



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 22, 2010

### 1. Introduction

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, USVEMG President David Willson presiding. A quorum of the board of directors were present including: David Willson, Harold Erland, Jim Gildersleeve, Jeff Dideon, Don Hacherl, Tom Kemp, Maura Callahan, Phil Cassidy, and Tim McBride. Also present Chris Moszeter, enforcement officer, DFW; Jason Schilling, Tulalip Tribes; Kalli Willson; Paul Selle; and Sonny Paz, wildlife biologist, USFS. Total attendance 14.

Printed copies of the August meeting minutes were available for review. Mr. Gildersleeve motioned to approve the minutes of the June, July, and August meetings. Ms. Callahan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Gildersleeve circulated the September report the meeting (also attached below) which shows a balance on hand of \$1572.35. This includes three new membership dues. Also acknowledged is the complementary renewal of the website domain and hosting fee by the Department of Fish and Wildlife in the amount of \$14.95 arranged by Russell Link. A motion was made by Mr. McBride to approve the treasurer's report, the August treasurer's report, and the amended July treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Erland. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

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

Attending the meeting September 7: Maura Callahan (chair), Harold Erland, Jim Gildersleeve, Alan Mainwaring (DNR), Mike McCarty (City of North Bend). Matters discussed:

1. An update on how the North Rainier Elk Herd Plan revisions are going. Jim and Harold have both submitted revisions. Maura contacted Dave Battey for historical data that needs revision.
2. Harold provided an update on elk research and trapping status.
3. Alan reported that the DNR has spent about \$1000 to spray the CCC Flats. That will help speed things up for habitat restoration.

Next committee meeting will be held 1:30 p.m., October 5, 2010 at the North Bend City Hall Annex (across from the library on Fourth Street).

### 4. Education and Outreach (E&O) Committee Report by Kalli Willson, Committee Chair

ArcGIS software at the High School:

Ms. Willson reported that a meeting was held at the high school with the science program lead Nick Kurka. Mr. Kurka has 500 copies of ArcGIS (a widely used and collaborative geographic information system software program). The school must pay an annual license fee for the software, so it is important to leverage the software. He offers to lend the elk group a few copies for integration with education programs at the high school. Mr. Kurka does not have extensive experience with the software and needs assistance with the fundamentals; he would also like access to data sets, perhaps old data sets which the students can use for their projects. The matter was open to discussion and a number of options were offered regarding software training including:

- Sonny Paz will talk to USFS technicians and arrange a half day to work with Mr. Kurka. Mr. Paz requests Mr. Kurka's contact information. Ms. Willson provided his business card.
- The Muckleshoot Tribe has been leveraging the elk group for data collection. David Vales, lead wildlife biologist for the tribe may be able to assist with part of this request.
- Kristin Winters and other graduate students at EWU, CWU, and local colleges may be able to coordinate their studies in education or biology with the high school project.
- Tim McBride may be able to get someone from the Hancock Forest Management office in Vancouver to assist with an introductory tutorial to ArcGIS software, obtaining public domain map layers, and provide guidance for the integration of those data sources or other devices.

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#### Elk collaring documentary

Joe Dockery, web and multimedia teacher at Mount Si High School, has requested that his students might be able to videotape an elk collaring as part of a documentary on the elk. Such a film may be published on the local cable access channel.

#### Staffing for the toll free elk herd number

Student teaching assistants (juniors and seniors) will be available to transcribe elk reports from the toll free elk herd number. Recently checked, the toll free number goes to a busy signal.

#### Festival at Mount Si in August: (addendum)

The remaining fair expenses exceeded the balance of \$82.21 after fees and printing costs; personal funds were used to cover additional costs including ice and hydration for booth volunteers. Festival organizers noted that attendance at the festival booths was lower than in previous years, probably because of the extremely hot weather. We had direct sun, no wind, and temperatures reaching 95 degrees. Thank you letters and signed master hunter proof of service reports (as requested) were provided for all the volunteers that logged their time on the sign-in sheet.

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

Meadowbrook Farm was an easy capture site; other sites such as the fire training center area and the holly farm area have been more challenging. Some animals have been able to sample apples on the trigger device and there have been many deer in the trap. Lots of wildlife have been observed. Pictures of persons inside the trap have been circulated on the Internet and retained. The ear tag on elk 17-Rose is partly missing and her ear is notched. Similarly, elk 12-Meadow has a notch in both ears. Mr. Erland recommends suspending the collaring project during the hunting season for a number of reasons. Foremost concern for this policy change is the ethics of elk group volunteers or any others hunting near one of the trapping areas.

