



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

Notes for MHAG Meeting #44
October 26, 2018 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Washington Cattlemen’s Association, Ellensburg

MHAG Members		WDFW Staff	Guests
Region 1	Marji Bobiak (excused)	Dave Whipple Hunter Education Division Manager	Mike Imes Region 6 Master Hunter
	Shawn Woodard		
Region 2	Carissa Craghead, Secretary	Kris Thorson Hunter Education Division Specialist	
	Jim Hope (excused)		
Region 3	Kyle Smith (excused)	Aaron Garcia Region 3 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Tom Conrads		
Region 4	David Floyd	Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Jeff Larsen, Vice Chair		
	John McAuliffe	Amy Elliott Region 5 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Ian Stewart		
Region 5	George Dennis, Chair	Bill Montgomery Region 6 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Keith Pfeifer		
Region 6	Scott Vousboukis	Steve Wetzel Region 3 Conflict Specialist	
	James Zimmerman (excused)		
	Howard “Shane” Briel		

Procedural Business

- **Call to order and announcements** (*George Dennis, 5 minutes*)
- **Introduction of members and guests** (*George Dennis, 5 minutes*)
- **Approval of Meeting #43 notes from July 20, 2018** (*George Dennis, 5 minutes*)
 - Approved unanimously.

Old Business

- **3911 Second Tag Concerns** (*Steve Wetzel, 30 minutes*)
 - Mid July, the drought put elk into stress and in September put the elk into food stress.
 - Scott had not hear of any issues during the general 3911 season so far.
 - He has not used any permits at this point.
 - Several Master Hunters that Steve talked to did not want to hunt early based on the heat.
 - In his opinion, there was enough participation in the early season to meet landowner's needs.
 - There is some idea of adding area to 3911 and will proposed changes through the season setting process.
 - Steve is not sure if Bernie is planning to change the hunting equipment restriction per their tag.
 - There was a concern about archers not wearing hunter orange in certain parts of 3911 while the general 3911 Master Hunter only hunts have occurred.
 - Steve will take this concern back to Bernie to discuss the possibility of removing the hunting equipment restriction.
- **Report on Master Hunter Expectations** (*Kris Thorson, 15 minutes*)
 - Kris has heard from a conflict specialist on the effectiveness of the expectations and they felt like the expectations are not working in the manner we hoped.
 - Kris did look into the ability to print the expectations on the back of the permit but it would require the creation of a new template by the licensing staff and an increased cost or MHPP Staff printing the permits in house.
- **Budget News/Update** (*David Whipple, 30 minutes*)
 - Dave discussed the 2019 Budget Development handout and what the information means.
 - He discussed the process that WDFW went through to determine the budget and the zero based budget exercise that the legislature requested.
 - Dave talked about what the budget shortfall means for the Hunter Education Division as a whole.
 - The Hunter Education program have a field coordinator/volunteer coordinator position, a customer service position, and the Master Hunter Permit Program as a whole on the line if the budget is not addressed via the legislative process.

- Tom and others suggested the department send out the budget information to all MHPP members.
- Keith suggested MH's and other members of the general public in their areas to approach their state representatives with a unified message to support continuation of the MHPP and the conflict specialists.
- For more information, Dave directed MHAG to the following webpage, <https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/budget/development/>
- **CORT Report (David Whipple, 30 minutes)**
 - Dave gave a background on the issues that the department have noticed in regards to CORT.
 - The department had discussions with Eyes in the Woods (EITW) on the past CORT attendees and possible need for more CORT classes late in the year.
 - Carissa tried to do a class in October but couldn't get the class on the calendar. She only had two people attend.
 - WDFW is proposing to hold 12 orientations with CORT classes this next year.
 - WDFW is looking at holding CORT possibly online in a WebEx format or recording classes and providing a video training.
- **Draft WAC Report (Kris Thorson and Scott Bird, 30 minutes)**
 - Kris has been working with Scott Bird, WDFW Rules Coordinator, on the possibility of creating a department rule to curb negative perceptions the department is hearing from conflict staff, landowners, and the public.
 - This is a difficult task since any agency action such as a suspension can be appealed.
 - This means that the rule would have to have demonstrative things like damage to a field or not deploying on time.
 - Scott walked the MHAG through the rule making process.
 - Kris committed to working through the process and bringing more information on a concrete rule based on the direction from Scott.
- **Program reports on completions (Kris Thorson, 15 minutes)**
 - Kris looked at the completion data for the current applicant pool on October 1.
 - Of the 310 applicants, 123 had not completed any of the requirements.

Item	Count	% complete	Count Incomplete
Code of ethics	161	52%	149
Shooting Qualification	84	27%	226
Volunteer hours submitted	91	29%	219
CORT Training	83	27%	227
Exam	96	31%	214
Complete with all requirements	71	23%	239
completed at least one requirement	187	60%	123

- The average number of completions for 2012-17 is 98.
- The 71 completions is 73% of the 5 year average.

- There are 104 applicants who have done some of the requirements but have not sent in their CORT certificate.
- 116 (37%) taken the test so far
- 80 (69%) passed on their first attempt
- 20 (56%) took the test a second time
- All 20 have passed the second time
- 80 (26%) have completed all requirements and are now MHs
- Kris talked about the new materials and the new test.
- There was a suggestion from the group to have another fee for sending out the print materials.
- George suggested adding the 25 question test exam and that it is highly encouraged for applicants to try the sample etc.
- There was a suggestion also to add in the letter that the candidates make the test a priority.
- Also there was a suggestion to identify the test is 100 questions more clearly.
- Might want to expand on the MHPP orientations to have them attend etc.
- Update the questions section (25 questions) like the online portion.

