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A Message from the WCA President
Sam Ledgerwood

The weather is finally beginning to clear up and it appears spring has arrived. We had good attendance at our March 19th Board of Directors meeting, which I attribute in part to the nice weather. This first quarter meeting was held in Connell. Thank you to all that attended, especially the Franklin County Cattlemen for your continued support. We are willing to move our board meeting location around from time to time to get more local participation.

I am proud of and thankful for our District Reps, their monthly reports show me they are as engaged now as ever before with their counties. If you don’t know your District Rep, please call the WCA office to get their contact information. That goes for your county presidents as well. They are your voice and need to hear from you.

Dave Duncan gave a WAG (Wolf Advisory Group) update. As we move toward another grazing season, Dave has been working hard to have the WDFW respond quicker and more aggressively to reports of predator attacks. Cattlemen are facing increased pressure from predators as the ungulate population decreases and predator numbers grow.

Dave has also taken on negotiating a lease for Pilot for the WCA parking lot. The board decided leasing the lot was better than selling it. While the papers are not yet signed, Dave, with the expert help of Toni Meacham, reached an agreement with Pilot to lease .8 acres of WCA parking lot. The rental income will definitely help the WCA finances.

During the March 19th meeting the board voted to send me to Washington D.C. for the NCBA & PLC Legislative days. Sarah was able to find me housing with members of the Oregon Cattlemen’s Association, which helped them a little and me a lot. I have never been to D.C., so it was a little nerve racking to say the least.

April 1st and 2nd were PLC meetings. Oregon’s Bob Skinner is the current PLC President. I tried to fill Daryl Asmussen’s shoes as the Washington State (you have to say “state” back there) official representative. Forest plans were definitely a hot topic. With the Blue Mountain Plan being thrown out (1.5 years of planning) and starting over, the Colville National Forest Plan is now in the lead and on the radar to set a precedence. Daryl, Jeff Dawson, and Sarah, with the help of Ethan Lane, the PLC Executive Director, are on top of this. April 24th-26th are the objection resolution meeting dates for the Colville plan. Only those who commented earlier on each section (logging, grazing, access management, wilderness areas, etc.) will be allowed to participate in the resolution meetings. However, anyone can observe. Another hot topic for PLC is wild horses and their impact on resources across the west. Many states are heavily impacted by these horses. Coming up with a plan to manage the horse numbers is very controversial.

NCBA meetings in D.C. began Tuesday afternoon, April 2nd. We were provided packets with information we were to share with the legislators we would meet with on Wednesday. Sarah had sent information from Washington State: a list of our priorities and a letter requesting funding for disaster relief for those impacted by our recent winter storms, to be added to our packets.

Trade & marketing, fake meat regulations, Farm Bill implementation, ELD trucking rule delay request, value of grazing, NEPA documents, ESA rule reform, and WOTUS were some of the topics included in our packets. Dick Coon and I did our very best to carry these messages to Washington State congressional delegation, some of whom were very welcoming and others not so much. We tried not to stumble and bumble our way through the halls of Congress while meeting with our representatives and/or their aides.

Thursday morning the NCBA had speakers talk to us about trade. The Ambassador of Trade from Mexico stressed the importance of trade between our two countries and concern for the possibility of barriers. Bill Northeig from the Secretary of Agriculture’s office spoke about the Farm Bill, disaster programs, LIP, ELAP feed program, and disaster relief. Martin Barbe from the USDA Risk Management Agency talked on insurance, PRF, whole farm and revenue protection. At noon Gregg Doud, Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of US Trade, came out of China trade negotiations to talk to us during his lunch break. He had a positive feeling about trade with China. He did indicate it would...
A Message from the WCW President
Kady Porterfield

Michael’s on the Lake was a great destination for our spring meeting and a beautiful day at that. Not to mention the food was excellent – the steak on my salad was cooked to perfection! It was such a great meeting and I thank all of you that came.

One of the biggest highlights of the meeting was selecting our 2019 Washington State Beef Ambassador. The most exciting news on this is our organization has decided to expand this program and implement a Beef Ambassador team! Therefore, it is my great honor to congratulate two scholarship recipients this year: Miss Cheyanna Wing of Lincoln County and Miss Cassie Kayser of Klickitat County!

Both of these ladies are going to be outstanding spokespeople for our industry and are passionate about advocacy for agriculture. Cheyanna will be attending College of Idaho in the fall to study Ag Business and Ag Communications. Cassie is completing her freshman year at the College of Southern Idaho where she is studying Biology and Ag Business. Both of these ladies will be awarded a Washington Cattlewomen membership along with their $500 scholarships.

Our next upcoming event will be volunteering at the Washington Brewer’s Festival in Redmond at Marymoor Park. This will take place June 14th-16th (Father’s Day weekend). This is such a fun event, and family friendly too! Our job as CattleWomen is important to bringing

I can’t say enough good things about the opportunity we have at the Washington Brewer’s Festival. It is an amazing advocacy experience and I’m thankful the Beef Commission organizes this booth and pulls together all the resources to make it successful. People are so curious to learn true facts on beef production and they are willing to listen to us. We are trusted sources and they are eager to understand. Please let me know which day you’d like to volunteer as shift times vary each day. I look forward to seeing you there and hopefully you can bring along the family!

About a week after that we will be heading to Lewiston, ID to join WCA and the Idaho Cattle Association for the Summer Round-up event. WCW will be holding their summer meeting in conjunction with this conference, so hopefully it will make a good traveling opportunity for you and your fellow cattleman! We will be meeting on Monday, June 24th at 11:00AM in the Red Lion Hotel (621 21st St, Lewiston, ID). We will have a buffet lunch available for $12/person plus tax, so please RSVP to me by June 14th at the latest so I can give the hotel a head count for lunch.

There is no additional cost to attend our meeting, but you are welcome to register for the Summer Round-Up separately if you wish to attend. Schedule and registration info can be found on the Washington Cattlemen’s site. It sure looks to be a great time! We hope to see everyone from Southern and Eastern Washington join us for the WCW meeting.

I wish all our ladies safe travels that are heading to Billings for the Region 5 CattleWomen Conference! I can’t wait to hear a recap report at our June meeting. I know there’s a special announcement in store for the 2020 Region 5 Conference, so I can’t wait to spread the news! It already has my brain turning for plans as we in Washington get set to host it again come 2021. Never too early to start planning!!
A Message from the Executive Vice President
Sarah Ryan

April Showers Bring May Flowers – here’s hoping!

