

Cooperative Agreement between the Master Hunter Advisory Group, Central Washington University and, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

This agreement is hereby made and entered into by and between the Master Hunter Advisory Group hereafter referred to a MHAG, Central Washington University, hereinafter referred to as CWU, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, hereinafter referred to as WDFW

A. Purpose

The purpose of this agreement is to document the commitment to cooperation and coordination between MHAG, CWU and WDFW for developing and implementing an assessment of the current levels of illegal behavior by elk hunters in the state of Washington.

Specific to this agreement, all parties desire to advance the partnership by collaborating on the design and implementation of the research to assess illegal behavior.

This agreement is created to provide a framework to guide planning and research relative to this agreement through 2021. Through this agreement the parties are committing to collaborating and implementing the assessment of illegal behavior to address their mutual interest.

Activities to be addressed include, but are not limited to:

- Develop research to assess levels of illegal behavior by hunters
- Seek additional funding for projects through grants and other partnerships
- Identify ways to improve the Master Hunter program to ensure that a reliable cadre of ethical hunters form the membership

B. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERSTS

The MHAG mission is to develop a corps of sportsmen dedicated to preserving the heritage of hunting by giving back to the sport, displaying the highest standards of conduct, and working to conserve wildlife habitat and hunting opportunity. The MHAG consists of 15 members.

The mission of CWU is to prepare students for responsible citizenship, responsible stewardship of the earth, and enlightened and productive lives. Faculty, staff, students, and alumni serve as an intellectual resource to assist central Washington, the state, and the region in solving human and environmental problems. Graduate programs develop partnerships between faculty and students to extend scholarship to important areas of research and practice.

The mission of WDFW is to provide sound stewardship of fish and wildlife.

The MHAG, CWU and WDFW have mutual interests in the management and conservation of Washington's natural resources. The parties agree that hunters who violate the law rob the rest of the hunting community from harvest opportunity, detract from the overall hunting experience, and negatively affects the general public's perception of recreational hunting. In consideration of the above premise, the parties agree as follows:

- C. The MHAG shall
 - a. Provide input to evaluate interview questions and other aspects of the study as needed
 - b. Assist with incorporating Master Hunters into the research process
 - c. Continue to provide recommendations and implement actions to improve the Master Hunter program

- D. CWU shall
 - a. Select suitable qualified graduate students to implement the research
 - b. Administer funds provided by outside grants to support the graduate student
 - c. Provide in-kind contributions that will enable selected students to implement the research
 - d. Provide copy of any resulting publications (thesis) to WDFW and the MHAG

- E. WDFW SHALL
 - a. Provide leadership for: 1) planning and implementing the research 2) obtaining financial or logistical support, and 3) assisting with the academic advisement of student researchers
 - b. Provide qualified staff to work directly with MHAG and CWU on the research project
 - c. Identify and secure additional resources as needed to assist in the completion of research.
 - d. Provide regular updates on ongoing research
 - e. Provide a final presentation to the MHAG prior to publication of the final results
 - f. Reinitiate the research 5 years after results from the first study are completed

- F. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:
 - a. WDFW will meet with MHAG and CWU either separately or, in tandem, at least once every 4 months to review accomplishments and discuss overall progress until the first assessment has been completed
 - b. EFFECTIVE PERIOD: The MOU shall become effective as of the last written date below and will be in force and effect for a term of ten (10) years. It will be subject to modification or revision by mutual agreement.

- c. **TERMINATION:** This MOU may be terminated at any time by any of the partners upon thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other partners. Termination shall release the partners from any and all obligations to each other.
- d. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The partners shall coordinate any public announcement or comment regarding contemplated actions prior to its issuance. This paragraph is a binding agreement between the parties.

G. **PRINCIPAL CONTACTS:** The principal contacts are:

Master Hunter Advisory Group
Chair, Mike Estes
3419 South Jean Str
Kennewick, 99337
Phone (509) 582-2212
Email: estes.mike@frontier.com

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Anthony Novack
Region 3 Deer/Elk Conflict Specialist
201 N Pearl Str
Ellensburg, WA 98926
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Central Washington University
Department of Geography
Department Chair: Jim Huckabay
400 E. University Way
Ellensburg, WA 98926
Phone (509) 963-1185
Email: Huckabay@cwu.EDU

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this agreement as of the last written date below.

Name:

Title: Dave Ware, Game Division Manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife


SIGNATURE

12-8-2011
DATE

Name: Nate Pamplin

Title: Assistant Director, Wildlife Program, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife


SIGNATURE

12/22/11
DATE

Name: Kirk Johnson

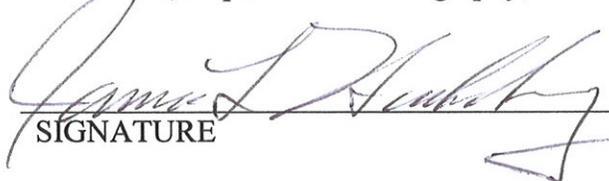
Title: *Dean, College of the Sciences*, Central Washington University


SIGNATURE

12-6-11
DATE

Name: Jim Huckabay

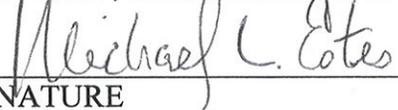
Title: Chair, Department of Geography, Central Washington University


SIGNATURE

10/6/11
DATE

Name: Mike Estes

Title: *Chair*, Master Hunter Advisory Group


SIGNATURE

10/6/2011
DATE