

**Agenda – Meeting 4**  
**Lander/Green Mountain Mule Deer Working Group**  
**October 20, 2014**  
**6:15 PM – 9:15 PM**  
**Lander, WY**

**Members In Attendance:** Jared Oakleaf, Ember Oakley, Katie Erickson, Rowdy Anderson, Stan Harter, Harold Schultz, Marla Lemm, Brad Hovinga,

**Absent:** Joe Hutto, Travis Stevenson, Ken Metzler, David Killebrew

**Public attendance:** Bruce Campbell, Sue Oberlie, Colby Erickson, Marcio Paes-Barreto, Walter Olson + guest, Ava Hunter, Griffin Hunter,

**Game and Fish personnel:** Brady Frude, Daryl Lutz, Amy Anderson, Jason Hunter

**Facilitator:** Rene Schell

6:15 Welcome-minutes and agenda approval

We are missing several members of the group. What does the group feel is the minimum number of people needed in these meetings to make consensus decisions? **Unanimous “5s” for 7 present (non GF). Table decision until full group meets. Rene has reached out to several NGOs (The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and Wyoming Outdoor Council) and has not received feedback.**

Does the group want to continue without a thirteenth member or keep trying (charter lists NGO as thirteenth member). **Proposal was made to look at the rosters from previous meetings to see if an NGO member has attended regularly as most agreed it would be too much to bring someone new up to speed. CONSENSUS AGREES and Rene will review rosters and report back to group.**

No additional items were added to the agenda and the agenda was approved.

6:20 April Meeting Review-reminder of constituents top concerns – *Rene Schell*

**Mule Deer Workshop Summary of Main Points for all Groups:**

- **More family opportunity (youth)**
- **See quality habitat**
- **Fewer hunters & ATVs**
- **See more quality & quantity of mule deer**
- **Ethics (enforcement presence in field)**

Preliminary survey results—a few graphs and charts, nothing surprising. Echoes a lot of what we heard at the April meeting. **A recommendation was made to look at differences between residents and non residents in the final review of the satisfaction survey.**

6:45 Game and Fish reminders/guidelines/deadlines – *Daryl Lutz*

7:00 Working Group Discussion on short and long term proposals for arresting mule deer decline - *led by Rene Schell*

\*breaks as needed

We will use post-it notes to gather thoughts as you brainstorm ideas for solutions. These should be action statements, things you would hope to do. Not problem statements.