Governor Jay Inslee has declared drought in three basins so far, which opens up potential options to landowners impacted by drought. I encourage you to be in contact with your local NRCS office and conservation districts to become aware of the possible assistance you could be eligible to receive.

Beef Day on The Hill was a great success, we fed over 1,450 people over 500 pounds of beef! Thank you to the volunteers that showed up to help us out. Projects and events like this are not possible to complete without the great help of our members. We partnered with the Washington Asparagus Commission who provided asparagus (obviously) and Washington Dairy Federation who provided milk and cookies – see picture on pages 19 and 24.

During Beef Day on The Hill the House of Representatives passed ESSB 5959 – Revising Livestock Identification Law with a vote of 84 years; 12 nays; 2 excused. Governor Inslee signed ESSB 5959 on April 19th. The bill becomes law 90 days after adjournment of the session.

Below is a summary from WCA Lobbyist, Mark Streuli, who worked VERY hard to get this bill passed on our behalf for the benefit of the whole livestock industry!

April 12, 2019 Legislative Update (excerpt) Beef day was a HUGE success in so many ways yesterday. Not only did the industry really do itself proud is serving some fantastic tri-tip to legislators and staff, but I am finally pleased to report that SB 5959 was passed off the House floor yesterday without any amendments (the committee amendment we were concerned about was removed from the bill). As everyone knows, when it comes to legislation this year, this has been our number one priority. There are so many to people to thank because so many WCA members chipped in to help along this journey, but we certainly wouldn’t be where we are without President Sam Ledgerwood, the WCA Executive Committee and Executive Vice President Sarah Ryan. They aren’t the kind to go looking for thanks, but they sure do deserve it. A HUGE shout-out to them!!

Many legislators helped us on this journey, but a few really made the difference in pushing this across the line, including Senator Warnick, Representative Kretz and Representative Blake. They really deserve our thanks and appreciation. In addition, please thank WSDA Director Derek Sandison. He stood with us at critical times on this, when it could’ve easily gone a different direction. Thank you Director!

Please remind us – What’s in SB 5959?

Brief Summary:
• The Livestock Advisory Board is expanded to allow two representatives and is required to meet for a minimum of twice a year. There are provisions for dismissal for lack of attendance.
• Provides for Brand Registration
• In addition to WSDA inspectors, it provides for field livestock inspectors to be licensed and allowed to provide livestock inspection services.
• Expands the ECTR system to include all cattle for electronic transactions
• Provides for Official Electronic Identification
• $20 Call Out Fee
• $4.00 Slick Cattle
• $1.21 Identified Cattle
• $0.28 Certified Feedlot
• 10% Across the Board Fee Increase
• Sunset provisions 2023

I am very proud of each member who took time to engage on this issue, I believe it made a big difference. This bill was trying for all of us, so many twists and turns along the way. Your engagement in the form of emails, texts and phone calls to your legislators helped. Thank you! See a photo on page 13.

Lastly, on another note… At this time, I feel it is time for a change both personally and professionally. I really appreciate the opportunities you have provided me, and I have learned a great deal about myself and this industry through my job as WCA EVP.

I have accepted a position as Sales Representative for Boehringer Ingelheim. They have provided me the opportunity to follow in some great footsteps, those of Mr. Blakemore.

My last day as WCA EVP will be Friday, May 10, 2019. I begin my new job on Monday, May 13th.

You have each enriched my life, I look forward to continuing to work with you, albeit in a different capacity. I am happy to help the next EVP. Sam has asked that I take some time to outline my duties, I will certainly do my best. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Sarah Ryan

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Beef Commission
Patti Brumbach, Executive Director

There are days when it seems like the gods are against us --- winter storms, fake meat, cow farts, vegans – you name it, we’ve got it. That is why your Beef Checkoff focuses on three proactive communication pillars that work to inoculate our consumers with positive information about responsible beef production, beef’s taste advantage over other proteins and beef’s nutrition and health benefits.

Our top priority is to build trust in modern beef production by telling the stories of local ranchers, feeders and dairy farmers that have built their livelihood around caring for animals and the environment. Over half of our advertising focuses on sharing videos and images that educate consumers about how beef is produced. This advertising zeros in on important consumer concerns like cattle care, antibiotic use, and sustainability.

Between June and March, over 2.6 million consumers viewed our “Rethink the Ranch” videos with almost 37,000 clicking the link to wabeef.org to learn more about the people, places and practices used to produce the beef they love. People like the Mays Family in Ellensburg, the McMillan Family in Soap Lake and the Gebbers Ranch Family in Brewster are featured. Each story weaves in key issues like fire control, antibiotic stewardship and low stress cattle handling. When consumers click through to wabeef.org, to dig deeper, they learn the facts about beef production firmly rooted in science.

Our second pillar is to promote beef’s taste advantage over alternative proteins. Taste has always been our sweet spot with consumers, and it gets better every year as the quality of our beef products improve. So, it is no surprise that sharing delicious beef recipes, cooking techniques and cut information is critical for millennial consumers who lack confidence in cooking beef but want to learn more. Whether the recipes come triple-tested from our Beef Checkoff Culinary Center or through partnerships with popular social media food influencers, we are reaching consumers when and where they are thinking about their next meal. In fact, with only 25% of our advertising budget focused on the taste message in the last eight months, we achieved 492,332 video views and 69,639 clicks to beef recipe collections at wabeef.org and beeffitswhatfordinner.com.

We also have a protein-powered story to tell about beef’s role in a healthy diet, especially when we talk about the fact that beef gives consumers the strength to be their best self every day. With Beef Checkoff funded nutrition research providing a solid science-based foundation, we work with third party influencers to share the great news that beef fits well in the popular Mediterranean diet. A partnership with the Seattle Sounders provided direct access to soccer moms with information about beef fueling their active kids. Almost 1.4 million nutrition videos have been viewed on Facebook and Pandora since July with 79,656 consumers clicking to wabeef.org to learn more.

