

**Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group
(USVEMG) Meeting
February 10, 2009**

February 10, 2009 (Microsoft Word 2003)

Meeting called to order at 6:35 P.M. by Kalli Willson (Outreach and Education committee chair). Welcome to all. Kalli summarized agenda items for this evening. Attendee roster was circulated.

Introductions: No formal round table introduction, name tags provided. Meeting co-facilitated by Kalli Willson and Russell Link (WDFW). The minutes of the January, 2009 meeting were distributed via e-mail for review and to allow for additional commentary.

Key Agenda Items:

- Committee reports
- Mapping update
- Elk Management Plan draft update
- Elk census update
- Game management area 4601 update

Elk Management Plan update:

This plan is the driving force of the sub-committees to determine the direction in which the group will move forward a whole.

Russell Link distributed & discussed two handouts:

1. North Rainier Elk Herd Plan outline (attachment available upon request)

- This plan is available online, and is due to be updated by the state. WDFW will integrate the Snoqualmie sub-herd elk areas being addressed by the Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group into the revised North Rainier Elk Herd Plan.
- The importance of land use planning, public awareness, education and outreach are also crucial components to be addressed in this plan. Feedback welcomed to address these categories.
- Revised/updated plan is tentatively slated to be completed by the upcoming summer/fall, using data collected by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe through their elk projects.

- Habitat management will also be a large component of the updated plan. The USVEMG committees will actively be involved in addressing this topic.
- Steering committee will distribute the outline prior to next month's meeting for review via e-mail. A non-binding vote will be undertaken to adopt the outline at the March meeting.

2. Proposed 2009 Special Elk Permits (North Bend Elk Area 4601--updated)

- Proposal submitted to the WDFW a few months ago was well received overall.
- The updated version and its changes were discussed (attachment available upon request). Changes were made after additional review by WDFW Fish & Wildlife Committee, and will be discussed in an upcoming public forum in April. See WDFW website for meeting dates.
- Number of tags to be issued in 4601 was conservatively reduced by WDFW until more data can be collected to provide the WDFW science division a dataset which allows greater statistical confidence.
- Tribal hunting on public and private lands was discussed. Tribal game harvest records can be viewed online at: <http://access.nwifc.org/wildlife/biggame.asp>
- Russell summarized the written synopsis regarding the North Bend Elk Area 4601 premise and boundary (attachment available upon request).
 - Editing suggestions to clarify language within the document was further discussed amongst the group.

Committee Reports:

- **Elk Control and Management Committee:** Elk census update by Harold Erland who discussed the ongoing elk survey to obtain data for determining elk density. Committee previously met to review and discuss the outline distributed by Russell Link to determine tasking priorities.
 - Habitat improvement project ideas and how to obtain telemetry collars for more statistically robust census data was discussed. Muckleshoot wildlife biologist David Vales provided information on potential trapping and collaring options, and also brought in GPS and radio telemetry collars to describe the benefits and drawbacks of each.

- Muckleshoot can possibly loan collars towards this effort until funding can be obtained to purchase study collars or provide reimbursement to the Muckleshoot Tribe.
 - Tulalip additionally offered to contact the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission for radio collar availability at the request of the group. Local area High School students would potentially assist in data collection once a study population of elk is collared.
 - Harold discussed observations from the ongoing elk census, mentioning approximately 530 animals observed thus far along the west route transects. In the eastern transect areas, 88 elk have been tallied. See website for maps illustrating these transects. (www.snoqualmievalleyelk.org)
 - Having collared many elk in past and ongoing studies, David Vales further discussed the benefits of darting and collaring versus the use of panel trapping >>> darting or squeeze chute >>> collaring.
- **Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee:** Report by Kalli Willson. A handout was distributed (attachment available upon request).
 - Outreach committee has field trip scheduled (March 3rd, 2009) for local students to view elk, utilize calling methods, and learn about elk biology.
 - Call for volunteers to assist with future field trips for elementary and high school students. Contact Kalli for more information (Elk_Edu@yahoo.com).
 - “Project WILD”, a conservation and education program was also discussed; details are available in the handout which was distributed and also online at: www.projectwild.org
 - The committee is also discussing creation of a community brochure. Content would address a number of local elk topics (i.e. Whom to call in the event of private property elk damage, sightings, mortalities, etc.).
be sent to him at : webmaster@SnoqualmieValleyElk.org

Mapping update:

- Russell Link reviewed mapping needs and results of meetings with WDFW cartographers.
 - Multiple dynamic GIS maps were displayed; meeting attendees were encouraged to write on the maps to provide information to be included in future maps.
 - Future maps will reflect many new attributes as the needs arise.

Land and People Management Committee:

- Phone surveys regarding many facets of public perception regarding local elk was discussed.
- Central Washington University staff has performed these types of surveys in the past and have been contacted. The USVEMG also has people who have performed such surveys and would be willing to help with survey framework and implementation.

Miscellaneous:

- Central Washington University staff has performed these types of surveys in the past and have been contacted. The USVEMG also has people who have performed such surveys and would be willing to help with survey framework and implementation.
- Meadowbrook Farm representatives discussed public elk viewing platform potential, and how to possibly fund and implement.
- Future habitat enhancement project potential to create Meadowbrook type areas for elk was discussed. The Tulalip Tribe has been successful with creating ungulate (elk, deer) food plots in recent projects and is willing to lend expertise should areas for similar projects be found.

***Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 P.M.

February meeting minutes transcribed and summarized by Ross Fenton. E-mail any comments or suggestions to Ross at rfenton@tulaliptribes-nsn.gov for editing or further discussion.

Attachments available upon request, contact Russell Link Linkrel@dfw.wa.gov :

1. North Rainier Elk Herd Plan Outline draft 2/10/2009
2. Proposed 2009 Elk Special Permits (North Bend Elk Area 4601)
3. Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee update 2/10/2009