



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

Notes for MHAG Meeting #37
Oct 7, 2016 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Washington Cattlemen's Association, Ellensburg

MHAG Members		WDFW Staff	Guests / Coordinators
Region 1	John Glenewinkel	Dave Whipple (excused) Hunter Education Division Manager	Matt Mimnaugh Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
	Shawn Woodard (excused)		
	Tim Bruya		
Region 2	Carissa Craghead, Secretary	Kris Thorson Hunter Education Division Specialist	
	VACANT		
Region 3	Lance Ostrom	Aaron Garcia Region 3 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Tom Conrads		
Region 4	David Floyd	Steve Dazey Region 4 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	Jeff Larsen		
	John McAuliffe, Vice Chair		
Region 5	Chris Brong	Bill Montgomery Region 6 Hunter Education/Volunteer Coordinator	
	George Dennis, Chair		
Region 6	Jim Fitzgerald	Captain Bob Weaver Region 3 Enforcement	
	James Zimmerman (excused)		
	Howard "Shane" Briel		
		Christine Redmond Volunteer Program Manager	

Procedural Business

- Call to order and announcements
- Motion to approve previous minutes
 - All in favor
- Introduction of members and guests
 - Matt Mimnaugh - Inland Northwest Wildlife Council
 - Matt is here to learn about MHPP and great things our volunteers can do.

New Business

- **WDFW Reports and Updates (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - MHPP 2016 Applicants update (*Kris Thorson*)
 - There are 317 applicants this year.
 - 115 of the applicants have taken the test (36%).
 - 44 passed the test the first time (38%).
 - 44 retook the test at this point (62%).
 - 34 passed the test the second time (77%).
 - 48 have completed all of the requirements to date (15%).
 - Volunteer Program Update (*Christine Redmond*)
 - Christine gave a wrap up on the bookmark contest.
 - We had 71 entries for the contest.
 - Christine showed MHAG the three winners for each age group.
 - George signed thank you letters for the winners and Christine will send the letters next week.
 - George proposed having future bookmark contests to be marketed by HEIs.
 - Christine has recently had volunteer data privacy questions and will be working on that in the future.
 - This is in regards to Public Disclosure Requests and what information is disclosable.
 - Christine will talk more about National Hunting and Fishing Day during that agenda item.
 - Region 3 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Aaron Garcia*)
 - Aaron has had a large hazing project for Region 1 deer this season.
 - He has had 35 MH haze animals and made a huge difference.
 - Aaron coordinated volunteers for several smaller projects on wildlife areas and is working with water access site managers.

- Aaron has taught several clinics including a youth pheasant clinic and hunt.
- He is working on setting up a region 1 turkey clinic and hunt similar to last year's clinic.
- Aaron has done a lot of outreach to PF, NWTF, RMEF, etc.
- He has coordinated some volunteers to help clean up Wenas shooting ranges.
- A customer service staff member in the region 3 office did some outreach to local schools asking if they would allow us to send information to the schools on clinics and upcoming events.
 - Several school districts said that they would welcome the information.
- Region 4 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Steve Dazey*)
 - Steve is starting to plan for the 2017 NHFD event that will be in region 4.
 - He has also done some outreach to local schools to entice students to possibly do their required volunteer hours with WDFW.
- Region 6 Volunteer Projects & Coordination (*Bill Montgomery*)
 - Bill had a conflict specialist call him for volunteers to haze animals and Bill sent out some good MH applicants.
 - He also had a volunteer welder fix a bear trap that had the bottom rotted out and fixed large holes in the side of the trap.
 - Bill has had some MHs work on fixing fences in region 5.
 - He participated in three NHFD events this year. These events were:
 - Aug 27 at Paul Bunyon in Puyallup
 - Sept 24 at Bass Pro Shops in Tacoma
 - Oct 1 at NCW Gun Club in East Wenatchee
 - Bill had a MH drive from Aberdeen all the way to Sequim to remove a roadkill deer from an elderly ladies property.
 - Bill also facilitated MHs to help at the fish pond at the Washington State Fair. The booth had 4,122 kids catch a fish this year.
 - There were 32 MHs who participated. They each did 12 hours of service which is 384 total hours.
- Hunter Education Division Specialist (*Kris Thorson*)
 - Kris has been working on updating the Trappers Education Manual with the Washington State Trappers Association and Dan Boes.
 - He also helped plan the National Hunting and Fishing Day event in East Wenatchee.
 - Kris was looking into possible updates to the MH test as well. This is discussed in another agenda item.

