



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES MAY 12, 2010

1. Introduction

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance, USVEMG President David Willson presiding. Visitors welcomed including Kristen Winter and Myles Clark visiting from Central Washington University. Secretary Gary Fancher read the revised minutes from the April general meeting. Don Hacherl motioned to approve the minutes, Tim McBride seconded the motion. The April minutes were approved with a unanimous vote from the full membership.

2. Officer Elections for the 2010-11 Term

No additional nominations to officers were made. Tim McBride motioned to elect verified nominees David Willson as president, Harold Erland as vice president, Jim Gildersleeve as treasurer and unverified nominee Sam Metzler as secretary with terms beginning June 1, 2010 and expiring May 31, 2011. Gary Fancher seconded the motion. The motioned passed with a unanimous vote from the full membership.

3. Kristen Winter: Thesis research developing Wildlife Management Models

Kristen Winter, a graduate student from Central Washington University discussed her thesis project and her interest in interviewing various stakeholders from the elk management group. The key areas of her study involve stakeholder collaboration, community involvement, and conflict resolution. Kristen plans to conduct confidential interviews within the elk group this summer between June and August. She is seeking a better understanding of the elk problem, elk management, and individual perceptions. Interested members and honorary members in affiliated agencies should contact Kalli Willson to schedule an interview with Kristen Winters.

Kalli Willson asked, "Why us?" Kristen's response: Your group sets a good example of developing a wildlife management plan. Also, there is the integration of GIS as part of the plan; models generated by GIS data analysis may enhance collaboration.

4. People and Land Management (PLM) Committee Report by Maura Callahan, Committee Chair

At the committee meeting on May 4, Rick Oakley of Washington State Parks (rick.oakley@parks.wa.gov) discussed the agency's Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) for Olallie State Park. The program discusses resource-based recreation, land classification, family-oriented campsites, and natural forest designation for conservation or preservation. The plan for Olallie State Park has reverted to phase 2 which is a public comment period. The plan has no mention of wildlife except in the context of natural forest designation. The PLM committee members raised this as a concern regarding elk management issues which Mr. Oakley said he would pass on. He encourages others to review the plan for Olallie State Park at the state park website which is this link:

<http://www.parks.wa.gov/plans/olallie/>

Harold Erland presented data to substantiate proposed wildlife corridors within the North Bend city limits. The North Bend Planning Commission denied the elk group's corridor recommendation 3 against, 2 in favor, one absent; the matter was reverted to city council. According to North Bend Economic and Community Development Senior Planner Mike McCarty, the matter has since been reverted back to the Planning Commission by the council pending further information from the Department of Fish and Wildlife including GIS mapping information which will be discussed at the next elk group general meeting on June 9.

Mr. McCarty provided some insight on the North Bend Planning Commission decision. The matter before the commission pitches protections for wildlife against ability to develop personal property. However, given the city's investment in the elk group through the purchase of collars, the city may yet reach another decision on the matter. Currently the city has no provision for wildlife corridors. However the state GMA still provides the SEPA process which is where wildlife management designs can be considered on a case by case basis.

UPPER SNOQUALMIE VALLEY ELK MANAGEMENT GROUP
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2010

- 2 -

Cameras were placed at the South Fork Bridge and Snoqualmie Valley Trail underpass; some images of passing elk were captured. Also a master hunter crew was assembled to repair windfall damaged fencing along the westbound lanes of I-90 between mile 27 and 32. There is the outstanding issue of who will pay for the fence materials.

Gary Fancher thanked Mr. McCarty for his interest in helping the elk group work with the city on the matter of wildlife corridors.

There are parcels of substantial area adjacent to Olallie State Park which the state park agency manages or plans to acquire and manage including the south slope of the South Fork canyon to the Cedar River drainage and part of Grouse Ridge including the Fire Training Academy site. Mr. Gildersleeve registered his concern that this appears as a land grab and that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may be an agency better suited to manage forest lands. Mr. Erland noted that these regions used to be tree farms providing early seral habitat. Tim McBride noted that the park management plan must be a holistic and not preclude early seral stages which are ideal for elk. Hunting is not allowed on state park land.

For the benefit of non-biologists, seral stages means the series of relatively transitory plant communities that develop during ecological succession from bare ground to the climax stage.

5. Education and Outreach (E&O) Committee Report by Kalli Willson, Committee Chair

Kalli needs additional volunteers to help with education and outreach. It is too much work for one person to do.

Last year we had space donated by Nels Melgard, owner of The Nursery at Mount Si. The fee for setting up a booth at the Festival at Mount Si in North Bend is \$55 and the deadline to register and reserve a space for a booth is the end of June. It is time to start planning for the festival. Last year we received second place in the parade. This year, we may yet beat Mount Si Transitional Center and capture first place.

