

**Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group
(USVEMG) Meeting
May 13, 2009**

Meeting called to order: Russell Link(Regional Wildlife Biologist) opened meeting with special thanks to the USFS for offering up a new and permanent meeting place in the USFS compound in North Bend, WA. It is an excellent facility. The EMG has been meeting now for almost a year and has made great progress. DFW is especially impressed with our progress. Kudos are in order for all who have worked to get us this far. The North Rainier Elk Herd Plan is progressing well, the Group has many elk collared and research projects are beginning. We have some new GIS maps and a lot of work is going forward. In the future the group should have a picnic out on the Meadowbrook Farm to celebrate how far we have come.

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

Meeting turned over to facilitator, Jim Gildersleeve, who proceeded to discuss the agenda which starts with a review and approval of the minutes of the past meeting (April 8, 2009). Motion was made and seconded to approve the past month's meeting minutes. During discussion, David Vales (Muckleshoot's Wildlife Biologist) moved to amend the minutes to re-characterize the physical condition of the elk that had been collared thus far (five). The existing description was that their health was "fairly poor overall". David suggested that description be changed to, "two were in average conditions, two were in fair condition, and one was in poor condition." Amendment to minutes was moved, seconded and passed. Minutes were passed as amended.

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

- o Committee Reports
- o EMG Articles of Incorporation
- o EMG Bylaws
- o Proposed letter to legislators concerning the enlargement of the Alpine Wilderness and Designation of parts of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River as "wild and scenic".

Committee Reports:

Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee: Kalli Willson is chair and almost the whole committee. I need help! So if you want to contribute call me.

The committee is preparing an informational brochure for valley residents which will explain how to report elk damage to their property, or related problems. It will give them an idea of who will be responding and general timelines.

A special orientation for about 50 Snoqualmie Elementary School 5th graders and eight high school students will be conducted on May 21 and 22, 2009, at the Meadowbrook Farm Interpretative Center. It will include an orientation to common mammal skulls and how their skulls tells us a lot about what kind of animal they are. An orientation to telemetry will be conducted, and finally elk signs at Meadowbrook will be discussed. If anyone has some elk jerky they would be willing to give away, it would be appreciated.

The committee is also setting up a similar orientation for home schooled children in the valley.

Land and People Management Committee: Acting Chair David Kimmett reports that they met two days ago and that Russell Link had joined this committee because of his interest in elk habitat improvement, land use, and migration routes. Mike McCarty reported on a new initiative with DOT to seek money for some pullouts along SR202 between North Bend and Snoqualmie which could be used for elk viewing. There was some discussion about warning lights activated by the presence of elk. There will be some follow-on research done on warning devices. One member suggested that an article be published in the media each time an elk is killed on a highway, or road. Russell commented that our elk research project will help clarify the statistics.

Sonny Paz (Wildlife biologist, USFS) reported on a conceptual initiative that the USFS is considering to provide some enhanced elk and deer habitat up the Middlefork drainage. It is Management Area 14, (Deer and Elk Habitat). It is about six hundred acres in size and was logged about 40 to 50 years ago. The head forester thinks that making small openings in the area concurrent with its re-logging, would be best for the elk and deer. Natural vegetation would be used, perhaps supplemented with some forms of known elk forage. Lots of discussion and interest. 1980 was the last year that logging was done up the middlefork drainage.

Elk Management Committee: Tracking the collared elk is a major time commitment. It goes on weekly. We are finishing the overall research study plan. Hope to have done by the end of June 2009. It will be used to justify grants and to solicit funds from corporations and individual. Much discussion about telemetry collection, migration patterns interaction with land patterns and related topics.

Unfinished Business: Before proceeding to the Articles and bylaws, Jim explained the voting structure and who fills those positions. Briefly, under our current rules only the voting stakeholders (from the EMG Guiding Document) will vote. There are 17 total. Eleven are present (64%-a roll call was done). A quorum is present.

Articles of Incorporation: It was moved and seconded to approve the Articles of Incorporation. The articles were read to the group at the request of a member. There were several general questions as to who did the work on the articles and bylaws. The answer was that Jim Gildersleeve was the primary author but they were extensively commented upon by about 12 members interacting via email. A total of nine versions of the document were floated over a six week period and the Steering Committee reviewed them twice and provided comments. Some wording was questioned, but left as presented.

The question was called and voting proceeded. There were nine ayes, one nay, and one abstention. The motion had a two-thirds majority and the Articles of Incorporation were approved; however, a procedural issue was raised and that was that the person who called the question for a vote was not an authorized voting stakeholder. The facilitator inquired if any voting member objected to the fact that a non-voting member called the question. One voting member objected. Accordingly, the motion was revoted. There nine ayes, and two abstentions. Motion carried and the Articles of Incorporation were approved.

EMG Bylaws: Motion to approve the bylaws. Seconded. As discussion began, Duncan Wilson, North Bend City Administrator and an attorney, had substantial and substantive comments on it that would require revisions. As Duncan began a summary of recommended change, it became apparent to the Jim (Facilitator) that was using an early draft of the Bylaws, not the most current. His comments were terminated and a short debate ensued which indicated a lot of confusion over which version was on the table for discussion. Kalli Willson moved to table the motion, it was seconded and approved and approved.

There was much discussion after the vote to table of what should receive emphasis in the rewrite. Some the most important were:

Who votes. This is the biggest issue.

Size of the Board and BOD versus and effective management structure.

How officers and BOD members are nominated and elected. Stakeholder or meritocracy?

Put Version and date on each version so everyone can track the most current version.

Disseminate via direct email if possible, rather than putting on the website. Decided to do both.

New Business: Harold Erland proposes that the group send a letter to our legislators expressing our concern about increasing the size of the Alpine Wilderness and designating stretches of the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River as “wild and scenic.” Our concern has mostly to do with enhancing wildlife habitat. He presented a draft letter

that he proposed the leadership sign and send to Washington DC and our legislators. Or alternatively, that the letter be signed by those who wanted to sign it.

He encouraged us as individuals to send a similar letter to our legislators.

He encouraged each of us individually to send the letter, or a similar one.

Rick Maguire, Alpine Lakes Protection Society, was in attendance and introduced himself. His group is the primary group supporting this initiative. He requested an opportunity to speak to us before we send such a letter. Manipulation of habitat cannot be done in areas designated wilderness areas. There was general consensus to meet with him and his organization.

Motion was made to table the topic to the next meeting. Motion was seconded and passed .

“Good of the Group Comments”:

David Bach- Everyone in the group has an opportunity to participate and interact in everything that is going on within the group. If you don't it is because you elected not to.

New Attendee, a young woman,—did not get name—you need to publicize our organization in different ways and get the word out. Need to set up google.com with variations of our name which will help people find us.

Attachments: List of Attendees

Minutes summarized by Jim Gildersleeve who is responsible for their content. Please send comments or corrections directly to Jim at jlgbggild@comcast.net.