Cody Elk Working Group
April 18, 2012   6:00pm – 10:00pm
Big Horn Federal Bank – Cody
(Approved 4-25-12)

Group members in attendance: Curt Bales, Jim Klebba, Chip Clouse, Tim Fagan, Barney Henrich, Theresa Lineberger, Lee Livingston, Doug McWhirter, Steve Brock, Dan Morris, Justin Sanders, and George Weiser (alternate).
Absent: Jim Yockey
Facilitator: Dennie Hammer
Notetaker: Allison Wildman

Welcome
- Hammer started the meeting at 6:00pm and went over the agenda.
  - Agenda items:
    - Hunt Area 56, Type 1 and Type 9 license recommendations
    - Public outreach – Recommendation Letter
    - Review of What the Group has Accomplished

Ice-Breaker
- Director Scott Talbot welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the Elk Working Group for all their hard work and all they have accomplished in the 18 meetings they have held so far. He also presented a special Director’s “Excellence & Appreciation” recognition coin to all the Elk Working Group members as a token of his appreciation.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 5, 2012
- Corrections:
  - Page 1, Corrections, 4\textsuperscript{th} bullet. Change first Bridger Ranger Station to Black Rock Station.
  - Page 3, Hunt Area 56 Discussion, 4\textsuperscript{th} bullet, Clouse, 2\textsuperscript{nd} sub-bullet. Fagan, add “bull” elk.
  - Page 5, Hunt Area 56 Discussion, 1\textsuperscript{st} bullet, Bales, add spikes “excluded” only season.
  - Page 7, Hunt Area 56 Discussion, 1\textsuperscript{st} sub-bullet, Livingston, change trials to “trails.”
  - Page 8, Hunt Area 56 Discussion, 3\textsuperscript{rd} sub-bullet, add “Type 4 – 50 licenses antlerless elk valid in that portion of Area 56 off National Forest.”

- Klebba – In response to the public feedback from last meeting, he believes starting kids on cow hunting is not a very effective recruitment tool.

- The Group approved the meeting minutes with above changes.
Hammer informed the group that Tim Woolley reviewed Chapter 44 regarding Commissioners and Youth Licenses as requested from last meeting. Hammer read Woolley’s response.

- The only limitations are on Governor’s moose and bighorn sheep licenses. There are no minimum numbers regarding the use of commissioner’s licenses in a hunt area.
- However, there is a proposal to go before the Commission to prohibit the use of Commissioner’s licenses or Governor’s licenses in areas where there are less than 20 licenses issued.
  - Will be proposed at next Commission Meeting April 23-24, 2012
- Brock – When will become law?
  - Lee offered to bring up at next Commission meeting.

Youth licenses regarding any elk
- Youth hunters who possess a full price youth elk license may take any elk during an antlered elk season in the hunt area where their license is valid…

Hunt Area 56 Discussion (continued from last meeting)

- Hunt Area 56 Type 1 licenses, 10 licenses Dec 1 -20th was proposed
  - Vote taken – Yes – Bales, Clouse, Fagan, Henrich, Lineberger, Livingston, McWhirter, Morris, Sanders, and Weiser.
  - No – Brock, Klebba

- Bales – LO perspective – there are not a lot of bulls there in October so would like to hunt later
  - Limiting general licenses season length would save bulls earlier
  - Fagan – Count this year and make recommendations for next year.
  - McWhirter – Likes these dates. Would not be able to omit from FY13 packet
  - Bales – Leave in packet and lower numbers if you have to.
  - Lineberger – Public perspective – make it a real hunt for residents
  - Brock – Do we have enough big bulls the rest of the year? Rely on the G&F to determine.
  - McWhirter – Wants to be cautious. Wait one year. Thinks we could hunt a few big bulls.
  - Klebba – Small fraction of trophy bulls
  - Clouse – Should we go to 6 point? Only harvest largest bulls. G&F collect harvest data, age, drainage and date of kill.

