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
   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)
  o Eg. Update federal standards – GF needs to work with the Feds
  o Need to change mindset from killing all sagebrush for grass
  o GF could develop a seed mixture and promote is via Dept of Ag mailings, brochures
  o Public needs to put pressure on private companies
  o Consolidate tank batteries, lateral drilling, minimize roads (BLM, State lands, come USFS)
  o Hold federal agencies to wildlife standards
  o 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