### 6. Fundraising Committee Report by Jim Gildersleeve, Committee Chair

Jim has sent copies of previous grant applications to state representative Glenn Anderson as requested at the August general meeting. There has not been a response yet from Mr. Anderson on the matter however there is an election pending which we presume to be his priority until the first week of November.

### 7. Letters received

Mr. Willson read some correspondence received since the last general meeting:

August 23 – Russell Link, District biologist, Department of Fish and Wildlife

A request for review of a draft copy of the North Rainier Elk Plan revision which was attached to the mail.

As noted above the draft has been reviewed by members of the People and Land Management committee. Mr. Willson added that he has also provided feedback on the current version. Mr. Link expects to host a public review of the plan at the beginning of 2011. The project is constrained by constrained staffing levels. The development of the plan is an open process. If others wish to review the plan, please work with the People and Land Management Committee.

September 7 – Tim McBride, Hancock Forest Management

Contract to sign for a permit to access the Snoqualmie Tree Farm for elk relocation (telemetry), copy attached with delivery instructions.

Mr. McBride emphasized that permit holders need to abide by all terms particularly including speed limits. Use of a CB radio to monitor traffic is recommended. He also requested a note be sent to the main office to indicate Harold Erland will be picking up the key and tag; a separate note to request access in the dark hours before sunrise and after sunset when elk are most active. Enforcement officer Chris Moszeter requests that he is called before going into the property. Mr. McBride also said the term of the policy is coordinated with the elk group officer terms as the president is the responsible individual.

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September 10 – Andy Duff, Westside regional information specialist, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Requested a volume of data to be backed up on department servers; data to validate draft elk model. Will be beta-testing a 2010 elk model from the USFS (a more refined model of the version presented to the elk group in June). Mr. Duff asked if the elk group was interested in using the simulation approach to see how the model would predict how elk habitat enhancements out of town might help with some of the elk use issues in North Bend.

Mr. Kemp and Mr. Erland indicated that they have since relayed the data points to Mr. Duff. Regarding the elk movements in the area, the sewer line construction and some of the residential construction projects have influenced elk migration patterns. The elk have consumed recent fruit tree plantings in the development which will not be compensated by the state. It was noted that one of the only landscaping plants that the elk do not seem to destroy is Leyland Cypress (*Cupressocyparis leylandii*), perhaps because it is not as comfortable in the mouth as similar plants.

September 16 – Stephanie Dunlap, Office associate, Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust  
A request to change our contact information. Ms. Dunlap writes, "Our primary contact now should be Doug Schindler. Oliver Stiefel has left."

The 2008 stakeholder list page on the website that she referenced was modified to indicate historical use only. We may add a page on the website for current contacts.

September 17 – Ilyse Burke, Parks and Recreation, City of Snoqualmie  
"Can you please post a sign on our kiosk of times/dates and where you will be hunting Elk? Our Dog Park users would much appreciate it. Thank you."

Mr. Erland replied to Ms. Burke indicating that the elk group does not hunt elk. Adding that if hunting is observed on city park property that law enforcement should be contacted. Mr. Moszeter said that there had been a few golf course trespassers. Permission to access the golf course must first be arranged through the golf course management who have designated Sean Absire, 425-888-3333, to coordinate permission to hunt during the regular hunting seasons. Mr. Willson provided the dates for the general elk hunting seasons.

September 20 – Allison Espiritu, Reporter, Snoqualmie Valley Record  
Regarding an article she is preparing about elk getting into Mount Si Nursery, a request for solutions of what Nels could do to get the elk out of his property along with why there is such a huge increase in the elk population in the residential area.

Mr. Willson responded referencing the property damage pamphlet. Ms. Espiritu also contacted enforcement officer Chris Moszeter regarding the damage at the nursery. Mr. Moszeter noted that a number of state administrative codes have changed regarding property damage. Much of the problem with situating hunters at the nursery property is that elk pass through at night. Outside of legal hunting hours, only enforcement officers are allowed to kill elk. The only practical solution to the problem at this site would be a fence. However, the governor has confiscated the department budget which would have been available for this kind of mitigation.

The damage could drive Nels out of business. Mr. Moszeter is working with Mr. Melgaard to figure the linear feet of fencing that could be constructed. Except for lack of funds the Department of Fish and Wildlife still has the contacts to produce the materials to construct a fence and with the Master Hunter Permit Program volunteers, a labor pool available to construct a fence. Mr. Melgaard will still need to get a permit to build such a fence in the flood plain. The elk group may be able to work with the tribes and other resources such as Conservation Northwest to locate funding for the project.

Mr. Gildersleeve notes that he has access to two adjacent properties for the damage hunt.