Hammer asked the group what does taking a six-point elk mean? Does it force you to take a trophy bull?
- Livingston – Assuring they cannot take younger, smaller bulls
- McWhirter – Will that even be a problem?
- Fagan – Should we even bother to go to a 6 point on 10 permits?
- We could fly in 2012 and see what the numbers are.
  - How many bulls would they actually take on 10 tags?
  - Sanders – We need to keep opportunity. It’s just 10 tags. Season was removed in 2011 and 2012.
- Livingston – If it is in the packet how would we pull it out?
  - Cannot be pulled out of 2013 packet once it is in there. Can lower tag numbers.
- Will look at elk numbers after 2012/2013 flights and decide then whether to leave 56 Type 1 in 2014 packet.

- Again group voted on the proposal:
  - Yes – All members of the group.
  - The group agreed to the proposed recommendation.

- Hammer asked the group to think about the time frame for their recommendations. Are you comfortable with the G&F adjusting numbers based on future counts? Should you let this play out for a couple of years to see what happens?
  - Livingston – Feels that the group accepts that the G&F will adjust according to the recommendations of the group.
  - Clouse – Trusts that through better monitoring the G&F will have the proper tools to make recommendations.
  - Bales – Not all our recommendations were adhered to, but trust that the G&F will try to manage elk as best they can.
  - McWhirter – Should allow the recommendations that address bull harvest to stay in place for 3 to 5 years.
  - Lineberger – She will be monitoring flight information with McWhirter.

- Voted on Hunt Area 56, Type 9 proposal
  - Yes – All members of the group.
  - The group agreed to the proposed recommendation.

### The Group’s hunting season recommendation for hunt area 56

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>56</th>
<th>Oct. 1</th>
<th>Oct. 14</th>
<th>General license; antlered elk, spikes excluded</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oct. 15</td>
<td>Oct. 21</td>
<td>General license; antlered elk, spikes excluded, valid in that portion of hunt area 56 in the Washakie and North Absaroka Wilderness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Dec. 1</td>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>Limited quota; 10 licenses any elk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Limited quota; 50 licenses antlerless elk valid in that portion of Area 56 in the Southfork of the Shoshone River Drainage</td>
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<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Dec. 22</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>Dec. 22</td>
<td>Limited quota; 100 licenses antlerless elk valid in that portion of Area 56 off National Forest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nov. 16</td>
<td>Dec. 22</td>
<td>Limited quota; 100 licenses cow or calf valid in that portion of Area 56 in the South Fork of the Shoshone River drainage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sep. 1</td>
<td>Sep. 30</td>
<td>Limited quota; 30 licenses any elk, spikes excluded, archery only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Break** 7:10 – 7:20

**Accomplishment Corrections**

- Bales – Should we lengthen the season through January in hunt area 66 as in hunt area 61 for 2012?
- Sanders – Let G&F decide if they need to hunt in January. Folks do not want to hunt elk in January
- Fagan – This year they are only hunting one week in January. This season should help our HMAP program. One week isn’t excessive if we need to kill elk
  - If we have huge counts in 2012 we will be as liberal as we need be to harvest elk.
- Lineberger read WYOGA article regarding the harvest proposal of 900 elk near Dubois. Will that reduce our elk? Do they migrate to our hunt areas?
- Livingston – He is meeting with the biologists in Dubois regarding this proposal. Is there another way to reduce this herd?
  - Not favorable with January seasons. We need to protect migratory elk.
- Bales – Our goals are to reach objective levels on our block count goals.
- McWhirter – As far as the bull harvest structure we need to commit to 3 – 5 years. At least one landowner wanted January hunting.
  - HMAP program takes small groups
  - Smaller groups over a longer period/less stress
  - Add recommendations/statement to allow G&F to make changes depending on elk counts.
- Clouse – The G&F will put January seasons in place if they need too.
- Brock – Landowners are probably sick of hunting by January. There are other ways – more licenses per hunters. Need to be cautious on harassing elk. Elk have been hunted since Sept 1st.
- Will extra tags benefit these areas?
- Hammer – Does your area 61 season recommendations move us to count block objectives?
  - Group is more conservative than G&F for 2012 seasons.
  - Clouse – Should we issue more tags in 61?
  - Lineberger – What needs to be changed?
- We did away with full priced cow tags.
- Moved to all reduced price for cows.
  - Bales – Are we being too restrictive? We should at least put out as many tags as will be issued in 2012.

