



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

**Agenda for MHAG Meeting #39**  
**April 28, 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	Marji Bobiak	Dave Whipple Hunter Education Division Manager	
	Shawn Woodard		
	Tim Bruya (excused)		
Region 2	Carissa Craghead, Secretary	Kris Thorson Hunter Education Division Specialist	
	Jim Hope		
Region 3	Kyle Smith	Aaron Garcia Region 3 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Tom Conrads		
Region 4	David Floyd	Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Jeff Larsen		
	John McAuliffe, Vice Chair		
Region 5	Chris Brong	Bill Montgomery Region 6 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	George Dennis, Chair		
Region 6	Scott Vousboukis	Captain Bob Weaver Region 3 Enforcement	
	James Zimmerman (excused)		
	Howard “Shane” Briel		
		Christine Redmond Volunteer Program Manager	



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**Procedural Business**

- Call to order and announcements
  - Jim Zimmerman is not able to attend the meeting. He has designated Shane to be his voting proxy for any votes.
- Introduction of members and guests
  - WDFW recognized the member's whose terms ended in 2017.
    - Lance Ostrom, John Glenwinkle, and Jim Fitzgerald were not in attendance. Carissa Craghead and George Dennis were reappointed and recognized for their service.
- Approval of Meeting #38 notes from January 27, 2017
  - Moved by C. Brong, seconded by G. Dennis.
    - Approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

- **Facebook page proposal (*John McAuliffe and Jeff Larsen*)**
  - The MHPP is a bit of a strange entity that could benefit from an improved sense of community, that can bind MHs together, especially younger MHs.
  - Building a community is kind of a necessity.
  - There was some feedback to J. McAuliffe that the Master Hunters want a connection piece like social media or a board.
  - Social media is a great way to get information out to constituents.
  - Dave will schedule a meeting with the public affairs office and report back to MHAG at next meeting on next step in process.
  - Action item – There will be a follow up discussion on this issue next meeting.

**New Business**

- **WDFW Reports and Updates (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - MHPP 2017 Applicants (*Kris Thorson*)
    - In 2016 we had 317 applicants
    - There were 127 (40%) applicants who took the test one time. Of those, 52 (40%) applicants that passed the MHPP test the first time

- Then 55 (73% who failed first test) retook the test and 41 (74%) passed it the second time.
- There were 90 (28%) applicants that completed all of the requirements and made it into the MHPP.
- In 2017, there are 350 applicants.
- As of 04/25/2017 36 (10%) of the applicants had attempted the exam.
- Of those that took the test, there were 25 (69%) that passed it on the first try.
- Of those that did not pass the first time, three have retaken the test and all have passed.
- We are up 10% in applicant number from 2016.
- Volunteer Program Update (*Christine Redmond*)
  - Christine went over her experience at the Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow (CLFT).
- Region 3 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Aaron Garcia*)
  - Aaron worked on a turkey mentoring project and held several clinics before the spring season.
  - He helped solicit volunteers for the Ryegrass fencing projects.
  - Also Aaron had Master Hunters help a local landowner with repairing fencing that poachers had cut.
  - Aaron is working on getting Master Hunters to repair a landowners fencing due to elk damage.
  - The windfarm has several projects for fence removal in the coming months and Aaron is working on securing volunteers.
  - Aaron is working on helping solicit volunteers for the Teanaway community forest habitat restoration efforts.
  - He has also sent volunteers to local fishing events for outreach, community involvement, and getting kids outdoors.
- Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Steve Dazey*)
  - Steve had a box building project for bats and owls in the Sedro Woolley area.
  - He also has been on the phone for a large period of time with MHPP Applicants with questions about the MHPP certification process.
  - Steve is the main contact for this years NHFD event and has been working on NHFD coordination.
- Region 6 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Bill Montgomery*)
  - Bill and Christine missed the last MHAG meeting because they were at the sportsman show in Puyallup and worked on getting the NGOs to come to NHFD.

