



**Upper Snoqualmie Valley
Elk Management Group**

Land Use & People Committee

– Mission Statement –

- Review & make recommendations regarding elk/land use issues to city planners
 - Map all known incidents of elk/vehicle collisions
 - Describe & document negative impacts to recreation (e.g. sports fields, golf courses, public trails) that elk may create in the area
 - Describe recreation benefits (e.g. elk viewing, tourism) that elk may bring to the area
 - Assess public perspectives concerning the valley elk herd and management options
 - Assist with the development of a sustainable, adaptable long-term elk management plan
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**Land Use & People Committee Meeting
Agenda for Tuesday, 1:30 PM Aug, 3 2010**

Attendees:

Maura Callahan - Chair

Harold Erland

Bob Stokke

Alan Mainwaring – DNR

Russell Link – WDFW - Absent

Sonny Paz - USFS

Jim Gildersleeve - Absent

Mike McCarty

Dave Kimmitt – KC Absent

Roberta McFarland - Absent

Doug McClelland – DNR

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1. Meadowbrook Kiosks – Mary Norton
 - Planned meeting with designer last Tuesday.
 - Gave us an outline of the sign text (attached)
 - Mary will know how much space there is available for any additional material/photos we might want to add after her meeting with the designer
 2. Sonny – Presentation on creating Elk Habitat
 - This project focused is on the creation of permanent elk forage lots in the Greenwater (south 410) area. The 1st phase is underway and they are clearing small (5-10 acre lots) for permanent openings specifically for deer & elk. It's expected these feeding lots will be maintained to keep out the invasive plants (blackberry, scotch broom, Japanese knotweed) to let the native plants thrive.
 - Sonny thinks this might be a viable undertaking, though on a smaller scale (1-2 acre lots) for the Middle Fork
 3. Updating North Rainier Elk Herd Plan
 - Russ asked us to hold off on add any updates until the initial draft revision – due Aug 1 – was returned. He will be attending the Sept committee meeting to work on more specifics for this project.
 4. Elk research and trapping status--Harold Erland
 - Will be given separately from the Elk Management Committee
 5. Other Business
 - Mike said that the council will benefit from the additional 6 months worth of tracking info to further our cause for the wildlife corridor
 - CCC Flats have about an acre seeded. There is evidence that the elk are using the area for forage

Next Meeting is Sept 7, 2010, 1:30 PM



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Summary of Meadowbrook Kiosk Signs

Elk Interpretive Signs Text

Two elk-related signs, one with present elk info/photos, one with historic info/photos. The Wildlife watching Elk Signs , and Getting Involved modules can be put on both panels as space permits. We need to use the Getting Involved/EMG info on both, for sure. Plant graphics can be added to both.

Wildlife Watching

Always observe from a distance preferable downwind. Use binoculars or spotting scopes

Talk quietly and minimize sharp sounds

Pets should stay home

Do not disturb animals in mating season, particularly bull elk in the fall rutting season

Never come between a mother and her offspring

If an animal becomes nervous or moves away, you are too close

Early morning and twilight are the ideal times to see the animals

Look for Elk Signs

Tracks

Droppings or scat

Antler rubs on trees

Nipped shrubs and branches

Beds and mud wallows

Hair on branches or fences

Bugling in fall mating season

Getting Involved: The Upper Snoqualmie Elk Management Group ([logo here](#))

The mission of the Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group is to work collaboratively to minimize property damage and public safety risks associated with elk, and to manage elk for a variety of recreational, educational and aesthetic purposes, including hunting, scientific study, cultural and ceremonial uses by Native Americans, wildlife viewing and photography. Learn more at snoqualmievalleyelk.org

Elk in the Snoqualmie Valley ([elk photos](#))

Elk are large members of the deer family, which also includes deer, moose, and caribou. For protection from predators they live in herds, on grasslands and forest edges, grazing on grasses and forbs, and browsing on shrubs and trees. Bull elk (600-800 lbs) grow large spreading antlers each year, and shed them in early spring. Cow elk (400-500 lbs) do not grow antlers. During mating season, or rut, in the fall, bulls challenge each other by bugling and fighting; only successful bulls mate with the cows. In May or June, an elk cow will deliver a single spotted calf. Often a cow will watch over several calves while the others feed. If an elk can avoid bears, cougars, hunters and traffic it may live 12-20 years.

Elk in the Snoqualmie Valley: A History ([historic photos](#))

The flat prairie on the Snoqualmie Valley floor left by the last glacier and maintained by the Snoqualmie Tribe provided ideal deer and elk habitat on its forested edges. When the first settlers arrived in 1858, they also began hunting the native Roosevelt Elk, and eventually the elk population disappeared. In 1913, the Seattle Elks Club hosted the national Elks Convention, and as a feature imported a carload of 44 Rocky Mountain elk from Yellowstone, turning them loose in the Snoqualmie Valley. The population quickly increased and began causing crop damage to local farmers. After World War II the population increased until many starved, despite feeding efforts, in the hard winter of 1945. The remaining elk were baited into a corral, and moved to the Nooksack Valley. Elk were not seen again in the upper Snoqualmie Valley until about 1995, when small bands began moving into the valley from the Cedar River Watershed. Now elk again flourish in the forested edges of their Snoqualmie Valley home.