

Mule Deer Working Group Meeting – Summer WAFWA 7/15/18 ~ Eugene, OR

53 in attendance ----- 11 Members

Finished yesterday near 5pm – 9 pages of notes – watch for full report when Larry sends them

Distribution of Status of Black-tailed and Mule Deer.

- Most pops are increasing/stable but still below the objectives in most states.

Range-wide survival analysis

- CO would like to analyze data and publish parts of the data before they participate in the range-wide survival analysis.

Reseeding Guidance Document.

- Led by Ashley Green UT --- All chapters have authors assigned and are in draft.
- Added Chapter – building restoration partnerships. BLM/FS/NRCS/NGO
- drafts in his hands by August 31.

Fact Sheets

- Asking for approval to publish “Pop Obj” & “Managing Opportunity vs Mature Bucks”
- Also providing 3 first drafts (B&W) – MDWG is reviewing them for the first time
 - Hybridization WT x MD
 - Feral Horses and MD
 - Harvest data reporting
- Create short videos or snippets for Facebook and social media?
- Future sheets
 - Economic contribution of mule deer
 - Historical #s
 - Aerial surveys
 - Plantings for MD on private land

Digital Collection of Aerial Survey Data

- Discussion of what is being used and what is working/notworking
- ESRI Rep was there to join and inform
- Query full group of needs to ESRI

Antler Point Restrictions and CWD Management

- One state wanted to discuss trying to manage CWD prevalence with APR targeting older bucks
- That transitioned into an interesting discussion of CWD management at the pop level
- Chad Bishop recommended that the MDWG puts out information the help inform public on when CWD prevalence rates impact the population and result in pop decline. What is the inflection point?
- Andy showed information on B:D ratios, age of harvest, licenses issued, and CWD prevalence in relation to these metrics.
- 5% is the inflection point on where CWD prevalence really takes off .

Wildlife Movement and Migration Workshops

- Casey Stemler joined us both days
- My presentation from Directors Forum on WMMWorkshops
- Corridor Mapping Team
- There is a continued commitment from XXXXX to implementing the SO

Implementation of Secretarial Order – Casey Stemler.

- Letter sent to Director's on June 14 asking for top 3-5 priority corridors, 2-3 research needs.
- Sec. Zinke is committed to SO3362 and has allocated funds to do research to gather information in gaps and also to habitat work identified to protect or fix corridors (PJ removal/hiway crossings)
- It will help facilitate cooperation with the federal and state agencies.

Disease Transmission and Capture Companies

- Mike Miller/Mary Wood from WHC joined us to discuss what they recommend and discussed what states are doing.
- Some states purchased their own equipt (even partitioned by region of the state)
- Assembled a subcommittee to work with WHC to include this in the Best Practices being drafted at the AFWA

MDF Podcast Update

- Episode 10 so far --- every 2 weeks
- MDF wants to mix what biologists and managers perspective with celebrities in these podcasts
- Will showcase in 20min MDWG products and information with short interviews with MDWG
- e.g., Authors and co-authors of Fact Sheets

Update MDWG Energy Development Guidelines

- We initially said these should be updated as new info comes available
- Had Hall Sawyer review them and offered his opinion and a page of new citations
- May be more info on renewable energy

Spreadsheet of GPS collar experiences

- Mike Cox of the Wild Sheep Working Group joined us to discuss cases of high failure rate in GPS collars
- As we ramp up this type of work we need to share info about what companies are failing at a high rate and not standing behind their product so we can all be aware of others experiences
- Need to compile good information in a central place so experience with older technology doesn't influence our opinions.
- First will share the bid specs from states who have been successful contracts that offer protections
- Query states/provinces

Miscellaneous

- Deer and Elk Workshop May 28-31, 2019 in Marfa, Texas.
- Pronghorn Workshop in Reno, NV. Aug. 13-16, 2018 Early registration ends 7/20
- International Deer Biology Congress Aug 6-10 Estes Park (corridors/CWD)

Ask that you approve the MDWG report as presented including the approval of the Pop Obj and Managing for Opportunity vs mature bucks Fact Sheets