



# WASHINGTON



## STATE RESOURCE TEAM .....WHAT?

Every state was asked in late 2002 to form a State Leadership/Resource Team of lead volunteers to help the RMEF attain even greater goals than they have already accomplished.

Yes, there is a State Resource Team in Washington that is alive and growing. The SRT is just that, a Resource for our great RMEF volunteers. We currently have about 30 members and are always looking for dedicated volunteers to join and help out. The SRT is a year old and we will have our annual fall meeting in Ellensburg on August 31<sup>st</sup>. We usually have another meeting in January. The team also has conference calls every couple of months to discuss issues and ideas as well as get everyone on the team up to date on what is happening with the RMEF.

The SRT is comprised of 5 teams: Development, Events, Mission, Volunteer, and Public Relations. The Development Team is headed by Ric Nichols and its responsibility is in the development arena. The Events Team is headed by Mike Hale and it deals with banquets, Habitat Partner Receptions, etc. Dan Howell heads the Mission Team which coordinates and helps with projects and work parties with the different agencies. The Volunteer team, headed by the State Chairs (Doug Marsh and Frank McMahon) is the team that oversees and deals with any volunteer issues that may present themselves. Jack Nichols and Ken Kajita are the two members of the PR team who maintain our Northwest Web page and Bull Stop.

A big advantage to being on the State Resource Team is that one can participate at a level with which he/she is comfortable. Some are on more than one team and your participation can be tailored to your individual interest and time restraints. We currently have ladies, gentlemen, and couples on the SRT and anyone who wants another avenue to help the RMEF attain even greater goals in the second 20 years than we did in the first 20 years is more than welcome. We really do need more volunteers and their ideas to help us set and attain our goals. If you would like more information or wish to join us, please contact myself at 509-826-5458 or e-mail [swampy@televar.com](mailto:swampy@televar.com) or Frank McMahon at 360-459-5283 or e-mail [elkfinder@comcast.net](mailto:elkfinder@comcast.net). The entire State Resource team is posted on Elknet. Go to the people tab and then to Washington State for the current SRT list.

Working with great people in Wild Places  
Doug Marsh  
Eastern Washington State Chair

## HP AND LIFE MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY ON THE TIETON

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, the Washington State Resource Team thanked about 80 Habitat Partners and Life Members of the RMEF for their commitment to wildlife with a tour the Tieton Project. The tour included information about the uniqueness and benefits this area provides to wildlife, including elk, mule deer, big horn sheep, ducks and fish. A great day ended with a fantastic barbecued meal provided by Miz Dee of the BBQ Works in Yakima.

Several guests showed their passion for this project by donating \$8,500.00. WOW!

Our thanks to Wayne Marion, Western Washington Regional Director, for being the tour guide and Kevin Brown, Eastern Washington / North Idaho Regional Director for presenting information on the Tieton and how critical this acquisition is to the future of all wildlife.

By Mike Hale  
Events Team Leader

**THERE IS 1 BANQUET LEFT THIS YEAR! HELP WASHINGTON STATE HIT THE MAGIC \$1 MILLION MARK. SUPPORT THE KITSAP COUNTY CHAPTER AT THEIR BANQUET DECEMBER 5, 2004. CONTACT SCOTT MURRAY AT (360)697-7940 FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

## CONSERVATION GROUPS FIND COMMON GROUND

The 2004 joint two-day fundraising Banquet held in late January was a great success. Ideas, resources and a common theme “Wildlife conservation, habitat preservation, hunter education, and hunter advocacy in Washington State and around the world” proved to be the catalyst for bringing together four separate and diverse groups: the Sammamish Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Washington Chapter of the Foundation of North American Wild Sheep, The Seattle Sportsman Conservation Foundation, and the Seattle Chapter of the Safari Club International.

This two-day event, the second joint fundraising event, was held over two full days with activities which included vendor booth, raffles, and four separate live and silent auctions. The Sammamish Valley Chapter's participation garnered over \$56,000, of which over \$33,000 was targeted specifically to the Tieton project, of benefit to all of Washington hunters and wildlife enthusiasts and the future of the habitat for our children and grandchildren.

