

Wyoming Game and Fish
Wyoming Range Mule Deer Management Plan
Collaborative Learning Process
Kemmerer Workshop Notes
August 25, 2010
6:00 – 9:00 pm

Meeting Objectives

1. Game and Fish Staff Present Main Themes in Panel Discussions
2. Public Questions and Answer opportunity for Panels
3. Small group break outs to discuss solutions

Group 1 – Jessica Clement, Facilitator

Habitat

1. Improvements
 - a. Brush improvements
 - b. Focus on historic winter range- what can historical data tell us about what are optimum conditions for deer? – Eg. look at BLM and USFS data
 - c. Improve riparian areas by improving grazing management and reducing weeds
 - d. Decrease invasive species
2. Protection
 - a. Reduce erosion caused by ATVS and off-road travel. Increase enforcement of travel regulations
 - b. **Provide mandates on seeding specifications on pipeline, reclaims, etc in relation to oil and gas development
3. Measurements
 - a. ***Have a mandatory hunters survey
4. Limiting Factors
 - a. Coordinate with other WGFD folks to reduce competition between ungulates, cattle and deer
 - i. Ensure there's enough habitat for all species, ideally
 - b. Too many hunters, seems like there are more hunters every year
 - i. Increase tag price
 - c. **Limited entry area – do away with general tag – pick the area
 - d. **Choose your weapon
5. Research
 - a. See habitat – look at and obtain historical data
 - b. Sample forage for nutritional quality
 - c. More social science – need to get a better grip on Human Dimensions
6. Quality of the Hunt
 - a. Pick your area
 - b. Pick your weapon
 - c. Don't bring dogs

- d. Reduce spotter crowds, fairness issue
 - e. Restrict electronics – 3 of vehicles per tag, fairness issue
 - f. Encourage hunters to do the right thing
7. Predator Management
- a. State control of wolves and grizzlies

Partnerships

- 1. Volunteers to help with project work
 - a. Require starting organization
- 2. WGFD utilize more interns – could be nationwide

The Plan

- When changes are implemented get social and ecological data to maintain to show whether something works or not
- Have follow-up public meetings to help keep the conversation going forward, adaptive management

Group 2 - Mark Gocke, Facilitator

Habitat

- Promote the planting of native browse species in reclamation areas (vs. crested wheat)
 - Eg. Update federal standards – GF needs to work with the Feds
 - Need to change mindset from killing all sagebrush for grass
 - GF could develop a seed mixture and promote it via Dept of Ag mailings, brochures
 - Public needs to put pressure on private companies
 - Consolidate tank batteries, lateral drilling, minimize roads (BLM, State lands, come USFS)
 - Hold federal agencies to wildlife standards
 - Help sportsmen know how to engage in the process, habitat issues

Population Management

- Promote lower speed zones (like school zones) when certain mortality thresholds are met = higher penalties
- Implement standard opening and closing dates
- Seek authority for GF to enforce federal OHV regs and possibly create a state reg as well (e.g. illegal to hunt from OHVs in Wyoming range or certain hunt areas, method of take)
- Promote hunting strategies that promote older age-class deer/bucks
- Limit hunter #s to possibly process residents to choose a region or hunt area
- Tie average age of harvest to special management criteria
- Educate the public about killing barren does or “inferior” doe/bucks

Plus

- Smaller small groups – 6 – 8 people
- Number of GF staff
- No red shirts

- Glad GF is doing this process

Delta

- More people, participants
- BELL (!) – something more culturally appropriate, animal call?
- Get the word out better
- Send reminders to previous meeting participants
- Put flyers in grocery stores
- Encourage local MFD representative to attend
- Invite area managers and district rangers

Compiled by Elaine Walsh Carney 8/26/10