



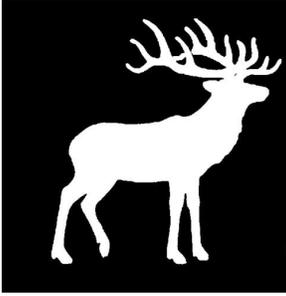
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Snoqualmie/North Bend Elk Roundtable**  
Tuesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 6:30 p.m.  
Meadowbrook Farm

Facilitator: Russell Link      Minutes: Breanna Trvqa

**Attendees**

Russell Link  
Richard and Sally Burhans  
Mary Norton  
Kim Chandler  
Breanna Trygg  
Kathie and Phil Cassady  
Bill Hebner  
Jim Gildersleeve  
Don Hacherl  
Mick Acieruo  
Gary Wilson

Damien Wilson  
Dave Battey  
Harold Erland  
Landon Wilson  
Martin Tule  
Sean Absher  
John Lund  
Fred A. Lawrence  
Ron Crouch  
Michael Peterson  
Chris Moszeter



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**Snoqualmie/North Bend Elk Group**  
Tuesday, June 17, 2008, 6:30 p.m.  
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**Agenda**

Introductions  
Approve the Minutes from last month  
Agree on the proposed agenda  
Define the problem  
Decide if we really want to work together to find solutions  
Develop a group name  
Agree on meeting frequency and a common day/place to meet  
Agree on decision-making (Vote? Majority Rule? Full Consensus)  
Develop goals/mission statement  
What data is needed and who will get it?

*I didn't have a tape-recorder, so these minutes will not be verbatim. I was unfamiliar with some of the names mentioned, sorry about any misspellings. **Red signals action items.***

**Minutes**

Richard: The minutes are an overview, not approved as normal minutes. Need individual statements to be more detailed. Use a tape recorder for when we get into policy discussions. Approve these as a general discussion.

**Agenda**

Richard: Wants to add the Letter from Jay Rodne. Came up with a list of steps required for a management plan. Our representative has already written to the WDFW director. Jay Rodne is very supportive of a management plan coming out of this group and will sponsor legislation and funding for the next session. *(This letter was scanned and sent to the listserv after the meeting).*

Jim: Has Cheryl Flute been consulted on this issue?

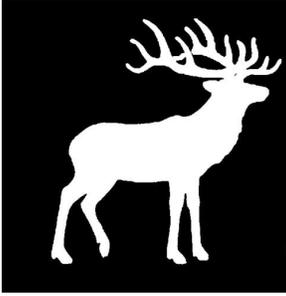
Richard: It's useless without King County.

Chris: King County wants to be here, but Tuesday is city council meetings.

King County needs to be here. What we are doing is important enough that our two representatives will be supportive. Cheryl will be supportive, send her the minutes.

Russell: The city people from Snoqualmie and North Bend want to be here but can't because of the city council meeting.

Richard: Won't solve anything without city support.



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Bill: Who needs to be included that hasn't been here? At the end-brainstorm who should be here and how to contact them.

Harold: The city council feels like they are a stakeholder.

**Defining the Problem**

Ron: Fence-tearing down cattle and horse fencing.

Kim: Too many elk

Richard: Destruction of fruit orchards, impossible to grow.

Gary: Want to know history of elk, haven't been seeing them.

Elk are happy here, have food, can't shoot them. Need nearby clearcuts, why leave when happy here?

Survey results: 150-300 elk here.

Mid to late 1970s-no elk in the survey (Mt. Si Preservation Society Survey).

Don: We are happy with hundreds of elk elsewhere. The problem is there are elk in the same place as people.

Include the statement: Commercial and personal property damage.

Richard: Cottage industries where people are trying to make a living-there's nothing WDFW can do. Farmers Market shut down in Snoqualmie.

Personal Safety- Elk on freeways and local highways. Parks and recreational areas.

Mick: A family of four were killed by a biker, are you going to kill all the bikers?

