



**WAFWA Mule Deer Working Group  
(MDWG)  
Directors Report  
Star Pass Resort, Tucson, AZ  
January 9, 2011  
Chair, Jim Heffelfinger, Arizona**



### **2011 Deer/Elk Workshop**

The next Deer/Elk Workshop will be held May 16-19, 2011 at the Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort (Santa Ana Pueblo) just north of Albuquerque, NM. Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> will be a Mule Deer Working Group Meeting 1-5pm followed by the evening welcoming event. Tuesday and Wednesday will be the main days of papers with a barbeque one night and the awards banquet the next. <http://www.rsvpbook.com/event.php?482872>

A tentative workshop schedule is as follows:

Monday, May 16: MDWG meeting; 1:00 – 5:00, Reception; 6:00 – 10:00

Tuesday, May 17: Workshop Sessions; 8:00 – 5:00, BBQ at the Oxbow Pool; 6:00 – 10:00

Wednesday, May 18 Workshop Sessions; 8:00 – 5:00, Banquet at the Cottonwoods; 6:00 – 10:00

Thursday, May 19 Workshop Session; 8:00 – 12:00

### **Standardized Mule Deer Population Monitoring Guidelines**

Tom Keegan (ID) has incorporated review comments from the MDWG and a collection of selected agency reviewers. The revised draft was sent to external reviewers and all those comments have been received and are now being incorporated. External (to the MDWG) reviewers included: Chad Bishop (CO), Gary White (CO), Jim Unsworth (ID), John and Rachael Cook, Woody Meyers (WA), Oz Garton (ID), Scott McCorquodale (WA), Mark Hurley (ID), Len Carpenter (CO), and Paul Lukacs (CO). This document will be discussed at our next meeting and completed soon after.

### **Energy Development Guidelines for Mule Deer**

The MDWG has produced a document titled “Energy Development Guidelines for Mule Deer” to help guide management decisions in mule deer habitat where development of renewable and nonrenewable energy is occurring. These guidelines have had extensive review by the MDWG, other WAFWA agency personnel with expertise and experience in this arena, and representatives of our federal land management agencies. The last of the external reviews were incorporated the week before the 2011 mid-winter meeting precluding an earlier dissemination. This document is meant for distribution and use by many working agency personnel and will be published the same way we published the habitat guidelines (Lithotech, Inc.). We will discuss the finalization of this document at the next MDWG meeting.

### **Mule Deer Video Production**

We have been discussing the production of a mule deer video that would capitalize on all the products the MDWG has produced. It would be a great way to get our information out in a different format. Eric Keszler (WY) has been leading this effort and has a major production company (Orion Multimedia, <http://www.orionmultimedia.net>) on-board and wanting to produce

it. With 20 high-definition series in production along with numerous specials, Orion Multimedia produces nearly 190 original programs a year that are watched by more than 160 million viewers nationwide. This video would be a 60-minute program covering the whole range of issues the MDWG has identified as impacting black-tailed and mule deer throughout their range.

Once produced, Orion Multimedia will be required to enter into a contract with a national broadcast outlet (e.g., Versus, ESPN, The Outdoor Channel) to broadcast the documentary a minimum of six times during a one-year period, with at least two of those broadcasts during prime time. WAFWA will grant the broadcast outlet exclusive one-year broadcast rights to the program. After one year, those rights will revert to WAFWA. The finished program and raw footage will then be available for other uses, such as sales through state agencies, airing at various meetings, distribution to legislators, snippets can be streamed on the agency websites, etc.

Funding is the only challenge for this project to be completed. Despite a desire to get this underway last year, the MDWG wanted to make an effort to raise the estimated \$100,000 from outside sources. We realized the agencies are having their own financial problems so we worked to find external sources (mostly industry) of funding for the documentary. We have been partially successful in that we have a commitment from Wyoming Game and Fish: \$10,000, the Mule Deer Foundation: \$15,000, Bill Barrett Corporation: \$10,000, and Dallas Safari Club: \$25,000. Thus far we have garnered \$60,000 (60%) of the funding. The MDWG would like to request a one-time assessment of \$2,000 per WAFWA member (exception of Hawaii, Yukon, Oklahoma) to complete the funding package and start production before other sponsors divert their committed funds.

### **MD Mapping Project: Integrating updates**

Nevada and Utah updated their mule deer maps from the original MDWG effort. The MDWG has teamed up with Frank Quaman at the BLM National Operations Center to incorporate these updates into the national product we produced and have currently on CD and on our website. Frank has agreed to add these updates and provide us with the revised North American GIS layers.

### **Remaining Wallmo Award Bronzes**

Joe Wallmo has completed the last 4 Wallmo Award bronzes and the MDWG now has them in storage. We now have enough awards to last through the 2031 Deer/Elk Workshops.

### **Call for Wallmo Award Nominations**

The Wallmo Award will be presented in conjunction with the biennial Western States and Provinces Deer and Elk Workshop in NM in May 2011. Please ask your staff to nominate any deserving black-tailed or mule deer manager or researcher. The deadline for nominations is 15 February 2011. Please send nominations to:

Jim deVos, Wallmo Award Chair  
405 S. Antelope Dr.  
Dewey, AZ 86327  
E-Mail [jdevos@cableone.net](mailto:jdevos@cableone.net)

### **Miscellaneous**

- [www.muledeerworkinggroup.com](http://www.muledeerworkinggroup.com) is updated and has information about the Mule Deer Working Group as well as all products we have produced.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

The MDWG will meet in conjunction with the Mule Deer Foundation convention in Salt Lake City February 2-6, 2011 (Meeting on February 2, 8am-5pm). We will also meet in conjunction with the Deer/Elk Workshop at Hyatt Regency Tamaya Resort (Santa Ana Pueblo) just north of Albuquerque, NM on May 16, 2011, 1-5pm since most MDWG members will already be attending.

***Action Requested: I request the Mule Deer Working Group report be approved as presented, including:***

- ***Agreement to a one-time \$2,000 assessment for the mule deer video production from all members except HI, OK, and Yukon.***