Meeting Objectives

1. Develop an Understanding of Collaborative Learning
2. Background and Present conditions
3. Identify issues and interests related to Wyoming Mule Deer Herd
4. Collaboratively determine next steps

Main Points Group 1, Mark Gocke, Facilitator

1. Quality of hunting experience (i.e. number of hunters)
2. More deer habitat & more deer—G&F leading agency to Co-op with Fed & private landowners
3. A later common opener—related to quality of hunting experience
4. Prioritize & provide the necessary tools to manage the herd (e.g. enforcement, aerial surveys, age data, etc.)

Group 1 Notes — Concerns and Interests

- Too many hunters
- North Hunt areas open too early
  - Hoback, Greys, Salt, Piney (143, 144, 145)
  - Later people are hunting elk
  - Warm temps-meat issue
- Why hunt does on general license when we’re below objective
- Need to quantify predation rates on fawn mule deer specifically
- Habitat: Need aggressive approach to habitat projects
- Need better cooperation to achieve habitat improvements (state, Fed, landowner) w/ WGFD as lead agency
- Poaching more field presence
- Oil & gas impacts
  - Some good changes being done to mitigate impacts, but could be more. There’s money to be spent
- Management decisions should be based on science vs. polls (public opinion)
  - (Trophy class, attitude survey?)
  - Age data should be used more and aerial surveys
- Quality of hunting experience (supports standard openers)
  - More hunters penetrating backcountry
- ATVs—enforcement is needed, cooperate with Feds
Main Points Group 2, Susan Boston & Gary Fralick, Facilitators

1. Livestock grazing & effects on habitat & disturbance during hunt—**Improve Habitat**
2. OHV use on wildlife habitat & populations/increased enforcement of ATV use
3. Hunter densities—number 1st two weeks of the season; associated enforcement issues
4. Enforcement of game laws re: stops at check stations
5. Opposition to doe hunt
6. More analysis of effects of predation on mule deer

**Group 2 Notes — Concerns and Interests**
- Underpasses are good
  - More underpasses to limit highway mortality
- Consider more info to public regarding benefits of underpasses (*brought up in terms of national media*)
- OV use impacts wildlife on summer/winter ranges
  - More enforcement—BLM, WGFD, support
-Opposed to doe hunt
- Harvest of healthy does impacts herd
  - Healthy does carry the fetuses
- Additional enforcement in back country in Greys River (HA 144)
- OHV—negative impacts on wildlife/habitat
- Increased public awareness of open/closed trails
  - Roads with signing
- Concerns with wolves & grizzly bear moving into Wyoming Range
- Concern with wolf predation on deer
- Initiate research regarding affects of predation on populations; analyze historical data
  - Develop model source that generates several simulations w/ and w/out effect of predation
  - Funding eg. NSF
- Livestock grazing
  - Season of use/AOP (annual operating plan)
  - Fed enforcement of AOP
- ID season of use by grazing guidelines in allotment management plan
- Livestock grazing affects deer hunt
- Communicate: USFS/BLM and livestock producers regarding livestock timing
- Hunter densities
  - Special permits (limited entry) benefit
  - Decrease hunter crowding (e.g. Greys/Hoback)
  - Most crowding occurs in first 7-10 days
- Livestock grazing issue: effects on habitat l& arrival of livestock on deer ranges/backcountry
- Thistle control in disturbed areas (e.g. timber harvest/clearcuts)

Main Points Group 3, Jessica Clement, Facilitator

1. Winter range needs to be improved in terms of higher quality vegetation and reduced fragmentation due to development roads, oil& gas
2. Deer need to be protected from threats related to traffic, fences, poaching and disturbance
3. Allow seasonal movement despite fences, highways, development

**Group 3 Notes — Concerns and Interests**
- Fragmentation of winter range by oil & gas, power line corridors
- Loss of access to habitat due to oil & gas development
- Declining quality of winter habitat
  - Lack of controlled burns
  - Need to regeneration
  - Mitigation from oil & gas companies for habitat improvement
- Underpasses are great, we need more of them
  - Especially area between Labarge and Big Piney to Daniel—better for animals, insurance rates, saves lives.
- Reduce stressing animals by reducing traffic on WY Range—more winter closures
- Predation is a problem
  - Mountain lions
  - Address wolves when we can
- Fences are an issue—need to be more wildlife friendly
  - BLM needs to use WGFD guidelines and pass info to private landowners
- Improved cooperation on habitat management—would like to see WGFD have more influence when BLM makes decisions
- Winter range is key limiting factor for deer population health
- Concern on winter range that wind turbines and related roads will further fragment habitat and decrease access
- Want more older age class bucks
- CWD (chronic wasting disease) is a possible threat
- Concern regarding elk0deer competition for browse, especially aspen
- Poaching on the winter range is big concern00they’re at their most vulnerable
- Opportunity to hunt has improved—season length was increased
- Need more education on issues (eg. habitat problems, underpasses)
  - Need to know successes
- This collaborative learning process more productive than e.g. what happened in auditorium
- Land ownership cooperation with WGFD

**Main Points Group 4, Daryl Lutz, Facilitator**
1. Too many hunters
2. Season open too long results in too great a harvest decrease deer numbers and hunt quality
3. Enforcement of road closures
   a. Unethical hunting result
4. Pioneering illegal roads

**Group 4 Notes — Concerns and Interests**
- Too many hunters
  - Common opening date
  - Affecting hunting quality
• Season open too long results in too great a harvest decrease deer numbers and hunt quality
• Enforcement of road closures
  o Unethical hunting result
• Pioneering illegal roads
• Habitat
  o Lack of young plants; competition with other species
  o Overuse of vegetation by cattle & elk
  o Oil/gas development ion winter range (i.e. Dry Piney Creek)
  o Need to pursue more rigorous on-site mitigation
  o Urban development/sprawl—5-10 acre ranchettes—protect open spaces
  o Balance
  o Need more early succession veg. Communities to protect against effect of drought & other natural disasters (i.e. hard winters, wildfires)
  o Need to increase cooperation to enhance habitats. There also needs to be increased accountability to ensure it happens
  o Protection of migration corridors
  o Develop & preserve habitats for mule deer
  o Need to develop common ground with Feds to improve deer habitat
  o Need to better control livestock grazing
• Predation is impacting deer pop (i.e. Fawn production/survival and adult mortality)
  o Greater impact because predator pops have increased
  o Need to gain state management of grizzly bears & wolves
• Deer disturbance on winter ranges
• Money for management including habitat enhancements
• Highway mortality

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**Evaluation**

**PLUS (positive aspects)**

• Thank you for including our input in management plan process
• Collaborative learning
• Time was good

**DELTA (things that could be changed)**

• Question & answer after presentations
• Advertise better
  o Newspaper
  o Radio (local)
• Bring other agencies to the table
• Find more opportunities to build partnerships with sportsmen
• More locations