

**MEETING NOTES**  
**WDFW Master Hunter Advisory Group**  
**Meeting Number 7**  
March 5, 2009  
Ellensburg

The meeting was called to order by Bill Vincent, Chair, at 9:00 AM. The attached agenda was followed.

Attending were:

Ray Boone	Jim Reinbold
Ron Poppe	Mike Estes
Dustin Albright	Mike Britton
Bill Madison	Richard Mathisen
Bill Vincent	Mike Parris
Bob Holtfreter	Harold Costa
George Coulbourn	Bob Cromwell

Absent: Brian Davern

Rick Holland, EITW/CORT  
Mike Kuttel \*  
Sean Carrell \*  
Jeff Tayer (part time) \*

\* WDFW Staff

**1. Call to order and Announcements**

After call to order, MHAG Chair Vincent reviewed the day's agenda and discussed administrative matters related to the Meeting.

**2. Approval of Notes from Meeting No. 6, January 22, 2009**

The Notes were approved as distributed.

**3. Reports on Action Items**

Action Items from the prior Meeting (attached) were reviewed, as summarized below:

Action Item No 1: The ALEA grant request has been submitted for the 09-11 Biennium requesting \$26,390 in support for the MHAG. We currently have approximately \$4,000

remaining from the original grant of approximately \$26,000, which is available through June 2009.

Action Item No. 2: Information & Outreach Meeting Dates and Locations have been published.

Action Item No. 3: Discussion of the focus for the MHAG will be a continuing topic for some time, and perhaps will remain work in progress for many years.

Action Item No. 4: The CORT briefing was held during this meeting (see below).

Action Item No. 5: Master Hunter merchandise for sale is posted on the web site.

Action Item No. 6: Coordinated testimony was determined not to be necessary at this time.

Action Item No. 7: All materials for the Master Hunter Orientation and Information & Outreach Meetings were prepared and distributed.

#### **4. Summary of Orientation Meetings**

As planned, three Orientation Meetings were conducted for prospective Master Hunter Candidates during February. (Summaries of these meetings are attached.) Meetings were held in Yakima, Olympia and Spokane. As with the inaugural series of these meetings last year, all sessions were well attended. Feedback forms completed by attendees provided both constructive criticism and appreciation.

Clearly these meetings are successful and serve a valuable purpose. Means of improving content and presentation were discussed.

**Action Item No. 1:** In response to questions during these meetings, Mr Kuttel will clarify the start date for the 9 month completion period for certification, and publish the clarification on the web site. It was noted that this information is now included in Study Packets provided to each applicant.

**Action Item No. 2:** Mr Estes will lead an activity to evaluate the effectiveness of the Orientation meetings as they relate to candidate success. Specifically, does attendance enhance the likelihood of the candidate actually becoming a Master Hunter?

#### **5. Preparations for Information & Outreach Meetings**

Two 2009 I&O Meetings are scheduled, one in Kennewick on March 14, the other in Longview April 4. Last year's experiences were reviewed, and suggestions for getting the most from these meetings discussed. The value of these meetings still remains uncertain because of low turnout by existing Master Hunters.

**Action Item No. 3:** Mr Albright will lead an assessment of the value of the I&O meetings based on lessons learned this year and last.

## **6. Briefing on CORT by EITW**

Mr Holland of EITW (Eyes in the Woods) provided a presentation on CORT (Crime Observation and Reporting Training) to the Group. There were 47 CORT sessions held during 2008, attended by over 1000 people. This represented almost a 250% increase over 2007. Around 70% of the increase resulted from the requirement for Master Hunter candidates to complete a CORT course.

EITW and CORT are initiatives within Washington only at this point, but there is interest from other states in adopting similar programs.

Mr Holland explained that EITW serves as the administrator for the CORT session, but that they are conducted by WDFW Law Enforcement Officers. This is considered to be an important element of the program.

Mr Kuttel reinforced the importance of the program, noting that it embodied hunter education, public presence, and highly beneficial partnerships with landowners, in addition its deterrence potential.

The importance of the partnership between EITW and the Master Hunter Corps was discussed. This partnership has succeeded in gaining access to significant amounts of private timber lands under EITW leadership. EITW has applied for an ALEA grant to support EITW regional coordinators who would assist in the deployment of Master Hunters to conduct volunteer conservation work. Mr Holland described several highly successful projects undertaken during 2008.