## 8. Coordinated Hunt Discussion

Problem background: Following the draw for the 17 special general season antlerless permits, some of these hunters (all of which live out of the area) contacted the state for assistance finding locations in North Bend to hunt, even though the regulations booklet indicates "Private lands; access is extremely limited. If you cannot secure access to private lands do not apply for these hunts." Any person that can obtain a hunting license in Washington can apply for the North Bend hunt. Page 52 from the 2010 regulation booklet is attached as an example. This is the page corresponding to the general season muzzleloader antlerless elk permit. There are two similar pages for the archery and modern firearms.

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A one time fix:

Enforcement Officer Chris Moszeter: As a one-time arrangement at the request of Russell Link, some of these general season special permit holders were placed on a property. In the following year, there will be stronger emphasis (bold text and so forth) in the regulations booklet on the constrained access warning and no hunt coordination service will be provided. This should mitigate the problem of constrained access. Mr. Gildersleeve noted that most of the arrangements made for coordinated hunts are not exclusive and Master Hunter coordinated hunts do not occur during the general season. Two cow elk are known to have been harvested during the regular archery season by cow permit holders who were placed on properties by the Master Hunter Coordinator.

It is unlikely that the state will allow separate seasons for bull and antlerless harvest without a lengthy review and public discussion period. It is most practical to work with the constraints of the current arrangement

Right now, the North Bend hunt is a model hunt for the state. The state generally considers a 30% success rate a "successful hunt." Last year the hunt had a 92% success rate and there is a lot of attention being given to this program inside the department. Another goal with the program was to keep the population moving, which was accomplished. However, the hunt is also constrained by the hunter's ethics. One such hunter is known to have passed up on four opportunities to take a cow elk because the cows were accompanied by calves he thought were still too young.

Some interesting results of the 2009 hunt seem to be an increase in the number of young bulls and that despite the successful harvest last year the population appears to be roughly the same as last year.

Soon we will be able to compare mark/recapture analysis to harvest success rates and refine quotas. Because of the high success rate, future changes to the permit quotas may be adjusted by the state using more specific figures.

#### 9. Modifications to the Telemetry Volunteer Policy

A motion was made by Mr. Gildersleeve to concur with the terms of the revised Telemetry Waiver Form. Mr. McBride seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

#### 10. Reducing the number of General Meetings

Attendance at the general meetings is lower in recent months and perhaps not convenient for the full board to attend regularly at a monthly interval. It was requested that the committee meetings still need to be monthly. The bylaws indicate that the meetings must be held monthly. Mr. Willson agreed to propose a revision to the bylaws language to facilitate six general meetings annually and recognizing special timing considerations for both Christmas and the hunting season.

#### 11. For the Good of the Order

Mr. Kemp reports that he has attended a number of North Bend city council meetings. The moratorium is lifted and there is no modification to North Bend policy regarding wildlife corridors.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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

Date: 09/22/2010

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Balance on hand as of last meeting:     | \$1542.35         |
| Dues and new memberships paid           | 30.00             |
| Donations                               | .00               |
|   | <hr/>             |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                     | <b>\$1572.35</b>  |
| <b>Disbursements:</b>                   |                   |
| None                                    |                   |
| <b>Balance on Hand (Date of Report)</b> | <b>\$ 1572.35</b> |
| <b>Verified with on-line banking</b>    | <b>\$ 1572.35</b> |
| <b>On hand bills:</b>                   |                   |
| None                                    |                   |
|   | <hr/>             |
| <b>Projected Balance:</b>               | <b>\$ NA</b>      |

