



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

MHAG Meeting #20

June 15, 2012 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Washington Cattlemen's Association Offices, Ellensburg

Procedural Business

1. Call to order by Vice Chair Jim Fitzgerald at 9:15 a.m. Chair Mike Britton detained by traffic until 9:30.
2. Introduction of Members and Guests.

Members present:

Mike Britton, Chair
Craig Broadhead, Secretary
Jim Zimmerman
Chris Brong
Robert Scoville
George Dennis
James Reinbold

Jim Fitzgerald, Vice Chair
Greg Yonemura
Dennis Clay
John McGlenn
Jim Sutton
Roger Hurst

Members excused:

Mike Estes

Wayne Ward

WDFW Staff present:

Sgt. Carl Klein

Mike Kuttel

Guests or Presenters:

James Chandler, WDFW CERVIS Program
Walt Christiansen, Dave Duncan - GMAC
Lee Davis – EITW

New name tags were given to those needed by vice chair.

Group noted and excused absences by Mike Estes and Wayne Ward.

Sgt. Klein noted Chief Bjork had planned on attendance, but had conflicting meetings and is unable to attend. The Sgt. Also noted the Chief endorses the program and agrees with the direction it is going, and wants to be involved.

3. Approval of Meeting #19 Notes from March 23, 2012 – No issues were identified with Meeting #19 notes. Notes approved by group.

4. Reports from Committee Chairs

- Information & Outreach – Discussion occurred throughout the meeting regarding the use of a survey for Master Hunters and the use of email account. Group consensus was that use of Survey Monkey software to query Master Hunters should not be used until as a group we determine what we want to know and what we want to do with the information. Surveys are not the mechanism for dissemination of information. Instead, surveys could be used to verify email addresses and identify which Master Hunters want to be notified of new information. Surveys could be cost prohibitive, as they would be initially hard copy and require return envelopes and postage. General consensus at this time is to focus on achieving desired results by using email accounts – either WDFW server accounts or Gmail. I&O committee will continue to explore the use of email to update and communicate with Master Hunters. See below under “Communication Planning” for a report from Region 5 about email contact with Master Hunters.

ACTION ITEM 20 – 1 – Sgt. Klein to verify with WDFW IT Staff if permissions are possible for six separate “...@dfw.wa.gov” email accounts, one for each Region, for official MHAG business.

- Ways & Means – Sgt. Klein reiterated the potential for ALEA funding is more likely if we have on the ground projects with a tangible deliverable. It will be very difficult to acquire ALEA grant dollars given the competitive history of the ALEA process. The group discussed that partnerships will give us the best chance of funding success, such as with Eyes in the Woods. Chairman Britton requested volunteers for defining possible MHAG grants for the next ALEA cycle, which is due next February.

5. Reports on Action Items

- ACTION ITEM 19 – 1 – I&O committee determine means of communication with MH via website and/or G-mail account. ONGOING – See Action Item 20-1 above.
- ACTION ITEM 17-2 – Dennis Clay has finished his article to post on the MHPP web page for the 20th anniversary of the Master Hunter Program. ONGOING – **ACTION ITEM 20-2** - Mike Kuttel to review, edit, and post to MHPP website.
- ACTION ITEM 17-3 – CLOSED, Pending Estes clarification regarding his additional question. *Review and post new FAQ's. Chair Estes reported that Craig Broadhead had submitted two questions which were answered by Mike Kuttel for use on the MH webpage under FAQ's. Chair Estes added another question concerning depredation hunt permits, lists and points. The answer is being considered at this point.*
This action item is a continuing action but WDFW did already post the first two FAQs.
- ACTION ITEM 19-3 – See Items 10, 11 below.
- ACTION ITEM 19-4 – Post hunt behavior study MOU on MHPP web page. Completed.

6. Hunt Behavior Study and MOU / Elk Area 3911 Partnership – Anthony Novack absent, Chair Mike Britton presented results in his absence. Expecting final results of 150-175 individual that took the survey, with a CWU Grad student mailing additional surveys this summer. Elk hazing activities have already occurred in the 3911 unit at Parke Creek, and fence repairs are underway in 3912.

7. GMAC Interface: Walt Christianson and Dave Duncan were both in attendance. Walt is the outgoing chair, and stated Tony Wells will be the next chair. Walt stated his appreciation for candor with the MHAG, and stresses the need for continuing communication between groups.

Walt stated that GMAC now has yearly term appointments, with 26 members and 6 alternates. The next GMAC meeting is June 16 at the fairgrounds. One key issue presented at GMAC was the need to increase youth hunting opportunities. GMAC endorses the idea of Master Hunters expanding the youth hunting opportunities, and in general feels there are still too many Master Hunter hunt opportunities and not enough youth opportunities.

Dave Duncan stated that youth need more opportunity and mentoring, and GMAC is placing a large emphasis on increasing youth hunting opportunities.

8. EITW Update – Lee Davis presented latest happenings from EITW, explaining pilot programs, their ALEA process, and CORT Trainings. Several pilot projects are underway, such as use of cameras, volunteers patrolling or staffing gates and check stations. Lee stated Friday, July 20th will be a training opportunity for radio protocol/camera use at the Forest Service work station, at Nile Valley. Lee announced a new agreement between EITW and DNR, combining CORT with ForestWatch training. Lee endorses CORT training at the same time as Master Hunting testing.

