

**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
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### Plus

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

Compiled by Elaine Walsh Carney 8/26/10