Wyoming Game and Fish  
Wyoming Range Mule Deer Management Plan  
Collaborative Learning Process  
Marbleton Workshop Notes  
August 23, 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

- **Finding a way of resting treatment from livestock grazing for 2 -5 years; forage reserve (ie leasing private property, federal allotments, with livestock grazing associations)
- NEPA Process; need more public collaborations  
  - Look for future USFS Planning Regs  
  - MIS (Management Indicator Spp.) Analysis
- Trade off? Livestock use of treatment vs. wildlife use for 2-5 year rest period

Population Management

A. Quality of the Hunt

1. ** Make all HAs in Region G open on the same date; spreads out hunting pressure  
2. 3 Options for general license hunt – Must pick one opener 9/15, 9/25, 10/1  
3. Sportmen’s support letter for wildlife underpass project

B. Limiting Factors

1. Work with BLM on oil/gas development with mitigation measures (is don’t site well pads and roads on top of ridges)  
2. ***Establish partnerships for oil and gas mitigation

C. Research

1. Hunt regulation for mandatory reporting of bug game harvest

D. Quality of the Hunt cont’d

- Expand hunting area size to one large geographic area and have separate seasons for archery, rifle (no overlaps)

E. Predation

- Maintain liberal mountain lion quotas

F. Sportsmen Accountability

- More WYGF personnel in the field
- Detail WGFD personnel from areas w/o open seasons to Western Wyoming for 9/15 opener (ie more check stations other than Alpine)

**Partnerships**

A. Oil and Gas Mitigation efforts  
B. Working with grazing associations for 4s rest re treatments  
C. County by County Mule Deer Working Groups- Sportsmen, USFS, BLM, WGFD  
D. Establish working relationships re: ATV OHV users with USFS, BLM and Recreation Groups

**Group 2 – Mark Gocke, Facilitator**

**Habitat**

- Public forums on habitat quality  
  - Mule deer needs first (eats)  
  - Includes nutritional quality  
- Utilize media for public information  
  - Eye catching formats, pictures  
- Handouts at check-in stations  
- Concentrate on winter ranges  
- Utilize partnerships for mowing (i.e. Exxon)  
- Utilize partnerships for personnel/staffing  
- Manage habitat for populations (and vice versa)  
  - Don’t try to maintain unsuitable deer numbers  
- Habitat protection should be completed with partnerships  
- Habitat improvements should be in the hands of wildlife biologists  
- Support wildland fires and prescribed burns  
- Fires suppression – “Let it burn” on deer ranges  
- Sensitive species (ESA) interferes with some deer projects  
  - Sage grouse  
  - Lynx

**Population Management**

- Need more highway passages for deer  
  - Need GF to education on success of safe passages  
  - Publicize success (WYDOT)  
- Legislation “too fast for condition” to include wildlife hazards  
- Manage other wildlife (elk) to compete with mule deer  
  - Address elk herds that are over the objective  
- Opening date - move Wyoming Range to October 1  
  - Results in shorter seasons on north half of Wyoming Range  
  - More science – less politics in deer management
Partnerships
- Involve federal partners in these meetings
- Support projects/federal agencies when proposed
- Federal agencies should be in mule deer working groups
- Show improvements from partnership projects
  - Showcase
  - Show progress
  - Give partners credit for successes/projects
  - Youth hunter recruitment – need to encourage more involvement
  - Special youth opportunity – early season dates

Plus
- Time management
- Information was short, sweet, concise with good examples

Compiled by Elaine Walsh Carney 8/26/10