



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 17, 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, Pat Young, Phil Cassady and Sam Metzler. Also present Chris Moszeter, enforcement officer, DFW; Russell Link, district biologist, DFW. Total attendance: 21.

Printed copies of the October meeting minutes were available for review. Mr. Gildersleeve motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Dideon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### 2. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Gildersleeve circulated the November report at the meeting (also attached below) which shows a balance on hand of \$1592.35. This includes one new membership and a disbursement for the state charity registration renewal. A motion was made by Mr. Erland to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Metzler. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

### 3. Fundraising Committee, Jim Gildersleeve, Committee Chair

The elk group received a note from Mr. Link regarding the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation grant proposal deadline for 2011. A proposal will be prepared and circulated by December 1.

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

Ms. Willson had a meeting with Mount Si High School science program lead and teacher Nick Kurka to discuss integration of the science program with the USVEMG research projects. The advance placement biology students may be a useful resource for some research elements in the project. Also, the elk group and the high school science program collectively need to make a more diligent effort to get middle school students integrated into the elk research.

Mr. Erland noted that on December 1 he plans to share the video of elk collaring at the school. Also regarding curriculum development he requests that students observe what elk are eating; use Scotch tape attach samples of what elk are eating, or defer to the Elk Group to help identify any unknown specimens.

Ms. Willson mentioned guidance the students need on proper lab write-up methods.

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

The elk group received a letter from City of Snoqualmie Parks Department regarding the chronic elk damage at Centennial Park. She asked what kinds of fencing options are available. Mr. Gildersleeve recognized the success of the fencing at Mount Si Golf Course a quarter mile to the east. Officer Chris Moszeter said that the type of fencing that the golf course used was the most expensive option.

Also regarding fencing, the Tulalip Tribes have a program that can be leveraged to help with defensive fencing project at the Nursery at Mount Si. The tribe policy is that the money for this project must be directed to a non-profit organization so the nursery and the state are ineligible recipients. A motion was made by Mr. Cassady to authorize the USVEMG to act as agent to manage the Tulalip Tribes tax exempt donation for a defensive fence at the Nursery at Mount Si. Mr. Hacherl approved the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reported significant damage from black bears at the CCC Flats site. Currently there is no spring bear hunting in the vicinity of North Bend. The DNR requests a special spring bear hunt and proposes special access for permittees. Mr. Link noted that we are in the second year of a three year planning cycle which defines hunting zone boundaries, quotas and so forth. The matter will be discussed. Mr. Gildersleeve noted that in the interim the black bear damaged areas in the CCC flats can be converted to elk forage.

UPPER SNOQUALMIE VALLEY ELK MANAGEMENT GROUP  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2010

- 2 -

Dave Kimmett from King County Parks had reached out to the elk group for information on formation of special hunts and also information on the Master Hunter Permit Program. This concerns a controversy about hunting at Island Forest County Park on Vashon Island. The county had acquired the park with a contingency that the tradition of hunting black-tailed deer at that location be preserved. The contingency conflicts with a number of county park policies which have prohibitions for either firearms or projectiles which effectively prohibit legal hunting methods. To comply with the contingency the county allowed hunting at the park and provided orange vests for park patrons to use. Local residents have raised concerns about the hunt. In October, the county hosted a public forum to discuss solutions to the problem. Mr. Link mentioned that some hunters attended the meeting and requested to retain hunting privileges there. There was not much debate from nearby property owners. The county's decision was to suspend hunting at the park for the remainder of the hunting season.

Mr. Gildersleeve notes that if a functional policy is formed for Island Forest Park, particularly if it is structured around the concept of the Master Hunter Permit Program damage hunts, the same exemption for black-tailed deer at this Vashon Island location may be leveraged for elk in King County Parks-managed Snoqualmie Valley properties.

The monthly committee meeting for December is cancelled. The committee will meet next 1:30 p.m. January 4, 2011, at the North Bend City Hall annex building (across from the library on Fourth Street).

