

**MEETING NOTES**  
WDFW Master Hunter Advisory Group  
Meeting Number 13  
August 5, 2010  
Rodeo City BBQ, Ellensburg

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Bob Cromwell at 10:00 a.m.

Guest Introductions

Mr. Dennis Clay introduced himself as a writer/photographer/columnist/broadcaster from Moses Lake, WA. and was attending as a new master hunter to see the workings with the Master Hunter Advisory Group.

Members present-

Vice Chair Bob Cromwell  
Mike Estes  
Ron Poppe  
Kent Keller

Mike Britton  
Harold Costa  
Jim Zimmerman  
Jim Reinbold

George Coulbourn  
Richard Mathisen  
Michael Ward

Members absent-

Bill Vincent  
Dustin Albright – Chair - resigned

Tani Iwashita

WDFW Staff –

Sgt. Eric Anderson

It was noted that Meeting 12 notes were on the website by Vice Chair Cromwell. There was also discussion on what denoted volunteer hours for attending the MHAG meeting. It was decided that attending the MHAG meeting and hunt specific meetings as Master Hunters did not count as community service volunteer hours. Jim Zimmerman moved and Richard Mathisen seconded that Sgt. Anderson compose appropriate language to be presented to MHAG denoting what counted as community service volunteer hours. Motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM 13-1 – Sgt. Anderson compose language covering eligibility of community service volunteer hours for next MHAG meeting.

Approval of meeting notes from May 2010 business meeting

It was noted that Brian Davern was no longer with the group. George Coulbourn moved and Kent Keller seconded approval of the May 20, 2010 meeting notes with the correction noted. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Estes passed out the most recent 2010 MHAG Contacts list. He had noted the various terms for membership in the group and who wished to continue to be on a contact list for MHAG activities. Those former MHAG members are: Dustin Albright, Ray Boone, Brian Davern, Bill Madison and Jim Koopman. Those not wishing further contact were: Bob Holtfreter, and Mike Parris. The secretary passed around the contact list for corrections and will send out another list noting the regions as well. ACTION ITEM 13-2 – MHAG Secretary Reinbold will send corrected contact list out by next meeting.

### Chair Vacancy

Chair Dustin Albright tendered his resignation as the Chair and member of MHAG via e-mail to the group due to personal and family matters. He stated he wished to be involved via e-mail contacts.

Mike Estes moved and Richard Mathisen seconded that Vice Chair Bob Cromwell be moved into the chair position. The next meeting would be the election of officers and approval of new members. Motion passed unanimously.

Mike Britton volunteered to chair the nominations committee to provide a slate of officers and members for consideration at the next MHAG meeting. Members of the nominations committee are Mike Estes, George Coulbourn and Bill Vincent.

ACTION ITEM 13-3 – Nominations committee provide a slate of officers and new members for the next meeting in December 2010.

Harold Costa moved and Bob Cromwell seconded that Kent Keller be Vice Chair until the next election. Motion passed unanimously and Kent Keller accepted.

Richard Mathisen moved and Kent Keller seconded that Robert Rules of Order be suspended for nominations set up by the committee. Motion passed unanimously.

### 2011 Board: posting and recruitment considerations

Discussion centered on how to recruit new members for the board members whose terms expire in 2011. Present members whose terms expire can request to be considered for the board again. It was suggested that board members recruit people they know and feel would benefit the board. Recruitment notices would also be posted on the website.

Regional consideration was discussed with it being noted that there are two representatives from each region and several at large.

MH Dennis Clay was asked to write about and broadcast on his radio show the need for recruits.

Sgt. Anderson handed out the draft Master Hunter Permit Program Master Hunter Advisory Group Recruitment and Selection policy. Mike Estes moved and Kent Keller seconded the policy be approved with the addition of criminal background check being conducted on final applicants. Motion passes unanimously.

