



**WDFW Enforcement Program Advisory Committee
June 25th, 2011
1000-1300
Dept. of Natural Resources, Ellensburg, WA**

Members in Attendance	
Bob Holtfreter, Chair	Dave Croonquist
David Robinson	Don Gulliford
Robin Hickok	Lyle Cabe
Ed Owens	Ed Scullywest
Dave Ruffin	Jay Webster
Andrew Hamilton	
WDFW Staff:	
Mike Cenci, Deputy Chief	Chris Anderson, Captain Region 2
Mike Sprecher, Sergeant Region 3	Sean Carrell, Problem Wildlife Coord.
Members Absent:	
Dean Byus	Eric Granstrom
John Suessman	Ron Oules, Vice Chair
Kelly Riordan	Terry Abrams

Deputy Chief Mike Cenci convened meeting at 1000

[February 2011 Meeting Minutes Reviewed and Approved](#)

Intro, and/or announcements:

Advisory group gave brief introductions around the table. Chair Bob Holtfreter requested additions or corrections to the agenda. Motion moved to approve minutes from February's meeting.

New Business:

Deer/elk Conflict Specialist, Anthony Novack, presented information on "Assessment of Illegal Behavior by elk hunters in Washington State." Novack gave a brief introduction on master hunter requirements and the association with elk damage. Survey compiled using folks from Cabelas. Survey randomly selected individuals. Anonymous sample

questions were given and the group participated. Deputy Chief Cenci asked what the original intent was of the survey. Novack advised that it is a gauge of how well the program is run. Captain Chris Anderson advised that it's a good way to gauge enforcement and compliance rates. Deputy Chief Cenci and Captain Anderson advised that "intent" should be removed. Conduct the survey without the intent piece and just advise those taking the survey if they've committed a violation and should be used for all populous. Ed Owens suggested that this committee go through a focus group to structure the questions. Need a larger group of folks than 72. Chair Holtfreter advised that it was only a pilot. Owens advised that it should be bigger. There are 1900 master hunters. Owens suggested surveying all the master hunters. Novack's question to the group is whether "Have you illegally killed an elk/deer within the past two years?" Novack asked if it should be changed. Chair Holtfreter asked if the procedures that were used are valid enough and whether or not participants knew that they were anonymous. Ed Scullywest asked if by saying "have" in the sample question was too accusatory and should it be stated as so folks admit to "knowing." Chair Holtfreter asked if this test is going to be given to existing master hunters and new ones as well. Dave Croonquist advised that the survey should include reported as well. Owens suggested that Dave's idea on reported is a good idea. Novack further discussed other objectives about deer/elk management. Owens suggested that the hunting clubs listed aren't necessarily a group interested in hunting or conservation (such as the NRA, or the Kitsap Rifle and Revolver Range). Owens suggested that another question be added to include information about Eyes in the Woods. Chair Holtfreter just asked how you quantify the predation losses. Novack advised that it's done by collared elk. Croonquist asked if cost should be a question included in the survey to understand the fiscal opportunities that hunting provides to this state. Dave Ruffin asked what percentage of hunting opportunities is seen in the master hunter category. Sergeant Mike Sprecher advised that its failure to tag, trespassing, or shooting a bull instead of a cow. Ruffin advised that those that have committed a violation will continue in the future. Violations will still occur. Captain Anderson advised that some may apply to be a master hunter in order to get into additional poaching. Owens believes that the intent of the program was to give WDFW the tools to pull folks from the program. Captain Anderson believes that the department limited the number of violators from the program. Sergeant Sprecher advised that prior the program was terribly broken. Owens asked if the perception of damage vs. pilot program has created a better environment. Novack suggested that it has, but not there yet. Lyle Cabe asked what currently happens with a master hunter violation. Sergeant Sprecher advised that if they are in violation, he can pull the permit. Will depend on court interpretation and disposition on whether not he/she will get their card back. Owens asked if the pilot damage program has worked. Sergeant Sprecher advised that it has been invaluable to allow enforcement staff to enforce the rules and regulations of this state instead of herding/hazing deer or elk. Deputy Chief Cenci also advised that in fact this is true and has placed the proactive tools back in the hands of the wildlife managers and landowners responding to deer/elk damage where it should be.

Novack asked the group about WDFW bonus point and if the current policy is effective. If you are an agency employee, or spouse, or parent, if you turn in an employee you are not allowed bonus points. There is a perception that the current policy is an unfair

business practice. Agency employees have an obligation to report whether on, or off duty. This is an agency policy. Chair Holtfreter asked that we go around the group. Webster thought it would be a benefit. Scullywest thought it would shine light on the program that is not necessary. Don Gulliford agreed. Ruffin thinks that employees should, but family members are exempt. They are not employees. Dave Robinson, Lyle Cabe, Dave Croonquist, and Chair Bob Holtfreter felt the same way. Owens suggested that this group make an assessment based on the group. Deputy Chief Cenci believes that a letter from the Chief would be best. **Action item: Forward Chair Holtfreter policy 5.87 on bonus points.**

