass the test.
  - Now they only have two chances to pass the test.
  - Should we keep the 30 day waiting period or drop it?

- MHAG proposed to change the time frame to a seven day waiting period to retake the test.
- **MHAG Strategic Plan (*George D./Jim F./Kris T./Capt. Weaver*)**
  - Corn stubble update:
    - We had one Master Hunter actively looking for properties to add to the corn stubble program.
    - He identified four properties in Region 3 and three in Region 2 that fit the criteria for the program.
    - None of the properties in Region 3 made it into the program.
    - Funding had already been allocated at the time the Master Hunter identified the properties.
    - One of the properties in Region 2 made it into the program
    - Also, most owners had already leased the ground to a third party already.
    - WDFW is unsure if this type of effort will be pursued in the future because of the cost/benefit of the effort.
- **Master hunter orientations (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - The volunteer coordinators have gotten a lot of good response from Master Hunters when they held previous meetings on the MHPP.
  - WDFW is holding four orientation meetings before the deadline to apply to the MHPP to help orient applicants to the programs goals.
  - Current Master Hunters are also able to attend to get a refresher as to what the program is doing.
  - WDFW staff would like to have MHAG members there to help present the MHAG piece of the presentation as well as allow the Master Hunters and Master Hunter applicants a change to interact with MHAG members.
  - The orientations are scheduled:
    - February 4 at the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council building, 6116 N Market St, Spokane, WA 99208 from 3:30pm – 5:30pm.
    - February 6 at the Nile Shrine Center, 6601 SW 244th St., Mountlake Terrace WA 98043 from 5pm – 7pm.
    - February 9 at the Tacoma Sportsman's Club, 16409 Canyon Rd E, Puyallup, WA 98375 from 7pm – 9 PM.
    - February 15th at the Cowlitz Co. PUD 961 building, 12th Ave, Longview, WA 98362 from 7pm–9PM.
  - If you can attend an orientation meeting, please contact your coordinator to let them know and they can get you the information ahead of time.
- **Master hunter points restoration discussion (*David Whipple*)**
  - Currently, if you are drawn for a Master Hunter Special Permit hunt your points for that category resets to 0.
  - This even happens if you are not contacted to participate in the special permit hunt.
  - Current Wildlife Program Standard Operating Procedure does not allow for points restoration.

- WAC 232-28-291 currently states: The commission may establish special hunting seasons and may set the conditions for each category and hunt. 4. Special hunting season permit applications: D. Permits will be drawn by computer selection using a weighted point selection system. i. Applicants will receive one point for each application category purchased. ii. Once drawn for a permit, the applicant's points will be reduced to zero in that category.
- WDFW has filed a CR101 which informs the public that the agency is contemplating rule making activity.
- The game division is proposing to add language to 232-28-291 to restore Master Hunters who do not get a chance to participate point total for the Master Hunter Special Permit Category.
- The game division is proposing on updating the language of section 4 d ii to read:
  - ii. Once drawn for a permit, the applicant's points will be reduced to zero in that category. Applicants who are drawn for a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated Hunt Coordinator and not given a chance to participate shall get their points restored. Those that decline to participate for any reason are not eligible for point restoration.
- The Fish and Wildlife Commission will hear a briefing at the March 2017 meeting in Olympia.
- Public comment will be allowed from the March 2017 meeting until the April 2017 meeting.
- The April 2017 meeting will be in Spokane. This meeting is where the commission can take action on the proposed rule changes.
- WDFW would like to know if the MHAG supports point(s) restoration in the event the master hunter is not given a chance to participate in the special hunt.
  - Consensus from the MHAG to support the proposal.
- **First Hunt Foundation (*Steve Dazey*)**
  - Hunter Education Division staff met with First Hunt Foundation on January 26, 2017.
  - The organization matches up first time hunters with mentors who can help start their hunting career.
  - Currently they have mentors in 10 different states.
  - The organization is really just starting. It has been in existence for three years.
  - The organization has insurance up to \$2 million.
  - They also do a background check on all mentors.
  - WDFW would like to know if MHAG wants to promote the first hunt foundation to the MHPP.
    - MHAG does agree that this program is a good fit and will support it.
- **Setting standing meeting dates for 2017 (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - Previously some members have requested the group set yearly dates to help facilitate scheduling.
  - Current proposed dates for 2017 are:
    - April 28
    - July 14



- October 6
  - Those dates worked for the majority of MHAG members and WDFW staff.
  - These are set as the meeting dates for MHAG in 2017.
- **Discussion on MH criteria for entry into the MHPP (*Kris Thorson and David Whipple*)**
  - This agenda item was brought up at the last meeting by several members when talking about the test update.
  - Currently, WDFW does not believe that the qualifications and/or criteria to enter the MHPP need modification.
  - This year the Hunter Education Division staff will be working with the conflict specialists on MHPP administration elements, and may decide to revisit the materials that are used for the MHPP exam.
  - A member brought up the idea of conducting an interview to determine if the applicant had the required/desired skill set.
  - This suggestion is great in theory, but the time involved would be almost 40 hours for one person to conduct a 15 minute interview.
  - There was also a suggestion of a possible skills evaluation portion being added to the requirements.
  - Also a possible shooting skills evaluation at a location where a proctor would be able to certify their shooting skills.
  - There was discussion of possibly adding a classroom component.
  - A member also suggested that an applicant possibly be required to complete a Hunter Education course or show proof of completion.
  - There was also a question of “What do we want the general master hunter to know and do?”
  - A member asked “How many issues are there of Master Hunters being difficult with landowners?”
  - This is not known so Kris and Dave will follow up.
  - A suggestion to add to the MHPP orientations information on what desired/requires soft skills may be needed and what you may need to do as a Master Hunter.
- **MHPP Newsletter (*Kris Thorson and David Whipple*)**
  - The most current newsletter went out on January 20.
  - A newsletter will be sent every two months in 2017.
  - This is a great avenue for MHAG to interact with Master Hunters by writing a piece on something that they have done, wisdom to pass-on, or “kudos” to other Master Hunters.
- **CORT update (*Shane Briel*)**
  - Eyes in the Woods are starting to post classes.
  - Like last year, there will be some fixed classes that will be held regardless.
  - CORT trainers may also create and hold classes if there is demand.
  - If Master Hunters cannot find a class in their area, they should contact the CORT trainer in their area.

## **Conclusion**

- **Recap Action Items (*Secretary Craghead*)**
  - Comments on the MHPP Annual report are due to Kris by Feb 15
  - There will be a Facebook page proposal from John McAuliffe and Jeff Larsen.
  - Kris and Dave will talk to public affairs on social media.
  - Kris and Dave to talk to conflict staff on what issues they are seeing when working with MHs.
- **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**
  - Facebook page proposal from John McAuliffe and Jeff Larsen.
  - Kris and Dave to talk to conflict staff on what issues they are seeing when working with MHs.
  - How WDFW is working on gaining access to land locked public lands.
  - Pay-to-play: WDFW efforts, Wild Future tie in.
  - First Hunt Foundation; WDFW efforts to make MHs aware of opportunity & FHF need of state coordinator & chapter formation.
  - Legislative update
  - MHPP Orientations recap
  - A NHFD update
  - Recap of the turkey clinics and mentored turkey hunt.
- **Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG*)**
  - Kudos to WDFW for Newsletter efforts.
- **Adjourn**