## **7. WDFW Liaison Update**

Mr Kuttel led the discussion of a variety of subjects as summarized below:

**MHAG focus:** Mr Kuttel noted that there have been many discussions of potential areas for the MHAG to concentrate its time and energy. Considerations have ranged from specific projects to various means of deriving the maximum potential from the Master Hunter Corps. In addition, the MHAG is a major source of input and feedback to the Department regarding administration of the Program.

Now that the MHAG is at full strength and has had two sessions to strengthen its cohesion it was suggested that the next several Meetings should allocate blocks of time for discussion of this important topic. It was agreed that the next meeting Agenda should do so and that all members will devote sufficient time before the Meeting in preparation for this topic.

**Action Item No. 4:** Allocate time for discussion of MHAG focus at upcoming meetings. All members come prepared to participate. Mr. Kuttel will prepare and circulate a White Paper regarding Master Hunter Administrative Requirements for consideration at the June MHAG meeting.

**RCW:** The Master Hunter revision to the RCW is now a part of the Omnibus Enforcement Bill. The bill can be found at the following link:  
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/documents/billdocs/2009-10/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5404-S.pdf>  
Information pertaining to Master Hunters may be reviewed in sections 16, 17, 18, and 20.

**MH status on License:** The changes necessary to have hunting licenses display Master Hunter status and expiration date are essentially complete. Implementation may be phased in this year.

**Test proctoring:** Mr Kuttel asked to be advised if any additional members of the Group wished to proctor the Master Hunter test. Test proctoring information is posted on the web site.

**Defective CD's:** A small number of CD's in the Applicant data package were found to be defective. The cause was determined. (It was mechanical.) Defective CD's have been replaced and the defective CD burner discarded.

**Response to the Chief's Letter:** In the cover letter providing Master Hunters with their new patches, the Chief noted that the web site afforded Master Hunters the opportunity to sign up for herding, hazing, fence repair, and fence construction to help WDFW address serious game damage issues. There has been a significant spike in signups thought to be a result of the letter. This was considered quite positive both because of the participation and because it may encourage more visits to the web site.

**Applicant tally:** There have been around 725 Master Hunter applications to date. This response is on track to produce 1000 or more 2009 applicants, a number similar to last year.

**Budget:** Mr Kuttel reinforced the seriousness of the State budget impact on WDFW. Around 100 "at-risk" letters have been sent. Possible department consolidations may result. The possibility of moving the signup period to a different time within the year as a means of balancing workloads might be worth consideration.

**Visibility:** Mr Kuttel commended Mr Cromwell for his recent letter to the Seattle PI offering to provide the perspective of the hunter in articles related to hunting. During the ensuing discussion, it was noted that "words are important". Many in the non-hunting public may blur the distinction between legal hunting and poaching. Mr Holland and Mr Estes observed that "sport" hunting is not a good term since the word sport usually connotes a different type of activity from hunting.

**Hunt Master Protocols:** Currently there are no consistent processes for identifying the need for a Hunt Master, selecting an individual to serve in that role, responsibilities and authorities of the Hunt Master, and involvement of Master Hunters in hunts managed by Hunt Masters. After discussion, an ad hoc subcommittee was formed to address this matter. It was noted that Dave Ware, Game Division Manager has welcomed the efforts of the MHAG to develop such protocols for WDFW consideration.

**Action Item No. 5:** Mr Albright will lead an initiative to address Hunt Master Protocols. Messers Mathisen, Holtfreter, Poppe, Reinbold, Madison and Cromwell will serve with him. Mr Novack of Region 3 will be asked to participate.

**3911 Accidental Discharge Incident:** Recently, a Master Hunter participating in the 3911 elk control hunt had an accidental discharge of a rifle in the presence of the landowner. There was no injury or significant damage to property, and no citation resulted. However as a result, the landowner has denied future access to the property by Master Hunters. Regional Director Tayer observed that this incident had been widely discussed locally, and was a significant setback in that particular area. Mr Tayer observed that with the buildup of Master Hunter involvement in the 3911 area, there had been some issues with Master hunters, but that there were now many less issues with elk. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the MHAG.

The group discussed possible initiatives that might be undertaken to restore the landowner's confidence. Consideration will be given to paying a call on the landowner later in the year. This would be coordinated with appropriate Region 3 personnel.

It was observed that the difficulty and sensitivity of Master Hunter hunts varies greatly. As the program currently is administered, there is no means to differentiate between highly skilled and experienced hunters and those less so. There also is no means for testing for an applicant's judgment and self-control under stressful hunting conditions. The examination of the conduct of hunts per Action Item 5 (above) will include this concern.