Digital advertising is an incredibly efficient way to reach our targeted millennial consumers with the information they need to feel good about buying beef and feeding it to their families. And, although you as beef producers may not see the work being done on your behalf, (most of you are not our target audience ranging in age from 25 to 44 and living in the greater Seattle area after all) we are fighting for you every day. Even more, we can evaluate consumer response to our advertising efforts by measuring whether they take action by clicking links to find recipes, learn more about beef’s nutrition or modern beef production – we even know how long they spend viewing the content on our website – this helps us identify and continually fine-tune our most compelling content!

To see what our consumers see, visit our newly updated website at wabeef.org. Follow our activities targeting millennial consumers on social media at Facebook.com/WABeef, Twitter@wabeef, YouTube@WABeef or Instagram@WABeefLove. For more information about any other program funded with your $1.50 beef checkoff investment contact Patti Brumbach at 206.444.2902 or e-mail her at pbrumbach@wabeef.org.

WCW holds spring meeting at Michael’s on the Lake! Representation from Adams, Asotin, Grant, and Kittitas in attendance.
Summer Grass. 
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Fly Free.

Call us today about a custom supplement to help you battle back against pesky flies and to help you raise Better Beef.

~In Rememberance~

Melvin Adrian Utt

Melvin Adrian Utt, 95, of Riverside, passed away March 17, 2019. Melvin was born October 17, 1923 to Ade and Iona (Bolin) Utt at their home in the Lime Belt west of Riverside. Melvin was raised in the Lime Belt area and attended school in Riverside, graduating in 1942. He played basketball for the high school team. During high school and for two or three years after, he worked for neighboring Pine Creek rancher, Bill Scholz. Melvin married Violet May Dorrel on May 19, 1945 at Okanogan. They were married by the same Justice of the Peace who married his parents. Melvin and Violet settled in on the family ranch in the Lime Belt which they purchased from his parents. Melvin worked the ranch, at first with teams of horses until five of the horses were killed in a lightning strike, then he brought a tractor to work the land to raise hay for their Hereford cattle.

Ranching was not only a job, it was a way of life, and a way of life Melvin very much enjoyed. He was involved in the ranch until the very end. He rode for cows the day of his 90th birthday, and the last time he rode his horse was during the fall roundup in 2018. Family and friends very much enjoyed riding and working with Melvin and listening to the stories he could tell. He was a walking encyclopedia on ranching and animal husbandry, and we were very blessed to have him in our lives and learn from him. Melvin belonged to the Washington State Cattleman’s Association and the Okanogan County Cattleman’s Association. Melvin and Violet attended several national conventions in various states and state cattleman’s conventions in Washington.

Although we are late, and our haystacks and pocketbooks have suffered, I hope you all are branding a nice set of calves showing the fruits of our labor. What an uplifting time of year: calves playing in the sun, pastures and fields turning to green. Reminds me of a time years ago when my Dad, Dick Ledgerwood, drove to the ranch from his home in town. My brother Jim and I were working around the place when we noticed Dad had disappeared. We found him sitting up on the ridge watching the baby calves running and playing in the sunshine. When I see this site today, I can’t help but think of him and all he passed on to his family.

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Two Kittitas County students will each receive $750 from the Kittitas County CattleWomen Memorial Scholarship Fund and membership to the County and State CattleWomen’s organizations. The scholarship is awarded to female Kittitas County high school seniors who are enrolling full-time in the fall at a university, community college, technical or trade school and plans for a major or minor in an agriculture-related field. This year, the CattleWomen selected two qualified individuals.

Carlee Houle will graduate from Easton High School this spring and plans to attend Yakima Valley College major in Veterinary Technology. She is a four-year National Honor Society member who has served as ASB Vice President and is involved in activities in and out of school. Carlee currently volunteers at Valley Veterinary Hospital and works on her family’s Teanaway hay farm, Nelson Creek Farm, where she cuts hay, mends fence, tends to irrigation matters and manages noxious vegetation.

Mikaila Montgomery is a 2018 graduate of Cle Elum-Roslyn High School who currently attends Central Washington University. She is pursuing a career in agricultural-related technologies or agricultural-based teaching. Mikaila spent the past year travelling the state representing Ellensburg as a Rodeo princess. This is the second year Mikaila has received our scholarship. She attends our monthly Cattle Women’s meetings, and even with her busy schedule, wants to get involved in our beef community. With excellent academic records, the Kittitas County CattleWomen are proud to award these two young ladies with the 2019 Memorial Scholarships.

Carlee Houle

Mikaila Montgomery

THANK YOU WCA MEMBERS FOR YOUR SUPPORT

March 16, 2019 through April 19, 2019

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Grant County Cattlemen’s Association
In Memory of Rita Mayrant

Walla Walla County Cattlemen’s Association
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Buzz & Jean Berney
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- 22 dtrs of Pathfinder sire, Hoover Dam in the prime of their production.
- 16 dtrs of ORigen featured RB Regal Duty 3215 the #1 son of Coleman Regles 904 for $B.
- 8 two-year-old daughters of $30,000 ½ int ORigen superstar SS Trump B263.
- Full sister to 44 Prophet 77E the 3rd-top selling bull of the Fall 2018 44 Farms Sale.
- Selling the dam of accomplished curve-bending herd sire, 44 Payweight 69D.
- Selling a flush interest in the $19,000 donor RB Lady Resolute 077-3224.

This dynamic Hoover Dam daughter is quickly recognized as the grandam of ORigen feature, Sioux Pass Perfection. She posts progeny ratios of BR 2@82, NR 2@113, YR 1@107, IMF 2@134 and BF 2@118. She boasts calving ease credentials, with a triple-digit YW EPD and SB in the top 10%. Sells with heifer calf by 44 Main Attraction 4793.

A 2/23/18 SS Trump B263 daughter from a second-generation Pathfinder dam by LCC New Standard with progeny ratios BR 6@95, NR 6@116. She recorded an astounding BWR 81 and WWR 712 while boasting WW, YW, SW and SF values in the elite top 1%

This astounding 2/28/18 curve-bender by Deppe 205 Discovery 660 comes from an EXAR Substance 1966B dam that records BR 2@92, NR 2@101 and YR 1@111. She posts a CED +10, BW -4, WW +66 and YW +129. She is a maternal sister to Sioux Pass Perfection.