New Business

- **Proposed videos for online posting (*Jeff Larsen, 15 minutes*)**
 - Since MHs are not required to have ever been hunting to become a Master Hunter there have been issues with field dressing.
 - Jeff went through you tube and found several videos that WDFW could link to on the MH webpage.
 - There were suggestions to get a WDFW sponsored field dressing video.
- **Master Hunter Newsletter (*Kris Thorson, 30 minutes*)**
 - Are you hearing anything from Master Hunters about the newsletter or its format?
 - Very few comments back to MHAG but they know folks are reading it and mentioning it to MHAG members.
 - In the next newsletter we will be putting in information on the new materials and new test.
 - We had an occurrence of a WCS having a Master Hunter who was put into the jeers portion of the newsletter who contacted the WCS and was very upset about being in the jeers section.
 - MHAG was supportive of continuing to use this method to address issues and behaviors.
- **WDFW Reports and Updates (*Kris Thorson, 30 minutes*)**
 - Region 3 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Aaron Garcia*)
 - Aaron and Steve made a second trip through the eastern Washington wildlife areas.
 - The National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHFD) events went well.
 - He has had several pheasant clinics this year with more to come in December.

- Aaron is working with National Wild Turkey Federation and Washington Outdoor Women on a women only turkey hunting event that gives field to table instruction on November 17 in Spokane.
 - Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Kris Thorson for Steve Dazey*)
 - Steve made the trip through the eastern Washington wildlife areas with Aaron.
 - The backcountry hunters and anglers approached Steve about volunteer service and he got a volunteer opportunity for the golden doe area and removing barbed wire.
 - He has had a Master Hunter do a traffic study on a proposed access area.
 - Steve had a Master Hunter that needed hours that is a heavy machinery mechanic and is now maintaining the Skagit wildlife area heavy machines and saving the department funding.
 - He has a low impact opportunity tying mylar strips to zip ties for swan protection.
 - Region 5 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Amy Elliott*)
 - Amy is working on getting to know the staff members and Master Hunters in Region 5.
 - Region 6 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Bill Montgomery*)
 - Bill has been working on a pheasant clinic for November.
 - He had several Master Hunters volunteer at the Puyallup Fair for the trout pond.
 - Bill worked on getting some volunteers on a quick response for a canary grass removal project.
 - He also worked on securing Master Hunter volunteers for the goat relocation. A large percentage of the volunteers were Master Hunters. The average volunteer times are 16.5 hours.
 - Hunter Education Division Specialist (*Kris Thorson*)
 - Kris is working on getting the new master hunter materials finalized and put on the webpage.
 - He is working on the November MHPP Newsletter.
 - He is also working on the proposed WAC language.
- **MHAG Member Updates (*George Dennis, 30 minutes*)**
 - MHAG member volunteer work/activities, news/issues from your region, etc.
 - John McCauliffe
 - John taught six online classes the past several months.
 - Shawn Woodard
 - Shawn worked with a couple Master Hunter applicants on the requirements and study techniques.
 - Shane Briel
 - Shane has heard of several dump sites being cleaned up by Master Hunters.
 - He has seen an increase in Master Hunters and hunters gaining access to private lands for hunting.

- Shane has heard of some issues where landowners and Master Hunters are having some heartburn based on the list and being required to use the list.
 - Shane talked to Scott Harris and he has only deployed two master hunters at this time and generally he has deployed 10 or more.
- Keith Pfifer
 - Keith talked to the Region 5 conflict staff and participated in a mentored hunt with another Master Hunter.
 - He has mentored a couple Master Hunters on a property he knows quite well.
- Ian Stewart
 - Ian had a flurry of email and phone contact with Master Hunters who had concerns and questions about recent changes.
 - He helped put together the information in the newsletter that requested folks contact their MHAG representatives with questions.
 - He has become a hunter education instructor.
 - Ian also took a bowhunter education class.
- Jeff Larsen
 - Jeff became a MHPP exam proctor.
 - He has had three test dates recently.
 - Recently Jeff became a hunter education instructor.
 - Jeff volunteered at the goat relocation this year and was able to help capture and relocate some goats.
- Carissa Craghead
 - Carissa coordinated a CORT class.
 - She completed a seminar on scent control at the Sportsman's warehouse in Moses Lake.
- David Floyd
 - David has a MH exam scheduled in the near future.
 - He helped recruit a Region 4 CORT coordinator.
 - David sent folks to the golden doe project.
 - HE is also working on helping secure a venue for the MHPP Orientations for Steve.
- Tom Conrads
 - Tom proctored the exam for the MHPP.
- George Dennis
 - George was setting up to be a proctor for the MHPP exam.
 - He also volunteered at the Moxee NHD event.
- **NHFD Recap (*George Dennis, 10 minutes*)**
 - The Moxee event had 65 kids sign in.
 - The average age of the participants was 9.38 years old.
 - Of the 65, only three (5%) had completed a hunter education course.

- Of the 65, 35 (35%) had fired a firearm or bow before.
- We had 24 participants from the west side and 40 from the east side with one not answering where they were from.
- The East Wenatchee event had 244 Kids and 138 adults.
- SCI and Sun Valley Shooting Park is going to do the event next year as well.
- **CORT Update (*Shane Briel, 5 minutes*)**
 - The CORT Program lost the statewide training coordinator.
 - The program is working to fill the holes that it has experienced to provide trainings.

Conclusion

- **Recap Action Items (*Secretary Craghead, 5 minutes*)**
- **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting(*George Dennis, 5 minutes*)**
 - MHPP Proposed WAC
 - Budget Update
 - Wolf update
 - Report on hoof disease
- **Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG, 5 minutes*)**
 - Next meeting January 11, 2019
- **Adjourn**