



## **MASTER HUNTER ADVISORY GROUP WASHINGTON**

**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

MHAG Meeting #30, Meeting Notes  
 January 9, 2015 – 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
 Washington Cattlemen’s Association, Ellensburg

<b>MHAG Members</b>		<b>WDFW Staff</b>	<b>Guests / Coordinators</b>
Region 1	John Glenewinkel	Dave Whipple Hunter Education Division Manager Olympia  Aaron Garcia Region 3 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator  Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator  Bill Montgomery Region 6 Education/Volunteer Coordinator  Captain Rich Mann Region 3 Enforcement	Shane Briel, CORT  Lafawn Sutton  Max (Lon) Craghead  Ned Landers
	Jim Sutton		
Region 2	James Reinbold		
	Carissa Craghead,		
Region 3	Lance Ostrom		
	Tom Conrads (excused)		
Region 4	Jim Fitzgerald, Chair		
	Roger Hurst		
	John McGlenn, Vice Chair		
	Jim Slyfield (excused)		
Region 5	Chris Brong		
	George Dennis		
Region 6	James Zimmerman		
	Dave Berg		

### **Procedural Business**

- Meeting called to order at 0902
- Meeting #29 notes were approved, with the exception of CORT class calendars WILL NOT be in the MHPP application packets.
- Introduction of Members and Guests

## New Business

- WDFW Reports and Updates (*Dave Whipple*)
  - Introduction of new Hunter Education staff; both come w/ great enthusiasm & experience
    - Aaron Garcia (Region 3, Yakima) and Bill Montgomery (Region 6, NRB) are new Hunter Education Division Field Coordinators. Their positions are 75% hunter education coordination & 25% volunteer coordination. These positions mean WDFW now has a person in each of its 6 administrative regions (although not all positions are full time), and will continue the agency's efforts to better utilize volunteers, including Master Hunters.
    - Aaron & Bill come with a wealth of experience in both Hunter Education (20 years combined) as well as volunteering and volunteer coordination (55 years combined), and both are Master Hunters since 2012.
  - WDFW Director Recruitment
    - Finalists narrowed down to 4. Final selection to be done within the week.
  - Washington Association of Prosecutor Attorneys (WAPA) letter
    - Letter was sent to WAPA by Chief Crown; addresses issues and violations of all hunters, not just MH's. Thanks to Captain Mann for bringing this issue to MHAG, and to MHAG for everyone's review and support.
    - Many areas of discussion within MHAG including penalties, violations, volunteer obtained while permit is suspended, the need for a way for MHs to know which landowners allow access in 3911, etc.
    - MH guidelines regulated by specific statutes. Strategic plan work group will be discussing the issues.
    - Elk Area 3911 issues
      - Discussion occurred regarding issues within 3911; landowners, hunters, violations, etc. Landowner relations with hunters and MH's was the majority of the discussion. Region 3 Hunter Ed/Volunteer coordinator, Aaron Garcia, to work with Capt. Mann on some of these issues.
  - HR3AG Update
    - Dave Whipple presented slide show/power point update from December 13, 2014 workshop with Mark Damian Duda from Responsive Management. Topics included trends in hunting populations, license sales, fish and wildlife management, survey results from over 400 studies done nationwide, how to best reach the different demographic groups of Washington, and how to make a plan for the success of this group and what exactly it is the group wants to achieve.

- MHAG Recruitment & Officer Elections (*Jim F. / John M. / George D. / Dave W.*)
  - 29 Candidates (to-date); 6 MHAG vacancies
    - Region 1: 8    Region 4: 6
    - Region 2: 4    Region 5: 1
    - Region 3: 5    Region 6: 5
  - There were more applicants this year compared to last year, largely due to Steve Dazey (WDFW) sending an email to MHs regarding the application period.
  - 14 applicants will be contacted & interviewed by the MHAG Selection Committee, and final recommendations will be given to WDFW for final appointment. Thanks to Jim Fitzgerald, John McGlenn and George Dennis for their involvement on the selection committee and their thorough review of the applications.
  - MHAG officer elections will occur at the April meeting; Chair & Vice-Chair (Secretary is a 2-year term & will be open next year).
  
- 2014 MHPP Annual Report (*Dave Whipple*)
  - Working to finalize a draft. Will get it to MHAG via email for review/comment, and finalize this month or Feb.
  
- CORT Updates (*Shane Briel*)
  - There will be two classes per region; typically between March and July. Website revisions will be made soon, (<http://www.eyesinthewoods.org>) and more classes will be added as instructors confirm venues. MH applicants encouraged to attend classes early in the year.
  