A 1/18/18 daughter of CCAR Discovery 670 from a prolific daughter of OX Allied Threat that records BR 5@100 and NR 5@105. She posted a WWR 109 and ranks in the top 10% or better for WW, YW, HP, Milk, CW, MR, SW, SG, SQG and SB (top 3%).

This 2014 daughter of EXAR Substance 1966B from a SQ Credence 675 dam posts BR 2@91 and NR 2@102. Will calve to Sioux Pass herd sire.

Sioux Pass Angus
Carter Miklović
P.O. Box 152 - Lodge Grass, MT 59050
Home: 406.639.2524
Cell: 406.679.2179
siouxpassangus@gmail.com

AUCTIONEER:
Joe Goggins

Over 100 cows with a sub-zero BW EPD
Over 100 cows with double-digit CED
80-plus cows in the top 10% for SW
100-plus cows in the top 25% $B
Animals and Diseases are on the Move: Do Your Part to protect Animal Health!

Are you preparing to show animals at the fair this year? Have you purchased an animal from a sale barn or special sale? We recommended that your veterinarian health check, vaccinate and deworm your animal. When animals move, so do diseases and parasites.

In Washington, some rules apply when ownership changes and require the involvement of an accredited veterinarian.

**Dairy Cattle**
- Official ID (NUES or 840 tag)
- Official Calfhood or adult Brucellosis Vaccination for all female cattle >4 months
- Trich test for all intact males >18 months
- Brand Inspection

**Beef Cattle**
- Official ID all cattle > 18 months
- Official Calfhood or adult Brucellosis Vaccination for all female cattle >4 months
- Trich test for all intact males >18 months
- Brand Inspection

**Goats and Sheep**
- Official Scrapie tag identification (wethers exempt)

**Swine**
- Official ID recommended unless going to slaughter

**Equine**
- Brand inspection recommended at change of ownership (Above Info is Washington State Change of Ownership Requirements by Species).

Interstate (travelling across state lines) rules Are you moving to another state and taking your animals with you? Be sure you know if those animals meet the destination state’s animal health requirements. Anytime an animal crosses state lines, owners must comply with both federal rules and the rules for the state of destination. These rules protect animal and public health. You should check with your veterinarian to be sure you are in compliance before you move the animal.

Accredited veterinarians are responsible for inspecting livestock and poultry prior to interstate movement to prevent the spread of disease. The Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) or health certificate is an official document issued by an accredited veterinarian that certifies the animals identified on the document satisfies the animal health requirements in the state of destination. The criteria for entry vary from state to state and may include certain tests, treatments, vaccinations, special statements or permit numbers. You should allow a few weeks prior to movement to get these done.

There are two excellent resources to help you and your veterinarian meet the animal health requirements. The United States Animal Health Association and the National Institute for Animal Agriculture partnered to build www.interstatelivestock.com where you can find the requirements for cattle, horses, sheep, goats and pigs moving interstate. The American Veterinary Medical Association also has many materials on their website to help with all species: https://www.avma.org/public/PetCare/CVI/Pages/default.aspx. When in doubt, call the State Veterinarian’s office in the state of destination. Thanks for doing your part to protect animal health in Washington.

New & Reinstated Members

**Columbia County**
- Ed Hamilton
- Randy James
- James Gang Red Angus

**Thurston County**
- Maddie Mancke

**Whitman County**
- Steve Bravard
- Rattlesnake Breaks LLC

Recruited By Tyler Cox
Recruited By Kim Weerts

Daniel Stout
What to Know About Your Forest Service Grazing Permit
By Brian Gregg Sheldon
Falen Law Offices, LLC

The U.S. Forest Service has managed livestock grazing on its portion of the public lands for over a century. Despite this long history, the agency’s actual guidelines for day-to-day management of a public lands’ livestock operation remain somewhat obscure to the average person. The process for acquiring, transferring, and appealing permits and permit-related decisions may seem a bit mystifying -- particularly for an operator who is more familiar with the system used by the Bureau of Land Management. This article aims to give a short overview of the practical operation of the Forest Service’s grazing management authority, along with some lessons garnered from experience.

Anatomy of a Grazing Permit. Every Forest Service grazing permit is based on a standard form. It will state: the permittee’s contact information; a description of the range being grazed (e.g., a map of relevant public and private land); the number, kind, and class of livestock being grazed; the period of use for grazing; and the grazing allotment(s) with which the permit will be associated. Typically, grazing permits are issued for terms of ten years and may be renewed thereafter, albeit with the potential for new and potentially adverse terms.

Significantly, the permit will also contain language stating that the permit may be cancelled or suspended, in whole or in part, for failure to abide by the terms and conditions of the permit and/or for failure to abide by any applicable laws, regulations, or instructions of the Forest Service. This includes penalties for making false statements to the agency, and for violating environmental or wildlife laws. Relatedly, operators should take care that some activity authorized by a state permit of some sort (e.g., a hunting license) does not interfere with federal laws and regulations such as the Endangered Species Act. For example, while it may be perfectly legal to obtain a license to trap coyotes that are harming your livestock, the traps you set for the coyotes could inadvertently trap and injure a wolf (or some other listed species). Even though your trap was otherwise lawful and any impact to the wolf was accidental, you could still face legal penalties for violating the Endangered Species Act, including adverse consequences to your grazing permit.

Obtaining a Grazing Permit. To apply for a term grazing permit from the Forest Service, a would-be permittee must meet a number of qualifications. Of primary concern here is the requirement that a permittee own both the livestock to be grazed and the “base property” associated with a specific federal grazing allotment. While simple in concept, this qualification requirement can present a headache for a permittee because it prevents leasing livestock or land or dividing ownership of same between different persons and/or corporate entities -- a notable difference from the Bureau of Land Management’s permits. Moreover, if a permittee disposes of all or a portion of the livestock or the base property in question, the permit may be subject to cancellation.

Furthermore, every operator should be aware of the requirement to “validate” a grazing permit. Validation consists of a Forest Service employee personally verifying that the permittee has turned out at least 90% of the livestock designated in the permit on the relevant allotment. The validation process need only occur once. While validation may sound like a formality, it is nonetheless a crucial one — failure to validate one’s permit renders it subject to cancellation. Moreover, failure to validate a permit precludes an operator from transferring the permit, as described below.