Legislative: Owens advised that this was a hard year. Omnibus bill was defunct and efforts were pointed towards money. The 2011-2012 session is going to see legislative activity. Any bills that had controversy died on the vine. The bottom-line was all budget; very little natural resource issues and bills came up, nor considered. WDFW was relatively protected, although there are issues that still need to be addressed. There was a spree killing bill that was passed; Deputy Chief Cenci said the omnibus bill had a lot of support. Title 77.15 bill still needs a lot of work. WDFW will come back next year with some other major fixes. Title was too broad. Separate items and strengthen the title. Concepts will be provided so that the group is aware of the issues; intentional feeding of wildlife and most of what was presented to the group last year. There needs to be changes to the commercial licensing arena, and spotlighting too. Deputy Chief Cenci asked that the group prepare to review that information. Deputy Chief Cenci has drafted a regulation. Croonquist advised that they developed such a regulation in Colorado and made it illegal, unless allowed under rule by the Commission. **Action item: draft WAC on hunting at night.** Owens suggested not waiting for our next meeting. Need to have something by July 15th from the Deputy Chief. No need to take to legislature, but through the commission instead that involves public involvement.

Budget: Deputy Chief Cenci stated a number of bills that passed that will assist with the agency's budget. However, there's still some question on how they will impact WDFW. There are a number of enforcement FTE's built in to the bills, but crab endorsement has increased. Not only is there a license for crab, there's a \$2.50 increase for crab endorsement. A dollar will go to derelict gear and the other \$1.50 will go towards law enforcement and have dedicated officer for Puget Sound law enforcement. Deputy Chief Cenci has requested two officers and one detective. The major issues with tribal fisheries are fish receiving tickets. Croonquist advised that their groups are using some outreach/education efforts on how to fill out catch record cards, soft shell crabs, and these efforts are going to assist with this major effort. Discovery Pass identifies two officers in the fiscal note. WDFW still has major budget holes to fill. Habitat is one program that the agency is going to try to fill. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that if the Chief were here, he could probably explain what those impacts will be. Owens advised that there is still some interest at the national level in regards to injecting funding back into the natural resources. Owens advised that there's a matching grant associated to this funding. Deputy Chief Cenci thought that we fared pretty well as compared to the rest of WDFW. There's support for law enforcement. Deputy Chief Cenci also advised that under public safety, Enforcement must continue to make the argument that these entities must support

law enforcement, instead of just hunters and fishers. Natural resource protection should be a value for all state citizens, not just those individuals support through license fees and passes. Owens advised that there are budget discussions that are occurring right.

Lighted nocks for archery & arrow weight: Scullywest advised that an arrow weight per arrow is off because of bow changes. Instead of 6 grains, there is a suggestion in regards to 5 grains in hopes to keep those requirements stable with the development of the equipment. Group did not object.

Vehicle Access Pass/Discovery Pass: Jay Webster advised that the concern and inconsistencies are around the vehicle access pass. The user group inconsistencies are grossly imbalanced; non consumptive users are not fitting the bill. Deputy Chief Cenci advised that there should not be inconsistencies. Both the vehicle access pass and discovery pass will be enforced. Vehicle Access Pass monies went directly to the Wildlife Fund, not enforcement. The Discovery Pass, which will generate two fte's, efforts is going to be law enforcement, not meter maids. Staff responsible for enforcing this regulation can assist with other law enforcement related activities. Non-commissioned agency staff will not be able to provide the opportunity. The Discovery Pass will be required for all state parks and DNR land.

Tribal Hunting on DNR Land: Seems to be some confusion on the activity in regards to this authorized activity. It was not requested as an agenda item. Deputy Chief Cenci suggested that this agenda item be tabled for another meeting. Owens suggested that we get another update like we had two to three years ago at Hyak.

Cougar/wolf depredation: Owens advised that there were some Commission presentations in regards to cougar depredation and predator management, such as poaching of cougar and making it a criminal assessment penalty. There is going to be additional information that should be published in February for our next meeting.

Old Business:

CODY case management: Sean Carrell briefed the group about the next phase of CODY deployment and CAD and other technology acquisitions.

Re-organization: Deputy Chief Cenci advised that Enforcement had eliminated a land captain position and merged into a marine position. Region 5 is handling those land responsibilities now. Staff have been shuffled in Skamania County and have developed a Marine Detachment in the Columbia River.

Conclusion/Next meeting: Scheduling of next meeting. February 4th or February 11th. Sean has agreed to send out a Doodle Survey for available dates in October, or November, and December.

Requested Action Items:

- Policy 5.87 on bonus points for agency personnel
- Draft WAC on hunting at night

Topics for Future Discussion:

- Pre and post legislative issues
- KBD Program
- Update on Wildlife Crime Stoppers by Lieutenant Steve Crown
- Presentation on scope of problems on WDFW land use
- Social Media Project

Next meeting: Video Conference Call, Saturday, November 19th, from 1000-1200. The agenda will be sent out before the meeting with information on topics for discussion.