



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

Notes for MHAG Meeting #43
July 20, 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 Kris Thorson Hunter Education Division Specialist Aaron Garcia Region 3 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator Tammy Conklin Region 5 Conflict Specialist	Curt Boile Region 4 Master Hunter
	Shawn Woodard		
Region 2	Carissa Craghead, Secretary		
	Jim Hope		
Region 3	Kyle Smith		
	Tom Conrads		
Region 4	David Floyd		
	Jeff Larsen (excused)		
	John McAuliffe, Vice Chair (excused)		
	Ian Stewart		
Region 5	George Dennis, Chair (excused)		
	Keith Pfeifer		
Region 6	Scott Vousboukis		
	James Zimmerman		
	Howard “Shane” Briel		

Procedural Business

- Call to order and announcements
- Introduction of members and guests
- Approval of Meeting #42 notes from April 13, 2018
 - Approved unanimously.

Old Business

- **Better bridging of Mentor Gap (*Scott Vousboukis*)**
 - Scott does a lot of mentoring with youth during hunting season.
 - He did some research and found Montana's mentor program.
 - He wanted to make sure the focus is to bring more youth into hunting.
 - Carissa noted that mentoring is part of the MHPP Strategic Plan, and that we are doing a fair amount of mentoring, and that we will continue to promote hunting.
 - Scott has volunteered to hold a pheasant clinic in western Washington.
 - Dave Whipple committed WDFW to ask instructors to tell students about mentored hunts, clinics, etc. Many instructors routinely do that now.
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- **MHPP Hunt Coordinator Hunt Expectations update (*Keith Pfeifer and Carissa Craghead*)**
 - Keith talked about the process that the sub-committee went through to draft the letter.
 - Scott talked about possibly having to sign the letter multiple times in the future.
 - Dave Whipple thanked the sub-committee for their work on the letter.
 - David Floyd suggested that DFW put the expectations letter in the back of the permit.
 - Ian suggested putting a minimum deployment period in the letter. Kris noted that those periods might vary based on regional needs.
 - Kris will be the main contact for any further comments.
- **3911 Second Tag Concerns (*Carissa Craghead and Kris Thorson*)**
 - WDFW will take these concerns to conflict specialist Wetzel and try to have him at the next meeting for follow up and discussion on how the current damage season is going.
 - Carissa gave a background on the 3911 area and the goals.
 - Carissa suggested that there is a safety concern when some Master Hunters can use rifles and others have to use archery.
 - Shawn had concerns over the new change from any legal weapon to tag specific hunting methods.
 - Tammy suggested that there be specific seasons for each implement.
 - David Floyd has had some comments from Master Hunters about 3911.

- Ian has had some follow up with some Master Hunters regarding their concerns. This included relationships they had built with landowners and will now be less inclined to use their general tag in the early season.
- Carissa remembers there was targeted outreach last year to have hunters come hunt the Colockum but now the Master Hunter opportunity has decreased.
- Carissa asked if the ratio of license purchases of all elk tags were similar to the ratio of Master Hunter 3911 second elk tag purchases.
- Carissa asked everyone to remind Master Hunters who contact the MHAG members that the reason for the 3911 hunt is to remove animals from agricultural properties.
- Ian asked to add changes to regulations to the newsletters as soon as we hear of them.

New Business

- **Proposed videos for online posting (*Jeff Larsen*)**
 - Jeff is unable to make this meeting so this issue is moved to the next meeting.
- **DFW Budget Update (added to meeting) (*David Whipple*)**
 - Dave Whipple outlined the current budget challenges facing the department, and distributed the agency fact sheet and press release.
 - The department has a \$30 million budget deficit for the next biennium.
 - WDFW is working with a citizen Budget and Policy Advisory Group (BPAG) through this challenge. The BPAG has been very helpful, and understands WDFW's challenges.
 - There will also be public input on different revenue options before the new biennium starts.
 - Dave Whipple invited all MHAG members to attend the budget webinar on the Monday following the MHAG meeting .
 - Dave Whipple also mentioned that there is a drive to educate the public on what hunters and anglers do for conservation.
 - (see the fact sheet or the website (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/about/budget/development/>) for more complete information)
 - The webinar will be recorded and posted to the internet: <https://youtu.be/eANOGamuriA>
 - Scott noted that Washington is an expensive state to hunt in due to the cost of the licenses.
 - There was concern from several members about increasing the fees for hunting and fishing licenses since it negatively affect hunter and angler participation.
 - There were several comments on non-consumptive users needing to pay their fair share. A suggestion was to put an excise tax on non-consumptive items such as kayaks.
 - A super license was suggested that would cover all recreational hunting and fishing activities.