Transferring a Grazing Permit. Transferring a Forest Service permit can be difficult because the transfer process is intertwined with the qualification requirements described above.

Strictly speaking, a permit is not transferred between two different parties. Instead, the original permittee “waives” his or her permit via a standard waiver form and, if the Forest Service accepts this waiver, issues a new permit to the new permittee for the remainder of the term period. Waiver forms will generally be approved provided the new permittee is qualified and the prior permit was validated to begin with. However, the approval of the new permit is conditioned on the new permittee purchasing the livestock and base property of the previous permittee. If the new permittee purchases both the land and the livestock from the previous permittee, this presents no problem. However, issues can arise when the would-be new permittee acquires only the previous owner’s livestock or the base property, but not both.

According to the Forest Service Handbook on grazing, if the party purchases only the base property, the operator will need to have the new herd of livestock ready to graze with proof of ownership and branding information ready. Any livestock associated with the previous permit must be removed and the new herd put on within 30 days of the execution of the waiver form.

Transferring a Grazing Permit. continued on page 13
A Message from Ag in the Classroom  
Kristen Hinton

The signs of spring are everywhere—spring breaks for children, plowing of fields, greening of the landscape, flowers are blooming and the days are longer! Oh I bet many of us daily are breathing in the smells of spring in true appreciation as it’s been a long winter....

WAIC is in full spring swing with the mailing of our spring issue April 11th to 10,700 students across Washington. The Spring issue highlights stewardship and that every day is earth day for farmers. One highlight is the water cycle, soil components and then how agriculture works with our natural resources to produce food while improving the environment (see grazing and conservation Ag@School page 4).

A special thank you to a team of Farm Bureau volunteers that included an Ag@School magazine in a “goodie bag” to many legislators in Olympia in celebration of how valuable Washington’s agriculture is to our economy. Another special thank you to the many volunteers who used Ag@School as part of their Spring farm fairs including Franklin, Whitman and Kittitas counties. These efforts are instrumental in spreading agricultural literacy!

Check out our website at www.waic.net as we’ve had many updates as well as included our new agricultural literacy project featuring a lesson plan for the book, John Deere, that’s Whoo! Our summer plans include a summer meeting in July that all are welcome to attend where we evaluate our year and plan the next! If you are planning any summer events and would like WAIC resources, please contact us! We’d love to help!

THANK YOU for your time and energy that you invest in the future of agriculture! Every person and their efforts to increase Ag literacy is impactful!

Lori McCown, Brand Control Specialist  
WSDA / Animal Services / (360) 725-5505

Expired Brands
Conversely, the Handbook states that if the party purchases only the previous owner’s livestock, they must obtain the required amount of property necessary to support the permit. This may require redesignating nearby private land as the base property associated with the permit, which is a separate process that the Forest Service may, within its discretion, not approve. Moreover, livestock purchased as part of a permit must be the same livestock that were permitted at the time of the purchase.

In addition, operators should be wary of entering into any “buy-back” agreements – both with livestock and with base property. Livestock that has previously grazed on Forest Service land may not be resold to the original owner within two years of the purchase without prior approval of the Forest Supervisor. Similarly, base property purchased from a permittee in connection with issuance of a new permit must not be transferred back to the original owner within two years of the purchase without prior approval of the Forest Supervisor. Violation of the “two-year” rule may result in a cancellation of the permit.

Operators should be aware that all the above-mentioned requirements for qualifying for and transferring permits are strictly enforced by the Forest Service. The Forest Service has “seen it all” when it comes to creative attempts to finagle base property or livestock ownership, and any attempt to circumvent these requirements will dealt with harshly by the agency. While certain isolated exceptions exist -- e.g., for foreclosed mortgages and “escrow” waivers, as well as the possibility of obtaining a conditional one-year permit if base property or livestock requirements are not met through no personal fault of the permittee -- the end result of trying to bend the rules may well be a cancelled permit.

Appealing an Unfavorable Decision. If your permit or transfer application is denied, or if your permit is renewed with unfavorable terms, it may be necessary to appeal the decision. Unfortunately, those operators who are familiar with the Bureau of Land Management’s appellate procedures will find that the Forest Service does things differently. Comparatively speaking, there are fewer due process rights available to an appellant. Pursuant to the Forest Service’s grazing regulations the Forest Service appeals process typically consists of a single appeal to the Forest Supervisor (assuming the original decision was issued by a District Ranger), although a higher-level “discretionary review” is sometimes available in rare instances involving large-scale land management decisions. If the appeal is likewise unfavorable, then one may seek judicial review in federal court.

Conclusion. The Forest Service’s grazing management authority is highly discretionary. Any applicant must own both the base property and livestock to qualify for the permit and must properly validate the permit before seeking to transfer it via waiver. Special care must be given when acquiring a permit via waiver so that base property and livestock requirements are met – particularly if new livestock or new base property will be designated. Permittees must be transparent about their operational structure to avoid penalties from the agency. Finally, while a permittee is allowed an administrative appeal of any adverse decision, the technical difficulty inherent in this administrative proceeding means it is a good idea to seek the help of legal counsel and rangeland consultants before filing your appeal.

After Passage of Livestock ID Bill

Based on our experience with Forest Service appeals, a couple of points are worth bearing in mind. First, an operator should be aware that the Forest Service has very strict formal requirements for its appeals and is known to reject appeals for not following formatting guidelines. This is why seeking legal assistance in the preparation of your appeal is often a good idea. Second, if you are appealing a decision to cancel or to not renew a permit based on resource conditions and/or grazing practices, it is strongly recommended that you obtain the services of a rangeland consultant to provide a technical basis to ground your appeal and rebut any claims by the agency. This is especially true if your appeal reaches the level of “post-decisional” agency review or judicial review in federal court, as you will face an uphill battle owing to inherently deferential standards of review in each instance.

Brian Gregg Sheldon is an Associate Attorney with the Falen Law Offices, LLC with a primary focus on property, environment and natural resources law. Falen Law Offices, LLC, has attorneys licensed to practice law in Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. This article should not be understood to state or imply that any lawyers of this law firm are certified as specialists in a particular field of law. Colorado does not certify lawyers as specialists in any field. The Wyoming State Bar does not certify any lawyer as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer’s credentials and ability, and not rely upon advertisements or self-proclaimed expertise. This article is informational and is not legal advice. Use of this article or contact with this law firm does not create an attorney-client relationship.
The Present-day Death Spiral of Prey Species in Washington State
Collaborative paper with contributions from WCA members, hunters, and wildlife biologists

The following is a review of the Washington WDFW of Fish and Wildlife’s (WDFW or Department) mandates and policies and how cougar, wolf, whitetail deer, and elk populations are, or are not, falling within the WDFW’s stated population goals and objectives, and in the case of wolves, recovery goals.