A class "Elk in our Ecosystem" hosted by Harold Erland, Mary Norton, and Tom Kemp will be held at Meadowbrook Farm on Saturday, May 22.

All teachers in Washington are required to accumulate a quota of credits or clock hours every five years. As a non-profit organization collaborating with the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the elk group can become a provider of clock hours. Prior to certification as a provider, the state requires a sampling of the elk group's lesson plans. Time willing, Kalli will prepare lesson plans for this program. She stresses again that she needs some relief for other E&O committee obligations.

Myles Clark from Central Washington University has been researching for the elk group what other school districts have been doing to get teachers on board with GIS technology. A few of the essentials are:

1. The teacher is interested in learning GIS and spreading the word.
2. The school needs the software; some web-based versions are available.
3. The school needs someone to know how to operate the software.
4. The school board and principal needs to be involved and interested.

6. Elk Research and Management (ERM) Committee Report by Harold Erland, Committee Chair

Matt Campbell sent a thank you letter to the elk group. (His letter is attached below)

More people are realizing now that our efforts are working.

Mr. Kelly McAllister, wildlife biologist for the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Ms. Chris Kramer from the University of Utah, authority in the entire West on elk wildlife crossings, cameras were installed on I-90 crossings in April. A number of the cameras were found and vandalized. However Ms. Kramer noted that in particular the bridges at the South Fork crossing are ideal as elk around here are not afraid of human scent.

Maps were circulated for review showing GIS collar data points in the east end of North Bend. The same maps were also presented at the North Bend Planning Commission meeting. The maps show the elk near or on the DOT/Segale/John Day development area. The Mountains to Sound group is working on converting the DOT property to conservation use.

Elk collaring will resume July 15. David Vales, wildlife biologist for the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, indicates that darting will not start until cows stop lactating sometime in October. The goal is to trap and collar seven elk by then. Traps will be checked at 4 a.m., noon, and 8 p.m. daily. There are more daylight hours during this period and the elk have calves which can leave the separated cow or calf exposed to predators including bear, cougar, and coyotes.

UPPER SNOQUALMIE VALLEY ELK MANAGEMENT GROUP
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2010

- 3 -

0.52 acres of "linear meadow" have been cleared at the CCC Flats elk habitat improvement test site. The corridors are 25 feet wide. Mr. Erland commented that while he was working there he heard a bear clearing an area below. The final batch of seed has arrived. The seed arrived in separate packages and the mix needs to be prepared manually, measuring seeds by weight. Tom Kemp and Cesar Carrion, project coordinators will announce the date for the next work party when they return to North Bend. Mr. Merclich and Mr. Erland will be working at the CCC Flats on May 15.

Gary Fancher asked about road speeds at North Bend Way in the vicinity of the Tanner Crossing. Mike McCarty responded that the road section is entirely within North Bend city limits and that the city is the sole entity determining the speed limit for the road there. It is likely that the speed limit in that section will be adjusted as needed.

7. Fundraising Committee by Jim Gildersleeve, Committee Chair

The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Grant decision has been made and a letter from the DFW will be forthcoming in a few days. There are a number of additional grants that Mr. Gildersleeve is working on including a habitat improvement grant with King County.

8. Request to Renew Memberships for the 2010-11 Membership Year

Memberships are \$10. Please mail your membership dues or make your check payable to:

USVEMG
P.O. Box 700
North Bend WA 98045

Recess

9. Board of Directors Attendance

Joe Merclich has resigned as director representing the hunters stakeholder group. Taking his place are Jeff Dideon as director and George Goundry as alternate. A quorum was present for the meeting including:

David Willson President	Maura Callahan Representing Wildlife Enthusiasts
Jim Gildersleeve Vice President	Don Hacherl Representing Small Property Owners
Gary Fancher Secretary	Harold Erland Representing Commercial Interests
Jeff Dideon Representing Hunters	Tim McBride Representing Timber Interests

10. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer-elect Jim Gildersleeve reported a beginning balance of \$2115.02. Revenues including \$10 in dues and \$3500.00 from the City of Snoqualmie for the population study for a subtotal \$5625.02. We had two disbursements for seeds and VHF collars in the amount of \$926.57 with an ending balance of \$4698.45 the amount verified online. Jim recommended that the board approve the report. Mr. Fancher motioned to approve the report, Mr. Hacherl seconded the motion. The motion to approve was unanimous.