**Next meeting:** Meeting No. 8: Thursday, June 4, Ellensburg: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30PM in consideration of difficult travel conditions

Respectfully Submitted,  
George Coulbourn

**Attachments:**

Action Items, Meeting No 6  
Action Items, Meeting No 7  
Agenda  
Orientation Meeting reports



## **MHAG Action Items Meeting No 6**

**Action Item No 1** Finalize and submit the ALEA grant application. (Britton)

**Action Item No 2**: Confirm I&O Dates and locations to Mr. Kuttel by February 6.. (Albright)

**Action Item No 3**: Discussion of “niches” will be an agenda item for the next MHAG meeting; potentially taking a few hours. (Vincent/Kuttel)

**Action Item No 4**: CORT Briefing at March 5 meeting. (Vincent/Kuttel/Holland)

**Action Item No 5**: Post availability of Master Hunter items for sale (pins, patches, decals) on the MH web page. (Kuttel)

**Action Item No 6**: Discuss and organize possible legislative testimony in upcoming RCW hearings. (Vincent/Cromwell/Albright)

**Action Item No 7**: Prepare drafts agenda, handout list, and talking points for the upcoming Master Hunter Information and Outreach Public Meetings. (Kuttel/Albright).

## **MHAG Action Items Meeting No 7**

**Action Item No. 1:** In response to questions during these meetings, Mr Kuttel will clarify the start date for the 9 month completion period and publish the clarification on the web site.

**Action Item No. 2:** Mr Estes will lead an activity to evaluate the effectiveness of these meetings as they relate to candidate success. Specifically, does attendance at the Orientation meeting enhance the likelihood of the candidate actually becoming a Master Hunter?

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

**Agenda for MHAG Meeting #7**  
Ellensburg Quality Inn, Fireside Room  
March 5, 2009  
9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Procedural Business

1. Call to order and Announcements
2. Approval of Notes from Meeting No. 6, January 22, 2009

Old Business

3. Reports on Action Items
4. Summary of Orientation Meetings
5. Preparations for Information & Outreach Meetings

New Business

6. Briefing on CORT by EITW
7. WDFW Liaison Update
8. MHAG future focus areas

Conclusion

9. Recap Action Items
10. Next meeting
11. Good of the Order
12. Adjourn

# Master Hunter Applicant Orientation Meeting February 14, 2009 Yakima, Washington

## Attendee Evaluation Survey Summary

### Evaluation Forms Completed:

• Unsigned, “yes” answers to all four questions, no comments	40
• Signed, “yes” answers to all four questions, no comments	24
• Unsigned, “no” answer to the question “Do you intend to Become a certified Master Hunter?”	2
• Unsigned, with comments	17
• Signed, with comments	<u>6</u>
Total Evaluation Forms Completed	89

### Comments from Signed Evaluation Forms:

- Please publish the cost of this program ahead of time so that people can be prepared for payment at the orientation.
- Are non-game wildlife volunteer activities included in credited volunteer time?
- The orientation would benefit from better focus, more brevity, and more time for questions.
- Who to contact for completion?
- The presentation was excellent.
- Change the language – change “sport” to “conservation” when used with the word “hunting”.
- Thank you.

### Comments from Un-signed Evaluation Forms:

- Very good coverage of material.
- I would like to see separate class for specific areas of what is needed for that area.
- Opportunities other than elk control?
- Very good information, was very informative.
- Get to the point sooner.
- Make sample tests available.
- Clarification on shooting proficiency. Good job.
- Great job.
- The presentation was much too long and repetitious. Streamline it, and take your own advice about highlighting the issues.

- Always more emphasis on Ethics of Hunting. One reason I have not done this earlier was/is due to image of program.
- I think you covered it all very well.
- Keep presentation on track to the slides.
- Explanation of what is available online. Hunters Ed info, applications....
- Repeating a lot.
- It's a great presentation. (Note: comment was extensively underlined.)
- I thought it went well.
- Quit repeating the same issues. Multiple speakers spoke about the same subjects. Repeating issues prolonged the length of the presentation.

