



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

**MHAG Meeting #25**

September 27, 2013 - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Washington Cattlemen's Association Offices, Ellensburg

**Call to order by Chair Jim Fitzgerald, 9:00 a.m.**

**Introduction of Members and Guests**

**Members present:**

Jim Fitzgerald, Chair	John McGlenn, Vice Chair
Jim Reinbold	Jim Sutton
James Slyfield	Tom Conrads
Dennis Clay	George Dennis
Jim Zimmerman	Roger Hurst
Bill Zachmann	Mike Britton

**Members excused:**

Craig Broadhead	Chris Brong
Wayne Ward resigned	

**WDFW Staff present:**

Nate Pamplin, Assistant Director Wildlife Program  
Dave Whipple, Hunter Education Division Manager  
Sgt. Carl Klein  
Mike Kuttel  
Anthony Novack  
Christine Redmond

**Guests or Presenters:**

Ray Dashiell  
Leonard Wolf

**Approval of Meeting Notes**

Meeting notes from Meeting #24 (July 19, 2013) were approved unanimously by group as posted to website.

Motion by Mike Britton, seconded by Jim Sutton.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

*Status of Hunter Behavior Study* – Anthony Novack – handout.

Mr. Novack reported that the student conducting the study is done with her education and that Mr. Novack will be done with the study as well as he is being transferred to Region 6. The study was near completion, but no more data analysis will be conducted.. Materials attached to the study needs to be on file with WDFW. High points with the study were that more responses were received through the mail than received from responses at businesses or sports shows, and there was a clear bias in the postal version of the study. Questions were slightly different with the postal requests. Overall results showed that master hunters responses were very similar to general hunters, but the result are not necessarily reliable. Anthony will ensure all data is stored within WDFW's Hunter Education Division, and will also write a memo to the file explaining the shortcomings of the study.

Motion to receive and maintain study materials at WDFW made by Jim Zimmerman, seconded by Tom Conrads. Passed unanimously. **ACTION ITEM**

*Discussion about options for implementation of defined MHPP role.* – Mike Kuttel, Nate Pamplin.

Mr. Kuttel stated that the statement of policy would also hold a volunteer theme in that WDFW is presently putting together a program for volunteer management of projects. Several positions are open in WDFW for volunteer coordinators. There will also be projects opening up in the Wildlife division being reviewed by Dave Ware. Mr. Pamplin noted that there were 24 initiatives that WDFW will be tracking over the next 2 years dealing with budget as well as programs within the WDFW. WDFW will be looking for volunteers for citizen science, wildlife conflict/damage control and ecological assessment/integrity monitoring. Information on these items is on the website under “volunteers”. A request was made as to the organizational chart for WDFW for contacts. It was also noted that there was no reference to Master Hunters or volunteers in the table of contents of the Hunting Pamphlet. Ms. Redmond stated that her focus as Volunteer Coordinator for WDFW was policy development and to tell success stories of volunteer activities. She also is working on training for volunteers and coordinators.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

*ALEA Grant – Region 1 Pilot Volunteer Coordinator Program-* Mike Britton.

Mr. Britton stated the program is underway. The ALEA funding is \$2500 for mileage for the program. The program consist of contract paperwork, hunt coordination, spreadsheet, volunteer projects preparation, ALEA/service registration, project presentation, landowner registration to hunt, project planning/preparation, MH 1802 deer damage, research and information dispersal/assembling. He has received good feedback from hunters and landowners. He also brought up questions and concerns about the cost of a second tag, volunteer case documents and meaningful projects (increasing the volunteer corps to increase the opportunities and linkages to the public). He also suggested that all be thinking about ideas for future ALEA grants. The deadline is February.

***Update on Anthony Novak transfer to Region 6 Conflict Specialist position*** – Anthony Novack. Mr. Novack stated he will be based out of Lakewood, Washington dealing with Region 6 wildlife issues. He stated that volunteer activities for GMU 3911 will be put on hold for the time being. He also stated that there has been some clarification of the conflict in GMU 334 between the county ordinance and WDFW hunting regulations. There is now an agreement between some landowners to allow for center fire use with special permission from WDFW. He also stated that some possible ideas for ALEA grants could be surveys at actual hunting camps to see if they have seen any violations. This would be helpful in pointing out areas of concern for enforcement.

***Region 6 Pilot for Hunt Coordination Guidelines to increase the overall use of Master Hunters. Implementation of ranked list concept. (Showing interest in Region 3 as well.)***

Mike Kuttel – handout.

Mr. Kuttel explained the pilot project for region 6 (only) Hunt Coordinator and ranked list. This is basically the same as the policy for Hunt Coordinator but adds some variance in setting subsets allowing for more flexibility in handling immediate needs for damage control. It suggests allowing Landowner permits, kill permits and more use of Master Hunters. For use of MH there would be 3 options available – Subset by county, subset by county and adjacent county, and subset of closest MH to the damage area. It was suggested that a skill set be considered as well. Also of concern was the use of the Hunt Coordinator's personal property by the selected hunter. A motion was made by Jim Zimmerman and seconded by John McGlenn to allow all three options for MH use with no priority listed. Motion passed with one negative vote.

