Mule Deer Workshop Summary of Main Points for all Groups:

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

Group 1

Top 3 Concerns:

- Seeing numerous, healthy deer
- Predator management-Indirect to experience
- Reduced access lowers experience (lack of access on public land; maintain public access on public lands)

  - Reasonable expectation for “nice” deer (~3 point)
  - Seeing numerous, healthy deer
  - Hunting quality habitat
  - Hunting where range conditions are decent quality
  - Changes in habitat conditions over time- hunt in the same areas over years
  - Enjoy the country
  - Enjoy seeing animals- healthy populations- multiple species
  - Balance multiple use
  - Wildlife throughout year- all wildlife (predators included)-balance
  - Having quality experience
  - Getting out of house
  - Predator management
  - Too many predator sightings distracts from hunt experience
  - Having ability to manage predators (by hunters)
  - Hunting coyotes while deer hunting is fringe benefit
  - Increase predators leads to decrease mule deer (especially mountain lions)
  - Low deer numbers equal poor hunt experience
  - The only thing I can do to benefit deer is not hunt deer, self imposed limited quota
  - Reduced access; maintain public access

Group 2

Top 3 Concerns:

- Less ATV traffic (fewer road hunters)
- Acceptable to sacrifice some opportunity to see high quality deer
- Ability to hunt different parts of state at different times in fall

  - Lower hunter densities
  - Less ATV traffic
  - Fewer road hunters
Opportunity to kill a deer for meat
Seeing deer legal to harvest
Acceptable to sacrifice some opportunity to see high quality of deer
High quality deer (26”, mature 4 point)
No access fees to hunt (public land with animals on public land)
Ability to park, wander/ hike while hunting
Ability to hunt different parts of state at different times in fall
Very few deer and lots of people/vehicles = bad hunt

Group 3
Top 3 Concerns:
- Less crowded environment
- More hunting days in the season within SWR and Sweetwater herds
- Greater chance to see mature bucks

Opportunity to see deer, chance to see nice buck in the season
Not see 50 other hunters while I’m out there
Like to see “legal” deer
Like to hunt every year
More time available in a season
More access to areas to hunt
Like to go deer hunting, don’t want it to disappear
Don’t have to go every year, but want to see deer when I go
I want a quality hunt (limited hunters, more season length, out in nature, no abuse from ATVs)
To see more antlered deer
To see more ethical “hunters” not more killers (poachers)
To see less feral horses

Group 4
Top 3 Concerns:
- At least be able to see mature bucks in the field (3+ old bucks)
- To engage youth provide hunting opportunity every year (giving them good experience-not rushed-not crowded-education ethics-opportunity-family)
- Nice just seeing more deer, all deer (bucks and does)

Lengthen seasons to spread hunters out. Instead of packing all hunters into 5 days- spread it out over a length of time
Promote ethical hunting/hunters which will help open access with landowners (education)
The experience is what matters. Placing a monetary value on this animal decreases the pleasure of the opportunity
Every year hunting applies to everyone, including youth
Being able to find mule deer on public land in good numbers
Gear certain hunter management areas toward certain groups to help landowners provide opportunity without a free for all
Lots of hunters taking unethical shots takes away from a quality experience
Educate hunters on how to hunt mule deer
Wyoming has good access compared to many places. Maintain that and keep working with landowners.

Mule deer cover a lot of country—hunters do not. Maintain open county.

Roads—way more than there used to be—more people covering more country. Shutting down roads?

**Group 5**

**Top 3 Concerns:**

- Fewer hunters on ATVs
- Seeing quality habitat supporting more deer
- Improved ethics and courtesy (G&F presence)

**Group 6**

**Top 3 Concerns:**

- Opportunities for family experience
- Increase understanding of mule deer ecology and habitat (increase habitat)
- Increase hunter experience via less high densities of simultaneous hunters (better management of people)

- Too many simultaneous hunters
- Effective control of ATV use
- Increase deer population and better distribution (e.g. less high density concentration)
- Increase habitat quality and less fragmentation escape cover to hold deer on mountain
- Opportunity to harvest any deer every year
- A lot of mature bucks in the field
- Natural habitat environment (all wildlife, keep on public land, calm animals, not just trying to get away)
- See more mule deer than white tail deer—at least a balance
- Increase access to WTD/late season
o Better understanding of mule deer (migration, disease, seasonal habitat selection, predation)
o Do not want to see wolves
o Like to see youth support in the field. Less competition with youth hunters
o Family, family, family
o Improved understanding of hunter self-policing

Group 7
Top 3 Concerns:
- Lower hunter density
- More opportunity for youth
- Seeing lots of diverse wildlife healthy habitat

Group 8
Top 3 Concerns:
- Diverse opportunity
- Multiple species seen with healthy populations so interspecific competition doesn’t adversely impact certain species (quality not defined by quantity)
- Quality habitat conditions

o Quality of deer (not just bucks)
o Quantity of deer
o Not seeing other/any human impacts (i.e. solitude in nature)
o Less hunters/ less crowding
o Localized/ concentrated hunter crowding is an issue
o Other hunters respecting private property rights
o Multiple species seen with healthy populations so interspecific competition doesn’t adversely impact certain species (quality not defined by quantity)
o More big bucks
o Antler point restrictions produce bigger bucks
o Being in quality habitat conditions
o Harvesting mature deer without antler point restrictions (5+ years)
o Ability to harvest young deer (tender meat desired)
o Ability to harvest does (meat hunting vs. trophy hunting)
- Vehicles kept on roads & not ridgelines (respect laws in place)
- Success of harvest
- WGFD presence in field
- Expectation of stakeholder participation in management decisions
- Value stakeholder input
- Access to hunt (not just on private land)
- Ability to bow and rifle hunt
- Diverse opportunity