New Business

9. Volunteer Opportunities – Status and Process

WDFW CERVIS Program – James Chandler, WDFW CERVIS Coordinator for WDFW Wildlife Program, presented the Departments use of the new CERVIS program. CERVIS stands for “Community Event Registration Information System.” Key points follow:

- The goal of CERVIS is to make it easier for staff and volunteers, and reduce or eliminate paperwork.
- It is a web-based registration program for volunteers that is highly customizable. The system can allow Master Hunters as a web group, and track information through user profiles.
- Currently set up by specific projects, though it can be set up by interest category.
- CERVIS software can create detailed reports, name tags, track hours worked, volunteer skills, and volunteer availability.
- The cost of CERVIS is \$1500 / year license fee, \$300 set up fee, and a \$350 training fee. This is a one-time fee.

- The plan from WDFW is to have a volunteer coordinator in each region that uses the CERVIS program.
- MHAG members are to contact James Chandler (360-902-8307) or Tracy Loveless (360-902-8412) to have projects added to CERVIS.
- **ACTION ITEM 20-3** – Mike Kuttel to check the possibilities of a link between the “Conservation” Master hunter web page and link to the CERVIS program.

Master Hunter Exam + CORT Training – Jim Fitzgerald’s one-stop shop experiment in Region 4. Jim has been certified as a CORT instructor by EITW, allowing him to proctor Master Hunter exams and offer CORT training to potential Master Hunters in one location. He has classroom access as his wife is a teacher. Jim is able to use WDFW officers when he can, but is able to provide the training without WDFW officer support by using a Tribal Enforcement Officer, as per WDFW Enforcement Captain Bill Hebner. **ACTION ITEM 20-4** – Jim will update the group as to how the dual-proctoring of MH exams and CORT training is working.

10. MHAG Engagement in Regional Communication Plans, June 18 – 22 Regional Meetings with WDFW Staff and MHAG. Meetings have been scheduled by Sgt. Klein and Mike Kuttel to introduce MHAG representatives to WDFW Regional staff. These meetings are intended to provide information regarding perception of the program by WDFW staff, allow MHAG to identify local needs, illustrate the need for volunteer activities, and identify the best means of achieving increased use of volunteers with MHAG assistance. **ACTION ITEM 20-5** – Group members that attend these meetings are to email summaries of conversations to other group members.

Summit with AD Pamplin and Chief Bjork – Mike Kuttel and Sgt. Klein reinforced that there will be a summit meeting between 2-3 EITW representatives, 2-3 MHAG representatives, and WDFW (Chief Bjork, Wildlife Program Assistant Director Nate Pamplin, Lt. Steve Crown) to discuss volunteer opportunities for improving recreational access to private lands, first-time hunter mentoring, damage control issues, and improving landowner-sportsmen relations. Also, to be discussed would be the difficulties associated with WDFW policies for volunteers as well as the apparent lack of interest and motivation by WDFW staff in offering or coordinating/directing volunteer projects. The discussion should also include the recruitment of MH as local volunteer coordinators to assist WDFW field staff. James Chandler will also participate in this meeting to detail the use of CERVIS. **ACTION ITEM 20-6** – Mike Kuttel and Sgt. Klein to brief group on summit discussions (ACTION ITEM 19-3).

11. Liaison Report – Mike Kuttel reported that as of June there are about 1,928 active Master Hunters. Applicants to date in 2012 number 510, with 18 having successfully completed all requirements and 6 having been eliminated for the year. 115 individuals have tested, 30 of which passed the exam on the first try, 26 passed on the second try, and 14 failed on the second try. One Master Hunter has been removed for life, with one more in process for removal.

Mike Kuttel briefly discussed an Advanced Hunter Training that California is currently implementing. **ACTION ITEM 20-7** – Mike Kuttel to investigate California Advanced Hunter Training for our applicability.

Mike Kuttel and the group also discussed several key issues regarding future of not only the MHAG, but also the future of the Master Hunter Permit Program. Kuttel described that Oregon is dropping its Master Hunter Program, mostly as a result of lack of support for the program. Discussion centered around several key needs for our program, including retention of current hunters instead of recruitment; mentoring being a key focal item, especially given the Department's desire to increase youth opportunity, and; access to public and private lands as well as habitat improvement projects. Specific recommendations are for the MHAG to refocus on these items. These items should be revisited in subsequent meetings.

12. Other Business.

Results of Region 5 email contact with Master Hunters. George Dennis and Chris Brong presented the results of a short letter that was emailed to Master Hunters in Region 5. Of 160 sent, 15 replied. This seems to be a great idea to engage regional Master Hunters, and all Regional MHAG representatives are encouraged to use this email model.

Conclusion

Recap Action Items – Action Items are as noted throughout this document in bold.

Agenda Topics for Next Meeting – none noted.

Next meeting Date and Location – Wednesday August 29, 2012 at Cattlemen's Association in Ellensburg.

Adjourn – 3:30 p.m.