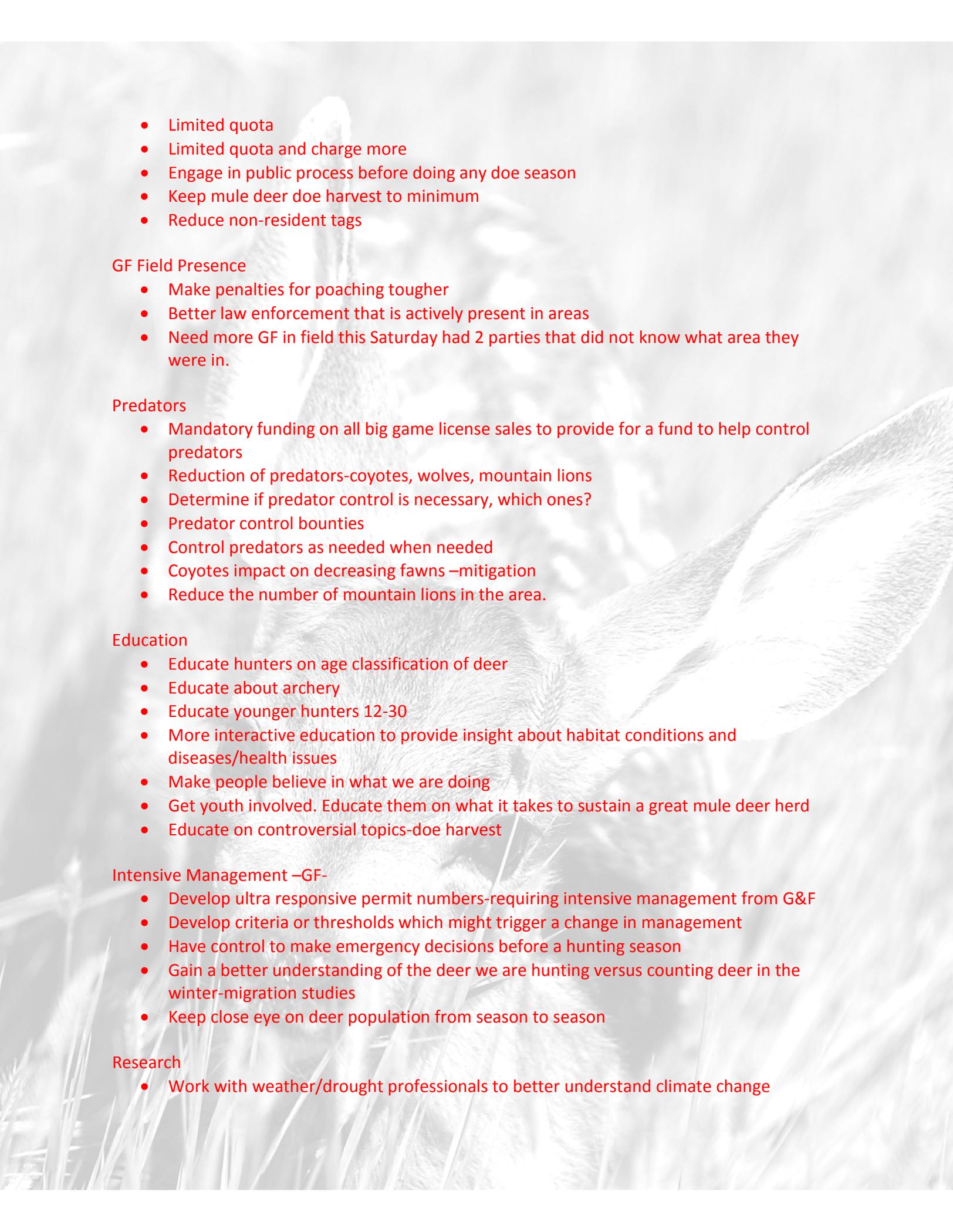
Ideas were posted and then grouped as following:

#### Habitat-

- Make it rain
- Purchase private lands that provide prime mule deer habitat
- ID the fair transitional and winter habitat (public and private) and improve it
- Reduce livestock grazing on critical deer range
- Habitat improvement projects
- Continue projects on winter range and begin to look at transitional range
- Develop prescriptive habitat treatments to address habitat problems, id through scientific research
- Improving habitat: we need rain
- Grazing? What can be done to improve the situation?
- Id winter and transitional habitat and set up program to protect it
- Enhance habitat
- Map (through research) key fawning habitat-protect!
- Work with livestock operators to develop grazing systems that improve MD forage
- Increase water supply (Water for Wildlife Foundation)
- Increase emphasis on mule deer habitat restoration
- Produce clear cuts in alternate years for habitat improvement

#### Management-

- Continue General Seasons
- Later deer season in rut
- Put deer wellness in front of selling a certain number of tags
- Go limited quota
- Limited quota
- Limited quota with preference points
- Scrutinize number of licenses issued for appropriateness
- Manage for deer population not habitat
- Demand exceeds resources=need quotas similar to antelope and elk
- Limited quota

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- Limited quota
  - Limited quota and charge more
  - Engage in public process before doing any doe season
  - Keep mule deer doe harvest to minimum
  - Reduce non-resident tags

#### GF Field Presence

- Make penalties for poaching tougher
- Better law enforcement that is actively present in areas
- Need more GF in field this Saturday had 2 parties that did not know what area they were in.

