

**Wyoming Game and Fish**  
**Wyoming Range Mule Deer Management Plan**  
**Collaborative Learning Process**  
**Green River Workshop Notes**  
**August 26, 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

1. Habitat Improvements - \* All

- Continue prescribed burns
- Support habitat projects – financially and politically
- Competition with livestock – limit time of livestock on deer habitat
- Expand conservation easements to buy grazing leases/permits

2. Habitat protection - \* All

- Limit ORV use

Population Management

3. Population Measurements

- Require/strongly encourage hunter surveys to include teeth
- Improve data collection with greater accuracy; fly more intensively (requires more money)

4. Limiting Factors

- No doe hunts if we want to increase population objective –Larger population would require not hunting any doe deer
- Hunt area 132 3 point or better works well

5. Research

- Reevaluate the hunter survey; now people are downplaying their success to limit hunter numbers
- Incentives for filling out harvest surveys and penalties for not filling them out.
- Spend time with hunters at check stations and fill out surveys there/have someone surveying – it is a good place to get information.
- Check stomach content samples from coyotes through government trappers to check for deer.

6. Quality of the Hunt

- \*Standardize opening dates statewide fro October 1.

- Limited entry license type for September 15 opener
- Continue to be able to hunt multiple openers
- \*Early opener impedes archery hunters

#### 7. Predation Management

- Conduct predator control – pre-fawning on fawning grounds and shortly after
- Predator control helps deer numbers

#### 8. Partnerships

- \*Attend license setting meeting and GF meetings – send emails to the public
- Public participation in mortality surveys
- To work with landowners to have more walk-in /ride-in areas in exchange for public services

### Group 2 – Mark Zornes, Facilitator

#### Population Management

- “Special Management” should include average age class of harvest (need cementum aging)
- Implement mandatory harvest reporting
- Consider split season vs. a common opener
- Licenses in “special management area should be higher priced (\$100) with additional revenue going to research in that hunt area
- Reduce competition from elk when over objective

#### Habitat

- Need to identify funding for planning and personnel parts of habitat projects
- Promote “Adopt a Winter Range” complex for local sportsmen to raise money, formulate partnerships and plans for habitat projects
- Need to identify and create additional forage reserves for cattle to restore habitat improvements
- Make sure habitat projects don’t lead to increased livestock stocking rates

#### Partnerships

- Partner with livestock producers on habitat projects because they benefit too
- Work with Federal agencies to reduce livestock numbers during drought
- Promote good grazing management (i.e. restoration) to promote good habitat (eg. Cumberland CRM – do more)
- Need to court some big money donors for habitat
- Promote sportsmen coalitions to work with Federal land managers
- Create mule deer local working groups, similar to sage grouse

### Group 3 – Susan Boston, Facilitator

#### Habitat

- \* Reduce livestock grazing on winter ranges (-AUMS)
  - Get data on AUM history
  - What are the side effects?

- Reduce roads on winter range
  - Evaluate impact of roads
  - Increase closed-road enforcement fines
- \*Increase enforcement on winter range
- \* Cheatgrass – look for solutions (invasive weeds in general)

#### Population Management

- Continue no overlap of deer/elk seasons
- \*Keep non-resident numbers - max 500 in Region G
- \* Look at increased predator control on winter ranges (all predators, mountain lions, coyotes, etc.
- Coyote bounty
- \*Keep deer seasons short-don't overlap deer/elk
- Continue aggressive mountain lion quotas
- Early blackpowder season (separate season)
- Additional underpass (LaBarge to Big Piney)
- 4 – point or better season when needed – increase average age

#### Partnerships

- Develop trust fund for wildlife using \$ from oil and gas industry (to fund WGFD operations)
- Partnership with land owners to increase access
- \* Increase information communication with railroad and other industry – use data – get data from railroad on effects
- Maintain fences in areas with high mortalities

#### Plus

- Like more aggressive approach to obtaining public input
- Inclusive process
- Thanks for listening
- Appreciate open-minded approach, makes a huge difference
- No red shirts

#### Delta

- Not enough time
- Prioritize subject areas better
- Bad time of year, should have had meetings earlier in the summer
- Need better advertising
- Include notices in WWN Game and Fish Newsletter
- Don't diminish public input from this process
- Create an incentive to encourage participation
- More opportunities for positive interaction with WGF Department

Compiled by Elaine Walsh Carney 9/12/10