- He held two Master Hunter Orientation meetings.
- Bill became the Youth Hunter Education Challenge state chair.
- He has also been sending all Master Hunters who need hours to the Bob Oke game farm to get the flight pens repaired.
- Bill also got a Safari Club International local chapter to help fix the flight pens at the Bob Oke game farm.
- He is also working on getting volunteers for hazing projects going on in Region 6.
- Hunter Education Division Specialist (*Kris Thorson*)
  - Kris is working on drafting up new Master Hunter Materials to present to Dave and WDFW staff.
  - He is going to be updating the website.
  - Also, Kris worked on the Orientation PPT with Aaron, Steve, Bill, and Dave.
  - He, Dave, and the volunteer coordinators went to a conflict and private lands staff meeting and talked about the Master Hunter Permit Program (MHPP).
  - Kris compiled and sent the MHPP Newsletter.
  - He also worked with the selection committee to select the new and reappointed MHAG members.
  - Kris is working with the conflict staff on program updates for the upcoming damage season.
- **MHAG Member Updates (*MHAG members*)**
  - MHAG member volunteer work/activities, news/issues from your region, etc.
    - Chris Brong
      - Chris helped Region 5 conflict staff put up elk fences.
      - He is working with Todd in the Mt Adams basin by hazing elk on dairy ranches.
    - Dave Floyd
      - Dave proctored his first round of exams for 2017.
      - He had contact with a Master Hunter on possibly having a MH general season to allow Master Hunters to help alleviate damage in Region 4.
      - Dave also helped a landowner remove a tree that fell on his barn while hunting in Region 1.
    - Shane Briel
      - Shane is starting to work on the Metheney wildlife project.

- He is also working on landowner relations and community outreach.
- Carissa Craghead
  - Carissa volunteered at the Wenatchee outdoorsman show.
  - She has taught two field skills evaluations so far this year.
  - Carissa also did a ladies night event at the Sportsman's Warehouse in Wenatchee and discussed the benefits of being a hunter in Washington with the attendees.
  - She has also helped a befriended a NHFD attendee mom who got interested in archery from being at the Wenatchee NHFD.
- Tom Conrads
  - Tom has proctored the MHPP test and had 6 applicants, of which 5 passed the first time.
  - He is also seeing the shooting sports gaining interest but when he visits firearm dealers the sporting rifles are not as well used or supported.
- John McAuliffe
  - John has held a couple Hunter Education classes so far this year.
  - He has noticed that the class numbers are down this year.
  - John also assisted a ladies group come to the range and gave them basic instruction on how to shoot.
- Jeff Larsen
  - Jeff helped speak at the Master Hunter orientation in Region 4.
  - He is also mentoring some of the applicants that were at the orientation on the test and qualifications.
  - Jeff also is working with Upper Snoqualmie Management Group and repairing elk fences near North Bend.
- Shawn Woodard
  - Shawn volunteered at the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council Big Horn show and they had second best show on record of the past 60 years.
  - He is hearing more about the elk damage in Region 1.
  - Shawn has heard from disabled hunters and feels that the disability wording may be too stringent.
- George Dennis
  - George volunteered at the Portland sports show.
  - He also attended the Region 5 Master Hunter orientation and volunteered to mentor the applicants.

- George has also helped Tammy Conklin organize an elk hazing project.
  - He has talked to landowners about the MHPP.
- **Legislative and Commission Update (*David Whipple*)**
  - Dave was tracking a large number of bills throughout the session having to do with hunter ed, background checks, etc. Most of the bills have not made it out of committee or house of origin.
  - Fish and Wildlife Commission: MH Points Restoration
    - WAC 232-28-291 Special hunting season permits was updated to allow WDFW to restore points to hunters that draw a damage hunt administered by a WDFW designated hunt coordinator but do not get called to participate.
    - The reason that WDFW proposed this change was because feedback from hunters since the inception of this type of hunt suggests that this is a problem that can be fixed by the proposed changes.
  - HB 1174: Hunter Ed in high schools
    - This bill received one public hearing in the House Education committee. The bill is largely permissive, in that it only requires the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to work with WDFW to develop the curriculum. Schools would have the option to implement it. Therefore, the Committee chair did not believe the bill is needed.
    - A stakeholder meeting was held w/ Rep. Muri, Bob Brown, Burleigh Cubert, Dr. Dan Bishop, John Cerio, a NRA representative, and OSPI. The current education requirements limit the ability to add an elective class that will receive enrollment. There's a bill this session that would change high school requirements, supported by OSPI. If it were to pass, it would allow a class like hunter ed to also address physics, math, conservation, etc.
  - HB 1900 & SB 5536 - NRA license plate, with revenue going to hunter education program
    - These bills only had one hearing in the Senate Transportation committee.
    - There was no support in the House, presumable due to the NRA logo, although there seems to be support for hunter education.
  - HB 1100 & SB 5268 - CPL expiration notices
    - House bill 1100 is currently awaiting the Governor's signature while 5268 passed both houses.
    - Both would require the Department of Licensing to send an expiration notice.
    - These bills may have a funding effect on the Firearms Range Account.

