



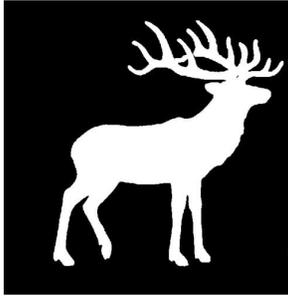
Meeting Minutes
Snoqualmie/North Bend Elk Group
Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 6:30 p.m.
Meadowbrook Farm

Facilitator: Russell Link Minutes: Breanna Trvqa

Attendees

Russell Link
Richard Burhans
Tim McBride
Mary Norton
Larry Thibodeau
Breanna Trygg
Kathie and Phil Cassady
Martin Tule
Jim Gildersleeve
Don Hacherl
Mick Acieruo
Reed Simms
Rod and Cheryl Thompson

Dave Battey
Harold Erland
Clifford and Janna Kellogg
Jim and Diane Huckabay
Jennifer Hackett
Dave Borkowski
Dave Duncan
Sonny Paz
Michael MacDonald
Sam Metzler
Matt Campbell
Chris Moszeter
Seth Tuscott



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Agenda

Introductions
Personal Interactions/Problems with Elk
Next Steps

Comments

Sorry, I couldn't catch all of your names as we went around-I labeled them as best I could. The comments are based on the notes I took, and won't be word for word, but will convey the general sentiment.

Golf Course: Elk on golf course mostly in the winter months-wait until then to see how effective the elk fence is. Elk fence cost: \$90,000.

City of Snoqualmie: Want to see a plan generated for the elk herd.

Homeowner/Meadowbrook Farm: Has seen a drastic increase of elk numbers in the last few years. At Meadowbrook, elk are blocking the goal of agriculture on the property. Worried about the interface of elk and people on hiking trails.

Hancock Timber Bio: Not going to lure the elk up to their property. Growing trees for the timber market.

Homeowners/Falconers: Casino is going to bring a lot more traffic-also more elk encounters. A harley/elk encounter is scary. Some form of hunting would be beneficial. North Bend has lifted the development ban-could be a problem for the community elk relations.

Surveys: Began March 1st, using roads as transects, for the 1st hour after sunrise.

Certain of 150 elk

Estimate of 251 elk

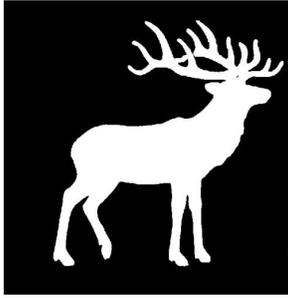
Possibility of up to 300-325 elk in the valley

100-135 elk recruitment (calves) this year, with more next year

In 3-4 years, 500-600 elk

Meadowbrook Farm/Historian: From 1940-1997 there were very few elk here. In support of hunting, a cow season is needed.

Homeowner: Frustrated with WDFW response. Multiple emails from 2005 from agency representatives-too slow! Neighbors blueberry farm lost \$30,000 in 2005 and 2006. Wants a clear schedule of what is happening when.



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Horse Rancher: Have been here for 6 years. Elk are a driving hazard. Owns very expensive horses, has to repair fencing from elk damage every day. Horse stress is very dangerous for the health of the horse when elk enter the enclosure. Would pay a lot for effective fencing. Likes the idea of a cow season. BC, Canada also has a calf season.

Homeowner: Love to watch the elk. Wildlife advocate, good for the next generation to see wildlife. There are people not here at the meeting who maybe like elk more than those present at the meeting. Hopes grandchildren will be able to see elk here.

Forester, Resident, Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation Member: Doesn't remember seeing elk until 1999. Too much of a good thing. Elderly community members have lost gardens—a very important aspect of their life. Elk are more aggressive. Master Hunters could help.

Meadowbrook: Start a cow season. Hunting should increase by a factor of 10.

Valley Resident: 5 times a week the elk are eating flowers out of planters on the porch! Want them to stay in pasture, away from house.

DOT: This community isn't alone in dealing with this. A love or hate relationship. DOT deals with roadkill, has a database to record this, but doesn't always get the correct information, very general. Database has many faults, there is a disconnect with the state patrol.

Forest Service: The forest service doesn't harvest as much timber, major land allocation changes. Would like to relocate elk from here to herds in decline. Elk are here to stay.

Kittitas resident: Specific problems are different, but the situation is generally similar. Adaptable animals—created security here for the elk. Difficult problem. Create forage and security in areas you want elk, not in areas where they shouldn't be. Need a number of animals you can manage.

Jim Huckabay: The only different words from the Kittitas meetings that were said: Blueberries, flowers, small fruit trees, roses.

*Never set out to kill 400 elk. Change human habitat use. Build social capital—can't depend on politicians until you can depend on yourselves.

*Leaders of WDFW are very committed to collaborative problems solving.

*Regional directors of WDFW, DNR, National Forest attended every Kittitas meeting. Important to have someone there who can deal with/decide on the solutions offered.

*There are responsibilities beyond what we originally signed on to do. Community responsibilities.

The process does take time, have to start now. Keep having these conversations.

Need to set out:



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- Information you need
- What you have
- Questions to answer

Resident: Want to be a part of the solution. Insurance agent: deer and elk collisions. Recently a young man died in an elk collision. Master hunting program.

Resident: Wildlife is beautiful, want to keep it. Have switched over to a rock garden-the only thing that can survive. If we don't do anything there is a risk for property and people's lives. Lots of solutions if we work together.

Resident: Involve the local tribe, WA Trails Association, King County representative.

Resident: Elk hunter. Open loop system, something has to be done. Things are going to get worse and worse. Lesson learned—Agency with responsibility needs the solutions to these problems, may have some.

WDFW Enforcement Officer: North Bend officer. The city ordinances were rewritten so that the decision about elk control is up to WDFW. Respond to what I can.
Wants to create a management goal.

General Comments

This went fast, I got what I could.

Students involved should look at old maps, find the old migration trails.

Report about elk problems, not just elk sightings.

Elk are aggressive.

Landowners: WDFW needs a list of people with property who will allow elk hunts.

The elk are an introduced species to the region. \

Involve students!

Be clear about problems.

GIS Maps: create these for elk sightings and elk problems.

This process: Develop relationships that can provide trust, support to solve the problems.

Opportunities are here. A GROUP can change priorities where an individual may not.

Common Themes

These are ideas/comments that came up multiple times from the group.

- Communication disconnect between agencies
- Elk are an economic detriment (at current numbers)



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- Need for a clear Timeline
- Change in Hunting Rules
- What DATA do we need? Do we have it?
- Vehicle and Elk Collisions
- Funding for Elk Management (Sources: WDFW, City, County, Community?)
- Property Damage

Kittitas County Big Game Management Roundtable

- Met once a month
- Steering committee meets before general meeting
- Create subcommittees.

Education: Community, Students. This group has capitol.

GOALS/SOLUTIONS:

Short Term
Mid Term
Long Term

Access highest ranking level of WDFW at every meeting.
Create action.

Process doesn't fit everybody, especially those getting hurt the worst. Give some hope, try out options.

1st Meeting: Write down all the reasons it COULDN'T work. Done with those.

2nd Meeting: Write down all the reasons it CAN work.

Next Steps

Agenda for next month

- Send out 2 weeks before the meeting
- Not a WDFW program. Invite input from the entire community.

Next Meeting:

July 15th, 2008, 6:30 pm
Meadowbrook Farm