

**Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group  
(USVEMG) Meeting  
November 20, 2008**

November 20, 2008 (Microsoft Word 2003)

**Meeting called to order** at 6:40 P.M. by DFW District Biologist, Russell Link. Welcome to all. We have an interesting agenda for this evening. We have several proposals to put before the group this evening for a vote. They were all developed in collaborative discussions. We encourage attendees to speak to the issues openly and with respect for one another.

We also want to thank the City of Snoqualmie for allowing us to use their fire training room at the Snoqualmie Fire Department. It is a nice, warm room and we are thankful for that because the outside weather has been cold and blustery.

**Introductions:** None. List of attendees attached (**Enclosure 1**).

Meeting turned over to facilitator, Jim Gildersleeve, who proceeded to present the minutes of the last meeting and seek their approval. The minutes of the October 10, 2008 Meeting were unanimously approved.

**Agenda Items:** Key agenda items for today's meeting are :

- o Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee
- o Guiding Document final copy-Jennifer Vanderpool
- o Presentation on EMG voting plan by Mike McCarty
- o Elk Control Committee report will be by Harold Erland.

**Committee Reports:**

**Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee** report by Kalli Willson. Outline is at **Attachment 2**. Kalli's report was comprehensive and very well-received. The highpoint was the development of the EMG's website at [www.snoqualmievalleyelk.org](http://www.snoqualmievalleyelk.org). All of the documents generated by the group, special studies, attendees' rosters, and a multitude of other excellent information are available at this site. Several members had additional suggestions about important reports to be added one of which was the Environmental Impact Statement Game Management 2009-2015. Other EMG members suggested just providing the computer link to the report which is available on the WADF&W website. (<http://dfw.wa.gov>). Kalli and David would look into it decide which is the best way to do it.

### **Steering Committee:**

Jennifer Vanderpool (King County) introduces what is hoped to be the final version of the **EMGs Guiding Document (See Attachment 3)**. This document is intended to be the foundation upon which the group goes forward to the development of a detailed plan for addressing how elk populations will be managed in the upper Snoqualmie Valley. It describes our goals, objectives, mission and organization. After a short discussion, EMG members moved, seconded, and unanimously approved the EMG's Guiding Document.

Mike McCarty (Planner City of North Bend) reintroduced the proposed voting group structure and nominees (**Attachment 4**). The purpose of this effort was to be sure all stakeholders would be equally represented in a voting structure. It was reasoned this approach would produce balanced rationale decisions reflective of the "will of the whole" and streamline the decision making process. At the October 20<sup>th</sup>'s meeting the EMG approved a tentative listing of stakeholders who it was thought should be voting members. Several vacancies were filled-- DNR (Alan Mainwaring and/or Chris Gabriel) and Citizen at Large (Dianna Phillips and/or Reed Simms). The Tulalip Tribe asked to be added to the stakeholders list.

David Willson objected to draft voting list on several grounds: He thought it inconsistent with our approved Guiding Document and unfair, that is the latter identifies six categories of stakeholders--Valley residents/citizens, farmers and agricultural businesses, hunters, educational groups, State and local agencies, and native American tribes, whereas the draft voting stakeholders document identifies each individual governmental agency or organization as voting entity, which weights the votes heavily in their favor, for example, as compared to landowners, or hunters, or farmers who each have one vote. This appears unequal and unfair. "What we need is a vote is to have a result that will hold weight within the local community" We may need a weighted voting system.

Much discussion of the issue and how to address the perceived bias of the voting system as presented ensued. Lots of views and suggestions were discussed. Eventually, the EMG voted to table this initiative and send it back to the Steering Committee for more study and look at a voting weights system.

**Elk Control and Management Committee:** Harold Erland Chair informed the EMG that several of the recommendations that we had previously forwarded to WDFW had been disapproved i.e. to authorize within Game Management Unit (GMU) 460-Snoqualmie elk cows for archers and muzzleloaders during their regular seasons and special cow permits for modern firearms. On the other hand, WDFW indicated they would be receptive to cow permits for special elk areas within 460.