#### Predators

- Mandatory funding on all big game license sales to provide for a fund to help control predators
- Reduction of predators-coyotes, wolves, mountain lions
- Determine if predator control is necessary, which ones?
- Predator control bounties
- Control predators as needed when needed
- Coyotes impact on decreasing fawns –mitigation
- Reduce the number of mountain lions in the area.

#### Education

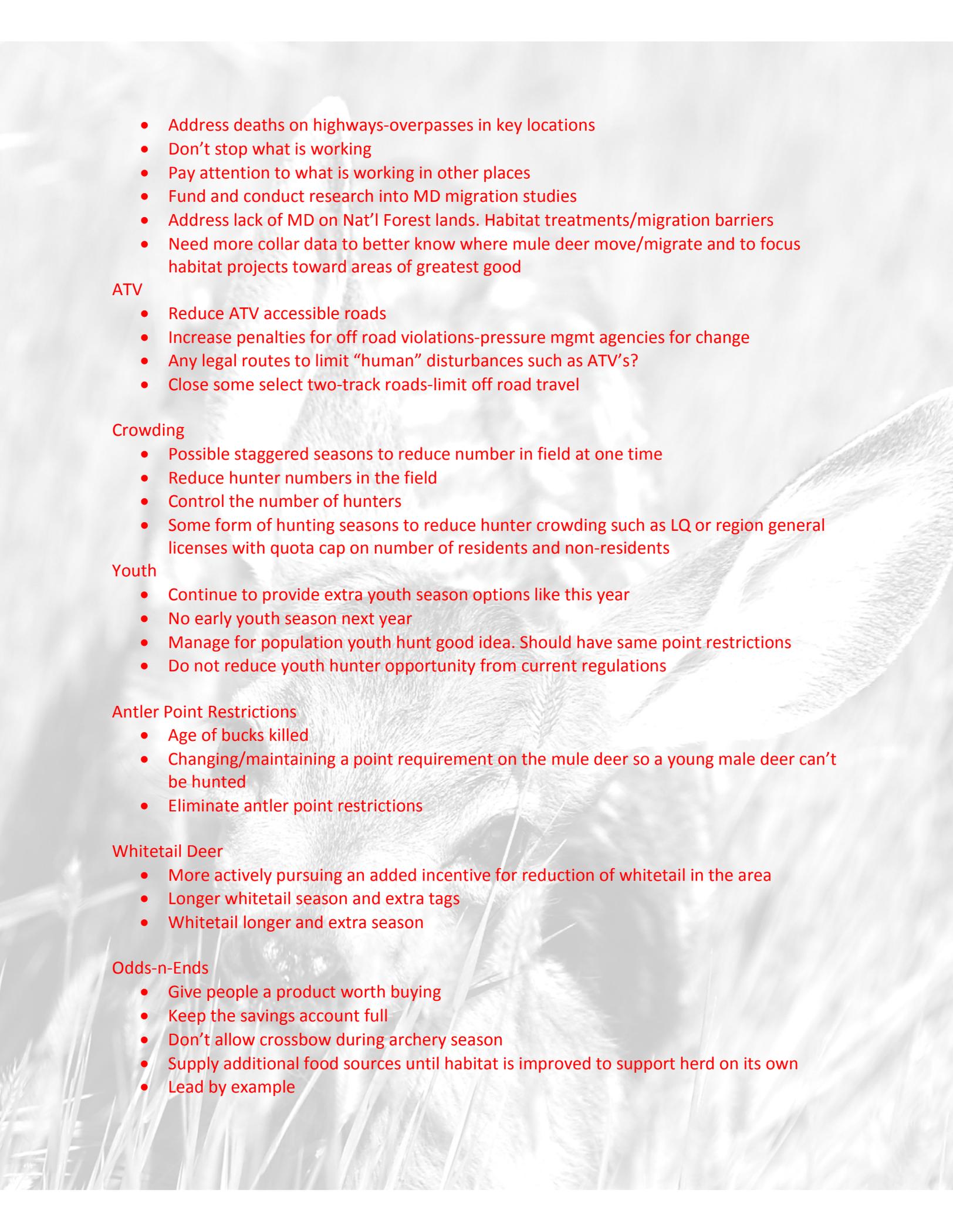
- Educate hunters on age classification of deer
- Educate about archery
- Educate younger hunters 12-30
- More interactive education to provide insight about habitat conditions and diseases/health issues
- Make people believe in what we are doing
- Get youth involved. Educate them on what it takes to sustain a great mule deer herd
- Educate on controversial topics-doe harvest