- Dave Whipple will update MHAG on the budget situation at the October meeting.
- **WDFW Reports and Updates (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - MHPP 2017 Applicants (*Kris Thorson*)
 - 310 Applicants in 2018
 - 77 (25%) taken the test so far
 - 57 (74%) passed on their first attempt
 - 8 (40%) took the test a second time
 - All 8 have passed the second time
 - 33 (11%) have completed all requirements and are now MHs
 - Test pass rate in 2016 prior to test update was 41% on first attempt
 - Test pass rate in 2016 prior to test update was 75% on second attempt
 - Test pass rate in 2015 almost identical to 2016. (40% and 75%)
 - Test pass rate in 2017 after test update was 60% on first attempt
 - Test pass rate in 2017 after test update was 79% on second attempt
 - Carissa asked why the applicants that have passed the test haven't completed the program. Kris will present the information at the next meeting.
 - Keith made a suggestion to have a point of contact to welcome the applicants to the program etc.
 - Region 3 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Aaron Garcia*)
 - Aaron and Steve did another drive to wildlife areas to talk to WDFW staff about the use of volunteers and Master Hunters to complete projects.
 - Aaron worked with First Hunt Foundation on a youth day on July 14th and had a great volunteer turnout.
 - He is also working on getting the Adopt a Wildlife Area program going on the Sunnyside wildlife area with Pheasants Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Mule Deed Foundation.
 - He is also working on solidifying NHFD vendors/groups. He will be following up with them in the next couple weeks.
 - Aaron is working with wildlife area managers on volunteer recognition.
 - There will be a few region 3 projects such as fence removal.
 - Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Kris Thorson for Steve Dazey*)
 - Steve answered phone calls from applicants on CORT class availability.
 - He assisted applicants to apply to become hunter education instructors.
 - Steve continued coordination with Bill on the mountain goat crates.
 - He meet with wildlife conflict staff Cole Caldwell to outline projects.
 - Steve also answered Master Hunter questions on the MH moose hunt.
 - He helped solicit volunteers for an oyster reefing project.
 - He solicited volunteers for the Snoqualmie wildlife area mowing and equipment maintenance both small motor and tractor.
 - Steve has been working to help update Master Hunter emails.
 - He is also recruiting for the Golden Doe wire removal project.

- Steve and Aaron met with eastern Washington wildlife area managers to find their needs and offer assistance to recruit volunteers to meet those needs.
- Region 6 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Kris Thorson for Bill Montgomery*)
 - Bill coordinated with Public Affairs and the Volunteer Program Manager on Fish Tacoma, a good low impact volunteer opportunity. He recruited 10 Master Hunters of which four are disabled Master Hunters.
 - He coordinated with Biologist Chris Sato on a Bog Beetle Survey.
 - Bill recruited for several deer-fencing projects for Matt Blankenship.
 - He has also been working with Rich Harris on the mountain goat relocation project where there was a need for about 100 volunteers. He sent the notice and recruited 78 volunteers.
 - He is also working on recruiting volunteers for elk hazing in the Buckley area.
- Hunter Education Division Specialist (*Kris Thorson*)
 - Kris worked with Keith, George, Tammy, and Dave on the MHPP Hunt Coordinator Hunt Expectations document.
 - He also is working on a draft rule to hold Master Hunters accountable for their actions above and beyond RCW 77.15 violations.
 - This rule will most likely be discussed at the October and January meetings.
 - There was a suggestion by Shane to maybe loosen the language to may suspend or punishments may be up to and including suspension.
- **MHAG Member Updates (*MHAG members*)**
 - MHAG member volunteer work/activities, news/issues from your region, etc.
 - Keith
 - Keith has been talking to Tammy on possibly having a Master Hunter mentor for damage hunts.
 - He also worked on the MHPP Hunt Coordinator Hunt Expectations document.
 - Shawn
 - Shawn mentored a couple Master Hunter applicants with test preparation.
 - He also took a few people out turkey hunting on a mentored hunt.
 - Jim Hope
 - Jim was contacted by a perspective Master Hunter and has been mentoring him.
 - He also mentored a father and son duo on a turkey hunt this season.
 - Ian Stewart
 - Ian has been getting his feet under him in regards to the MHAG.
 - He has helped one applicant through the process.