Jim Gildersleeve  
Treasurer  
09/22/2010

## Elk Special Permits (continued)

| Antlerless Elk Hunts |                   |            |                       | Category continued on next page... |            |               |         |            |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------|---------------|---------|------------|
| Hunt Choice          | Hunt Name         | Hunt Notes | Tag Required to Apply | Hunt Dates                         | Legal Elk  | Unit/ Area    | Permits | 2009 Apps. |
| 2273                 | Upper Smith Creek | E          | WA                    | Oct. 9-15                          | Antlerless | Elk Area 5064 | 4       | 39         |
| 2274                 | Mudflow           | E          | WA                    | Sept. 7-19                         | Antlerless | Elk Area 5099 | 10      | 231        |
| 2275                 | Lewis River       |            | WA                    | Nov. 24 - Dec. 7                   | Antlerless | GMU 560       | 15      | 1,699      |
| 2276                 | Siouxon           |            | WA                    | Nov. 24 - Dec. 7                   | Antlerless | GMU 572       | 5       | NEW        |
| 2277                 | Aladdin           |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-8                           | Antlerless | GMU 111       | 10      | 88         |
| 2278                 | Selkirk           |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-8                           | Antlerless | GMU 113       | 10      | 148        |
| 2279                 | 49 Degrees North  | C, D       | EM                    | Oct. 2-8 and Dec. 16-31            | Antlerless | GMU 117       | 20      | 163        |
| 2280                 | Turnbull          | D, L       | EM                    | Oct. 2-8                           | Antlerless | Elk Area 1015 | 9       | NEW        |
| 2281                 | Turnbull          | D, L       | EM                    | Nov. 24 - Dec. 8                   | Antlerless | Elk Area 1015 | 9       | NEW        |
| 2282                 | Dayton            | C          | EM                    | Oct. 2-8                           | Antlerless | Elk Area 1016 | 25      | 88         |
| 2283                 | Blue Creek        | C          | EM                    | Dec. 9 - Jan. 20                   | Antlerless | GMU 154       | 40      | 200        |
| 2284                 | Mountain View     | C          | EM                    | Oct. 2-8                           | Antlerless | Elk Area 1013 | 10      | 42         |
| 2285                 | Lick Creek        |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-8                           | Antlerless | GMU 175       | 15      | 119        |
| 2286                 | Peola             |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-8                           | Antlerless | GMUs 145, 178 | 30      | 17         |
| 2287                 | Couse             | C          | EM                    | Dec. 1-31                          | Antlerless | GMU 181       | 30      | 21         |
| 2288                 | Couse             | C          | EM                    | Jan. 1-20                          | Antlerless | GMU 181       | 30      | 21         |
| 2289                 | Malaga            |            | EM                    | Oct. 9-21                          | Antlerless | Elk Area 2032 | 35      | 94         |
| 2290                 | West Bar          |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-10                          | Antlerless | GMU 330       | 5       | 44         |
| 2291                 | Taneum            |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-10                          | Antlerless | GMU 336       | 75      | 213        |
| 2292                 | Manastash         |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-10                          | Antlerless | GMU 340       | 75      | 270        |
| 2293                 | Umtanum           |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-10                          | Antlerless | GMU 342       | 200     | 557        |
| 2294                 | Nile              |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-10                          | Antlerless | GMU 352       | 10      | 271        |
| 2295                 | Bumping           |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-10                          | Antlerless | GMU 356       | 25      | 440        |
| 2296                 | Bethel            |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-10                          | Antlerless | GMU 360       | 10      | 341        |
| 2297                 | Cowiche           |            | EM                    | Oct. 2-10                          | Antlerless | GMU 368       | 100     | 724        |
| 2298                 | Alkali            | B, H       | EM                    | Sept. 26 - Oct. 15                 | Antlerless | GMU 371       | 10      | NEW        |
| 2299                 | Teanaway          |            | EM                    | Dec. 9-17                          | Antlerless | GMU 335       | 6       | NEW        |
| 2300                 | Klickitat Meadows | I          | EM                    | Oct. 2-10                          | Antlerless | Elk Area 3068 | 4       | 33         |
| 2301                 | North Bend        | C          | WM                    | Oct. 2-8                           | Antlerless | Elk Area 4601 | 5       | 65         |
| 2302                 | Stella            | C          | WM                    | Jan. 1-16                          | Antlerless | GMU 504       | 75      | 166        |
| 2303                 | Toledo            | C          | WM                    | Dec. 8-20                          | Antlerless | Elk Area 5029 | 40      | 181        |
| 2304                 | Mossyrock         | C          | WM                    | Jan. 1-16                          | Antlerless | Elk Area 5052 | 15      | 227        |
| 2305                 | Randle            | C          | WM                    | Jan. 1-16                          | Antlerless | Elk Area 5053 | 15      | 219        |
| 2306                 | Boistfort         | C          | WM                    | Jan. 1-16                          | Antlerless | Elk Area 5054 | 50      | 195        |

▲ Use numbers in this column for the Hunt Choice Number when submitting your special permit application.

| Hunt Notes |   |
|------------|---|
| B          | Military installation; access may be extremely limited.   |
| C          | Private lands; access is extremely limited. If you cannot secure access to private lands do not apply for these hunts.  |
| D          | See page 74 for information about hunting on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuge lands.   |
| E          | Before applying, for important hunt information and restrictions check out the WDFW website: <a href="http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/special-permits_raffles">wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/special-permits_raffles</a> .   |
| H          | Must wear hunter orange.  |
| I          | Elk Area 3068 (Klickitat Meadows) is within the Yakama Indian Reservation. A permit from the Yakama Nation will be required to hunt in this area. No access is allowed for scouting prior to the permit season dates and no camping is allowed within the Yakama Reservation. |
| L          | Turnbull hunts will be administered and an access fee collected by Turnbull NWR. For details visit <a href="http://www.fws.gov/turnbull">http://www.fws.gov/turnbull</a>  |