

Meeting 9 Minutes
Lander/Green Mountain Mule Deer Working Group
March 16, 2015
6:15 PM – 9:15 PM
LRO-Lander, WY

Members In Attendance: Ken Metzler, Katie Erickson, Rowdy Anderson, Stan Harter, Marla Lemm, Brad Hovinga, Joe Hutto, Ember Oakley, David Killebrew, Harold Schultz, Jared Oakleaf

Public attendance: Colby Erickson, Ron Smith, John Coffman, Casey Dickinson, June Dickinson, Richard Buss, Sue Oberlie, Tom Sweet

Game and Fish personnel: Brad Gibb, Linnea Sailor, Daryl Lutz, Amy Anderson, Brady Frude, Teal Joseph, Ian Tator, “Tater”

Facilitator: Rene Schell

6:15 Welcome-minutes, agenda and minutes approval

6:20 Review habitat objectives and strategies, consensus - *Rene Schell*

- Stan brought up having a work session in Riverton, Ken agreed
- Additions to strategies and objectives are as follows:
 - Obj 1:
 - Add strategy to coordinate/cooperate with outside land mgmt agencies – make pointed recommendation to them asking for specific project goals
 - Important that we come away with a *specific* habitat plan (Harold)
 - Habitat mgmt plan must be borne from sound research and finished data (Jared) – ie need finished collaring study data prior to starting on-the-ground habitat
 - (Stan) – may not be plausible to get collaring data on *both* herds prior to specifically directed (ie, stopover site) habitat work
 - Obj 2:
 - (Ken) heartburn over fire verbiage – wants to allow for prescribed burns in strategies
 - (Jared) again continue to proceed with caution re: wide open, generalized policies prior to movement data
 - (Katie) like the bottom strategy re: timber mgmt – gives land mgmt agencies a social license to continue/implement these practices
 - (Sue O.) would be beneficial to include language re: managing around other spp
 - Obj 3:
 - No comments
 - Obj 4
 - (Jared) under strategy 3, change “browse” to “forage”

- Obj 5
 - (Harold) change strategy 4 to limit migration corridors language to these herd units
 - Add strategy to continue education efforts
 - (Stan) add county road dept's into strategy 1
 - (Sue O.) "removing existing infrastructure causing problems" language is missing – ie prioritize fence conversions
 - Possibly add housing assoc's to other entities
 - (Ron Smith) Wy State Lands have several fence issues in areas not associated with roadways
 - (Joe) implement program to remove abandoned/ disrepaired fences
- Obj 6
 - No comments
- Obj 7
 - Add NGO's to list of potential collaborators

6:40 Review mule deer public survey – *Rene Schell*

- saw many disparities in what folks want
- what are public's expectations, and how do we manage those

7:00 Discussion on season structure and ATV's with focus first on season structure **breaks as needed – led by Rene Schell*

- ISSUES (*not solutions*)
 - Not enough mule deer
 - Formula for landowner tag allocation (if l.q.)
 - Balancing hunter opportunity and hunter crowding
 - Need to proactively manage mule deer
 - Number of hunters – people management vs deer mgmt (misperception of how those numbers affect deer population)
 - Solutions to crowding will have unintended consequences
 - Increased demand for a diminishing resource
 - Hunter retention
 - Potential hunter displacement
 - Too many 4 wheelers affecting overcrowding issues/perceptions
 - Closed roads focusing/concentrating hunters
 - Current resident draw process is unfair
 - Hunting multiple species over same time period increases hunter crowding
 - General public is uneducated...cannot make educated decisions re: hunting seasons – they are operating off of emotion
 - Proportion of older age class deer in population too low
- Quality of hunters too low (changing hunter mentality & ethics – disconnect w/ nature; 4-wheelers, electronic gizmos, etc)

9:00 Wrap Up

- Next meeting date Apr 6

- Topics for next meeting agenda- season structure and ATV's
- Feedback

9:15 Adjourn