### GMAC June 17 meeting update

MHAG members Bob Cromwell, Mike Estes, Jim Reinbold and WDFW Staff Sgt. Anderson attended the Game Management Advisory Council (GMAC) meeting on June 17, 2010 at the Cattlemen's Association Offices in Ellensburg where Bob Cromwell presented information on the Master Hunter Program. Secretary Reinbold stated that the minutes of that meeting had been sent out to MHAG. It seems that Bob Cromwell's presentation was well received that several attitudes towards the Master Hunter Program were changed for the better. GMAC Chair Walt Christensen, Ken Harris and Warren Gimlin were to be on a committee to contact MHAG. Sgt. Anderson stated he had received an e-mail from Mr. Christensen but was not certain what it meant. It was decided that Chair Cromwell will send an invitation to GMAC Chair Christensen to attend the MHAG meetings.

ACTION ITEM 13-4 – Chair Cromwell send an invitation to GMAC Chair to attend MHAG meeting.

11:10 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. break

### Liaison update – Sgt. Anderson

Sgt. Anderson stated that 2 Master Hunters received suspensions for game and fish violations. One received a life suspension for a fish violation and infraction. The other received a 2 year suspension for a fishing infraction. Reinstatement would be re-application for the Master Hunter program. There also has been one denial of application for a violation 5 years ago. Failure to display a parking decal is considered an infraction although some discretion is used if the vehicle owner has a license.

Sgt. Anderson stated that a pilot hunt is being considered for black bear in region 4. The program started late in the season last year and no bears were taken. There is consideration of phasing out the use of hounds due to some problems. The MH may be used as an observer or hunter as a means of checks and balances to the hunting.

Sgt. Anderson also stated that there are some changes in the application form. It is being designed to include renewals as well as original application. Discussion about the CORT requirement and the problem getting classes to attend took place. No Master Hunter certification is allowed until the CORT requirement is met. An extension of 90 days may be granted on a case by case basis. If not completed by then, the process must be started again. CORT certification can take place before or during the application process.

### Current status of Master Hunter Permit Program

- There are currently 1,915 certified Master Hunters in the program.
- Master Hunter Permit Program status for 2010:
  - There were 806 applications.
  - Sixty have been certified.
  - One –hundred seventy applicants have taken the certification examination.
  - Of those who tested, 54 passed on the first test and 116 failed. Fifty-one applicants retested a second time. Of the 51 that tested a second time, 42 passed and 9 failed.

Master Hunter Renewal Letter: Sgt. Anderson reported that the proposed Master Hunter renewal letter prepared by the MHAG (Master Hunter Advisory Group) has been approved. The intent is to send this letter to each Master Hunter that successfully renews. It was suggested that it should be signed by WDFW Chief of Law Enforcement, the Chairman of the MHAG, and by the Master Hunter Liaison.

### Old Business

#### Certification test redesign (Action Item 11-7):

It was reported by the Master Hunter Liaison that Mr. Iwashita was in the process of redesigning questions and that he had a bank of new questions he was developing.

Action: This project is a work in progress.

#### High Visibility Hunts, 2010

Skagit River #2713 (Action Item 12-4) By Sgt. Eric Anderson

No Report – Local WDFW Law Enforcement are responsible for control of this hunt.

Dungeness #2719

No Report

Elk Area 3911/3912 By Mike Estes

July 31<sup>st</sup> 3911/3912 Orientation Meeting was attended by 67 Master Hunters.

August 1<sup>st</sup> was the opening season date and seven elk were harvested in 3911 at Parke Creek. Two were harvested in 3912. Mr. Estes reported on some of the events of the hunt in 3911.

#### Hunt Coordinator Protocols and Guidelines:

Sgt. Anderson reported that the Hunt Coordinator Protocols and Guidelines that were developed by the MHAG in 2009 had not yet been implemented by WDFW. Discussion followed with concern expressed that these Protocols and Guidelines had been developed and forwarded to WDFW over a year ago. There was discussion by the group to encourage expediting the approval of these Protocols and Guidelines as soon as possible.

**Hunter Contract:**

Sgt. Anderson reported that a Hunter Contract for Master Hunter permit hunts was not completed and would not be available to be in place for the 2010 hunting season. There will be an effort to have it completed and available for 2011.

Discussion followed indicating the importance of completing the Hunt Coordinator Protocols and Guidelines before the Hunter Contract could be done.

