



GENERAL MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 12, 2011

1. Introduction

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the U.S.F.S Ranger Station conference room in North Bend. The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance, USVEMG President David Willson presiding. A quorum of the board of directors was present including: David Willson, Harold Erland, Jim Gildersleeve, Jeff Dideon, Don Hacherl, Tom Kemp, and Sam Metzler. Also attending, Tulalip Tribes biologist Jason Schilling, U.S.F.S biologist Sonny Paz, and volunteers Pat Young, Bryan Townley, and Warren Thomas. Poor road conditions from a snow storm ending earlier in the day prevented some from attending including Maura Callahan. WDFW enforcement officer Chris Moszeter was away attending a training activity. Prior to the meeting, Ms. Callahan provided a copy of the People and Land Management Committee report which is appended to the minutes.

Printed copies of the November 2010 meeting minutes were available for review. Mr. Gildersleeve motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Kemp seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

2. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Jim Gildersleeve circulated the report dated January 12, 2011, at the meeting (also attached below) which shows a balance on hand of \$1592.35, same as the balance reported in the November meeting. A radio telemetry set including an R1000 receiver and antenna worth \$800 was donated to the elk group by David Willson on December 29, 2010. Mr. Kemp has the set. A motion was made by Mr. Erland to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dideon. The motion passed with a unanimous vote.

3. Fundraising Committee, Jim Gildersleeve, Committee Chair

The group did not submit a grant proposal to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Mr. Gildersleeve followed up with State Representative Glenn Anderson (District 5) regarding his offer work with the group to find funding sources. His staff has received copies the elk group's prior applications and will discuss findings in March or April, after the end of the legislative session. There may be some funding opportunities.

Mr. Gildersleeve recommended future grant proposals focus on habitat improvement and suggested that this be the primary focus of the next ALEA grant proposal. We need input from numerous local experts and a principle foundation for each proposal is a budget, noting that the next USVEMG budget meeting is scheduled for February 9.

Mr. Schilling suggested a habitat improvement proposal might be bundled or submitted separately to the Tulalip Tribes grant program with the pumpkin fence proposal. Mr. Gildersleeve mentioned that after reviewing the terms of the Tulalip Tribes grant program materials that there might be some challenges to the pumpkin fence proposal. Some key questions in the proposal are "How will the project benefit the Tulalip Tribes?" Mr. Erland recognized that it is actually the state's obligation to provide defensive structures or methods for situations such as the nursery. Typically the state is allocated a low figure to handle commercial damage claims, something like \$1 million per year. Outlook is not good for funds to be available this year. Even in good years, the money is quickly consumed by orchardists and wheat farmers, some of which might use the relief funding as a source of income.

Regarding the ALEA grant proposal for the current year, Mr. Willson received a letter from grant manager Kim Sellers at the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Ms. Sellers manages ALEA grants for our area and indicated that the state is not running another ALEA grant round until 2012. Land and Water Conservation Fund grant proposals are being accepted in 2011 and Laura Moxham is the grant manager. Ms. Sellers writes:

There are a couple of things you should know:

1. As a non-profit organization, you will likely need to partner with a local entity (meaning city or WDFW) in order to apply for an RCO grant as non-profit organizations are not eligible in our ALEA or LWCF grant programs.

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2. Although the ALEA program is not offering grants this grant round, the LCWF program is. I would encourage you to contact Laura Moxham.

3. Your project may be eligible for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Programs grants under their Riparian Protection Account (RPA) – though this program is not offered again until 2012. The benefit of the RPA is that non-profit organizations are eligible, though there is a requirement that application for RPA include property acquisition.

4. With state budget cuts, our grant programs are being severely depleted. While there may be some funding available this next state biennium, it is likely that the competition will be very stiff. This being said, if you decide to apply, you should start as soon as you can to make sure that your application is as strong as it can be.

5. The deadline for getting an application in for the LWCF program is May 2. Our application process is mostly electronic, so you will need to download our PRISM database and request a PRISM password. You can find all the information on our website.

4. Education and Outreach (E&O) Committee Report by Harold Erland

Mr. Erland reported that he had met with the science teachers Mr. Kurka and Mr. Hall at Mt. Si High School regarding incorporating the elk research into the school science program. Mr. Hall has recently taught in the Cle Elum school district where he was a part of the Project CAT program and showed interest in integrating the elk research into the classroom. The project outline has the students observing elk and recording observations including location, weather conditions, if the wildlife are in a place they are supposed to be, physical condition of the animal, if the animal is dead, is the forage natural, landscaping, or planted forage.

In Fall 2010 it was discussed that the Forest Service has staff available at times to assist the high school teachers in training for the ArcGIS software. Mr. Paz said that his peers at the ranger station have attempted to contact Mr. Kurka several times, but he never got back. Mr. Erland said that the information is ready, data layers are available for the mapping software that the students would use, and home ranges for some of the elk are updated monthly and available on disk.

Mr. Erland plans to attend a necropsy class in February in Olympia. Later this spring, if the opportunity presents, students in the science program may be able to observe an elk necropsy.

