

**MEETING NOTES**  
**WDFW Master Hunter Advisory Group**  
**Meeting Number 12**  
May 20, 2010  
Washington Cattlemen's Association Offices, Ellensburg

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dustin Albright at 9:03 am.

Guest Introductions

Guest William Purvis of Cheney introduced himself and asked for time to address the group during the meeting.

Self introductions were conducted with members present:

James Zimmerman	Bill Vincent	Harold Costa
Ron Poppe	Mike Estes	Tani Iwashita
Michael Ward	Dustin Albright	Bob Cromwell
George Coulbourn	Mike Britton	Jim Reinbold

Absent:

Richard Mathisen  
Kent Keller  
Brian Davern

NOTE: Member Jim Koopman tendered his resignation prior to the meeting for personal reasons. This leaves an open position in the group.

WDFW Staff present:

Sgt. Eric Anderson  
Anthony Novack

Member James Zimmerman introduced Jack Field, Executive Vice President for the Washington Cattlemen's Association. Mr. Field welcomed the group and suggested that the group partner with the Cattlemen's Association in coordinating wildlife management programs. He noted that two of the biggest complaints his membership has with hunters are fences and trespassing. He invited members of the group to attend Association meetings so the membership gets to know the Master Hunters better and builds a better trust and respect. He also suggested that members attend the annual convention at Suncadia November 11-13, 2010. He went on to offer space in the Association's newsletter. Member Coulbourn suggested that the group accept Mr. Field's offer and participate with the Cattlemen's Association. Sgt. Anderson suggested that this might be an opportunity for a "Hunt by Written Permission" program. Chair Albright thanked Mr. Field for his comments and the use of his facilities for the meeting and assured of the group's further cooperation.

### Continuing Education Exercise

Member Bob Cromwell offered the group a sample of questions from the Master Hunter certification test. The intent of the exercise was to reacquaint members about the types of questions currently included in the test in preparation for efforts to revise them, and also in consideration of possible ongoing education curricula.

Member Mike Britton stated that he would need to pay for the lunch and be reimbursed by ALEA grant funds as a credit card was needed and receipt produced.

It was announced that member Tani Iwashita received the Terry Hoffer Memorial Firearm Safety Award from the WDFW and Hunter Education Association.

### Approval of notes from February 25, 2010 Business Meeting

Chair Albright asked for approval of the meeting notes for meeting #11. Approved unanimously.

Chair Albright asked Vice Chair Bob Cromwell to conduct the remainder of the meeting as he had prepared the agenda when Chair Albright was handling some family matters.

Member Estes explained the process for posting the meeting notes to the group. The notes should be completed within a week, with the notes going to the group membership for review and comments returned within a week. Then the notes will be posted on the website.

Agenda Adjustment – Anthony Novack requested and was granted the opportunity to address concerns with Elk Area 3911 early in the agenda due to his having to leave early for a work project. Mr. Novack answered questions put to him about the conditions of harvesting of two elk. Also addressed were hunt tags, antlerless tags for special hunts, and special hunts by permit. Mr. Novack stated that clarification of the language was needed to explain these programs. It was suggested this be done by errata and website. It was also noted that the hunting regulation pamphlet is confusing. The season for antlerless elk has been split in 2010; the first portion is from August 1 to October 29. This was to be a test run.

Sgt. Anderson stated there was a concern about the Elk Area 3911 orientation for hunters in the unit. The orientation will take place in Ellensburg with a date yet to be determined. A question about mandatory attendance for all hunters that wanted to hunt Elk Area 3911 was raised. There would have to be several meetings both on the east and west side of the state. It would also need to be incorporated into the regulations. It might be made available online as well.

It was noted that WDFW Sgt. Mike Sprecher was not able to attend the meeting due to a late night enforcement operation the night before. He was on the agenda to discuss Elk Area 3911 road management plan status.

Sgt. Anderson suggested that the time may be right for a "Hunting by written permission" pilot for the Ellensburg valley.

Anthony Novack stated that the road management plan described by Sgt. Sprecher last meeting has yet to be resolved. There is no set answer and authorization from the Director. There was discussion of making it handicap accessible only but then it would not be year round for all. There has been damage to the landscape. There is no real answer as there is conflict within the department.

Mr. Novack reported that the ALEA grant proposal submitted by MHAG was not funded. There were 76 applicants total. The evaluation panel was unfavorable on the signage request. The evaluation panel was also concerned about how the video would be implemented and utilized. Chair Albright suggested that the grant be resubmitted next round with the appropriate adjustments being made. It was also suggested that the code of conduct be included. Mr. Novack stated that this was the second year of the ALEA grant program and not much money was handed out. There should be more next year. ACTION ITEM 12-1 – resubmit ALEA grant for next year. Mike Britton to handle.

Members Coulbourn and Estes offered to help with Elk Area 3911 orientation.  
ACTION ITEM 12-2 – Sgt. Anderson will update the website on Elk Area 3911.

#### Liaison Report –

Sgt. Anderson reported that the test and proctor policies had been approved and adopted and are now on the website.

He reminded the group that the special permit hunts are due May 26, 2010.