**ACTION ITEM 13-5** - The MHAG strongly encouraged WDFW to complete and approve both the Hunt Coordinator Protocols and Guidelines, and the Hunter Contract soon so that they will be in place for the 2011 hunting season.

**ALEA Grant:** Reported by Mike Britton

1. The existing grant is half way through the program and is on budget.
2. Quinault Signs: \$1249.48 was spent for the Quinault Signs.
3. Mr. Britton requested all members of the MHAG to turn in their Time Cards each month. These Time Cards are needed for verification of volunteer hours. Each member of the MHAG is responsible to mail Time Cards to Mr. Britton at the end of each month. Verification of volunteer hours is a requirement of the ALEA Grant.
4. Mr. Britton reported that he was in the process of re-applying for an ALEA Grant and would soon be completing the application for 2011. Discussion followed that the application needs to clearly show the benefits, purposes and usage for the video production. It was discussed that such a video could be completed and used at I & O Meetings, Hunter Education Classes and at other public meetings of WDFW, as well as, other hunter organizations and gun clubs.

**Quinault Signage (Action Items 11-4, 10-13,11-5, 12-3):** By Harold Costa

The Quinault Signs have been ordered and Mr. Costa expects to receive them soon. The Quinault Signs need to be posted by October 1, 2010. Mr. Costa needs volunteers' to assist in putting up these signs. Please contact Mr. Costa direct to volunteer for this important project.

**New Member Recruitment and Selection Policy (Action Item 11-3):** By Bob Cromwell

A policy drafted by the MHAG to address new Advisory Group member recruitment and appointment has been approved with minor modifications by WDFW.

**Continuing Education**

Discussion followed to perhaps provide participants in continuing education class with a bonus point. A number of ideas were discussed; one bonus point could be given for each eight hour day class. This idea would not cost the WDFW any money and it would be an incentive for all recertification applicants. Discussion also included requiring a recertification test and also providing Bonus Points.

I&O 2011 Planning (Action Item 11-10): By Michael Ward

Mr. Ward present his paper “**Information and outreach 2010**” This excellent paper outlines three important areas; *What is the message we are trying to convey? How do we get the message to the corps? What are our available resources?*

Discussion followed concerning whether I&O should be mandatory. AT a minimum existing Master Hunters should attend at least one I&O meeting per each five years. There was discussion on including incentives for attending like Bonus Points, or raffle off one Bonus Point and outdoor equipment that could be donated by vendors and volunteer time of 8 hours. Discussion included how many meetings per year, and at what locations.

ACTION ITEM 13-6 - It was determined that two I&O Meetings will be held in 2011; one on the East side and one on the West side.

Proposed dates included; March or April of 2011

I&O Planning Committee Members selected: Michael Ward and Richard Mathisen.

Planning Committee will present Tentative Dates, Locations and Agenda.

It was determined that there must be a **Pre-registration** requirement for all participants.

It was determined that there would be a raffle for prizes and bonus points.

Final determination of these proposed meeting would be confirmed at the MHAG December 2010 meeting.

Orientation

1. Sgt. Anderson provided members with the PowerPoint presentation used at the 2010 West side orientation. Members of the MHAG unanimously supported and approved this PowerPoint presentation and encouraged it used as a basis for future orientation meetings. Sgt. Anderson asked members to send photos and information about events where Master Hunters have made accomplishments in the areas of wildlife habitat conservation, environmental improvements and other “Giving Back” projects.
2. Chair Bob Cromwell indicated the importance of Master Hunters being recognized for the many good projects they have accomplished. It is the measurement of the success of the Master Hunter program to publicize the good deeds Master Hunters do. He further indicated that he would find such a project to report on each month and asked members of the MHAG to do the same and forward them with photos to Sgt. Anderson.

Orientation Meetings for 2011:

ACTION ITEM 13-7 - It was determined by the MHPPAG that there should be two New Master Hunter Application Orientation Meetings in 2011 in January. Locations: Olympia and Yakima.

Next MHAG Meeting

The next MHPPAG meeting will be December 2, 2010 9 a.m. at the offices of the Washington Cattleman's Association - Ellensburg, Washington.

ADJOURNMENT - 3p.m. August 5, 2010

Draft #1 – August 18, 2010