



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 14, 2010

1. Introduction

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, USVEMG President David Willson presiding. In attendance, Fifth District State Representative Glenn Anderson. The minutes of the June 2010 meeting were circulated in advance. Mr. Gildersleeve motioned to approve the minutes, Mr. Erland seconded the motion. However, a quorum of voting directors was not present to approve the motion. A vote on the motion will be postponed to the August general meeting.

Board members present:

David Willson, Harold Erland, Jim Gildersleeve, Jeff Dideon, Tom Kemp, Maura Callahan, and Pat Young.

2. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Gildersleeve circulated the report at the meeting (also attached below). It shows a balance on hand of \$1416.07. Mr. Dideon motioned to approve the report, Mr. Folkman seconded the motion. A vote on the motion will be postponed to the August general meeting.

3. Elk Research and Management (ERM) Committee Report by Harold Erland, Committee Chair

Mr. Erland submitted a package which includes the following:

- a. Annual Report of the Research and Management Committee (attached below).
- b. Collared elk records for Elk 1 through 17. Elk 2 and 9 have died. Elk 2 was killed by a truck in the vicinity of Exit 31. Elk 9 was killed by a Master Hunter during the special permit season. Elk 14 does not have a collar, just an ear tag. Elk 15 and Elk 16 have GPS collars. Elk 1 through 9 were collared in 2009 using the dart method. Elk 10 (also known as Muckleshoot Elk 517) was collared in 2002 near Oakville using the dart method by helicopter, then transplanted to the White River area. Elk 11 through 17 were collared and/or ear tagged using a Clover trap. The community has provided the following names for the elk: 1-Gertrude, 2-Lillian, 3-Lydia, 4-Juju, 5-Sally, 6-Tanya, 7-Delores, 8-Wilma, 9-Eunice, 10-Mitzy, 11-Clover, 12-Meadow, 13-Shawn, 14-unnamed, 15-Minah, 16-Chloe, 17-Rose.
- c. Accounting of Collaring Volunteer hours.
- d. USVEMG Collar inventory (serial number of collars)
- e. Clover Trap & Darting Checklist
- f. Clover Trapping Procedures – 3 pages.
- g. WDFW Scientific Collection Permit Annual Report Form dated March 15, 2010.
- h. 30 Day Report 2010 #1 – Ear tag colors and GPS coordinates for locations where elk have been collared. Elk 11-Clover: Left ear Blue X; Elk 13-Shawn: Right ear Orange X; Elk 14-unnamed: Right ear Yellow A; Elk 15-Minah: Right ear Blue Blank; Elk 17-Rose: Left ear Red X. Elk 1 through Elk 10, Elk 12, and Elk 14 do not have ear tags.
- i. WDFW Scientific Collection Permit Application (renewal) for the period March 26, 2010 through March 26, 2011.
- j. North Rainier Elk Herd – Snoqualmie Sub-Herd Collection Plan, 2010-2011 dated March 3, 2010.
- k. Scientific Collection Permit #10-156 – Effective March 30, 2010 through March 30, 2011.
- l. DNR Land Use License 60-WS0497 – Effective January 15, 2010 through January 15, 2015.

The research committee is working on the Study Plan. Part of this work includes gathering teeth from dead elk for age analysis and causes of mortality. There were 35 vehicle-related elk mortalities in 2009 in the Upper Snoqualmie Valley area. Information for 2010 is not yet available from the Department of Transportation. There were two calves killed on SR 203 and Neal Road near Fall City. Elk from North Bend have been seen near Carnation and Duvall.

Other discussion: In the Colockum elk study (Kittitas County) about \$1 million was spent for a population study. Use of a helicopter inflates the cost substantially. With the current sample set, 15 marked elk, the models predict a herd size of 124 elk. However, the margin of error is 45%. If the sample set increases to approximately ten percent of the herd, the accuracy of the population estimate can reach 90%.

UPPER SNOQUALMIE VALLEY ELK MANAGEMENT GROUP
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2010

- 2 -

4. People and Land Management (PLM) Committee Report by Maura Callahan, Committee Chair

Maura submitted the following report:

Committee Meeting July 6, 2010. Attendees: Maura Callahan – Chair, Harold Erland, Bob Stokke, Alan Mainwaring – DNR, Russell Link – DFW, Jim Gildersleeve, Doug McClelland – DNR.