He noted that the 2010 application period for Master Hunters is over. A revamped letter clarifying the number of times the test can be taken is being drafted. He also stated that Tracy Loveless will now be in charge of the testing rather than John Wisner as of June 1, 2010.

Dates for proctored tests is up to the proctors with no obligation by the proctors to establish dates and times.

Pittman-Robertson funds are up and a preliminary proposal for use of the funds may be setting up online testing.

Mik Mikitik is retiring and the position is being reviewed and will remain under the Enforcement Division. The position may include hunter education, Master Hunter, and Eyes In The Woods programs.

#### Action Items –

Action items 11-1 and 11-2 Test Policy – previously discussed.

Action item 11-3 – Policy for Selection of New MHAG Members – in process.

Draft to be sent through e-mail to the group. Kate Anderson will review for conformance to departmental standards and for completeness.

Action items 11-4, 10-13 and 11-5 – Signage for Quinault Hunt Unit - \$250 was not enough for the signs so \$1000 was granted by ALEA. The \$1000 was deleted from the amount budgeted for reader boards in the ALEA grant and then added to the signage (\$250). Approval has been received from Josh Nicholas, ALEA Grants Manager at our request. This permits signage purchase of a total of \$1250. This results in no net change in total costs. Discussion involved what was to be placed on the signs – remove “Elk” and leave a line for the writing of the animal name on the sign, put 911 for the phone number but leave the poaching number on the sign too, keep the Master Hunter name on the sign, and leave a place for longitude and latitude for the sign.

ACTION ITEM 12-3 – Hang approved signs in the Quinault unit – members Harold Costa, Bob Cromwell, Dustin Albright, Eric Anderson, James Zimmerman and George Coulbourn to handle.

Action item 11-6 – Letter reference 3911 Road Management Program – already discussed.

Action Item 11-7 – Master Hunter Certification Test Redesign – Member Tani Iwashita will review with group members George Coulbourn, Bill Vincent, Bob Cromwell, Brian Davern with Richard Mathisen as counsel. Questions will be divided amongst the group for review. It was suggested that reference page numbers be added for referral and explanation of the answers. It was also noted that ethical and dilemma questions were needed. The goal is to have four tests with equal difficulty.

Action Item 11-10 – I&O Curriculum – on hold until decision of I&O concept is approved or whether to continue the program. Member Mike Ward volunteered to chair the committee with assistance from member Tani Iwashita. Other members of the committee are Dustin Albright, George Coulbourn, and James Zimmerman.

Chair Albright offered guest Bill Purvis an opportunity to speak before the group. Mr. Purvis discussed problems with disabled Master Hunters and the ability to obtain community service hours. He had offered a proposal to Sgt. Anderson some time ago which was rejected. The proposal offered was eradication of vermin and small nuisance animals. Bill Vincent and Mike Britton offered to meet with Mr. Purvis on other possibilities for community service hours.

Action Items 10-8, 10-9, 10-11, 8 and 9 were deferred and not discussed.

ALEA Grant status – discussed under Anthony Novack’s presentation.

New Business – High visibility hunts

Skagit Hunt – Hunt Master needed. There appear to be concerns between Wildlife Management and Enforcement. Changes may be made within the department to resolve the problems with the Hunt Master programs. The guidelines were suggested last year and have yet to be implemented. Concerns were also expressed with the loss of points when drawn for a special hunt and no hunt is called for. There may be a possibility of a contract system between the Master Hunter and Hunt Master. Concerns were voiced about archery hunts in high visibility areas. It was also considered that

Master Hunter hunts be removed from the game regulation pamphlet as it suggests that the Master Hunter is a user group.

ACTION ITEM 12-4 – Sgt. Anderson will check on the status of the Skagit hunt and report to MHAG.

Turnbull – there is a problem with what is being stated by one person from GMAC to two members of MHAG. GMAC will meet on June 17 in Ellensburg.

Lunch was served at 12:02.

Member Cromwell showed a PowerPoint presentation on Elk Permits and the MH participation rate over the last ten years. It was suggested that the presentation be given to GMAC. Member Cromwell had six questions to present to the group and asked for expansion of rationale. Those questions were:

What criteria are used to establish MH hunts?

How do we influence what criteria should be used?

Are MH hunts primarily for damage control or more of an incentive for being in the program?

Under what conditions should bull or “any elk” permits be issued?

Do “antlerless only” hunts make the MH program more of a “user group” or less?

Should bonus points be lost for damage hunts?

After much discussion of each of these questions it was decided that Member Cromwell will take the information discussed and work with the questions and get to the MHAG for approval before presenting to GMAC. It was decided that notes should be taken at the GMAC meeting and posted on the website. It was suggested the Member Bob Cromwell lead the discussion with his PowerPoint presentation. Sgt. Anderson, Mike Estes, Tani Iwashita and possibly Mike Kuttel will attend. MHAG secretary may attend depending on schedule.

ACTION ITEM 12-5 – Bob Cromwell to work up questions for GMAC and get to MHAG members within the week.

The next meeting date was discussed and decided to be August 5, 2010 at 9:00 am at the Cattlemen’s Association Office.

There was discussion about recruiting a new member for the open slot. It was suggested that female candidates should be encouraged to apply. It was decided that while females should be recruited, the slot should be filled by the best qualified candidate.

A motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.