



USVEMG Regular Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2009

<http://www.snoqualmievalleyelk.org>

Regular Meeting called to order on Wednesday October 14, 2009, at 6:30 P.M. by President, David Willson. An introduction of Directors and Officers was requested by David.

Committee Reports

Land and People Management Committee

Maura Callahan recapped the last Land and People Committee meeting held April 11, 2009:

- Regular meeting is first Tuesday of each month at the North Bend City Annex; next meeting is October 6, 2009.
- Mr. Kelly McAllister Habitat Biologist for the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) came to their last meeting as requested
- Speed limit control on HWY 202 is under North Bend and Snoqualmie jurisdiction. Submitted a plan to reduce the speed limit by 5 mph, clear roadside brush so elk do not jump out onto the road thereby improving driver reaction time and to post additional Elk signs around the Meadowbrook area.
- A traffic study needs to be conducted in order to understand what the traffic currently flows and making changes that are not appropriate for the area seem to not have an impact. The group must discuss if a letter should be sent to the Cities. Another WSDOT letter indicated that they do have the jurisdiction.
- DOT Parcel that was for sale has been taken off auction block three weeks ago.
- Safe elk crossing funds may be sought for fences to help direct elk by Snoqualmie Trail.
- A letter from Kelli was read.
- Director Roberta McFarland of Camp Waskowitz is working on changing zoning from residential to rural forest.
- People and Land Management Committee meetings are held the first Tuesday of the Month, next at November 3, 2009.
- A request was made to understand why the People and Land Management Committee meetings are held during the day and it is so that the government official can attend the meetings.

Elk Management Committee

Harold Erland informed the group of 30 confirmed elk vehicle fatalities along I-90 and that last night a motorcycle rider hit and elk on North Bend Way and is in critical condition. The elk died at the scene.

- The next meeting is schedule for the 19th of November at 6pm at the City Hall of North Bend.
- No meeting will be held if collars are not acquired or unless they have other issues.
- Need 30 radio collars in order to have an accurate census of the elk in and around the Snoqualmie Valley and for data on elk road crossings.
- Time commitment for sending out the funding (Grant requests) is a lot for he and Jim to handle on their own and there was and asked for assistance to research, write and send requests.



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- Mike McCarty added that space must be provided for wildlife corridors and the City could require that developers conduct a wildlife study when evidence of wildlife habitat is provided.
- North Bend has set aside \$3500 in their preliminary budget for the USVEMG group. The Tulalip tribe also expressed interest in providing our group with funds.
- Nick Kurka at Mt. Si High School is putting in a request for grants that would provide for collars and related equipment, such as two data converters, GPS and VHF collars, antennas and receivers. These materials will be used in his class.
- Tom Kemp provided an update on telemetry training. He would like to have an editable calendar so potential participants can select their preferred timeframe on the group's website.
- He expressed the need to put in place the liability release forms to protect the group as the telemetry studies go forward.

Master Hunter report by Jim Gildersleeve

- 6 Master hunters were selected and four have been out on damage hunting permits and hunted for about 10 days on small private property and thus far have been unsuccessful.
- Harold suggested that hunting area 4601 be expanded. Russell asked what data is available from the Master Hunter efforts. Jim has data on the hunter's effort that may help in making any changes.
- After the hunting season ends on November 17, the telemetry data will be put back up on the website.
- He prefers to have a census data by mid to late April following Lincoln-Petersen methods.
- Comments for Washington DFW are due in November for changes. Minor changes can occur each year. Major changes occur every three years.
- Emailed DFW to inquiry about store-on-board collars and found that they have had issues in their use, including retrieval. Some issues can be fixed for a price of about \$450 and updated drop-off latches for about \$200.
- Showed Deer Harvest data from the DFW form 2008 and 1960's and land capacity for deer in canopy and clear-cut plots.

Fundraising activity report by Jim Gildersleeve:

- Grant requests have been submitted to: Tulalips Indian tribe, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, City of North Bend, and City of Snoqualmie.
- In the future will apply for an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grant and Direct Letter solicitation to individuals.
- Asked for group to research the vast charitable organizations policies for grants and to convey the data to him. Specifically needs guidelines, timelines, and application forms.
- Andrea Toomey suggested that we have a general letter about our organization and our 501 (c)(3) status to provide to businesses and individuals as a way to ask for donations.
- Tom Kemp suggested that we have a way for an individual to sponsor a collar and to name the elk. He added that we could also allow them to watch the elk movements online via the GPS collar.



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Public Awareness, Education and Outreach Committee

Kalli Willson met with the Pacific Education Institute group and discussed fund raising at their planning retreat. They are looking into what they can do to help us. They were impressed at the group's progress and efforts and are considering transferring their Project Cat efforts on cougars and making it all for elk.