11. Proposal to Amend the Bylaws to Create a Tiered Membership Scheme

Mr. Gildersleeve proposed an amendment as follows:

Proposed Amendment 5:

Add to paragraph 3.2 first sentence: "or purchase a Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Life Membership. Bronze memberships are effective for five years and cost \$40. Silver memberships are effective for ten years and cost \$80. Gold memberships are effective for 15 years and cost \$115. Life memberships are effective for life and cost \$250."

Add a paragraph 3.3 and place the remainder of paragraph 3.2 in it, i.e. "3.3. Official representatives of governmental entities are members..."

UPPER SNOQUALMIE VALLEY ELK MANAGEMENT GROUP
GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2010

- 4 -

Mr. Hacherl noted that this was time shifting of funds, that the elk group would receive less over time. Mr. Stokke mentioned that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation uses a similar tiered structure, but treats the tiers as single year donations. Mr. Gildersleeve added that memberships are typically not a tax write off, but donations are less the cost of goods received. Mr. Goundry noted that some membership fees can be legitimate business expenses. It was agreed that a refinement to the tiered membership scheme could be crafted prior to the June general meeting.

12. Vacancies in Director Positions

Election of Harold Erland to Vice President creates a vacancy in the board of directors for commercial interests. The board agreed that Tom Kemp, currently a citizen-at-large director could represent the commercial interest director position. Matt Campbell is recognized as an alternate director for the commercial interests' director position. Vacancies in other director positions can be filled at the beginning of the June general meeting.

13. For the Good of the Order

Kalli Willson: Regarding the newspaper, paid advertisements trump EMG bulletins. A one inch by one inch ad depends on category. The library ads that we see are free to the library; these are arbitrarily selected by the editor based on perceived relevance to the community or just the length of the announcement. If we need an announcement to be in the paper, we will need to pay for it to ensure our placement.

Pat Young: Regarding bulletins, put bulletins on grocery store windows and at the post office.

Kalli Willson: Regarding the Festival at Mount Si, VistaPrint.com offers a 6ft by 3.5ft outdoor vinyl banner for \$42.00 including shipping. We can submit items for the silent auction at the festival. It does not raise money for the elk group, but it does build name recognition as donated by will be next to the item.

David Willson: Last year, master hunter volunteers manning the booth at the fair could use the time spent there discussing the elk group projects with the community as qualified volunteer hours as part of the objective of improving hunter/landowner relationships.

Jim Gildersleeve: Requested that we take a moment to recognize the service of Department of Fish and Wildlife biologist Russell Link who plans to attend the next general meeting on June 9.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

From: Matt Campbell
Date: Sat, May 8, 2010 at 6:24 PM
Subject: Thank you note from Matt Campbell at Mount Si Golf Course



"Living the Dream!"

PO Box 2020 or 9010 Boalch AVE SE w Snoqualmie, WA 98065 w Pro Shop: (425) 391-4926 w Cell Phone (425) 736-0078 w Fax: (425) 888-7079



To whom it may concern,

I wanted to take the time and say "THANK YOU" to everyone that has been involved with the Snoqualmie Valley Elk Management Committee.

Mount Si Golf Course has not had an Elk on our property in over a year! When one did get on the property, the damage was minimal and escaped through one of the Elk gates that were had created.

I have to admit that there was a point in time that being "frustrated" with the Elk and process would be an under-statement. I can also admit that I would have never thought that I would ever be able to say that having our golf course without Elk on it for over a year would be impossible. My hats off to you and everyone involved and thanks for proving me wrong.

It is not a mystery that there still is A LOT of work to do and the efforts will be ongoing and forever. But it is nice to know that "ACTION" has taken place and "RESULTS" are being realized.

I do apologize to all of those that have listened and acted on my frustrations since this process all started. My hopes are that the understanding is that I represent my families long established business and the 65 families that we employ here. Our golf course is our product. Trampled greens and grass could be the end of our business and everything that we have worked so hard for over all these years.

My purpose of this letter though is to say "thanks!". Thanks to all of you in working so hard trying to see all sides and making it all work. From where I stand right now, things are looking 100% better than they once did for us. I attribute this to the fence, hunting and Elk management that has been going on. We are now able to concentrate on running our daily business without having to worry so much about the added element of Elk!

Please keep up the good work!!!!!!

*PS. The 8,000 feet of fence that we have constructed is starting to break down and repairing it puts a HUGE financial burden on our business. If there were ever any funds available that would help us repair our fence would be **SINCERELY APPRECIATED AND NEEDED**.*



Matt Campbell
General Manager/PGA Head Golf Professional
Mount Si Golf Course
matt@mtsigolf.com
www.mtsigolf.com
www.mattcampbellgolf.com