

Minutes – Meeting 10
Lander/Green Mountain Mule Deer Working Group
April 6, 2015
6:15 PM – 9:15 PM
LRO-Lander, WY

Members In Attendance: Katie Erickson, Stan Harter, Brad Hovinga, David Killebrew, Harold Schultz, Jared Oakleaf

Members Absent: Ken Metzler, Joe Hutto, Ember Oakley, Rowdy Anderson, Marla Lemm

Public attendance: John Coffman, Tater, Colby Erickson

Game and Fish personnel: Brad Gibb, Daryl Lutz, Brady Frude, Jason Hunter, Linnea Sailor

Facilitator: Rene Schell

- 6:15 Welcome-minutes, agenda and minutes approval
- 6:20 Consensus on research objectives and strategies and habitat objectives and strategies - *Rene Schell* skipped; not enough members present for consensus
- 6:30 Update on the group's 2015 recommendations – *Jason Hunter*
Took group's recommendations to supervisor's meeting: decision made to *not* change proposed youth and archery restrictions. Added general WTD seasons to 1st two weeks of Oct in SWR herd, not in Sweetwater herd
- 6:45** Presentation on herd objectives and sightability survey - *Stan Harter*
- South Wind River - Proposal to decrease objective from 13,000 to 11,000
 - Sweetwater – proposal to decrease objective from 6000 to 4500
- 6:45 Discussion on season structure and ATV's with focus first on season structure **breaks as needed – led by Rene Schell*
- Issues identified at last meeting were listed and working group determined which of those could be affected by season structure changes. Members then put stickers by each issue that season structure could affect to determine ranking/priority, the number of stickers are in parenthesis: Resident Draw process (1); changing hunter mentality/disconnect (4); balancing opportunity with hunter crowding (16); misperception of the number deer killed (10); overlapping species seasons/crowding (5); choose your weapon/crowding (6); landowner tag allocation (6); buck age ratios (5); limited access/crowding (0)
 - Issues *not* affected by season structure and therefore not ranked: proactive (intensive) management; public uneducated about mgmt/seasons; too many ATVs/mobility; not enough deer
 - SOLUTIONS:
 - Crowding vs opportunity –

- Need to revisit survey
- Need to visit with more constituents
- Longer season would benefit both opportunity and crowding
- Move general season to Oct 1-7, add LQ season 15-22
- Choose your weapon within general season
- Two split limited quota seasons approximately a week apart – use long term average from harvest survey to determine quota, split in half; retain youth general and allow them to be valid for during periods so they can hunt with family
- Resident region (lump hunt areas into large limited quota area)
 - May be most effective statewide to reduce hunter displacement
 - Capped vs uncapped scenarios
- Archery mule deer Aug 15-Sept 15, then rifle opens Sept 16
- Standardized season dates (statewide)
- No change

9:00 Wrap Up

- Next meeting date 4/16 or 20 or 21
- Topics for next meeting agenda-continue the above discussion/
recommendations, take consensus on habitat and research sections, ATV issues
- Feedback

9:15 Adjourn