1. WDFW update on elk habitat and corridors studies (Russell Link)
 - Russ gave us all copies of the 2002 North Rainier Elk Herd Plan and we ran through it page-by-page. He gave us specific pages and sections to review that would apply to our EMG group where we could assist in the revision and addition of data.
 - The EMG is tasked specifically with:
 - Herd verification, numbers and distribution data (current document has very little information on our herd)
 - Captured data (GPS & VHF) for the Snoqualmie Herd.
 - Damage data plus current and potential migration strategies
 - Habitat management and enhancement
 - Adding Safety – People vs. Elk as a Herd Management goal (it is currently not listed)
 - Reviewing the six main management objectives
 - Deadline is forthcoming for the above as Russ has to have first draft completed by August 1. Second draft is expected September 1.
 - Russ also reported that there was 60% reporting compliance from hunters this past season.
2. Elk research and trapping status (Harold Erland)
 - Harold gave us his report which he will repeat for the general meeting
3. What we have in the works:
 - North Bend Proposed Zoning Amendment: It was mentioned that this needs to be considered a Wildlife Corridor, which gives it more heft than single usage (elk), Russ confirmed that Mike McCarty was able to get the mapping information from the June Meeting presentation.
 - CCC Flats Habitat Enhancement is continuing. Need more dates for volunteer work parties. Harold promises photos.
 - Highway 202/I-90 Safety Issues: Harold reported that Kelly McAllister, wildlife biologist, Department of Transportation, has put a couple of cameras up to see if any wildlife at all are using those culvert underpasses between Exit 27 and 31.
 - Jim reported that the Master Hunter Volunteer fencing project has almost completed the fence repair on the north side of I-90 (when completed, the combined total of north and south fence repair will be over seven miles)
 - DNR – Doug reported that there will be a public hearing (also was listed in the local paper) on a DNR Inter-trust Land Exchange which is basically just shuffling designations. Will be held at the North Bend Train Depot on July 28 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Alan will begin the grant application process – which Doug stated could be started any time – for the NRCA in Middle Fork section.
 - Request was voiced to have Meadowbrook board members Mary and/or Sam attend our next meeting to discuss the kiosk plans and have them move forward.

The next meeting 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, August 3.

UPPER SNOQUALMIE VALLEY ELK MANAGEMENT GROUP
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2010

- 3 -

5. Education and Outreach (E&O) Committee Report by David Willson

Committee chair Kalli Willson could not attend. The elk group will host a booth at North Bend's Festival at Mount Si August 13, 14, and 15. A sign up sheet was provided. Hours hosting the elk group booth qualify for Master Hunter Permit Program volunteering hours. Members volunteered materials and equipment including: Harold, tent, an A-frame stand, skulls; Pat, a table, some antlers; Maura, a table, some chairs; Jeff, a tradeshow board. Bales may be available from Meadowbrook Farm.

6. For the Good of the Order

State Representative Glenn Anderson: Regarding fundraising. His office can assist the group with Letters of Recommendation, and review grant applications prior to submittal. He requests that we provide copies of our prior grant requests and meet with fundraising chair Jim Gildersleeve to discuss fundraising strategy.

Pat Young: Submitted two shirts for sale or raffle at the fair.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT
UPPER SNOQUALMIE VALLEY ELK MANAGEMENT GROUP
PO BOX 700
NORTH BEND, WA 98045

Date: 07/14/2010

Balance on hand as of last meeting:	\$4550.70
Dues and new memberships paid	20.00
Donations	.00
On-hand assets	<u> </u>
Total Assets	\$4570.70
Disbursements:	
- 10 VHF collars (Snoqualmie's)	\$ 2834.63
- PO Box Renewal	\$ 70.00
- Mt Si Festival Expenses	\$ 250.00
Balance on Hand (Date of Report)	\$ 1617.07
Verified with on-line banking	\$ 1617.07
On hand bills:	
None	
Projected Balance:	<u> </u> \$ NA

Jim Gildersleeve
Treasurer
07/14/2010



Upper Snoqualmie Valley
Elk Management Group

Annual Report of the Research and Management Committee

Submitted by Harold Erland, Elk Research and Management Committee Chair

July 14, 2010

As our administrative year has come to an end, it is time to report on the committee's progress during the year.

