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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>% complete</th>
<th>Count Incomplete</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Code of ethics</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shooting Qualification</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer hours submitted</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>219</td>
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<tr>
<td>CORT Training</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete with all requirements</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>completed at least one requirement</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>123</td>
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</tbody>
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- 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.
  o 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.
  o Region 5 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Amy Elliott*)
    ▪ Amy is working on getting to know the staff members and Master Hunters in Region 5.
  o 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.
  o 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*)**
  o 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 NHFD event.

• **NHFD Recap (George Dennis, 10 minutes)**
  o The Moxee event had 65 kids sign in.
  o The average age of the participants was 9.38 years old.
  o 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**