- The Firearms Range Account is where WDFW pulls money to publish and ship the “Firearm Safety, the Law and You” booklet. This is because that fund receives \$3 of the \$10 late fee associated with late CPL renewals. The fund can also be used to support hunter education, which may be needed if/when Pittman-Robertson funds decline.
- 1612: suicide-safer homes project account
  - House bill 1612 is currently awaiting the Governor’s signature.
  - It expands the scope of the task force to tribal and health care.
  - It also expands awareness activities to the dental field.
  - The goal is suicide awareness & prevention messages for firearm owners, dealers, and ranges.
  - Possible ways to reach these stakeholders is the Firearms Safety, the Law & You pamphlet.
  - Hunter Education classes have also been identified by the taskforce but they are not sure how they would effectively provide the information yet.
  - It also modified RCW 9.41.113 which is the background checks exemption definition of “immediate family members” to include parents-in-law, siblings-in-law, and added information on a gift “or loan”.
  - It also allows temporary transfers if the intent is to prevent suicide/self-inflicted great bodily harm under certain conditions.
- 1944 – LEO exemption
  - House bill 1944 is currently awaiting the Governor’s signature.
  - It expands the current military exemption to law enforcement officers.
- 5552 - Concerning firearms sales and transfers
  - Senate bill 5552 is currently awaiting the Governor’s signature.
  - It excludes from background checks flare guns and powder-actuated construction tools.
  - It also clarifies that “transfer” does not include:
    - Transfers between an entity & employee/agent for lawful purposes in the ordinary course of business, including volunteers participating in an honor guard.
    - Temp transfers if intended to prevent suicide/self-inflicted great bodily harm under certain conditions.
    - “Immediate family members” expanded to parents-in-law, siblings-in-law, and added for a “gift” or “loan”.
    - Sales & transfers if purchaser or transferee is licensed collector and the firearm is a curio or relic.
    - Adds a background check exemption for temp transfer if transferee and firearm remain in the presence of the transferor.

- 5557 - Extending sales tax exemption for clay targets purchased by a nonprofit gun club
  - The current exemption expires July 1, 2017.
  - This would extend the exemption to July 1, 2027.
  - There was one public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means committee and it was exec'ed out of the committee.
  - Currently it is in the Rules Committee and is considered alive until the budget is adopted.
- **Election of new Chair and Vice-Chair (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - Nomination for chair George Dennis by Carissa Craghead
    - Seconded by David Floyd
    - Approved unanimously
  - Nomination for vice-chair of John McAuliffe
    - Seconded by Jeff Larsen
    - Approved unanimously
- **NHFD 2017 update (*Kris Thorson and Steve Dazey*)**
  - So far we have confirmations from the following NGOs:
    - Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
    - Safari Club International (NW Chapter)
    - Stonerose
    - Volterra and Don Curtis
    - Trout Unlimited (Monroe Chapter)
    - WA. Hunter Education Instructors Association (WHEIA)
    - WA. Friends of the NRA (Grant)
    - WA. Grand Lodge Medical Team
    - WA. Ornamental Game Bird Breeders
    - Master Hunters and Hunter Education Instructors
    - Puget Sound Knappers
    - National Wild Turkey Federation
    - Mule Deer Foundation
    - Chief Seattle Council
    - BSA Shooting Sports Committee and Camp Pigott
- **MHAG Strategic Plan (*George D./Kris T./Capt. Weaver*)**
  - WDFW has partnered with the First Hunt Foundation to give Master Hunters more ability to mentor first time hunters.
  - Since then, the mentors in Washington State went from three mentors who were not Master Hunters to 34 mentors.



