

## **Master Hunter Information and Outreach Meeting, April 4, 2009**

22 Master Hunters attended; 3 MHAG members; and 3 WDFW staff participated.  
16 surveys were returned.

Several participants expressed resistance to the idea of requiring MH qualification with whatever legal hunting implement is going to be used in a MH hunt. The feeling was that the ethics of the MH should dictate this, not the number of shots placed on paper. However, most of those attending seemed to support the suggested change.

By show of hands approximately 60% of the group favored increasing recertification hours above 40. One person voiced concern over the time commitment, and expressed that the increase may be difficult for busy people.

An interesting idea was put forth regarding more I&O meetings around the state: That the MHAG should train MHs to conduct the meetings in their local area, thus relieving involvement by the MHAG or WDFW personnel. An alternate approach would be to video an I&O meeting and then post it on the Master Hunter web site.

We briefly discussed the Hunt Master involvement in landowner/hunter relations. Some landowners are expressing a desire to meet the hunters who are brought onto their lands, beforehand. Also, MHs are being requested to harvest only cow elk or does, leaving antlered animals for the landowners' family and friends, in some cases. Opinion is that the landowners have the right to request this of the MH and the MH should voluntarily respect the landowner's wishes----but that the MHs should know about this restriction before applying for permits

Ideas for improving the image of MHs:

- Start with Hunter Ed and stress Ethics and Sportsmanship. (This is already done)
- Master Hunters must be willing to self-police. Report all infractions even if they are "good-old-boys," Be willing to make a tough call.
- Publish a list of offenders and violators on the web site
- Publish positive responses: write stories of how the MH corps is "doing it right" and post them on the web site.

There seemed to be general understanding about the potential need to suspend new applications for a period of time to address upcoming staff reductions.