Mandates, Directives, Policies and Science
The following are policies that speak to the WDFW’s mandate to manage for all the wildlife species of the state, and that wolf recovery goals never trump the mandate for a vibrant ungulate population. Washington State Legislation mandates the WDFW to: “preserve, protect and perpetuate and manage the wildlife...in a manner that does not impair the resource”. In this instance the resource is all the wildlife, not just wolves. It is important to note, this mandate requires wolves, like all other wildlife, to be managed. A directive taken from the 2011 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (wolf plan) states: “maintain healthy and robust ungulate populations in the State that provide abundant prey for wolves and other predators as well as ample harvest opportunities for hunters”. And it goes on to say: “Department will therefore monitor and if necessary, adjust the extent of lethal removals...to meet both conservation and management needs[when] the population totals 75 or more wolves”. The state is obviously already well over the 75-wolf mark, with the minimum population being estimated at 126. WDFW’s own Commission policy states: “The Department must respond to the “reality on the ground” no matter what happens here. regardless of the state of recovery, wolf population monitoring and responding rapidly to incidents of human conflict, unacceptable impacts on ungulate and livestock depredations are high priorities for the Commission and the Department”. The State has clearly experienced humane conflict and unacceptable impacts around wolves. Finally, in the Federal Register, under wolf delisting policy at the federal level, it states: “Where harvest occurs the species high level of reproduction and immigration can compensate for mortality rates of 17% to 48%...wolf populations should remain strong in those areas with management activities that focus on wolf population reduction as needed to maintain populations of wild ungulates and reduce conflicts with livestock”. This is coming directly from the “wolf’s (USFW) who manage the Endangered Species Act. They are telling us that once a wolf population is established, they are a robust, adaptable specie that can withstand heavy management.

Wolves across Washington
There are 27 packs of wolves across Washington. 22 packs are in the Eastern Zone, which includes the Blue Mountains and Northeast Washington. 5 packs are in the North Cascades Zone. Dr. Wasser using DNA scat research has found evidence of wolves in the South Cascades Zone.

Wolves in Washington’s District 1
WDFW’s District 1 (excluding Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT) lands and their four wolf packs) has 4,629 square miles that contain 12 packs. This results in a 55% higher pack density than Idaho’s immediately adjacent Panhandle Data Analysis Unit (DAU) and a 42% higher pack density than Idaho’s 11 highest wolf density DAU’s combined. Idaho has a similar Legislative Mandate to Washington’s to manage for all wildlife. In 2018 in Idaho, where hunting and trapping of wolves is legal, USDA Wildlife Services, hunters and trappers harvested a large number of wolves in order to fulfill their statutory responsibility (see page 81, Idaho Big Game 2018 Seasons & Rules). This ties back to USFW’s assertion that wolves are such a robust species, their population will grow even with fairly high mortality rates.

Wolves appear to be more than fully recovered in District 1. The WDFW and the Fish and Wildlife Commission has the authority and the responsibility to bring relief to the prey base and livestock industry by reducing the wolf population to maintain ungulate populations and to reduce livestock depredations.

White Tail Deer in District 1
The true base line of white tail deer population for District 1 is unknown. According to the WDFW, if you assume a conservative overall population density of 8 or 9 white tail deer per square mile, it should harbor a population of about 35,000 to 39,000 white tail deer. The Wolf Plan states: “ungulate populations without numeric estimates and/or without management objectives, the Department will rely on other factors for information”. In District 1 the average Cougar quota is 34 or 14% of the cougar density (24 months of age) equals a population of 243. With an average quota of 34 cougars, hunters harvested 74 cougars, a largely nocturnal species, prior to the quota deadline in 2018 or 34% of the WDFW’s estimated cougar population. This says that the WDFW’s estimated cougar density or population numbers are quite low and unrealistic.

By using the WDFW’s own 24 month and older (excluding sub adults and kittens) predator population density numbers in District 1, the minimum yearly predator consumption numbers are as follows:

The above table was taken from estimates made by the WDFW and the best available science. It is not meant to be interpreted as pure data, but rather to give an overall estimate of the white tail deer populations and mortalities in District 1. White tail deer mortalities from the above totals show a low estimate of over 26,000 kills which indicates a very conservative 68% population reduction if you assume an overall estimated population of 39,000 deer. The percentage of mortality a population of white tail deer can withstand while still adding to recruitment varies greatly

continued on page 16
SAVE THE DATE
Summer Round Up
JUNE 23RD, 24TH, AND 25TH
LEWISTON, IDAHO

We invite you to join us in Lewiston, Idaho on June 23rd-25th for Summer Round Up! This year the Idaho Cattle Association is welcoming the Washington Cattlemen's Association as co-hosts of this great annual event. We hope to bring our membership together to converse and work towards the same goal of promoting, protecting, and preserving our great industry! We will be hosting a jet boat tour, 18 holes of golf, a rangeland tour, social hours, and meetings. Registration will be mailed out to all Idaho and Washington members by April 1st and also available on our website idahocattle.org. Feel free to call the ICA office with questions at (208) 343-1615.

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The Present-day Death Spiral of Prey Species in Washington State (continued from Page 15)

depending on predators, weather and forage availability. According to the WDFW, for retention of the white tail population the average number of white tail deer needs to range from 9 to 11 individual animals per transect mile. In 2016 and 2017 there was an average of 4.7 individual animals per transect mile according to WDFW surveys. For retention of a population, the recruitment of fawns needs to be a minimum 50 fawns per 100 does (WDFW 2015/2017 ungulate assessment). In 2004 the WDFW estimated 68 fawns per 100 does, but only 27.2 fawns per 100 does in 2017 (a 60% reduction). The Muckleshoot Deer Study showed that 79% of cougar kills are additive. Predation becomes more additive as overall rates of predation increase.