The joint association of these various groups is providing additional opportunity for the RMEF to be included as an active part of the conservation community as well. For example, the Seattle Sportsman's Conservation Foundation is just now sponsoring a feasibility study, undertaken in conjunction with the State of Washington, to determine if pronghorn re-introduction is viable. Various sites in Washington are being reviewed and three recommendations will be selected. The re-introduction process would take up to ten years and would include herd development with three separate introductions to produce strong herd genetics as well as time for reproduction and herd growth. If successful re-introduction is achieved, then raffle hunts will be possible through the Washington State Wildlife system. Further, the study will produce recommendations that would encourage local community input opportunity to make sure herds can be protected and community concerns are addressed.

Being in on the ground floor of such an undertaking provides coordination of activities for the various organizations, facilitating the various plans of each organization to avoid omissions or duplications.

The 2005 Banquet event has already been set for February 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, and again will be a joint fundraiser. Several sponsors have already committed to help defray the overhead costs and 2005 is expected to be a banner year for all the organizations. A couple of new wildlife groups will be joining the efforts bringing additional diversity of ideas, resources, and enthusiasm that benefits the sportsman's community directly. Committee members are already gathering their committees, soliciting donations, and generally getting back into the “banquet” mode.

To guarantee a successful event of this size, planning and participation started about the time the last banquet was completed. But, seeing 500 people in one hall hoping to be the successful bidder for a governor's elk tag or sheep tag or for a week's hunt in British Columbia or Australia or for a fishing trip in the famous rivers of Washington or Vancouver BC or for a piece of wildlife jewelry or an original piece of art – there is nothing like it at the local level that equals the impact on the wildlife and outdoors community and it's something not to be missed.

Our thanks to Marci Stokke for this submission.

**HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT FROM ELK COUNTRY? WANT TO SHARE FUNDRAISING IDEAS? HUNTING SPOTS? RECIPES? DIRTY JOKES? SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO GARY HANSEN VIA EMAIL: [hansen\\_gary@msn.com](mailto:hansen_gary@msn.com). THE DIRTY JOKES PROBABLY WON'T GET IN AN ISSUE OF TRACKS, BUT THE BEST ONE WINS THE SENDER A 1 YEAR SUBSCRIPTION TO WASHINGTON TRACKS.**

Chapter	Attend	Support	Sponsor	Life	HPs	Gross	Net	N/G
Aberdeen	213	60	15	0		\$ 54,508	\$ 37,575	70%
Bellevue	450	7	20	0	\$ 18,000	\$ 52,746	\$ 22,720	43%
Bellingham	191	73	6	3	\$ 7,500	\$ 47,625	\$ 30,935	69%
Bremerton								
Chehalis	330	113	10	5	\$ 2,500	\$ 76,368	\$ 51,737	72%
Colville	346	113	57	3	\$ 4,000	\$ 90,635	\$ 60,622	70%
Ellensburg	246	64	18	2	\$ 500	\$ 55,729	\$ 34,792	63%
Enumclaw	226	107	9	1		\$ 53,051	\$ 34,292	69%
Everett	329	48	15	7	\$ 2,500	\$ 72,892	\$ 48,363	70%
Longview	226	97	20	0		\$ 65,280	\$ 46,411	80%
Moses Lake	200	77	20	0	\$ 2,500	\$ 50,768	\$ 32,011	66%
Mount Vernon	206	98	7	3		\$ 55,442	\$ 34,127	67%
Newport	210	87	14	1	\$ 500	\$ 38,735	\$ 26,428	69%
Olympia	214	93	14	1		\$ 37,217	\$ 17,466	49%
Omak	266	104	25	7	\$ 11,199	\$ 84,327	\$ 63,108	79%
Port Angeles	287	104	5	0		\$ 58,697	\$ 32,582	61%
Tacoma	250	95	20	5	\$ 2,700	\$ 64,914	\$ 42,257	67%
Spokane	296	124	9	3	\$ 3,250	\$ 68,685	\$ 44,338	65%
Tri Cities	353	103	68	2	\$ 8,000	\$ 101,104	\$ 67,384	68%
Vancouver	388	250	38	2	\$ -	\$ 105,355	\$ 65,036	66%
Walla Walla	254	102	10	0	\$ 3,000	\$ 53,670	\$ 40,453	77%
Wenatchee	280	124	20			\$ 56,635	\$ 42,933	77%
Yakima	267	104	24	1		\$ 58,540	\$ 29,566	52%
WA HP Reception	38				\$ 8,500	\$ 10,020	\$ 8,092	
ID Development					\$ 12,818			
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6066</b>	<b>2147</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>\$ 87,467</b>	<b>\$ 1,412,943</b>	<b>\$ 913,228</b>	<b>67%</b>

