



**Meeting 5 Minutes**  
**Lander/Green Mountain Mule Deer Working Group**  
**November 10, 2014**  
**6:15 PM – 9:15 PM**  
**Lander, WY**

**Members In Attendance:** Jared Oakleaf, Ember Oakley, Katie Erickson, Rowdy Anderson, Stan Harter, Harold Schultz, Marla Lemm, Brad Hovinga, Joe Hutto, Travis Stevenson, Ken Metzler, David Killebrew

**Absent:** none

**Public attendance:** Bruce Campbell, Colby Erickson, Quentin Smith, Brandon Houck, Steve Agueda, Len Atwood, Rhett Abernathy

**Game and Fish personnel:** Brady Frude, Daryl Lutz, Brad Gibb, Linnea Sailor, Greg Hiatt, Jason Hunter

**Facilitator:** Rene Schell

**6:15 Welcome-Minutes and Agenda Approval**

- Joe brought up a potential candidate for a NGO member – Ron Smith The Wildlife Society – understands problems with mule deer across the west, grew up on a ranch, seems like a good fit, and interested in participation; 7-5's, 3-4's, 2-3's. This proposal moves forward and Rene will contact Ron to give him more information and invite him onto the group.
- Revisited number of board members present to make decisions: consensus  $\frac{3}{4}$  of group or 9 members, regardless whether they're WGFD employees;
- **CONSENSUS = 11-5's, 1-4's**

**6:50 Discussion of 3 Potential Short Term Recommendations Brought Out During the October Meeting**

1. Define the groups SIDEBOARDS: science based, cost effective ("monetarily feasible"), history of effectiveness, lasting effects, technically feasible, publically acceptable (timeline of public support, ensure public process), supportive of mission statement, best for the deer, legal..., can be added as needed
  2. Divide into 3 small groups to discuss each solution and provide 0-2 recommendations back to entire group.
- **White tail deer seasons:**
    - RECCOMENDATION #1: General whitetail season extend to Oct 1 – 22

- PROS: increased whitetail harvest, decreased mule deer harvest
- CONS: increased landowner calls/conflicts
- CONSENSUS = 5-5s,6-4s, 1-3, This recommendation moves forward
- RECOMMENDATION #2: run limited quota late season whitetail deer to Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>
  - PROS: more family opportunity, can hunt over Thanksgiving
  - CONS: landowner conflicts on the holiday
  - CONSENSUS = 9-5s 2-4s, 1-2, 9-5s This recommendation will move forward, can discuss more in the spring as season lengths are looked at then.

Follow up questions/thoughts from the group:

- Why is there a quota on whitetail licenses?
- Landowners have expressly said they don't want hunters around the holiday
- Peak rut is around Thanksgiving
- Why do we have to run whitetail deer seasons concurrent with mule deer seasons?
- Antler Point Restrictions (APR):
  - It was a trial basis for 2 years and it's been running for 3 years so it's past its lifespan.
  - PRO to keep APR: leave more younger deer in the field.
  - CON: more abandoned deer left in the field.
  - CON: removing larger breeding bucks prior to rut (selecting for smaller deer over time?)
  - PRO/CON: reduce # hunters
  - PRO?: what is public support for APR's?
  - What is ratio of 2 pt bucks getting harvested in a gen area in an "any deer" season?
- RECOMMENDATION #1 = remove APR's.
  - CONSENSUS = 5-5s, 5-4s, 2-1s. This recommendation moves forward.
  - Concern: 1 ½ & 2 ½ yr old deer behave very differently than 3 ½ yr old deer, so if you allow them to age, the chances of harvest decreases significantly
- RECOMMENDATION #2 = adjust length of season to adjust harvest/ hunter #s (if shorten season, decrease harvest...if lengthen season, decrease crowding. This can be discussed again by the group in the spring when season lengths are looked at.
- Youth seasons:
  - RECOMMENDATION: Continue with a youth season and structure it the same as adult hunts in the area (APR's or bucks only, etc)
    - Pros: quality family time, education of youth
    - Cons: affects mule deer numbers
    - Change structure so it's the same as adult harvest

- Pros: Education of youth (it's OK to shoot does? This seems counter intuitive), Increase deer numbers (no doe harvest).
- Cons: Every child may not get to hunt, limit opportunity, excitement for youth
- **CONSENSUS:3-4s, 1-2, 8-5s – RECOMM MOVES FORWARD**
- Concern: why have it if we have to put more restrictions on it
- RECOMMENDATION: Implement LQ tag system
  - Pros: know and learn the harvest and impact of youth season. Limit and manage #s
  - Cons: could limit/ restrict youth opportunity
  - For discussion with 2016/future recommendations
- Change age of youth to under 16
  - For discussion with future recommendations

### **8:30 Public Input on Short Term Recommendations**

- Too much worry about the public's interests, not enough worry about the deer's interests
  - Harold: These are preliminary things from the group to address short term, more long term solutions will come that will address the deer's interests
  - Jared: Entered thinking L.Q. was the answer and horizons are broadened, knows now that it may not be the answer and certainly not a silver bullet
- Do these 3 short term goals get us to the earlier identified long term goals?

### **8:45 December Meeting Presentation Planning**

Lander Dec 2; Riverton Dec 3; Rawlins Dec 4 all at 6 pm

- Need speaker that's well spoken and can articulate all points
- Jared and Harold co-speakers. Jared will create PowerPoint. Rough outline created:
  - Intro defines working group and who they represent, number of meetings, number of publics present, mission statement
  - 'What we learned' segment, set up recommendations, emphasize surveys
  - Recommendations for 2015 + bigger picture/ long term emphasis
  - This is all about the welfare of mule deer
  - Handouts, roster of names and email address (Rene can provide)
- Will need at least 1- 1 ½ hours dedicated (at Lander meeting, shorter in Riverton)
- Practice 6:15 pm Dec 1, run through of PowerPoint with working group.

### **8:50 Public Input on December Meeting Planning/Presentation**

### **9:00 Wrap Up**

- Next Meeting Date—Jan/Feb-Rene will send email in the beginning of Jan to set Jan date.
- Topics for Next Meeting Agenda-discuss public meetings

**9:15 Adjourn**