- Shane Briel
 - Shane has been working with Scott Harris as he is able.
 - He mentored some new archers this spring.
 - He also helped with the Metheny deadfall project this spring.
 - Jim Zimmerman
 - Jim has answered some emails from concerned Master Hunters.
 - Carissa Craghead
 - Carissa took over CORT in the Moses Lake area.
 - She also went to the Hunter Education Instructor In-Service Training.
 - David Floyd
 - David proctored the Master Hunter test for a couple applicants.
 - He is helping get volunteers for the Golden Doe project Steve Dazey is working on.
 - He is also helping recruit a new Region 4 CORT Coordinator.
 - Tom Conrads
 - Tom has proctored one Master Hunter exam.
 - He has an exam coming up in August.
 - He has also worked as a Range Safety Officer at the Rattlesnake Mountain Shooting Facility.
 - Kyle Smith
 - Kyle has helped build some trails near Badger Mountain.
 - He is also planning to volunteer for NHFD.
 - Scott Vousboukis
 - Scott has held several hunter education classes.
 - He is also going to teach a Bowhunter Ed class in Mason county.
- **CORT update (*Shane Briel*)**
 - No real update to share except he is not sure of how the reduction in ALEA grants will affect the program.
- **CORT Requirement discussion (*Carissa Craghead*)**
 - Carissa has heard from Master Hunters that CORT is a stumbling block.
 - Carissa asked if the CORT requirement is something that should be a requirement in the future.
 - Most of the membership felt that it was a worthwhile class.
 - Shane sees some value in possibly adding the CORT information to Hunter Education classes.
 - Dave Whipple identified that WDFW is planning to do CORT classes at the orientations, and will attempt to provide 12 orientation next year (2 per WDFW Region).
 - Scott and Keith asked about a webinar or an online class. WDFW will investigate the ability to host orientations via Webinar, to allow Q&A. Master Hunter Kurt gave some feedback on the CORT training being a long class compared to some other kinds of reporting trainings that are available out there.

- Ian felt that the interaction with the enforcement officer was the most beneficial part of the CORT program.
- New CORT Coordinators: Carissa Craghead (Region 2) and Jim Conway (Region 3).
- Dave Whipple will discuss the CORT availability issues with Eyes in the Woods and provide a report at next MHAG meeting.
- **Proposed Practice exam (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - Kris had sent out the proposed practice exam before the last meeting, however the time constraints in the last meeting meant we had to push this item to this meeting.
 - Kris sent out an email regarding the most up to date proposed test.
 - There were no proposed changes to the practice exam and it was approved by MHAG unanimously.

Conclusion

- **Recap Action Items (*Secretary Craghead*)**
 - Review the expectations letter to see if there may be any suggested changes for future iterations.
- **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**
 - 3911 status report (Steve Wetzel)
 - Proposed field dressing videos (Jeff Larsen)
 - CORT availability and delivery update (Dave Whipple)
 - Agency budget news/update (Dave Whipple)
 - Status report on the potential WAC related to MH suspension (Kris Thorson)
 - Report on putting the expectations letter on the back of the permit (Kris Thorson)
- **Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG*)**
 - None
- **Adjourn**