- Hunter Education Division Manager (*Dave Whipple*)
 - (*Absent*)
- WDFW Enforcement (*Captain Bob Weaver*)
 - Captain Weaver and his staff have only had one incident with a MH recently.
 - Currently Captain Weaver is overseeing regions 3 and 5 due to a vacancy in the region 5 captain position.
- **MHAG Member Updates (*MHAG members*)**
 - MHAG member volunteer work/activities, news/issues from your region, etc.
 - George Dennis
 - George helped staff TIP trailer in the field.
 - He assisted in silage cutting in region 6.
 - George participates as RSO at Cowlitz gun range and talks to shooters about MHs.
 - George is a hunter education instructor and talks to his class about MHs and good ethical hunting.
 - He has been trying to get in contact with the hoof disease bio on the prevalence and issue to relay that back to MHAG but was unsuccessful in contacting them.
 - George was at the National Hunting and Fishing Day event in East Wenatchee as a volunteer.
 - Chris Brong
 - Chris will be on a Recreation and Conservation Office committee this year.
 - He also went to a coalition breakfast in Seattle with conservation organizations.
 - Tom Conrads
 - Tom proctored a MH test in region 3.
 - He was out during his ranges hunter sight in program and surveyed shooters on the Master Hunter Permit Program.
 - He also tried to contact Ryan Stutzman about corn stubble program but has not connected with him yet.
 - David Floyd
 - David has not had a lot of time to volunteer.
 - He is happy National Hunting and Fishing Day is going to come to Region 4 next year but will not be able to volunteer due to work reasons.
 - Carissa Craghead

- Carissa has participated in four online hunter education class field skills evaluations.
- She was at the National Hunting and Fishing Day event in East Wenatchee as a volunteer.
- Carissa also participated in the MH Orientation in region 3 as the MHAG member talking to the MHs who attended.
- Shane Briel
 - Shane has been working on volunteer efforts with Eyes In The Woods.
 - He worked with Scott Harris on private lands conflicts.
 - Shane is continuing to communicate with regional MHs on volunteer efforts.
- John McAuliffe
 - John is a Chief Hunter Education Instructor and his team held six classes in the past three months. They have had 141 students pass the course.
 - John also participated in the MH Orientation meeting in region 4 as an MHAG representative.
- Jeff Larsen
 - Jeff participated in the MH Orientation meeting in region 4 as an MHAG representative.
 - He is also working with Upper Skagit elk group on fence building and collaring.
 - Jeff has completed about 70-80 hours on a fencing project in North Bend area.
- Tim Bruya
 - Tim met with USFWS staff on the Turnbull refuge long range plan on elk.
 - He found projects on Turnbull reserve that MHs can assist on and the staff love MHs.
 - Tim has concerns over the use of MH tags in Turnbull area.
 - Tim asked Aaron to work with region 1 staff on possible issues and volunteer opportunities.
- John Glenwinkle
 - John brought some dogs and participated in a regional pheasant clinic and hunt.
 - He has also been on three cougar depredation hunts for public safety.
- Lance Ostrom
 - Lance has not had many opportunities to volunteer lately.
 - He talked about the elk issues that happened on I-90 last season and asked if there was a preemptive plan for this year.

- Aaron responded saying that there is a plan for this season to avoid the issues that happened this past year. About 50 elk were killed by motor vehicles along I-90 near Vantage.
 - Jim Fitzgerald
 - Jim is proctoring the MH test for applicants.
 - HE is also volunteering as a hunter education instructor and providing online field skills evaluations with his team.
- **MHAG Strategic Plan (*George D. /Jim F. /Dave W. /Kris T.*)**
 - Corn Stubble Program update
 - Region 3 has had a couple MHs making contacts to landowners who have standing corn in their fields.
 - There are several landowners who are interested in participating next year.
 - Would this program be rolled out to the entire state?
 - This type of program could move statewide but maybe not the corn stubble. WDFW envisions getting more youth opportunities.
 - There was also a discussion on clinics being possible outreach on mentoring opportunities for MHs.
- **Master Hunter Orientation debriefs (*Aaron Garcia and Steve Dazey*)**
 - The previous 3911 Orientation was changed to a Master Hunter Permit Program overview and orientation.
 - WDFW is going to try to have a couple of these types of MH orientation meetings in January and February to inform applicants of the MHPP and what is it about before the closing of the application deadline.
 - There was mostly positive feedback from the MHs in attendance.
 - The goal of these orientations is to help remind MHs why the program exists and what the program is supposed to do.
 - WDFW staff from enforcement and the Wildlife Program were also on hand to help answer questions.
 - Currently the Hunter Education Division is exploring including a CORT class, test, and a live fire component into orientation meetings to help applicants meet the requirements.
 - There was a suggestion to possibly add a how to pass the test or what to study info online.
- **Regions 1 and 2 road show debrief (*Aaron Garcia and Steve Dazey*)**

