



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

**MHAG Meeting #27**

April 25, 2014 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Washington Cattlemen's Association Offices, Ellensburg

**Call to order by Chair Jim Fitzgerald, 9:00 a.m.**

**Introduction of Members and Guests**

**Members present:**

Jim Fitzgerald, Chair  
Jim Reinbold  
James Slyfield  
Chris Brong  
Roger Hurst  
Bill Zachman  
Dave Berg

John McGlenn, Vice Chair  
Jim Sutton  
Tom Conrads  
George Dennis  
Lance Ostrom  
Carissa Craghead, secretary

**WDFW Staff present:**

Dave Whipple, Hunter Education Division Manager  
Sgt. Carl Klein  
Captain Rich Mann, R3  
Anthony Novack  
Christine Redmond  
Steve Dazey, R6 Hunter Education Field Coordinator/volunteer Coordinator

**Guests or Presenters:**

Shane Briel, EITW  
Richard Rowe, MH

**Approval of Meeting Notes**

Meeting notes from Meeting #26 on January 10, 2014 were approved unanimously by group as posted to website.

**Housekeeping Items:**

Summary of open enrollment period for 2014 for MHPP. There were 522 applicants and to date, five have completed all the requirements to become MH's.

Volunteer forms available. POC is Christine Redmond. She went over the travel expense voucher and statewide payee registration form for MHAG participants.

Jim Sutton handed out “sportsman patronage” cards to be used as desired.

Mike Kuttel is retiring. MHAG officially thanks him for his service, motion made and seconded to include in notes. Motion to have plaque made for Mike, made and approved. Mike will be asked to come to next meeting for presentation. No appointments have been made to fill his position as of yet.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Region 6 rank order flexibility pilot program-Anthony Novak and Scott Harris. This was a power point presentation showing results from the 2013 elk and deer damage control hunts. It was discussed if MHs are being utilized the best way they can be. Can the rank order be modified to provide the landowners the best service? Considerations to rank order include: proximity of a MH to the area of need, landowner request for a certain hunter, any physical limitations, knowledge of property geography by the individual.

Issues of the program and issues that landowners may have include: wounding of animals, needing help removing animal from the property, incompetent field care, poor interpersonal relations between hunter and landowner, unreliable hunters, shooting collared elk, shooting spikes. It was brought up if conflict specialists for an area could use different guidelines that the hunt coordinators.

In general, landowners are mainly happy and the program IS working.

### ALEA Grant updates-Bill Zachman

Ideas for use of funds include map reproduction, surveys.

Letter to the Prosecuting attorneys of the state-Capt Mann and Jim F. A draft went out to the MHAG. Kittitas seems to have a large number of violations that are reduced down to a small monetary fine without any other consequences. MHAG discussed a zero tolerance stance for all MH’s committing infractions. Discussion options include encouraging hunters to call local offices and WDFW to support prosecution of violators, not just MH’s, encourage funding to be used for supporting stricter enforcement laws and support options that avoid costly trials. Also discussed was if the letter should be sent from the WDFW addressing ALL sportsmen or from the MHAG regarding just MH’s?

**ACTION ITEM**—the letter is going back to WDFW officials for modification and will get approval for distribution. Bill Zachman volunteers to address economic aspect for prosecutors and help with new draft. Will there be two letters- one for just MH’s and one for all hunters?

Strategic Plan/Work Plan-Dave W/John McGlenn-draft presented. Partnership goals between MHAG and WDFW discussed.

Goals:

- 1) Celebrate heritage of hunting in WA
- 2) Emphasize the positive reputation of ethical hunters in WA State.
- 3) Recruit and retain hunters.

**ACTION ITEM**-strategic plan update. To provide our own direction of where to go (MHAG) next. Take the working draft and make notes. Prioritize the objectives. objectives. “high, medium, low” type changes in **RED**. DUE DATE: 2-4 weeks. Send back to John M, Jim F, and Dave W.

MHPP exam and materials to be available on the web- Did not discuss this.