Mr. Kemp and Mr. Erland participated in the “Wondering About Wildlife” event sponsored by the City of Seattle Cedar River Watershed on December 29, 2010. The event was preceded by a heavy snowfall and attendance at the event was significantly less than in previous years. The highlight of the event for the children was meeting the WDFW enforcement Karelian bear dog. The children loved watching the elk group’s collaring video. The question assigned to the elk group for the children to ask was, “How do antlers grow?” Elk antler growth is triggered by the absence of female estrus pheromones.

The elk group also received a note from Jennifer Hackett from Manastash Consulting in Ellensburg. Ms. Hackett also teaches a GIS course at Central Washington University. She encourages her students to experience real-life GIS applications by collaborating with community groups. She offers her assistance in a need to get data analyzed, messaged, or mapped. She also offered her services as a data analyst when funding sources are available. One of Ms. Hackett’s students has expressed an interest in the elk group’s research project and has been provided contact information.

5. People and Land Management (PLM) Committee Report

Maura Callahan, committee chair provided the committee report from the meeting held January 4, 2011. The report is appended to the end of the minutes for reference.

Centennial Fields: Mr. Gildersleeve added that the discussion with the City of Snoqualmie had resources to address the problem at Centennial Fields, but the greatest benefit that the elk group might provide to the city is a resource for community education. The city proposes to replace an existing fence with a higher fence. However, it is expected that the elk will simply walk around the fence. The nearby golf course, about 500 yards east, is fully fenced and has a gate across public entrances which are closed each night. The City of Snoqualmie already manages daily open and closure of a gate at Snoqualmie Point Park. However, at this stage, the city is still more concerned about the aesthetics of a high fence, but weary of potential lawsuits from persons injuring ankles in elk-damaged turf.

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Spring Bear Hunt: Regarding the DNR proposal to have the DFW establish a Spring Bear hunt at the CCC Flats site, Mr. Erland noted that the bear damage at the CCC Flats site is actually beneficial to the creation of elk habitat because the killed trees open up the canopy and enable growth of grazing and browse forage. Mr. Townley asked how many permits might be issued. It is expected that the DNR would only provide a limited number of keys to the gate and the DNR would not open the whole Snoqualmie game unit to a spring bear hunt. Private forest managers by state law have access to special depredation options for bear control. Hancock Forest Management, as an example hires a number of hound hunters to kill black bears in the Snoqualmie Tree Farm. DNR biologist Alan Mainwaring had mentioned that the tree killing behavior where bears strip bark from a tree to access the sap is a learned behavior.

Mr. Erland recommended that the elk group support this proposal if the DNR might agree to improve forage conditions in the unmarketable PCT stands at the CCC Flats site. It was the consensus of the group to support this proposal.

Master Hunter Access to King County Parks: Mr. Gildersleeve reported that the special hunt success rate is less than it was last year. To date, nine elk have been harvested compared to 18 by the second week of January 2010. Harvest objectives have been met at the east end of North Bend with six harvested in that area. Elk in the west end of the upper valley are concentrating in protected areas near properties with chronic damage. Work to petition the county to provide access to master hunter permittees has stalled for DFW consideration of how such a policy change might be interpreted in the context of the Treaty of Point Elliot.

It was also noted that elk are beginning to strip the ivy from the trees and are being seen more frequently at the Snoqualmie Ridge golf course and west from there to Alice Lake.

The committee will meet next 1:30 p.m. February 1, 2011, at the North Bend City Hall annex building (across from the library on Fourth Street).

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

There has not been a lot of trapping/collaring activity on account of the foul weather. Primary concerns in these conditions are death or injury of trapped animals from exposure. Twelve collars remain available for collaring. At the end of January, all three Muckleshoot Tribe crews will be available for opportunistic collaring using darts. Meanwhile the Clover traps will be operational if weather conditions permit. Volunteers interested in participating in the collaring should attend the next research committee meeting 6 p.m., Monday, January 17 at the North Bend City Hall.

Locations of highest interest for the collaring this month are:

1. The Exit 34 to Exit 38 zone. Ideally, we can get a GPS collar on one of the elk in Juju's Group (Elk 4).
2. Vicinity of Dave Battey's property.

One plan we have to acquire additional collars is to trade collars for Clover traps constructed by elk group volunteers. Raw material costs for a Clover trap are about \$2000.

7. Annual Nomination for Audit Committee with Report due February 28.

Mr. Dideon volunteered to audit the financial records and report his findings at the next general meeting of the elk group in March. A motion was made by Mr. Gildersleeve to authorize Mr. Dideon to lead the 2011 Audit Committee. Mr. Erland seconded the motion. The motion was passed by a unanimous vote. Mr. Dideon was given the treasurer's notebook for review.

8. For the Good of the Order

There was a reminder to file taxes. Taxes are due May 15, 2010.