Goals and objectives for the year were to obtain funds for more collars other than the 8 that we currently have deployed from prior to becoming a corporation. This needed to be accomplished to keep in line with our number one objective of our guiding document. The first goal of the EMG is to develop an adaptable, sustainable long-term elk management plan for the Upper Snoqualmie Valley.

The EMG received enough from one donor for six collars and an additional donation was given for another collar. We lobbied the City of North Bend for funds and they came up with \$3500 for two GPS collars and two VHF collars to augment their work in the new Tanner annexation. Snoqualmie additionally came up with \$3500 for VHF collars to assist with the study so that we would be closer to being able to accomplish a management plan for the Meadowbrook elk herd. The DOT who has interests in highway safety, came up with seven GPS collars. We currently have 22 collars to deploy and will begin after the 15th of July. It is of our greatest hope that the remaining 22 collars will be deployed by the end of this calendar year, at which time we should have significant numbers of marked animals for determining a scientifically accurate population of the elk.

Due to the nature of where we needed to capture elk, additional methods for collars became necessary. This is due to the large amount of City and County property where they would prefer no drugs and the amount of highways and water where elk may be harmed if they wandered too far after being drugged. Thus live traps were investigated and determined to be acceptable for the task. Two were built by committee members and have been used to capture 12 animals after beginning trapping the first of March.

After ceasing trapping for the calving season, resumption of trapping will begin after July 15th as often as we have volunteers to check the traps.

We continue to maintain partnerships with the City of Snoqualmie, the City of North Bend, King County, Washington DOT, and Washington DNR, Meadowbrook Farm Park and others. We have access agreements with PSE, Nintendo and the Snoqualmie Valley School District.

In March, we applied for and received a renewal of our Scientific Collection Permit and that new number is #10-156. Additionally, we filed our required annual report with the WDFW and our 30 day reports as required.

We conducted a spring survey of the elk and came up with relatively the same amount of elk in the east area (107) as we had in 2008 and the same was true of the Meadowbrook group (200). We utilized the Mark-Capture/Recapture technique for a comparison with an average of eight marked elk in the east area and came up with 125 elk in that area with a 45% standard deviation. This is consistent with having less than 10% of the probable herd marked and will approach much higher numbers as we gain marked animals and extend our surveys to include more sightings. We currently plan to collar two more in this area with VHF collars and two to three with GPS collars. To augment our marked animals, we intend to ear tag any bulls and calves that are captured.

We investigated 36 elk that had been killed by motor vehicles and 63 mortalities by other means (natural and hunter harvest). We have collected approximately 40 teeth to be processed for age of the animal and the WDFW has said they will accomplish this.

We returned one collar to the Muckleshoot tribe and some other equipment that had been on loan.

Two collared elk were killed and the collars were retrieved with one going back to the Muckleshoots and one being redeployed to another captured elk.

We have worked hard with the City of North Bend planning department in trying to get a wildlife corridor established in the new Tanner annexation and have provided them with maps of GPS fixes we have received from two GPS collared elk in that area. We have attended many of the Planning Commission meetings and have given documentation and testimony as to the need for wildlife corridors.

Through the telemetry of the collared elk that we have, we have home ranges on ten of the elk and have fixes and the beginnings of home ranges on the rest of those we have collared. We currently have 14 collared animals and one with ear tag only. Telemetry volunteers are scheduled out as they sign up for telemetry. The elk are checked regularly to insure they have not died or left the area. Currently we employ two receiver sets to gain this information. One set on loan from the WDFW and one set on loan from the Muckleshoot Tribe.

We were able to forge a partnership with the Washington DNR for habitat improvement projects and César Carrion and Tom Kemp head up the committee formed to work that process.

Volunteers have played a vital role in our research process and have logged 566 hours of time on the collaring process.