**ACTION ITEM**-discuss MHPP exam materials and exam proctoring.

**ACTION ITEM**-Review of Draft operating procedures-“how do we operate?” roles and responsibilities and by-laws. Opening up draft for comments for 2 weeks. Deadline by May 1. Dave Whipple to send out again for comments. Send back to Dave W, Jim F, and John M.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### Hunter Recruitment and retention committee updates

**ACTION ITEM**-Meeting to be held in May. (no date or location set) Several members voiced interest. Strategies, further involvement, background and “psych portion” to be discussed. Hunter permit packages, discounted fees “package deal”, youth mentoring, etc. MHAG ideas to be given to MHAG secretary (Carissa Craghead) to be passed on to committee. Opportunities to hunt are limited (Rick Mann) Get new hunters “hooked” at the start of their hunting career to prevent discouragement from failure to harvest

### New Hunter Clinics-not up and fully running this year in time for Big Horn Shows.

“Go Hunt” tool discussed by Joey McKenna as well as other topics at this year Big Horn show. Rick Mann did 3 clinics at the Yakima game show. An idea that was mentioned was having a field skills test session for those that complete the online HE course. Additional safe places to shoot/practice are needed. (Jim Slyfield) asked if WDFW lands can be used? INWWC (Jim Sutton) can keep ranges in his area clean. Can MH use cleaning and maintaining ranges for volunteer hours?

Game regulation changes 2014. No change to general seasons including 3911. New second tag requirement-\$22.50. Remind MH that they need to report on both tags. Website to post reminders and the paper regulations will be out soon and although there are omissions and corrections to be made, the on line website will have the most up to date information.

### Budget updates (round table ideas)

50K for hunting clinics across state. Approx 200K towards shooting ranges on WDFW Lands. 50K for Hunter Ed shooting range grant program-firearms and archery.

Recreation and Conservation Office working with Dave Whipple. Bill Zachman volunteers to be liaison between MHAG and RCO as needed. Hunter Ed and Enforcement provides @30K to NASP.

Grants for ranges discussed, competitions, club members, public use. Consider population, geography, programs, etc before spending money. Use MHs to send info to Olympia about ranges in their area. Consider internet use to find ranges vs. manpower use to find ranges. “Coupons” to be used for range fees, classes, competitions, etc. Coupons paid by WDFW funds. By January 201\_, WDFW to provide HEI with firearms to use for live fire skills.

### Hoof Rot update-George Dennis

30-40% of elk suffer, mostly in region 5 and 6. Money to be asked for further research. Word passed to keep legs where animal field dressed; this is also in the 2014 regulations.

Ideas discussed-MH used for eradication, winter feed laced with antibiotics when and if identified as a treatment, “hoof wash” in heavily trafficked. Elk feeding more and more in pastures may contribute. Digital dermatitis and treponeme bacteria comparisons in cattle. Kristin Mansfield WDFW vet researcher providing information via handout. Has “area” Zero been identified? (Where did it start?) Limping not always caused by hoof rot.!!!

### VOLUNTEER UPDATES

Ecological Integrity Monitoring volunteer opportunities-Christine Redmond via PowerPoint presentation. There are many volunteer opportunities for MHPP candidates. Unique aspect is once training is completed, it can be self-scheduled. Can a link to be posted to MH website?

Comments/suggestions from MHAG-“adopt a wildlife area” Dave W and Christine R to meet with Lands and Diversity (non-game) Division Managers; wildlife managers have overloaded plates-can they use volunteers to help?

Dave W-process of ID’ing wildlife program volunteer opportunities. Was discussed at quarterly meeting with Olympia higher ups and regional higher ups; good support.

**ACTION ITEM**- Utilize MH as “supervolunteers” or volunteer coordinators. Start the process! Dave to update MHAG at next meeting. “How do we go forward?” Christine drafting formal recognition program-recognizing partnerships. CERVIS tutorial to be done. Christine to come to next meeting. 179 MH are registered as volunteers on CERVIS!

Region 4 updates-Steve Dazey. Again issues with MH waiting until the last minute for hours. GMU 410 divided for hunting but reporting did not reflect that. Volunteers utilized to call reporting parties to discern *specific* areas harvested. Targeting HE-field skills test assistants as well as instructors. Large amount of volunteer hours are available-more of issue getting word out to MH not to wait until the last minute.

Reminders for MHAG and all MH-

“if you need volunteers, ask them eye to eye”

Tracy L can email list of MH in each region.

### Next meeting discussion items:

Targets used for proficiency. Renewing competencies, sanctioned events?

Master Hunter Permit Program introduced into Hunter Education ethics curriculum?

Next meeting date and location-

Friday, July 18, 2014 Cattlemen’s Association 0900-1600.

Meeting adjourned at 1505