Summary of White Tail Deer in District 1
The white tail deer population numbers in District 1 are in direct violation of the WDFW’s Legislative Mandate: “to preserve, protect and perpetuate and manage the wildlife...in a manner that does not impair the resource” and the Wolf Plan’s Directive: “to maintain healthy and robust populations of ungulates”. Additionally, the Wolf Plan identifies an At Risk Population as “any population that falls 25% below its population objective for 2 consecutive years.” Even if only the minimums from above are considered, this clearly defines the white tail deer population in District 1 as At Risk. District 1 has also experienced the devastating winter of 2018/2019. In winters like this, predators do extremely well, deer are concentrated, weakened and slowed by heavy snow, and predators can run on top of crusted snow giving them a tremendous advantage. Where would the population be today if hunters had not harvested 198 cougars in the last 3 years in District 1, thereby saving the lives of over 11,000 deer and other ungulates. Does this deer species have to be classified as threatened before the WDFW takes predator reduction action?

Summary of Predator/Prey in District 1
This is not a onetime winter or disease kill as there will be an even steeper percentage reduction of ungulates in coming years with added predators and predator needs and with less natural prey on the landscape for predators to kill. White tail deer was used in this example, but elk and moose populations are also suffering greatly in District 1. Prey species often face hard winters, disease and habitat loss and historically recovery has been achieved by the application of the North American Conservation Model. On this landscape there has never been a predator vs prey population percentage change of this magnitude. It is nothing less than a DEATH SPIRAL for the prey base.

Predators have pushed deer populations onto private property, near to dwellings for protection. The effect is an increasing number of predators occupying and seeking their needed protein in people’s back yards killing, deer, dogs, chickens, cats, sheep, goats, donkeys and cattle. This has also created increasing and unacceptable Public Safety issues. Only a percentage of the actual cougar conflicts and incidents are being reported, based on the reality that the WDFW is slow to respond, over protective of problem cougars and does not provide an effective resolution.

The Proactive Deterrence Measures for livestock grazing are already failing as can be seen in GMU 101 where the lack of natural prey is causing wolves to “prey switch” and severely depredate and harass livestock. At this point effective management of livestock and/or wolf livestock preventative are not achievable. Meanwhile all the GMU’s in District 1 are falling into the same trend with the Blue Mountains to follow. As Ed Bangs said: “All wolves need is something to eat to survive”. Action on the part of the Wildlife Commission, WDFW and WAG to facilitate major changes with increased flexibility in the Wolf-Livestock Interaction Protocol for the 2019 grazing season is problematic and could leave livestock producers and rural communities with no alternative but to pursue historic predator control measures.

A Case Study of Elk in the Blue Mountains of Washington State
Elk calf survival studies have revealed that predation is the major cause of mortality for elk calves throughout the West, including the Blue Mountains in Washington State. Myers et al. (1999) studied calf survival in the Blue Mountains from 1992 until 1998 and found that of the 240-calf elk marked in their study, 113 did not survive their first year. Annual survival

CHAMPAGNE STEAK SALAD WITH BLUE CHEESE

INGREDIENTS:

2 beef Ranch Steaks, cut 1 inch thick (about 8 ounces each)
1 pound green beans, trimmed
2 teaspoons crushed mixed peppercorns (black, white, pink and green)
2 medium red and/or yellow bell peppers, cut into quarters
1 package (5 ounces) mixed salad greens
1/2 cup thinly sliced red onion
1/4 cup crumbled blue cheese
Vinaigrette:
1/4 cup champagne or white wine vinegar
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons maple syrup
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground mixed peppercorns

COOKING:

Bring 1-inch water to a boil in medium saucepan. Add green beans, cover and cook 4 to 5 minutes or until crisp-tender. Drain; set aside.

Meanwhile, combine vinaigrette ingredients in small bowl; set aside.

Press 2 teaspoons peppercorns evenly onto beef steaks. Place steaks in center of grid over medium, ash-covered coals; arrange peppers around steak. Grill steaks, covered, 11 to 14 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 12 to 16 minutes) for medium rare (145°F) to medium (160°F) doneness. Grill peppers 7 to 11 minutes (gas grill times remain the same) or until crisp-tender, turning steaks and vegetables occasionally.

Carve steaks into thin slices. Cut peppers into 1-1/2-inch pieces. Season beef and vegetables with salt, as desired. Divide salad greens among four serving bowls; top evenly with vegetables. Arrange beef on salad. Sprinkle with blue cheese. Drizzle with vinaigrette.

continued on page 18
Animals and the Law

Google cattle starvation Washington. The first thing the pops up is a case out of my home county, Franklin County, regarding a man accused of starving 29 head of cattle to death between February and March of this year. We all know about the bad weather, and we all know about the emotional and financial cost caused by that weather, but the question becomes one of where is the line? I wish I could say that the James Marek case out of Franklin County was the only case to come out of the February and March weather, but currently the WCA is aware of three other cases being considered in Eastern Washington. In each case (one with over 40 head of cattle dead), there is no evidence of tire tracks, cattle feed, nor any indication that any actions were taken to check on or care for the cattle. Prosecutors have the ability to bring animal cruelty charges in situations such as the ones I am describing.

WCA, as an association, has been working with state and federal agencies to find funding for feed reimbursement and death loss for the ranchers that did take care of their animals and suffered losses regardless. Our association cannot condone the starvation of animals, and in cases that are fairly cut and dry, it is our ethical obligation to support law enforcement in their efforts. In the Marek situation, it is not Mr. Marek’s first brush with the law. In fact, Mr. Marek has been in trouble in Idaho, which has led to the Idaho Cattlemen’s Association to writing a letter supporting Mr. Marek’s prosecution.

However, what about the situation where things aren’t so black and white? When is our best not good enough in the eyes of the law? As I have written about in the past, there has been a push to get animals recognized as having “personhood” and rights under our Constitution. This type of movement is a direct assault on our livelihood. I am concerned that cases such as the Marek case will be used in the effort to bring about civil rights for animals. From a common sense standpoint, I would hope that everyone reading this would see the fallacy of that argument. Marek’s actions were Marek’s actions. The starvation of cattle should be treated as it is being treated, an event that was caused by a human, so a human should be responsible. Animal cruelty cases are really about humans being found responsible for their own actions, or lack thereof, not a call to change the law, but to enforce the law already in place.

