

**Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group  
(USVEMG) Meeting  
January 16, 2009**

January 16, 2009 (Microsoft Word 2003)

**Meeting called to order** at 6:40 P.M. by DFW District Biologist, Russell Link. Welcome to all. We have some interesting discussion items for this evening. Please sign the attendee roster which is being circulated. List of attendees attached (**Enclosure 1**).

**Introductions:** None. 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 November 20, 2008, meeting were distributed via email for all to review and correct. No comments, or corrections were received so it is requested that they be approved as submitted. Minutes approved unanimously.

**Agenda Items:** Key items are:

- Committee Reports:
- Revised voting plan for the group.
- Special report by Russell on EMG Management Plan

**Committee Reports:**

- **Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee** report by Kalli Willson. Outline is at **Enclosure 2**. Primary efforts are to improve the content of our website, [www.snoqualmievalleyelk.org](http://www.snoqualmievalleyelk.org), and to work with Mt. Si High School faculty to develop and implement local elk educational initiatives.

- **Elk Control and Management Committee** by Harold Erland who discussed the elk survey that will begin in a week. and employ the Gates Model of determining elk density. We have about 30 square miles in which the survey will be conducted. It will be conducted in the first hour of daylight for about two weeks. The survey will use two transect lines in the valley each about 30 miles long (Mt Si Road /Edgewick Rd—and Reinig/Moon Valley Rd to Mt. Si). There are also special areas that will be surveyed. Bulls, cows, and yearling will be counted. Next committee meeting will be at 6:00 P.M. January 20, 2009, at North Bend City Hall.

- **Land and People Management Committee** report by David Kimmet. First meeting of committee. Had a good turnout—about 12 persons. Need to do survey to measure public attitudes toward the elk situation in the Valley. We may be able to obtain

assistance from the educators at CWSU who have some experience doing them. We will follow up on this item. The second item that we need is an outstanding map of the valley which shows us landownership and zoning. We also need to look at land uses because some changes may be needed. We are off to a good start.

**- Steering Committee:**

o An Elk Management Plan will be developed under the lead of Russell Link. A draft has been provided to the Steering committee members several of whom have provided comments. Copies of the outline will be emailed to the EMG as a whole. Comments are welcome and committees are expected to provide input on parts of the plan that are within their assigned responsibilities. Goal is to have the plan completed by this summer.

o Two new members were added to the Steering Committee—Kalli Willson and Bob Stokke—because they were needed to “round out” the capabilities and needs of the committee.

o The large amount of “sanctuary” or no hunting areas in the valley floor was discussed at some length and how it adds to the complexity of controlling the burgeoning elk population. This includes land owned by King County, North Bend and Snoqualmie. Emerging consensus suggests we need to reexamine current city and county policies and laws and allow selective hunting on cities’ owned open space and natural areas. This initiative will be taken up and developed by the Land Use and People Management Committee.

o The Elk Management Committees survey plans were discussed and it was agreed to brief the EMG as a Whole on them.

o The EMG Voting Plan was revised to reflect the concerns of several members. The number of voting numbers was reduced. Consensus was to return it to the EMG as a Whole for a vote.

o Viewing areas or viewing stands on Meadowbrook Farm. The farm’s board of directors (BOD) and many others support the construction of elk viewing places/stands for safety and aesthetic reasons. Russell reported there were some WFDW grant funds available for the design and signage for such sites.

o Priorities. There was consensus among the Steering Committee that we have many “irons in the fire” and we need to prioritize projects and research. This is a topic to be taken up at our next meeting. Once we have a draft it will be circulated for comments.

**Old Business:**

- EMG Voting Plan. Mike McCarty was not able to attend to present this topic, so Jim Gildersleeve put this topic before the EMG. It was explained that the Steering

Committee examined the objections to the original plan and made substantial changes to the voting list. Dick Burhan asked if the Steering Committee had the flexibility to change the organizations and individuals. The answer was, "Yes". (However, any changes to voting organizations should be voted on by authorized stakeholders). Individual stakeholders are all volunteers and will change from time to time after appointment by the Steering Committee. After further discussion, it was moved, seconded, and voted to approve the positions and individuals listed at **Enclosure 3** with one change: that DNR be moved to an advisory status.

**New Business:**

None.

**Late meeting comments for the "Good of the Group:"**

Russell Link asked Mayor Ken Hearing if the city was going to change its ordinance prohibiting hunting in the city limits. Mayor Hearing responded there was, indeed, a change to the city's no shooting/hunting ordinance being processed. In fact, the change is on the city council's consent agenda for approval on January 20, 2009. A copy of the proposed change is attached (**Enclosure 4**). The importance of this small change is that it enhances WDFW's flexibility to manage wildlife in the valley by allowing the discharge of weapons within the city limits.

David Bach explained that the EMG's website has a forum for directly exchanging information on line. One must register on the website to gain access to the forum, but then one can blog away. Go to [SnoqualmieValleyElk.org](http://SnoqualmieValleyElk.org) and register.

Meeting adjourned 08:15 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.

Attachments:

1. Attendees at 01-16-2009 Meeting
2. Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee Report –Status 01-16-2009
3. Approved Voting Stakeholders
4. City of North Bend no shooting/no hunting ordinance change.