Dave: Anxiety about the future-that nothing is being done about the increase in population.

Harold: How soon can WDFW put a management plan in place to manage the herd?

Kim: It takes thinking like an elk. They are safe here.

Mike: Was driving on the highway a few years ago in a snowstorm and saw elk. They will always be here. Are the elk I'm seeing here by the golf course the same as in Trucktown?



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No-that was a different group. There are 4-5 groups of elk in this area.

Richard: Don't lose sight of the fact that people won't allow hunting, it will end up as a slaughter. Need a management plan to create habitat they can enjoy and keep them out of ours, without murdering/slaughtering the animals.

Meadowbrook: there were no elk here when this was established. Were not planning for an elk viewing area.

Fred: The gardening homeowner-how do you have a barrier free garden in this area? 40 fruit trees, they break the fence, break fruit tree branches. I run a plan business, when the elk come through the lawns I sell more plants. Individual homeowners have a real problem. Interested in scientific management from your reports. What are you people going to do?

Russell: "You people" is us. WDFW is notorious for just going ahead and doing something. We want to work with you to avoid that.

Damien: Have there been instances of elk injuring people or just strawberries?

Richard: I have 50 elk in my back pasture. Chase them and the 3 lead females attack you. Mary Hyde had her orchard destroyed.

Mike: Have you tried an air gun?

Gary: Sounds like herds are growing, have to kill them. Is there such a thing as sterilization. If you start a harvesting program of any kind-this is Washington. We'll have a lot of problems with doing that in King County. My neighborhood has the single string white strip electric fences, and they are effective.

Options that I see:

- Kill them
- Protect the homeowners
- Let them overrun us

Richard: We've been "raising elk" for four years. The one thing that works, 2 strands of barb wire and a roll of barb wire a few feet away. They can't make the jump over all of it. Why not try a feeding program along the North Fork River, where there is space for them and they will stay. I talked to Christiensen, who said "It's your problem". I don't think you guys (WDFW) have had the time to try out options to keep the elk away.



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Homeowner can get a permit to take out the lead elk. There must be a management way to approach. Have plenty of volunteers. Sincerely, and not scoff at it, sincerely try to keep elk out of the yards.

Russell: We do have a group that has done this before and sees how it applies, the Kittitas County Big Game Management Roundtable. Below is the section from their group explaining the problems seen in their community.

**The Problems That Brought Us Together**

Land use change over the last twenty years has gradually changed the behavioral patterns of a number of elk in Kittitas County, creating depredation on farm and ranch lands. This damage occurs on rangeland, orchards, irrigated crops, and to haystacks, fences and other structures from large concentrations of game animals.

The depredation has been increasing and has changed from seasonal to year round, despite the efforts of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). This depredation has created unacceptable economic losses, such as damage to crops, fences and irrigation systems. Paying damage claims and dealing with elk complaints has become a major fiscal cost to WDFW and the state, while creating ill will between WDFW and private landowners.

The upper county has suffered loss of habitat along with encroachment by people, and its resident elk herd is expanding. Lawns, gardens, golf courses and green space are attractive to elk. The BGMR wants to avoid elk/people conflicts (such as the Jasper Park incidents which involved human injury by elk), high winter big game mortality and ecological damage.

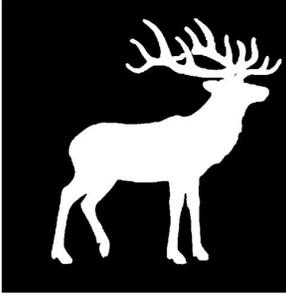
The problem is not necessarily too many elk, but the distribution and location of the elk. This is a complex problem and a problem not unique to Kittitas County. It is also a problem that will require complex short-term and long-term strategies to rectify.

Phil: There are too many elk in a populated area.

Bill: Getting us back on track. I am hearing lots of good ideas. We aren't going to leave here with a management plan tonight. In the following meetings-let's talk about all these options. Ex: Elk damage. But also other perspectives-those who think there aren't enough elk. We need everyone's opinions, using the public process. Let's take the time to do it right.