- Aaron and Steve went through regions 1 and 2 to talk to wildlife area managers and conflict staff to ask what the MHPP and volunteers could do for them.
 - They made a lot of great contacts with regional staff and should have a lot more projects in regions 1 and 2 in the near future for MHs to volunteer at.
 - Once Steve and Aaron heard the conflict staff and wildlife area managers concerns and needs, they tossed out some other ideas on how MHs can do for them and received good feedback.
 - Aaron and Steve started a newsletter to get MHs involved and updated on possible projects and where there is need.
 - Also, Steve and Aaron went to the Inland Northwest Wildlife Councils meeting to talk about possible projects.
 - They are not done with the road trip idea. They will keep making the contacts and make sure to grow the partnerships and build relationships.
- **NHFD Recap (*Kris Thorson and Christine Redmond*)**
 - Christine talked about the giveaways that WDFW and the other non-governmental agencies gave to the participants:
 - WDFW gave orange drawstring bags, eye protection, ear protection, information on species in Washington, a hunter orange student vest, and a bore flag if they wanted one.
 - Other entities gave away:
 - Bass Pro Shops – pins, Bass Pro orange hats, water bottles, and coloring canvases.
 - Sportsman’s Warehouse – Camo hats, temporary tattoos, and \$10 discount vouchers.
 - Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association - Hand tied flies to participants.
 - The sponsors included:
 - Bass Pro Shops (Tacoma)
 - Sportsman’s Warehouse (East Wenatchee)
 - Cabela’s (Yakima)
 - Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association
 - Hooked on Toys
 - Stan’s Merry Mart
 - North Central Washington Gun Club
 - Volterra Restaurants
 - National Wild Turkey Federation
 - Mule Deer Foundation

- Pacific Food Importers
 - Bi-Mart
- WDFW received donations from the sponsors to give to the participants in two raffle drawings during the event.
- Highlights of the prizes were a 3x9 scope, several youth bow kits, a daisy air rifle, several kids fishing rods, several tackle boxes, gift cards to Stan's Merry Mart, and bi-mart gift cards.
- Kris and Christine showed the MHAG members some photos from the event.
- George talked about the shooting that the participants were able to do.
 - They could shoot .223, .22. 20 gauge, air rifle, and genesis bows.
- There was also a fish casting station where WDFW staff and volunteers could teach kids to cast a spinning rod.
- 2017 event will be in region 4.
 - The location is Camp Pigott near Monroe.
 - Since there is a lake on site, WDFW may be able to provide a kids fishing net pen.
 - Christine is exploring the idea of having some touch tanks of different species of local fish.
 - Since the location is fairly close to the largest population base in Washington, the hours of participation may need to increase to allow for more participants.
- **Master Hunter Newsletter (*Steve Dazey, Aaron Garcia, Bill Montgomery*)**
 - The newsletter was mentioned during other agenda items.
 - This newsletter will be distributed every other month and distributed statewide.
 - It will include projects that need volunteers for the upcoming month and the contact information of those project managers.
 - Aaron, Bill, and Steve are thinking about including a questionnaire about special skill sets of MH's. This will let them specifically target projects to workers skilled in areas of need such as welding or tractor operation.
- **MHPP Test Update (*Kris Thorson*)**
 - Kris shared the questions that MH applicants were missing more than 50% of the time with MHAG.
 - The group had discussions on questions that may need to be reworded.
 - There were also discussions on if the test is a viable entry path to the MHPP and measures the correct skills that MH applicants need to be good MH.
 - A member mentioned the idea of requiring an essay or other way to have applicants who cannot pass the test but would be good MHs gain entry.

- There was also a suggestion of allowing the test to be open book but still have the 70 minute time limit.
 - MHAG had discussion on leaving the questions in the test that may not necessarily be geared at just master hunters.
 - A member posed the idea of possibly having an interview process of the applicant to determine if they are MH material.
 - An agenda item for the next meeting will allow more discussion of this issue.
- **CORT Updates (*Shane Briel*)**
 - Shane had no particular updates.
 - The current CORT classes seem to be running well.
 - There is a feeling from members that there may not be enough classes in region 1 and 2 this year.
 - Applicants need to make sure that they are contacting the CORT instructors. If there are a lot of applicants that want a class, the instructors may be able to put together a new class.

Conclusion

- **Recap Action Items (*Secretary Craghead*)**
- **Agenda Topics for Next Meeting**
 - Review the previous letter to prosecutors asking them to pursue the highest sentence/fine for MH's that are cited. - Fitzgerald
 - Thank you letters to NHFD contributors. – Redmond and Dennis
 - Discussion on MH criteria for entry into the program – Dave and Kris
 - Discussion on Social Media presence of MH – Kris
 - What is WDFW doing about the loss of land available? (Pay to Play, Hancock area, etc)
- **Next Meeting Date and Location**
 - January 27, 2017 at the Washington Cattleman's Association.
- **Good of the Order (*All; General discussion items by MHAG*)**
- **Adjourn**
 - **2:16 pm**