It was also suggested that the Hunt Coordinator policy be reviewed by WDFW staff and brought before the group at a future meeting. **ACTION ITEM**

***Update on status of MHAG Recruitment news release and the interview process.*** Mike Kuttel  
A news release will be sent out at the end of October announcing of the Master Hunter Advisory Group recruitment process. There will be 6 positions available with 5 openings by regions and one resignation (region 1). There is one regular position in region 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. The process is application review and interview, recommendation ranking of candidates, reviewed by Deputy Director and appointment by Director. Position starts in March for a 3 year appointment.

***Report from Christine Redmond, WDFW, Volunteer Coordinator.***

Ms. Redmond stated she was presently developing policy and procedures for volunteer service as well as training programs for volunteers and staff. She also stated that Tracy Loveless will be approving projects for Master Hunter volunteers.

She also went over the travel expense voucher and statewide payee registration form for MHAG participants. There needs to be a volunteer form on file with WDFW with Hunter Ed. Send voucher to Jan at WDFW.

***Update on hiring of additional Hunter Education field staff and reorganization of existing staff duties that could provide for the coordination of volunteers in some regions*** – Nate Pamplin. Handout. Mr. Pamplin gave a report on hiring and program and department adjustments earlier in the meeting. He also noted that the Wildlife Program Policy Statement Master Hunt Permit Program has been reviewed by senior staff with some suggested additions made to include volunteer coordination efforts and conservation ethics. He stated that it is being considered a policy rather than a WAC or RCW but that further review is needed as to be certain there are no conflicts between the policy and WAC/RCW's. The group made some further adjustments to the wording and approved the recommended policy. Jim Sutton moved and Jim Fitzgerald seconded to approve the policy with the noted changes and send back to WDFW staff for review and adoption. Approved unanimously.

***New volunteer mileage expense process (Statewide Payee Registration and mandatory use of assigned Payee number)*** – this was covered under Ms. Redmond report. It should be noted that the payee number need not be used at this time. WDFW staff will handle.

***Review of Wildlife Program Policy Statement for MHPP*** – This item was discusses earlier.

***Review of WDFW criteria for certification and re-certification (volunteer hours, requirement to pass Hunter Education training)*** – Mike Kuttel. David Whipple. Handout. Mr. Kuttel noted some ideas given him by MHAG members of adjusting requirements for certification of Master Hunters in the future. Mainly the Hunter Education training was discussed with ideas of grandfathering present MH, requiring HE for MH after 1972, and accepting other state HE certification should be considered. Mr. Pamplin cautioned that this could be perceived as a hurdle to recruiting future MH. The group suggested that this requirement is necessary for credibility of the program. The number of service hours was discussed both in the number required and the possible requirement for having 8 hours per year for recertification of MH. Also discussed was the possibility of CORT as an option rather than requirement. After much discussion, it was suggested that the program remain the same. It was also suggested that MHAG work with Eyes in the Woods (CORT) to improve the program for MH needs. Shooting proficiency was discussed with a suggestion for language clarification. Mr. Whipple stated that he will be putting together an annual work plan with these items included for future discussions. This would be a move towards developing and adjusting the MHPP. **ACTION ITEM.**

***Review of by-laws (including membership makeup and group size)***- Mike Kuttel. Handout. Mr. Kuttel went over the by-laws and suggested changes and updates. Changes were of minor and mainly in language. John McGlenn moved and George Dennis seconded the approval of the changes in by-laws. Motion passed unanimously. Staff will make track changes and send back to MHAG. **ACTION ITEM.**

***Review of roles and responsibilities.*** – Mike Kuttel. Handout. Mr. Kuttel went over some suggested changes as they now relate to the Wildlife division. Staff will make track changes and send out to MHAG members for review. **ACTION ITEM.**

***Other topics-***

***-Instructors obtaining Master Hunter status*** – the RCW for MHPP will not allow for this proposition.

***-Concept of having the MHPP applicant test conducted on-line*** – it was suggested it would not work.

***-Links on MHPP webpage sharing tips to 1<sup>st</sup> time hunters (per George Coulbourn)*** – Mike Kuttel stated that Mr. Coulbourn has deferred his ideas for working with first time hunters at this time. Mr. Whipple will put this in the annual work plan.

**Conclusion**

***Good-of-the-order discussion topics. (All)(General discussion items by MHAG)***

Cost of second Tag – carrying out WDFW work. Placed on annual work plan.

Name tags (& binders) for new MHAG members.

Election of new officers in January meeting.

Region 4 HE and Volunteer Coordinator position description is posted with someone on board by late November-early December.

IHEA booklets for HE may be discontinued under Washington HE program due to high cost. Most HE instructors are members of IHEA through WHEIA.

Hunter Clinic for Turkey this next year. No action at this time.

Washington Outdoor Women – conducting clinics for women in the outdoors.

Attorney General Office – looking at HE liability issues for instructors, authority, and duty in hunting clinics.

Legislative committee work session on October 29, 2013 at Skagit County Court House.

***Recap action items –***

Obtain materials and documents from the MH Behavioral Survey and put under WDFW files/storage – WDFW staff.

Hunt Coordinator Pilot for Region 6 – WDFW staff

Review MHPP by WDFW staff and get to MHAG for comments – WDFW Staff

Review by-laws by WDFW staff and send to MHAG for comments – WDFW Staff

Review roles and responsibilities by WDFW staff and send to MHAG for comments – WDFW staff

***Next meeting Date and Location*** – Friday, January 10, 2014 at 9:00 am, Cattlemen's Association in Ellensburg.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:45 p.m.