



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

**Agenda for MHAG Meeting #46**  
**May 17, 2019 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Washington Cattlemen's Association, Ellensburg**

**Procedural Business**

- **Call to order and announcements (*George Dennis, 5 minutes*)**
- **Introduction of new members and guests (*George Dennis, 15 minutes*)**
- **Approval of Meeting #45 notes from January 11, 2019 (*George Dennis, 5 minutes*)**
  - Approved unanimously

**Old Business**

- **Budget News/Update (*Kris Thorson, 30 minutes*)**
  - Kris discussed the handout and gave a broad overview of the budget situation.
  - A handout was provided to the membership on the budget.
  - Kris answered questions on budget issues/challenges.

**New Business**

- **Cougar Status and Trends (*Rich Beausoleil, 60 minutes*)**
  - Rich gave an overview of the cougar management and the hunting season structure.
  - Male cougars average 140 pounds.
  - Female cougars average 90 pounds.
  - Kittens are generally born June – August.
  - Average home range for a male is 140 square miles.
  - Average home range for a female is 50 square miles.
  - Rich would like to encourage each Master Hunter to read *Research to Regulation: Cougar Social Behavior as a Guide for Management* paper. Kris will send the paper to the MHAG members.
  - Kris will also post the paper to the handouts section in the meeting notes.
- **MHPP Annual Report (*Kris Thorson, 30 minutes*)**
  - Kris discussed the annual report and what its purpose is.
  - The annual report will be sent to the membership soon for review and suggested edits.
  - Past annual reports are in the WDFW publication archive located online (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/publications>).

- **WDFW Reports and Updates (*Kris Thorson, 30 minutes*)**
  - **Amy Region 5 –**
    - Amy went to a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquet and talked Master Hunters and the program.
    - She assisted in securing volunteers for coyote depredation issues in Klickitat County.
    - Amy certified a Master Hunter as a hunter education instructor.
    - She helped brainstorm how to get Master Hunters get more involved in hunter education.
    - She had a couple projects for where the public partners who were using Master Hunters didn't communicate or left the project early and left the Master Hunters at the project site to complete the project.
    - She is working on getting a cougar mounted for enforcement to use as a poaching decoy.
  - **Steve Dazey Region 4 –**
    - Steve presented to the friends of the NRA, per their request, on funds that were distributed to the Washington Hunter Education Instructors Association for National Hunting and Fishing Day.
    - Steve has a Master Hunter who is mentoring a new hunter.
    - He is working on soliciting volunteers for this years goat translocation project. If you would like to volunteer send an email to Rich Harris at [goattranslocation@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:goattranslocation@dfw.wa.gov).
    - Steve is also soliciting volunteers for a sheep project in the Wenatchee area.
    - He has a request for a project on the Golden Doe area removing old fencing in June.
    - Steve has a project in Region 4 that will be collecting data on a new rafting recreational opportunity near Fall City.
  - **Aaron Garcia**
    - Aaron has had several projects in which no Master Hunters signed up.
    - Aaron had 76 people request a mentored hunt.
    - He has deployed over 60 mentees with mentors to get out and hunt.
    - Aaron mentored five new turkey hunters this spring.
    - He reported that conflict staff have been happy with the hunting pressure on conflict properties.
  - **Kris Thorson**
    - Kris has been working on the Master Hunter materials and ensuring they are ready to get posted to the website if the program continues.
    - He has also been answering a lot of Master Hunter questions emails etc.
    - Kris worked on creating some Master Hunter timelines for opening the program this year if it continues.

- **MHAG Member Updates (*George Dennis, 30 minutes*)**
  - **George Dennis**
    - George helped at a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquet with any Master Hunter questions and giving information on the program.
    - He harvested an elk on a farm for conflict staff and it was donated to a local foodbank.
    - George limbed cedar trees for a school in Cathlamet near a fence line to discourage wildlife from using the area.
  - Jim Hope
    - Jim mentored a new turkey hunter.
    - He also helped with the bighorn sheep roundup on Chelan Butte.
  - Shawn Woodard
    - Shawn has been answering questions from airmen at Fairchild AFB about the Master Hunter Permit Program.
  - Keith Pfeifer
    - Keith participated in the elk mortality study on the Toutle mudflats.
    - He accompanied Master Hunters on damage permits this year as a mentor.
    - Keith helped at a Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation banquet with any Master Hunter questions and giving information on the program.
    - He talked to Kyle Garrison about hoof disease and gave a quick update.
  - Marji Bobiak
    - Marji attended the First Hunt event in eastern Washington recently.
  - Jeff Larsen
    - Jeff signed up for Mountain Goat translocation project.
  - John McAuliffe
    - John had a hunter education class with 15 individuals signed up and only seven attended the class.
    - He held an open day for a construction company that helps grow the shooting sports ranks.
  - Tom Conrads
    - Tom has been volunteering at the rifle ranges near Tri-Cities.
  - Jonathan Barr
    - Jonathan has received local Master Hunter emails and concerns.
  - Carissa Craghead
    - Carissa certified 181 of her staff in CPR.
    - She volunteered at National Archery in the Schools Program state event in February.
    - In April, she volunteered at ladies night at Sportsman's Warehouse.
    - She also taught in four hunter education classes.
  - Kyle Smith
    - Kyle was deployed on a Master Hunter deer hunt in February and was successful.

- He mentored another hunter with a damage tag on the same property.
    - Kyle volunteered at a youth fishing day in Tri-cities.
  - David Floyd
    - David has been responding to MH on the programs future.
    - He is working on getting some help for the Golden Doe project.
  - Ian Stewart
    - Ian has been responding to questions regarding the programs future.
    - He helped at teach a couple hunter education classes.
- **NHFD Update (*Kris Thorson, 30 minutes*)**
  - Kris discussed the history of National Hunting and Fishing Day.
  - This year's event is on September 28, 2019 in Puyallup.
  - Other celebrations are taking place in Moxee and East Wenatchee on September 14.
  - Kris encouraged all the MHAG members to volunteer if possible.
- **Election of New Officers (*Kris Thorson, 15 minutes*)**
  - George nominated John McAuliffe for Chair.
    - Seconded by David Floyd.
      - Unanimously approved.
  - John McAuliffe nominated Jeff Larsen as Vice-Chair.
    - Seconded by George.
      - Unanimously approved.

## Conclusion

- **Recap Action Items (*Secretary Craghead, 5 minutes*)**
- **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting(*George Dennis, 5 minutes*)**
  - CORT requirement fixes
  - Possible rule change/addition
  - ALEA grants and how they work
- **Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG, 5 minutes*)**
  - Carissa asked about the possibility of using any hunting equipment in MH 3911 hunt.
    - Kris clarified that the Master Hunter must use the hunting equipment as noted on their tag for hunting in 3911.
  - A member suggested the department should clarify the hunting equipment for 3911.
  - In addition, a member suggested putting the information into the newsletter.
- **Adjourn**