#### 6. Elk Research and Management Committee Report by Harold Erland, Committee Chair

Estimates show the elk population in 2010 (approximately 310) as in 2009 (approximately 310) for the Upper Snoqualmie Valley. The report included a ten minute video of an elk collaring event.

The elk group received a copy of the Department of Fish and Wildlife's policy regarding winter feeding of wildlife. In the event of sustained severe weather there may be a die-off of the elk herd. In 2007, there was an emergency feeding in the White River basin conducted by the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe. The feeding had little effect. Generally, once a need to feed wildlife is recognized it is already too late. Mr. Link will prepare a paragraph on the matter.

The committee will meet next at 6 p.m., Monday, December 20 at the North Bend City Hall conference room.

#### 7. Recommendations for 2011 hunting season quotas

Some notes about the program:

- Damage complaints are down
- Most complaints are from nurseries or Christmas tree farms
- Community recognizes the group as managing the elk

The recommendation from the elk group is to keep quotas at the same level as in 2010 but broaden the special hunt offerings to include five new permits each for youth and senior applicants. The reasoning behind this is that the current quota seems to have stabilized the population and the effect of the general season antlerless permits is that the permit provides an antlerless elk option, but the option is not always exercised.

Also, as a courtesy in 2010, out-of-area permittees were given special assistance from the state using the damage hunt coordinator to find private land even though the application indicated that access should be arranged prior to submitting an application for the permit. The hunt coordinator role will not be used in this way for the 2011 hunting season.

There was a complaint that the North Bend damage hunt was a second tag elk hunt offering. This is part of the incentive for participating in the program and an elk taken with this permit is a supervised harvest, not a true fair-chase hunt.

Concerned that the elk are farther along in pregnancy the later months of the hunt, Mr. Townley requested that the damage hunt end in January rather than in March. Mr. Link indicated that the matter had been considered but according to veterinarians, hunting pressure is not a significant stress factor in the pregnancy and it is incidentally less significant than collaring activity which is underway during the same period. The longer damage hunt season also sustains the effect that hunting pressure has on damage prevention efforts. It was also noted that there is no logical difference between killing a pregnant cow in December and a pregnant cow in February for a population that has not reached carrying capacity.

The elk group thanks David Vales, biologist for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, for his assistance providing population estimation formulas which were used to figure the special hunt quotas for the 2009 through 2011 hunting seasons.

UPPER SNOQUALMIE VALLEY ELK MANAGEMENT GROUP  
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 17, 2010

- 3 -

8. "Wondering about Wildlife" event at the Cedar River Watershed Interpretive Center

The group has received an invitation to attend the information event 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, December 29 (the Wednesday after Christmas). Mr. Erland and Mr. Kemp showed interest in the event and DFW Officer Chris Moszeter indicated that Master Hunter permittees assisting in the event on behalf of the elk group will be credited for their volunteer hours.

The USVEMG table for the event has since been confirmed with Chris Holland. Please send a note to Mr. Erland at [research@snoqualmievalleyelk.org](mailto:research@snoqualmievalleyelk.org) if you would like to volunteer for this event.

9. Reducing the number of General Meetings

Proposal to amend the bylaws was read as follows:

4.1. At least six meetings of the Group shall be held per year, open to all wishing to attend, and governed by the bylaws and conducted using the most current version of Robert's Rules of Order.

Mr. Kemp motioned to approve the amendment as read. Mr. Metzler seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

10. For the Good of the Order

There will be no general meeting in December. The next general meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 12, 2011, at the North Bend Ranger Station Conference Room.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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

Date: 11/17/2010

Balance on hand as of last meeting:	\$1592.35
Dues and new memberships paid	10.00
Donations	.00
	_____
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$1602.35</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
WA Charities Registration Renewed	10.00
<b>Balance on Hand (Date of Report)</b>	<b>\$ 1592.35</b>
<b>Verified with on-line banking</b>	<b>\$ 1592.35</b>
<b>On hand bills:</b>	
None	
<b>Projected Balance:</b>	<b>\$ NA</b>

Jim Gildersleeve  
Treasurer  
11/17/2010