#### Notes from Session Leader:

- The West Valley Fire Station has an excellent training facility that was perfect for this Orientation session.
- Attendance was just over 100. We had one hundred copies of the handout materials and all were taken by the attendees.
- MHAG members present were Mike Estes, Bill Madison, and Ray Boone.
- WDFW Enforcement was represented by Captain Rich Mann and Sergeant Mike Sprecher.
- Mike Estes did the introduction and slide show presentation. Too much, too long. The Coulbourn/Kuttel format used last year works better to maintain attendee interest and to give presenters time to reorganize while someone else is speaking.
- Ray Boone discussed the special challenges of the Peshastin elk hunt. Bill Madison summarized the variety and number of MH hunts from the hunting pamphlet. Captain Mann emphasized ethics. Sgt. Sprecher summarized a few of the recent violations from the Elk Area 3911 hunt.
- A show of hands revealed that attendees were primarily from Yakima and Kittitas counties. There were a handful from Benton and Franklin counties, and one each from Grant, Clark, and King counties.
- Anthony Novak had planned to attend but had to cancel on Friday afternoon due to elk issues that he had to attend to on Saturday morning. Bill Madison passed around a work party sign-up sheet for Anthony for elk damage fence repair. Fifty-seven attendees signed up.
- MH Application forms and an Orientation meeting evaluation form were distributed during a break about 40 minutes prior to the conclusion of the meeting.
- We had 50 standard application packets and 25 packets with the Alberta manual available for sale. All of the "printed" packets containing the Alberta manual were sold, and we could have sold more. All but 16 of the CD application packets were sold. More of those could also have been sold except that several people did not have their WILD ID# with them. Those people were advised to mail their applications to Olympia.
- Total time to sell the packets was less than 15 minutes. The application forms were distributed during a break shortly before the end of the meeting. When the meeting concluded, people broke into two lines (one for the \$20 packet and the

other for the \$33.19 packet). All we had to do was verify that the form was signed, included the WILD ID#, that the correct box was marked (CD or paper), and that "Paid in Cash" was written on the application form if applicable. I used a stapler to attach the check or cash to the application form. (Note for next time: have had a stapler for each line.

- Eighty-nine evaluations were completed and turned in out of the 100 survey forms available. (A few of the survey forms were found in a stack and apparently didn't get passed down the row.) Mike Estes called everyone who made a comment and provided contact information.

Submitted by Mike Estes

## **Spokane MH Orientation Meeting 2-21-2009 Report**

The Meeting began promptly at 1PM at the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council building in Spokane.

There were 68 attendees including the following assistance and presenters;

MHAG - Mike Britton, Ray Boone, Richard Mathisen, & Jim Reinbold.

DFW - Mike Atamian, Biologist, Lenny Hahn, Officer

Master Hunters - Terry Britton, Larry Stansbury

Inland Northwest Wildlife Council President - Ken Hoff (provider of the facility at no charge)

Mike Britton led off with the first 5 pages of the MH Orientation PowerPoint presentation.

Larry Stansbury presented pages 6 through 33 with a break midway.

During the break, 26 applications were taken and paid for. Another individual had received an electronic format package but wanted the book, so we converted one of the print format packages by selling him only the book. Of the originally provided 25 printed packages, 11 were sold (one split\*) and 13 returned, and of the 50 e-versions, 14 were sold and 36\* returned. (See the attached accounting) Some attendees already had their application packages.

Mike Britton completed the presentation and all answered questions.

Unfortunately, the survey sheets were forgotten. There is no feedback in written form.

My perception: The presentation went very well. The attendees were asking many intelligent questions and seemed very fired up about the MH Program. There were approximately 5 women and a couple of children. An I&O meeting would probably not yield more participants. Approximately 25% were from outside of the Spokane area.

The meeting was completed at 3:30PM.

Submitted by Mike Britton

Master Hunter Application Orientation Meeting  
February 28, 2009  
Olympia, Washington

Attendee Evaluation Survey Summary

Unsigned, "Yes" answered all questions	41
Signed, "Yes" answered all questions	5
Signed, "Yes" was not sure of becoming a Master Hunter	1
Unsigned, with comments	10
Total received Surveys	41

Comments from signed Evaluation Forms:

- ❖ Shooting target size is different
- ❖ Don't have three people saying the same thing
- ❖ More about volunteer time but satisfied with info
- ❖ Give better address info
- ❖ Practice/ follow power point
- ❖ Too much confusion between presenters
- ❖ Shotgun qualification w/ slugs instead of birdshot

Comments from unsigned Evaluation Forms:

- ❖ Classes could be shorter
- ❖ Need larger room
- ❖ Need video
- ❖ Points for drawing differ between Regular Hunting Permits and MH
- ❖ Need Microphone
- ❖ Need better organization between the three speakers
- ❖ Limit 2 minutes/slide
- ❖ Maintain highest standards and expectation

There were about 100 in attendance

Submitted by Bill Vincent