Since there are many non-hunters in the EMG, Mr. Erland began with an orientation to the WA 2008 Big Game Hunting Seasons and Regulations. Members were shown there are regular and special seasons for hunting game species by a hunter's weapon of choice; that there are regular and special hunting areas; and there are a lot of special hunts for which hunters may apply. One could conclude from a thorough review of the pamphlet that it is used to achieve wildlife management goals and objectives.

Harold proceeded to describe elk hunting in area 460. Bull elk, three point or better, are the only elk that may be hunted with modern firearms in this area during the period Nov. 1, thru 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008. He explained that there were also seasons for archers and muzzleloaders, too. Special damage permits were explained—that a hunter could apply for them and if selected be put on a list of hunters who might be called to harvest a problem elk.

Harvest quotas for elk were compared in GMA areas 454 and 460. GMU 454 is Issaquah, Maple Valley, and Enumclaw areas. About 50 elk are being harvest there each year. The mix is about 20 bulls and 30 cows. GMU 460 harvest was 14 bulls. No cows have been authorized since about 1990 because the DFW goal was to increase the elk within GMU 460. Today's elk population in GMU 460 is over 500 now, but the problem is that 400 of them live in North Bend and Snoqualmie and are unevenly distributed throughout the GMU.

With the foregoing background, the elk control committee recommends that WDFW approve certain Special Elk Areas with GMU 460 and 12 special permit hunts, totaling about 50 animals. The cover letter and special hunts are attached (**Enclosure 5**). Harold requests that the EMG approve the cover letter to WDFW and the proposed special permit hunts. Much discussion ensued which was predominately positive. Several minor corrections were made. Many questions and answers. Harold summarized the committee's proposal. We want approval for two special elk hunting areas within GMU 460-- specifically in the Snoqualmie Valley—and approval of 12 special elk hunts. The motion was moved, seconded and approved unanimously.

#### **Late meeting comments for the “Good of the Group:**

Kalli Willson- (Public Awareness, Education, and Outreach Committee) Please keep me informed of fast breaking information items so that we can put it on the website. Tell us what you are working on.

Harold Erland- We (Elk Control & Management Committee) are going to start surveying elk again in January.2009. If you want to be part of that effort give me a call or email me.

Ross Fenton- (Tulalip Tribe representative) We have done some elk habitat improvements up north and these new areas are being used by the elk. If you want to partner with Hancock, Forest Service, DNR and others, to create or improve elk habitat there, it works. They will use it. It might not draw elk out of a preferred area like Meadowbrook Farm, but it might slow down the migration to Meadowbrook. The Tulalips are very interested in being a member of your group and participating in the work at hand and also to enjoy additional hunting opportunities.

Meeting adjourned 08:30 P.M.

Minutes transcribed and summarized by Jim Gildersleeve, who is wholly responsible for their accuracy, or lack thereof. Email your comments and corrections to Jim at [jlgbsggild@comcast.net](mailto:jlgbsggild@comcast.net) and they will be attached to the minutes.

# Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee

## Status update as of 11-20-08

by Kalli Willson committee chair

In keeping with the short term goals, this is what the Public Awareness, Education and Outreach committee has accomplished thus far:

### Explain the concept of elk management to the public and invite participation

- ✓ A website has been created to answer questions and explain the concept of elk management.
- ✓ The EMG website has been announced via mail lists, yahoo citizen groups, and the Valley Record.
- ✓ Meetings have been published in the local papers.
- ✓ Meetings have been advertised on the local citizen yahoo groups.
- ✓ Reporters of local papers have been invited to monthly meetings.

### Create educational materials explaining EMG's process to the community

- ✓ A flier has been discussed to be made available for placement at various community locations.
- ✓ DFW is working on creating educational materials for schools. Project Cat in CleElum is an example of students and community working together to track wildlife.

### Publicize EMG activities to the community

- ✓ Both local newspapers have been notified of our monthly meeting.
- ✓ Meeting information has been posted to the community forums of the City of North Bend and Snoqualmie residents Yahoo boards
- ✓ Possible "podcasts" (author of Snoqualmie podcasts is interested, but is taking a break from them for the near future)
- ✓ Website posts current EMG activities as soon as made available.