#### Intensive Management –GF-

- Develop ultra responsive permit numbers-requiring intensive management from G&F
- Develop criteria or thresholds which might trigger a change in management
- Have control to make emergency decisions before a hunting season
- Gain a better understanding of the deer we are hunting versus counting deer in the winter-migration studies
- Keep close eye on deer population from season to season

#### Research

- Work with weather/drought professionals to better understand climate change

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- Address deaths on highways-overpasses in key locations
  - Don't stop what is working
  - Pay attention to what is working in other places
  - Fund and conduct research into MD migration studies
  - Address lack of MD on Nat'l Forest lands. Habitat treatments/migration barriers
  - Need more collar data to better know where mule deer move/migrate and to focus habitat projects toward areas of greatest good

#### ATV

- Reduce ATV accessible roads
- Increase penalties for off road violations-pressure mgmt agencies for change
- Any legal routes to limit "human" disturbances such as ATV's?
- Close some select two-track roads-limit off road travel

#### Crowding

- Possible staggered seasons to reduce number in field at one time
- Reduce hunter numbers in the field
- Control the number of hunters
- Some form of hunting seasons to reduce hunter crowding such as LQ or region general licenses with quota cap on number of residents and non-residents

#### Youth

- Continue to provide extra youth season options like this year
- No early youth season next year
- Manage for population youth hunt good idea. Should have same point restrictions
- Do not reduce youth hunter opportunity from current regulations