### LEAVING A LEGACY!

Have you ever thought about the legacy you would like to leave behind? Well, we should all be proud of the legacy in wildlife conservation we are leaving behind because of our work with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. We've accomplished some amazing feats in our 20 short years. From major acquisitions, to conservation education workshops, to one of the largest single donations of land in the country (Double H Ranch, NM); to helping restore elk to their once native range in several eastern states. This is a tremendous accomplishment and I want to personally thank you for your role and your help in making the RMEF one of the greatest conservation organizations in the country!

In the spirit of leaving a legacy, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has created the Legacy Partner Program to give our donors and supporters another way to be recognized for their generous contributions to RMEF. In a nutshell, donors who donate \$500-\$2,499 will become Legacy Partners and start their way in the Habitat Partner Program. These donors can also be recognized for underwriting an item(s) at your banquet as well as recognition for contributing to an approved project or program if they choose. Legacy Partners will also receive a framed certificate of *Pass It On!* or a framed photo of one of our local lands projects and a personalized thank you card. So, if someone wants to underwrite an item at your banquet for \$500 or more, they can be listed as the donor of the item and they will also be recognized locally and nationally as a Legacy Partner. Any future gifts of \$500 or more will add to their existing level and once they reach \$2,500 they become a full Habitat Partner and can work toward other levels in the program. Please contact me, Wayne Marion or a member of the State Resource Team for more details.

This is another great way to give more recognition to our generous donors. Give it a try at your next banquet and see what kind of legacy folks are willing to leave.

Working for Wildlife,  
Kevin Brown  
Regional Director (E WA & N ID)

## From Behind My Tree

I've often been asked what the magnet is that keeps me coming back year after year to volunteer with the Foundation. I've spent quite a bit of time pondering that question in the last year or so.

I spend nearly every fall in the wild, enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of the forest. I try to find as much time as I can to prepare for the hunt, but it's never enough, and the season always catches me with just a bit more to prepare for. Is that the draw that brings me back as a volunteer? Is it the wild?

I love the feel of the wild. I find pleasure in the goose bumps on my skin as I listen to the awakening of the forest around me on a cold and crisp winter morning in elk country. I yearn for the hair on the back of my neck to rise as I listen to the creatures around me stretch and begin a new day. I crave the smells of the dark timber, the deep alder bottoms, the sage brush, and the evergreens. I love listening to rushing of the wind in the trees, the feel of snow on my face, the crunch of ice under my boots. But I don't think that's it.

I continue to volunteer with the Foundation because of you. I truly want the camaraderie and friendships that I have found as a volunteer. We share an obsession for critters, especially the majestic wapiti. We share a passion for making a difference, for leaving a footprint in the wild, for passing on our own special and personal legacy. We share the conservation values that brought me here in the first place.

I find irresistible sharing an evening of fun at a Big Game Banquet. The excitement of being in a room with a couple of hundred conservationists being guided through an evening of fun by a committee of fellow volunteers is infectious. I like sitting around a restaurant, out on somebody's patio, or a living room trying to figure a way to make more money so we can conserve or enhance "just one more acre" or touch "one more critter". I like being part of our team.

We've made some deep imprints in the wild, you and me, and as part of a team will accomplish great things as we stick with this outfit. There are so many creatures yet to touch, so much wild yet to conserve, so much habitat still to enhance. We've come a long way since those four guys sat around that fire deep in elk country and decided to make a difference. We now share that fire with them...that fire deep in our soul that tells us we are ***Volunteers with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.***

By Frank McMahon, Western Washington Volunteer Chair