- Do we need type 8 licenses?
  - Clouse – Yes, make it 250
  - Bales – Mirror 2012 seasons, take out type 4 licenses.

- Henrich – We need more type 9 licenses in limited quota areas
  - Lineberger – Why are there no type 9 or general licenses in area 61?
    - Why are we doing it in some and not other areas when we are 2,000 over objective?
    - Why didn’t we discuss this? This is a learning process. Might not be a bad idea to revisit some seasons.
  - Fagan - The department’s stance is not to create any new type 9 areas.
  - Brock – Wilderness hunting in area 61 is perfection.
  - Klebba – Great hunting
  - Morris – The public wanted limited quota in hunt area 61.
  - Bales – There were 606 bulls in area 61 in February. 75% came out of Thorofare.
  - Livingston – If we want to harvest cows, consider a general tag for cows only.
  - Fagan – We tried a general season a while ago.
  - Morris – Early season snow caused too many bull to be killed years ago in a general season and the locals asked for limited quota.

- McWhirter – This is an area where we are over objective, we don’t want to run out of licenses.
  - Livingston – Is there a risk of not selling other licenses?
  - Bales – Huge cost to landowners to feed elk
    - Brucellosis
    - Most general hunters do not want to harvest cows.
  - Brock – 2,500 hunters hunt cows on unused general licenses on the elk refuge.
  - Lineberger – Is this an area where we could harvest three elk with the new regulation?

- Type 61-Type 9 licenses
  - Bales – they will harvest too many bulls.
  - Possible better odds than type 1
  - McWhirter and Fagan again explained the Department’s stance against any new type 9 licenses.
  - Clouse - Proposed 30 type 9 licenses in hunt area 61.
  - Livingston also recommended a type 9 license in area 61
    - Type 9 – 30 licenses any elk, Sept 1 – Sept 30, any elk.
    - No type 4 licenses
    - Change type 8 to 250 licenses and end Dec 22\textsuperscript{nd}.
    - Prefer not to see Jan hunting seasons
• Allow area 61 & 66 to harvest more than two elk
  
• Voted on Area 61 Type 9 proposal
  o Yes – Bales, Brock, Clouse, Henrich, Klebba, Lineberger, Livingston, Morris, Sanders, Weiser,
  o No – Fagan, McWhirter.

The Group’s hunting season recommendation for hunt area 61

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt Area</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Dates of Seasons</th>
<th>Limitations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>61</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Oct. 1 – Oct. 31</td>
<td>Limited quota; 150 licenses any elk valid in that portion of Area 61 within the Washakie Wilderness, also valid in that portion of Area 62 within the Washakie Wilderness south of Avalanche Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 1 – Dec. 22</td>
<td>Unused Area 61 Type 1 licenses valid for antlerless elk in the entire area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Oct 15 – Nov 15</td>
<td>Limited quota; 50 licenses any elk</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Nov. 1 – Nov. 14</td>
<td>Limited quota; 600 licenses cow or calf valid in that portion of Area 61 within the Washakie Wilderness</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov. 15 – Dec. 22</td>
<td>Unused Area 61 Type 6 licenses valid in the entire area, also valid in Area 66, and that portion of Area 58 within the Dry Creek Drainage</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Sep. 1 – Dec. 22</td>
<td>Limited quota; 400 licenses cow or calf valid in that portion of Area 61 north of and including the Rawhide Creek drainage, also valid in Area 66, and that portion of Area 58 within Dry Creek Drainage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Oct. 15 – Nov. 14</td>
<td>Limited quota; 250 cow calf licenses valid in that part of area 61 south of Rawhide Creek. Unused Area 61 Type 8 licenses, valid in the entire area.</td>
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The Group’s hunting season recommendation for hunt area 66