RCW 16.25.205 clearly states: "A person is guilty of animal cruelty in the first degree when, except as authorized by law, he or she intentionally (a) inflicts substantial pain on, (b) causes physical injury to, or (c) kills an animal by a means causing undue suffering or while manifesting an extreme indifference to life, or forces a minor to inflict unnecessary pain, injury, or death on an animal.

(2) A person is guilty of animal cruelty in the first degree when, except as authorized by law, he or she, with criminal negligence, starves, dehydrates, or suffocates an animal and as a result causes: (a) Substantial and unjustifiable physical pain that extends for a period sufficient to cause considerable suffering; or (b) death."

When cases of this nature come to light, the answer is not to pass new law, or support an irrational movement, but to enforce the laws already in place and hold people accountable for their actions and choices.

When a person takes action that meets the elements of the statute, they have violated the law. The statute was written in a way to protect the people that are doing their best and do not meet the intentional elements of the statute. Even though there are four prosecutions that the WCA knows about currently, there are hundreds of stories that we know about in the opposite direction. Those of us that sacrificed everything we could to keep our cattle alive and healthy. We are already fighting a battle of public perception, so cases like the Marek case do not help our industry. We must be aware of the bad actors and be ready to defend our industry with the facts: 1) There is already law in place to prosecute people that do not adequately take care of their livestock and reach the definition of animal cruelty; 2) With unprecedented weather, there were thousand of cattle that were properly taken care of; 3) The WCA is supporting the prosecution of the individuals where there is clear and convincing evidence of livestock starvation. The WCA does not condone nor excuse starving livestock; and 4) Individual actions of this nature are not a reflection of the Washington state beef industry.

As spring has now arrived, it would be easy to forget February and March and just move on. It is important to remember that when cases like these come to light, they give everyone in the livestock industry a black eye, so please remember to tell your story of everything you went through for your livestock during those months.
rates ranged from 41-55%. Of the calves that died, cougar predation accounted for 48.6% of the mortality, black bears 15.9% and 20.5% from coyotes, humans and accidents, with 15% unknown. Elk herds require a 40% recruitment of calves to maintain population levels. In 1992-1998 with a calf survivor rate of 41-55% the herd was stable and/or growing. Then the cougar population has gradually increased over the years. Unpublished data indicates that cougar densities in the Blue Mountains averaged 3.02 cougars/100km² (95% CI = 2.88-3.15) for cougars greater than 24 months of age during the study periods. These reported densities are considerably higher than reported elsewhere in the state, which averaged 1.5-1.7 adult cougars/100km².

Even before the addition of four wolf packs, Blue Mountain elk were becoming an AT Risk population, it is not hard to imagine that adding wolf predation to the mix could easily send them over the edge. An example of this is the Lick Creek herd in the Blue Mountains, the population went from an estimated 900+ animals in 2015 to an estimated 400+ animals in 2018. As another example the spike bull harvest for the Blue Mountains was 228 in 2002 and the harvest for 2018 was 75 spike bulls. Clearly the Lick creek herd and the Spike harvest has gone well under the 40% recruitment needed and have fallen below the 25% harvest objective and are an AT Risk population which is in direct violation of the legislative mandate: “to preserve, protect and perpetuate and manage the wildlife... in a manner that does not impair the resource”. Mountains Elk Plan, cougar objectives are not prey based. In Washington State predators should not be exempt from basic wildlife management concepts. The WDFW policy for cougar management is also fundamentally flawed due to manipulation of cougar data. Now with the added prey needs of four wolf packs in the Blue Mountain area and the results of the 2018 elk survey and the 2018 spike bull harvest data it becomes urgent to reduce excessive cougar population. Logic would dictate that they increase the harvest of female cougars in order to reduce recruitment into the population.

CONCLUSION
Science tells us: “that ignoring the predator/prey relationship and impact of predation on ungulates in a multi apex ecosystem is disastrous to ungulate populations”. The USFW, understands the science and needs of a recovered wolf population on the landscape that works for all citizens and wildlife: “an inadequate prey density and a high level of humane persecution appear to be the only factors that limit habitat suitability and grey wolf distribution”. The WDFW staff and some conservation organizations are ignoring this habitat suitability model by not even acknowledging the need to manage predator populations for an adequate prey base density or the need to apply sufficient humane persecution to resolve livestock depredations. The WDFW is presently spending millions of dollars dealing with the symptoms such as increasing livestock depredations, costs of added preventative, added study’s, added staff and added overhead. Tolerance for wolves and cougars in the landscape is on a steep downward trend with livestock producers, rural communities, rural governments and hunters. Trust in the WDFW staff is at an all-time low. At present the WDFW is reluctant to even admit that the high density of predators is having a negative impact on deer and elk populations statewide, resulting in a major public relations issue that only creates more distrust.

The WDFW needs to ignore the social pressure from the vocal minority who are using predators as a tool to push their private agendas and further their cash flow. The WDFW is required to implement a comprehensive predator/prey management system State wide that is integrated. Ungulates and predators cannot be managed separately from each other. Those guidelines need to protect ungulate populations, with the ultimate goal of maintaining ungulate populations, including calf and fawn recruitment, at current management objectives. Integrating a comprehensive predator/prey management system will ultimately prove beneficial to predators, ungulate populations, livestock producers, hunters, outdoor recreation, rural communities, conservation NGO’s, the WDFW and the State. When an Agency such as the WDFW is mandated by legislation to do something, it is not a mere suggestion; it is required to follow through.

Summary of the Blue Mountains
Elk was used in this example, but the Mule deer population is almost nonexistent in the Blue Mountains. Elk are a highly valued resource in Washington State, but the WDFW continues to implement a policy of “maintaining” high predator populations as stated in the Blue State predators should not be exempt from basic wildlife management concepts. The WDFW policy for cougar management is also fundamentally flawed due to manipulation of cougar data. Now with the added prey needs of four wolf packs in the Blue Mountain area and the results of the 2018 elk survey and the 2018 spike bull harvest data it becomes urgent to reduce excessive cougar population. Logic would dictate that they increase the harvest of female cougars in order to reduce recruitment into the population.

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It’s worth the wait!

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Thanks to all the great volunteers who helped make this event happen!