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:
    o 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
    o 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
    o Obj 3:
      ▪ No comments
    o Obj 4
      ▪ (Jared) under strategy 3, change “browse” to “forage”
o 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

o Obj 6
  ▪ No comments

o 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