- Volunteering Update / Discussion (*Dave Whipple for Christine Redmond*)
  - Several projects/meetings have occurred recently. Discussions continue of using MH's as volunteers for WDFW projects, work continues with Dave Whipple on researching background check laws for HEI volunteers, and modification of the Proof of Service form in CERVIS. Volunteer business cards are not available yet but will be coming soon. MH travel time to and from projects WILL NOT count towards service requirements.
  - Jim Fitzgerald providing volunteer updates on Super Volunteer expectations, MH volunteer expectations, and volunteering in 2015.
  - Several outdoor shows around the state: Tri-cities Jan. 16-18, Puyallup Jan. 21-25, Yakima Feb. 20-22, Spokane March 19-22.
  
- Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Steve Dazey*)
  - Current and updated contact information for all MH's is very important as volunteer opportunities are not reaching everyone. Please let your advisory group member, or Tracy Loveless/Jan Ulijohn know of any changes in your contact information. Continued support of the MHPP is reported from the state wildlife biologists.

- Super Volunteer Leaders; Expectations & Example (*Jim Fitzgerald*)
  - The need for MHs acting as “super volunteers” to help WDFW department time and efficiencies was discussed. A prime example of this is the leadership of Tom Conrads during the USFS bridge repair project. Tom did an outstanding job organizing MH involvement on the project that benefited the USFS and WDFW by ensuring hunting and recreation access.
  
- Volunteering in 2015 (*Jim Fitzgerald*)
  - There was a discussion of the need to understand and acknowledge the efforts and good work of MHAG members on volunteer projects, instructing hunter education, etc., etc. MHAG members may be prime candidates for a “super volunteer”. A brief summary of MHAG members’ work will be discussed at future meetings.
  
- MH Volunteer Expectations (*Jim Fitzgerald*)
  - A brief discussion occurred that meeting the MH minimum volunteer requirements shouldn’t be an issue for MHAG members, and that members typically go well above the minimums, thereby setting a good example for all MHs. MHAG members shouldn’t be looking for volunteer opportunities at the end of the year.
  
- Strategic Plan. (*John M./Jim F./Dave W./Capt. Rich Mann*)
  - Working draft has been approved by a majority vote of MHAG. A final plan will be posted on the MHAG website. The work group will be meeting on February 4th in Olympia to ID items that will be done internally & externally.
  
- ALEA Grants (*Jim Fitzgerald/Dave Whipple*)
  - One current MH ALEA Grant in effect currently. Mike Britton heading up a pilot to assist with coordination of volunteers within the Spokane region to assist with damage control hunts. Any ideas that support the WDFW mission through innovative ideas will be considered. ALEA grant proposals can be submitted until Feb 28, 2015. Habitat restoration, research, citizen science and public education are all areas of interest.
  
- Hoof Rot Disease update - George Dennis
  - In March 2015, 100 volunteers will begin a Prevalence and Distribution study to determine issues/concerns with hoof disease. Data will be collected over two months from Region 5 and 6. A collared elk study will also be done over a four year period of time.

- 2015-2021 Game Management Plan/3-Year Package/Agency Request Legislation (*Dave Ware*)
  - The Fish & Wildlife Commission (FWC) adopted the GMP in Dec. '14, which provides overall guidance for seasons & provides context for 3-year package. 3 years provides some stability to see effects of rules. Minor rule changes can be made on annual basis.
  - Dave Ware discussed process for changes to be made in seasons, permits, fees, etc. Surveys of the general public and of hunters were conducted to ID issues. Public meetings were also conducted around the state to get an idea of the concerns of the public. Comments were also taken via WDFW's website.
  - Recommendations based on the findings will come out the first part of February to the general public and will be open for feedback.
  - The issues with the 3911 fees, tags, etc. will be addressed in a rule recommendation to the Fish & Wildlife Commission. WDFW's fee bill also contains provisions to address.
  - Hunter orange clothing requirements were discussed. Tag allocation, mentoring of youth and first time hunters, and the role of the WDFW were also topics of discussion.
  - FWC will hear briefing on the rule changes in March, and will take action on rules in April.

## **Conclusion**

- Recap Action Items (*Secretary Craghead*)
  - Strategic Plan was adopted; work group will meet in Oly Feb. 4
    - Final plan to be posted on WDFW website
  - Aaron Garcia to work w/ Capt. Mann to better understand 3911 issues
  - MHAG applicants to be reviewed/interviewed/ recommendations to Dave Whipple
- Agenda Topics for Next Meeting
  - Natl. Hunting & Fishing Day planning w/ Christine (Sept. 26, 2015)
- Next Meeting Date and Location
  - April 24, 9-3 @ Cattlemen's
- Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG*)
- Adjourn