### Update the website

- ✓ The website [www.SnoqualmieValleyElk.org](http://www.SnoqualmieValleyElk.org) has been created and is continually updated as needed
- ✓ Current topic areas are:
  - About EMG (includes: Introductions, Purpose, Stakeholders, committees and elk study)
  - News (includes: Next meeting, meeting summaries, latest news and mailing list)
  - FAQ's
  - Files (includes: Items for Review, meeting minutes, elk information, maps, general wildlife information)
  - Links (to other sites and documents)
  - Photos
  - Feedback

### Work with the local schools to involve students

- ✓ The Environmental Science/Horticulture teacher from Mt. SI High School has agreed to continue to work with DFW on road kill locations, habitat studies and informal studies of elk locations.
- ✓ Partnerships between Mt. SI High School students and the students of Snoqualmie Elementary are being discussed next week.
- ✓ Social Studies students at Mt. SI High School will be working with DFW to conduct phone surveys of valley residents on a variety of elk related matters. (Survey to be authored by DFW personnel.)
- ✓ Field trips by students to areas impacted by elk have occurred in the past. More trips are planned for the future. EMG volunteers sought to help answer student questions on trips.
- ✓ EMG volunteers sought to speak to classroom students about elk. For more information, contact Breanna Trygg from DFW at [Breanna.Trygg@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Breanna.Trygg@dfw.wa.gov)
- ✓ Seventh grade science teachers have been approached at Twin Falls Middle School regarding possible involvement.



## Attendees

Attendees at November 20, 2008, meeting and email addresses, if new attendee:

Russell Link, WDFW Regional biologist and “defacto” Chairperson of EMG

Dick and Sallie. Burhan

Phil Cassady

Bob Stokke

Kelly McCallister, WSDOT, [mcallke@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:mcallke@wsdot.wa.gov)

Jim Gildersleeve, facilitator, and member Steering Committee

Harold Erland, Chair, Elk Control and Mgmt Committee, member Steering Committee

Amanda Shelton, [ashelton@tulaliptribes.nsn.gov](mailto:ashelton@tulaliptribes.nsn.gov)

Ross M Fenton, [rfenton@tulaliptribes.nsn.gov](mailto:rfenton@tulaliptribes.nsn.gov)

J. Reed Simms [reednsandy@aol.com](mailto:reednsandy@aol.com)

Maura Callahan, Member Steering Committee,

David Bach

Chris Motzeter- WDFW Enforcement—888-2311, [motzecrm@dfw.gov](mailto:motzecrm@dfw.gov)

Pat Young

Kalli Willson, Chair Public Outreach and Education Committee

David Willson, [xwillson@gmail.com](mailto:xwillson@gmail.com)

Larry White, City of Snoqualmie, [lwhite@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us](mailto:lwhite@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us)

Cesar G Carrion, DNR, [mt.teneriffe@comcast.net](mailto:mt.teneriffe@comcast.net), [cesar.carrion@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:cesar.carrion@dnr.wa.gov)

Lauren Hollenbeck, City of Snoqualmie, [Hollenbeck@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us](mailto:Hollenbeck@ci.snoqualmie.wa.us)

David Kimmett, King County Parks, [david.kimmett.@kingcounty.gov](mailto:david.kimmett.@kingcounty.gov). 206-510-5668

Don Hacherl [don@hacherl.org](mailto:don@hacherl.org)

Chris Growden, 425—200-7114

Mike McCarty, Member Steering Committee

Steve Vining, [steve.vining@thyssenkrupp.com](mailto:steve.vining@thyssenkrupp.com), 206-396-8268

Cynthia Welti, [Cynthia.weltie@mtsgreenway.org](mailto:Cynthia.weltie@mtsgreenway.org), 206-382-5565

Robert Casey, [rob@iris.washington.edu](mailto:rob@iris.washington.edu)

Jeff Crisafull, [jeff.crisafull@kinleygroup.com](mailto:jeff.crisafull@kinleygroup.com)

Kevin Halbert

Dianna Phillips

Jennifer Vanderhoof, King County and Member of Steering Committee