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt Area</th>
<th>Dates of Seasons</th>
<th>Limitations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>Sep. 1 – Dec. 22</td>
<td>General license; any elk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sep. 1 – Dec. 22</td>
<td>Limited quota; 100 licenses cow or calf</td>
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Hunt Area 58

• Hammer – Any changes in area 58?
  o Add ten type 9 licenses, Sept 1 – 30th

• Voted on Area 58 Type 9 proposal
  o Yes – Clouse, Livingston, Brock, Weiser, Klebba, Henrich
  o No – Fagan, McWhirter, Lineberger, Bales, Morris, Sanders

• No January seasons

• Teresa – Should we change dates to December 22nd to mirror 2012, along with area 61?
• Mirror 2012 seasons without January

The Group’s hunting season recommendation for hunt area 58

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Limited quota; 35 licenses any elk</td>
<td>General license; antlered elk, spikes excluded</td>
<td>General license; antlered elk, spikes excluded, valid in that portion of area 59 in the Washakie Wilderness</td>
<td>Limited quota; 10 licenses any elk</td>
<td>Limited quota; 375 licenses cow or calf</td>
<td>Limited quota; 25 licenses cow or calf valid only in that portion of area 59 in the Boulder Creek drainage above and including Castle Creek.</td>
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Hunt Area 59, Type 9

- Hammer made changes on accomplishments
- Type 6 thru the 22nd.
- Need to harvest elk in Boulder Basin
- Change Area 59 Type 1 to Limited Quota; 10 licenses any elk.
- Change Area 59 Type 9 to spikes excluded.
- Recommend late bull tag when numbers can support it.

The Group’s hunting season recommendation for hunt area 59

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>59</td>
<td>Limited quota; 35 licenses any elk</td>
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The Group’s hunting season recommendation for hunt area 60

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<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>Limited quota; 20 licenses any elk, spikes excluded, archery only</td>
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The Group’s hunting season recommendation for hunt area 55

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Limited quota; 50 licenses any elk, spikes excluded</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Limited quota; 25 licenses any elk, spikes excluded, archery only</td>
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Additional

- Bales – Did we redefine the Cody Elk Herd Unit?
  - Should we look at wolf plan?
  - Is wording sufficient to address wolf predation on elk herds/segments?
- Lineberger shared the wolf regulation with the group.
  - Need to make sure wording is correct to address predation.
  - We need specific ratios, sound scientific data, not block counts for wolves causing problems.
  - Suggested the department develop a Statewide Elk Management Plan
  - Lineberger – Disappointed that the group did not do anything outside the box. Just shortened some seasons and moved numbers around.
    - Hammer – That is called Elk Management
- Bales – We need to address youth licenses (any licenses)
  - Point system for type 1 licenses
  - Landowner licenses – can we make changes?
  - Hammer – We need to focus on the Cody Elk Herd Unit. We are running out of time.

Cody Chamber presentation is Monday, April 23\textsuperscript{rd}, at noon.
- A PowerPoint presentation has been created to share with everyone and will be used for the public meeting as well.

Public Meeting is Tuesday, April 24\textsuperscript{th}, from 6 – 9 at the Holiday Inn.
- Livingston – Informed the group that Brian Nesvik, the Chief Game Warden, would like to be at the last meeting.

Action Item - Group agreed to make a list of recommendations to share via e-mail and will discuss at the next meeting.

Next Meeting : Wednesday, April, 25, 2012, 6:00p, - 9:00pm, Big Horn Federal

Meeting Adjourned at 9:55pm