#### Antler Point Restrictions

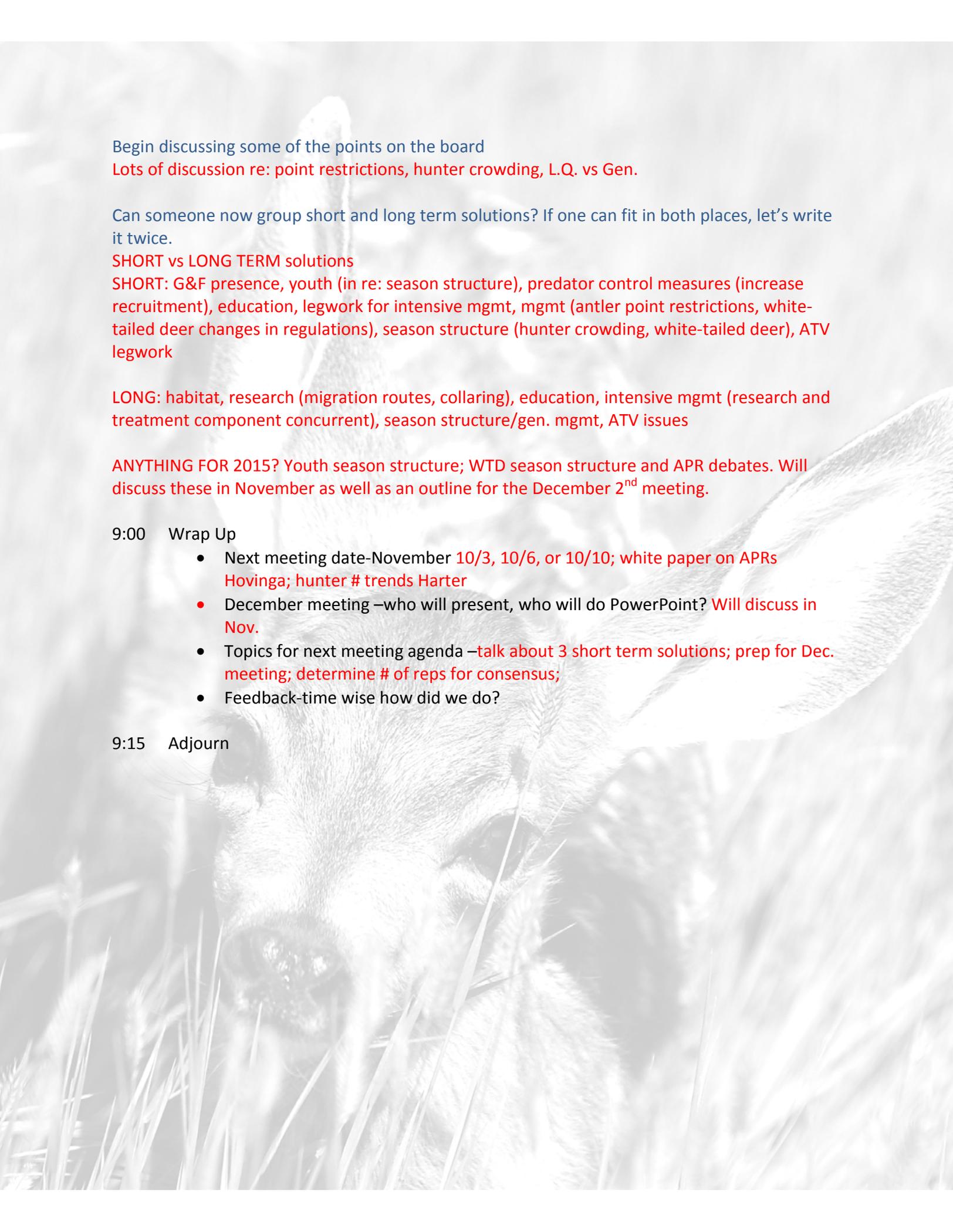
- Age of bucks killed
- Changing/maintaining a point requirement on the mule deer so a young male deer can't be hunted
- Eliminate antler point restrictions

#### Whitetail Deer

- More actively pursuing an added incentive for reduction of whitetail in the area
- Longer whitetail season and extra tags
- Whitetail longer and extra season

#### Odds-n-Ends

- Give people a product worth buying
- Keep the savings account full
- Don't allow crossbow during archery season
- Supply additional food sources until habitat is improved to support herd on its own
- Lead by example



Begin discussing some of the points on the board

Lots of discussion re: point restrictions, hunter crowding, L.Q. vs Gen.

Can someone now group short and long term solutions? If one can fit in both places, let's write it twice.

SHORT vs LONG TERM solutions

SHORT: G&F presence, youth (in re: season structure), predator control measures (increase recruitment), education, legwork for intensive mgmt, mgmt (antler point restrictions, white-tailed deer changes in regulations), season structure (hunter crowding, white-tailed deer), ATV legwork

LONG: habitat, research (migration routes, collaring), education, intensive mgmt (research and treatment component concurrent), season structure/gen. mgmt, ATV issues

ANYTHING FOR 2015? Youth season structure; WTD season structure and APR debates. Will discuss these in November as well as an outline for the December 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

9:00 Wrap Up

- Next meeting date-November 10/3, 10/6, or 10/10; white paper on APRs Hovinga; hunter # trends Harter
- December meeting –who will present, who will do PowerPoint? Will discuss in Nov.
- Topics for next meeting agenda –talk about 3 short term solutions; prep for Dec. meeting; determine # of reps for consensus;
- Feedback-time wise how did we do?

9:15 Adjourn