Mr. Kemp recommended members of the elk group attend the local city council and planning commission meetings. He notices a lack of consideration for wildlife and related safety concerns from these debates.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



– Mission Statement –

- Review & make recommendations regarding elk/land use issues to city planners
 - Map all known incidents of elk/vehicle collisions
 - Describe & document negative impacts to recreation (e.g. sports fields, golf courses, public trails) that elk may create in the area
 - Describe recreation benefits (e.g. elk viewing, tourism) that elk may bring to the area
 - Assess public perspectives concerning the valley elk herd and management options
 - Assist with the development of a sustainable, adaptable long-term elk management plan
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**Land Use & People Committee Meeting
Agenda for Tuesday, 1:30 PM Jan 4, 2011**

Attendees:

Maura Callahan - Chair

Harold Erland

Bob Stokke

Alan Mainwaring – DNR

Guest: Larry White – City of Snoqualmie Parks & Recreation

Jim Gildersleeve

Mike McCarty

Dave Kimmett – KC

1. Harold (Maura) – Update on Elk Herd – (Harold will give this if he attends the General Mtg)

“We have collared two elk since our last meeting and we are currently on hold from trapping due to the weather. I have asked the Hunt master to cease taking elk in the Mount Si road area and Tanner as a group of 25 elk has moved in from outside the area. These are migratory elk and leave the Valley after giving birth to their calves and return around the end of September. We got this information from two marked elk in this group, one of which lost her life at the Denny Creek interchange at the end of June. The other returned to the Valley on September 24th. We do not want to harvest any migratory elk as that is what is needed to build the herd outside of the valley. I was hoping to get another 10 collars before spring but it doesn't look promising as of now. We need the additional collars to insure an accurate mark-capture/recapture census.”

2. Snoqualmie – Assist city in forming a workable plan for Centennial Fields

Larry White (City Snoq Parks & Rec) attended and Maura repeated the information that David Willson provided (below). Larry reported the City has \$20,000 set aside for fence, and already has secured bids for the fencing the east side of the field, acknowledging both that the elk will just walk around and enter the park through the roadside and that securing the materials is not the major cost but labor of installation. Jim explained how the golf course successfully dealt with the elk with 8ft fence and one-way gates that channel elk out, but not in.

“The city is suffering chronic damage to Centennial Fields and needs to form a plan to address the elk which will be using the adjacent pasture at Meadowbrook Farm indefinitely. A permanent fencing structure similar to the nearby golf course is the only practical method of keeping elk out. It might also be an option to construct cattle guards across the entrance to the parking area to complete the fencing along the street. Cities have access to a number of grant programs to address issues such as this. The elk group also has access to a volunteer pool which is still active. Larry White and Dave Demback from Snoqualmie City Parks plan to attend the meeting to discuss this. Mr. Demback can only stay for the first half hour, Mr. White can stay longer.

In applying for the grant, the fundamental concept of the solution should be identified, cost estimates, and potential matching funds. For example, the Mariners and certain retailers may be interested in sponsoring a fence. We also have a rough estimate of cost from Chris Moszeter's survey of the Nursery at Mount Si for the



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fence. Other features such as sidewalk gates, vehicle gates or cattle guards might have to be investigated separately. Once the preliminary work is done, we can submit grants. I believe this is a good candidate for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant through the Department of Recreation and Conservation. Applications are accepted from February 15 through May 2. <http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/lwcf.shtml>"

3. North Bend – Change the conversation on where the wildlife corridor should be -

Some discussion on how to proceed with the zoning and that the previous failure could be partially attributed to the fact that the development was already in process. It might yet be possible to get something on the books for a wildlife corridor, if smaller than the WDFW recommends, as there is the 5% open space requirement that may somehow be incorporated. The question came up on when the data we have gathered from the elk study would be ready to present to the NB city council and (Harold who had come in late) said it was ready now, or could be.

4. King County – Opening the Three Forks Natural Area to the Master Hunter Permit Program
(Jim can fill you in on this – it's rather involved – He is working with Dave Kimmett of King County Parks and Chris Moszeter WDFW)

5. Alan - DNR Update on efforts to obtain approval for a spring black bear hunt at the CCC flats habitat enhancement site

Alan met with WDFW in Olympia and is gathering more data for them before he hears if the DNR will be granted a spring bear damage hunt in the CCC Flats. The bears have effectively damaged 75% of the trees up there – 50% damaged and dying and 25% already dead. They are considering an early harvest to get what is still viable which would help the elk, as it would open the area for 10-15 years of grazing, though it might not solve their bear problem.

6. Meadowbrook Kiosks

They are waiting for the signs – expect to install sometime before spring

Next Meeting Feb 1 at 1:30 PM – North Bend City Hall Annex

TREASURER'S MONTHLY REPORT
UPPER SNOQUALMIE VALLEY ELK MANAGEMENT GROUP
PO BOX 700
NORTH BEND, WA 98045

Date: 01/12/2011

Balance on hand as of last meeting:	\$1592.35
Dues and new memberships paid	
Donations	.00

Total Assets	\$1592.35
Disbursements:	
None	
Balance on Hand (Date of Report)	\$ 1592.35
Verified with on-line banking	\$ 1592.35
On hand bills:	
None	
Projected Balance:	_____
	\$ NA

Jim Gildersleeve
Treasurer
01/12/2010