- Will be going out in the field with Mt. Si High Students during dawn and dusk hours. Discussions included ethics on research including hunting and telemetry work in 4601. Go out for about an hour and half, twice a week for four weeks to do GIS studies and manual tracking and elk identification techniques. The lessons will be written into a Lab Study.

Rebecca Seyferth provided the group an overview on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) captures, stores, analyzes, manages, and presents data that is linked to location. GIS applications are tools that allow users to create interactive queries (user created searches), analyze spatial information, edit data, maps, and present the results of all these operations.

- Maps the locations versus statements made on sightings.
- Where are the elk crossing the roads, and in groups of how many.
- Next meeting is Tuesday October 22, 2009.
- A typical GIS program costs \$500 for schools, but \$10,000 for individuals.

Russell Link presented his work to map out elk corridors in Snoqualmie, North Bend and Unincorporated King County.

- He provided the group maps showing the various suitable and non-suitable elk habitat (cover and forage areas). Good tree cover is an area covered 50 percent by trees that are 12 meters (39.4 feet) high and 50 feet wide and includes nearby forage land. Bad coverage does not have nearby forage land.
- Created a habitat suitability model of elk travel corridors based on the land identification.
- Attendees marked parcels with colored Pens indicating the number of elk that were spotted in a specific area.
- A concern was raised about the public availability of this data which could provide a hunter an unfair advantage. A suggestion was made to keep the charts in proprietary Artview format so they are not shared. Russell will look into the best way to keep the data protected and shared only as necessary.

Sunny Paz provided an update on the field trip that was made to the Middle Fork Corridor zone MA-14, as a possible elk enhancement area. Forest Service Leadership placed this idea as a lower priority. We may be looking at a 2014-15 as a time to be planning this area, as its priority was very low. He added that a formal request must be made by this group to the Headquarters in Everett, if we would like the area improved for elk habitat.

Recess



Board Role Call

Present

President: David Willson; Vice President: Jim Gildersleeve Treasurer: Ryan Kolodejchuk; Secretary: Gary Fancher; Hunters: Joe Merclich, Commercial, non-agricultural land owners: Harold Erland; Timber land owners: Tim McBride; Meadowbrook Farm Preservation Association: Sam Metzler, Dave Battey; Wildlife Advocate: Maura Callahan, David Bach; Citizen at large: Phil Cassidy.

Absent

Hunters: Mark Belaire; Commercial, non-agricultural land owners: Matt Campbell; Agricultural land owners: Scott Stringfellow, Nels Melgaard; Small Property Owner: Don Hacherl; Citizen at large: Dianna Phillips

1) **Treasurers Report**

Bank fees were reimbursement at \$22. The balance in the account is \$1475.93. Three new members joined tonight.

Gary made a motion to approve the report and Tim seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

2) **Non-Profit Status**

The Upper Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Group is now a 501 (c)(3) organization by the federal government. The application has been made to the state and we are awaiting confirmation.

3) **Minutes of the September Meeting minutes**

Harold made the motion to approve the minutes and Jim seconded. After discussion the motion was approved.

4) **Forest Service Stakeholder Bylaws change.**

A reading of the Bylaws change was completed by Maura:

A petition to amend the bylaws submitted on behalf of Sonny Paz and the Board of Directors on September 23, 2009, is as follows:

Summary:

At requested by the U.S. Forest Service, the forest service stakeholder role should be a non-voting position and not a member of the Board of Directors.

Actual language:

... The result is 10 organizations and special interest groups retaining voting status. There are 14 non-voting stakeholders participating in EMG's activities. As requested by the U.S. Forest Service at the September 2009 general meeting, the U.S. Forest Service is recognized as a non-voting stakeholder. As a result of the EMG's reorganization as a non-profit corporation, and the request from the U.S. Forest Service, the 10 nine voting stakeholders are being designated as members of the Board of Directors. ... (move United States Forest Service: Sonny Paz to the Non-voting Advisory Members section)..

Ryan made motion to approve the change as indicated and Harold seconded. The motion was approved.



5) **Liability Form –**

- a. A discussion occurred on created a liability form and if an attorney could approve.
- b. A checklist should be included that covers safe practices that the leader covers and provides. Tim volunteered to create a checklist and will supply it to the President.
- c. Ryan made the motion to request that Tim make checklist and a liability waiver form and Maura seconded. Gary made a motion to amend that Harold be in charge of creating the official form and Tim create the safety checklist. After further discussion: the motion passed.

6) **EMG Documentation Policy–**

- a. David discussed that we do not have any current documentation deliverables and requested that the group come up with their idea for a policy for next month's meeting.

Good of the Order

A discussion occurred on what information we would provide to developers and the cities of North Bend and Snoqualmie regarding our Elk Studies.

Meeting Adjourned 8:58 PM

Next Meeting: November 17, 2009

October 14, 2009, meeting minutes prepared by USVEMG Secretary Gary Fancher.

Signature

Date