Russell: For example, some public officials see the elk as a benefit to Snoqualmie and North Bend-for tourism.

Dave: We don't have in this room the people to run the committees. Need to list the folks who need to be here. Have to have the same people here every time.



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Mike: Have we talked to Squim? They turned an elk problem from a nuisance to a tourist attraction.

Russell: We will have a biologist come over here from Squim to talk about Watchable wildlife opportunities.

Ron: Have there been blood tests done on these elk? Elk can carry brucellosis (Ungulate fever). Groups tested positive for brucellosis will have to be killed.

**Russell: Will talk with the pathologist at WDFW.**

**Working Together**

Do we want to work together to develop a road map to manage elk? It's not something that happens overnight. (All agreed to working together).

Richard: We need someone who knows how to run this meeting. Need agencies (ex: land use) here who can make the decisions.

**Players-Who needs to be at these meetings**

In no particular order:

Army Corps of Engineers

Cities of Snoqualmie and North Bend

King County –Parks, Greenway

DNR

Tribes-Snoqualmie Tribe

Hancock Industries

City of Seattle

Watershed-Cedar

Jay Rodne

Russell Link

Audubon

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

DOT (state and county)

Mt. Si Fish and Game Club

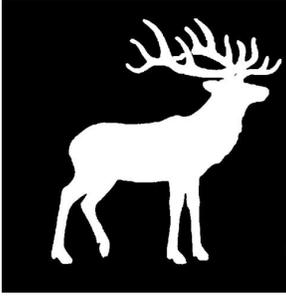
High School Teacher (Nick Kurka)

Media

Chamber of Commerce

General Public

Gardeners



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Garden Clubs  
Agricultural Organizations  
Fall City

**Group Name**

After discussion, there were three names that were possible. Contested terms include Comprehensive, Plan, Group and Task Force. Below are three options.

1. Upper Snoqualmie Valley Comprehensive Elk Management Plan (USV CEMP)
2. Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group (USV EMG)
3. Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Task Force (USV EMTF)

**Meeting Schedule and Location**

Stay at Meadowbrook Farm  
Second Wednesday of each month, 6:30-8:30 pm.  
Next meeting: August 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Decision Making Strategy**

Bring in facilitator.

Need a mechanism for us to agree on our recommendations that we can give to senior leaders who will be brought together to ratify the recommendations.

Use majority vote. There was some discussion of basic majority or a 70% majority approval guideline.

Announce when votes will happen. Make sure all required are there to vote.

Need to develop implied consent. There may be aspects that an individual disagrees with, but in general all agree with the plan.

Ground Rules: Use Roberts Rules of Order. See <http://www.rulesonline.com/>. Need to give respect and courtesy to all meeting attendees.

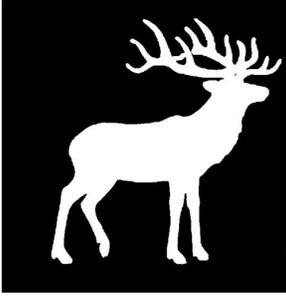
Bill: Not sure if Roberts Rules will allow for an open and informed meeting.

Jim: We will adapt them as needed for our meeting. Give procedure. Makes secretary's role easier.

**Russell: Create introduction to the meeting about how to make sure the process is successful.**

Mike: What we are doing here is like the pre-meeting that happens before the formal Roberts Rules. These are not what Roberts Rules are for.

Jim: Roberts Rules will be fore the second stage of what happens with this group.



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**Next Steps**

Agenda Items moved to next Month:

**Develop goals/mission statement**

**Mission/Goals: Give drafts to group before next meeting in August to facilitate discussion.**

**What data is needed and who will get it?**

Other Agenda Items:  
Sub-committees

**Next Meeting:**  
**August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 6:30 pm**  
**Meadowbrook Farm**