- Aaron is worked with these mentors to sign up mentees for a turkey hunt during the spring season.
- WDFW worked with local non-government organizations to hold 15 clinics in the past 12 months.
- Currently 242 HEI are MH. About 25% of HEI are MH.
- **Master hunter orientation report (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - The department held four MHPP Orientation meetings this past year before the application deadline.
    - Three were in western Washington
      - Mountlake Terrace
      - Puyallup
      - Longview
    - One was in eastern Washington
      - Spokane
  - Had 163 attendees sign into the meeting.
  - Of those that signed in 78 filled out evaluations of the meeting to give the department feedback on the presentation.
  - Current Master Hunters that filled out an evaluation form was 34 which represented 44% of evaluators.
  - Master Hunter Applicants that filled out an evaluation form was 36 which represented 46% of evaluators.
  - And those not Master Hunters or Applicants that filled out an evaluation form was 8 which represented 10% of evaluators.
  - Kris is tracking the comments and will use them in the future to update the orientation PPT.
- **Spring turkey clinic recap and report (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - Held 10 Clinics for turkey this year before opening day.
    - One clinic in Region 1
    - One clinic in Region 2
    - Four clinics in Region 3
    - Two clinics in Region 4
    - One clinic in Region 5
    - One clinic in Region 6
  - There were 110 that attended the clinics with an average age of 41.
  - There were 129 that attended the eight clinics in 2016 with an average age of 49.
  - This means we were 85% of last year's attendees with a 25% increase in clinics.
  - The average age dropped by eight years.

- Aaron also worked on hooking up mentors and mentees from the clinic attendees.
- Five properties have agreed to allow mentors and mentees to be on the property.
- Over 40 people signed up as mentees from the clinics.
- Sent out 20 to get mentored.
- **Report on conflict and private lands staff meeting (*David Whipple*)**
  - In March the HE division had a meeting with the conflict staff and private lands staff in Ellensburg on the MHPP.
  - At the meeting the HE Division gave a presentation on the MHPP and its history.
  - After the presentation, the group divided into four smaller groups and was asked to identify what was working, what issues or challenges are currently encountered, and suggestions for improvements.
  - Takeaways from the meeting are being shared in meetings with high level Wildlife program staff.
  - These takeaways are also being used internally to help craft solutions to the issues.
  - HE division has created two spreadsheets on the information that was collected and is working with conflict staff to address issues and implement changes as needed.
- **MHPP Newsletter (*Kris Thorson and David Whipple*)**
  - WDFW will be working on a revised introduction and context.
  - There will be inclusion of information from conflict specialists and private lands bios.
  - We will also be distributing the MHPP Newsletter to WDFW staff.
  - Currently the department is working on adding a success stories section as well as a horror stories section to illustrate good and bad interactions or behaviors.
  - Kris also asked the MHAG membership to contribute information to the newsletter.
- **Improving access to landlocked public lands (*Kris Thorson*)**
  - WDFW understands that hunting access can be a stumbling block for current and prospective hunters.
  - The Game Division was tasked with looking into the land locked public lands within the state.
  - They created a map of the land locked areas and delegated the work to regional staff members to work with their local landowners to try to get an easement to reach state lands.

- During the work planning meetings it was decided it would be left up to the regions on whether they felt that it would be beneficial to pursue gaining access through the private lands to the public lands.
- Some lands are locked up by landowners who are not willing to participate in one of our other lands programs.
- Jeff had the question of, “Can hunters corner hop?”
  - WDFW is looking into this and will report back.
- **CORT update (*Shane Briel*)**
  - No new news

### **Conclusion**

- **Recap Action Items (*Secretary Craghead*)**
  - Follow up on the Social Media initiative.
- **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**
  - MHPP upcoming damage season
  - Social media decision/direction
  - Status update on MHPP improvements
    - Upcoming damage season
    - Larger program improvements
- **Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG*)**
  - Thanks to the outgoing members and welcome to the new members.
- **Adjourn**
  - @ 3:10