

Spokane Inland Empire Pheasants Forever Chapter (PF0800) Meeting Minutes

6:00 pm, Monday February 3rd, 2025

1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order a little after 6:00. Nineteen people attended the meeting.

Brylee Yantz, our new PF field biologist for Eastern Washington, introduced herself. Brylee was raised in Nebraska and graduated from college in Missouri. She will be the habitat biologist for our chapter and Eastern Washington, and a point of contact with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Erik Lewis, PF Wildlife Operations Manager for the State of Washington, mentioned that he may still be able to hire another biologist who would be based in Spokane. Erik plans to attend our meetings about once a quarter in the future.

Jeff handed out new business cards, encouraging members to use them for club outreach and recruitment.

It was decided to make a plaque for Mike Finch (Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Manager) in recognition of his service upon his retirement.

2. Treasurer's Report and Finances, KristinS

Kristin gave us a financial update.

Kristin has procured a new credit card for the chapter- Jeff has already started using it. Jeff has had contact with a landowner enrolled in the WDFW private lands program who is willing to donate the hunting rights for opening week of 2025 on 100 acres to the club for fundraising.

Jeff is reasonably sure we'll get a donation from Cabela's in the next few months in response to his presentation.

MikeG hasn't heard from any of the potential donors in response to his letter yet, but Audubon will be giving us \$2000 for habitat restoration in 2025 following our successful collaboration on Swanson Lakes sharptail habitat in 2024. WDFW will also be providing \$3000 to support our joint projects in 2025.

MikeG has already purchased almost all the supplies for our two projects except for the 10' T-Posts which cost around \$15 each at North 40 (later quoted at \$10.29). We'll need around 320 (~\$3200) for both of the projects planned in 2025. MikeG and Doug are planning to move the posts to the job sites.

3. Habitat Project Review, MikeG

Lamont Project, March 25th – 27th (depending on weather conditions): DeanN is planning a statewide workshop for WDFW staff that will provide most of the labor for the Lamont project (about 20 people). Every year the private lands program has a workshop where all biologists and technicians get together. This one is a great way to show how well last year's project worked and showcase the collaboration between PF and WDFW. It's

currently scheduled for Tuesday March 25th in the afternoon through Thursday the 27th. This project will provide practice laying fabric by machine and using a new planting machine. Erik is also planning to bring in 5-6 PF biologists as well. Between WDFW and PF staff additional volunteers aren't required but PF members are still invited to come out to work alongside and network with the professionals.

The planting machine is very efficient, capable of planting 2,000 sagebrush plugs in 6 hours, but it does require more disturbance of the soil.

Dean found a PortaPotty company for about \$300 for a week. (For the Revere project, we're still planning to use luggable loos and tents to supplement an outhouse near the grain elevator.)

WDFW will take care of their own food on Tuesday and Wednesday. Smiley will provide lunch on Thursday.

The WDFW workshop staff will also lay the fabric at Revere for our project in addition to working at Lamont.

Revere Wildlife Area, Friday April 11th – Sunday the 13th: The Ducks Unlimited's project at Revere has finished and MikeG showed us a drone video of the worksites. Many of the lakes and ponds in the area were dredged. Some good reed and cattail pheasant habitat was sacrificed in the short term, but in the end the habitat will be improved for many species. We may get involved in re-vegging in 2026 to speed up recovery specific to upland birds.

Our 2025 Revere project is located in a different part of the wildlife area than the DU project. The 11th will be prep work with MikeG leading a team of a few volunteers. The main work day will be the 12th. If we have enough volunteers (~75), we may be done on Saturday, if not we may work a half day on Sunday.

Even though the fabric will be pre-installed, experience had proven that we still need to install fabric skirts tightly around the base of each plant by hand. The skirts consist of 18" x 18" squares of fabric with a slit to the center. MikeG asked for volunteers to pre-cut these squares of fabric from 15 rolls of fabric. Several people agreed and rolls were distributed.

4. Fundraiser Sporting Clays Shoot 6/21/25 (since moved to 6/14/25)

The raffle went well last year and we want to continue this year. We need as many raffle donations as possible. Last year no prizes were purchased- all items were donated. Tickets sold for \$5 each, and we sold about 250 tickets (~\$1250). If an organization goes over \$5000 in a raffle you need a state gambling license- the club was caught before and had to pay a \$500 fine. Instead of trophies, we decided to award custom made keychains (which Kristin kindly volunteered to make) for the winners of the competitions. It was pointed out that we should make sure we have at least one person dedicated to keeping track of the scoring and awards. We also had an issue with timing- one team was still in the field when the raffle was held and lunch was over when they made

it back. But the first teams back don't want to wait around for a long time before eating, getting awards, and figuring out if they won the raffle. If we have a puller at each station things will probably move significantly faster. Communication was also an issue. Cell phone service isn't good on site, so we may want to bring walkie talkies. We should also supply more water at some of the stations

2024 Station Sponsoring Levels will probably be carried forward to 2025:

\$125

\$1000

\$2000

\$3000 (includes 5 shooter fees)

Although we'd looked into another software solution, PF has migrated to a new software platform. The national organization is strongly encouraging the chapter to use it for all fundraising events. Brylee has to learn this platform anyways, so she will help us look into it.

Jeff asked for volunteers to join him on a committee to organize the fundraising shoot- please consider this opportunity to contribute and contact Jeff if you're willing to serve.

5. Pheasants and Pints Social Event, 5/17/25 3-5pm?:

Bill White has taken the lead on this and will reserve a date at Big Barn Brewing in Green Bluff. We won't have exclusive use, but we may be able to attract some new supporters. There will be a pheasant focused trivia competition- please send Bill ideas for fun trivia questions. The membership survey indicated that about 20 people are interested in attending a social event, and a weekend evening is preferred. We decided to try for 5/17/25 (strawberry season). This would mean we could set up at their small outdoor bar instead of inside the main building. Well-behaved dogs are welcome on leash outdoors. <after meeting note- there are often live bands playing on summer weekends, which might cause problems with communication>. The prior idea of having Kayle from OnX present at a social event has been deferred, and might instead take place at the library where communication would be easier.

6. Stories from the Field:

Smiley shared a story of hunting pheasants without sighting any until getting back to the vehicles where a rooster jumped out of the ditch and flew away unharmed.

Doug, who's still in a walking cast, was given a bit of guff for breaking his foot by stepping in a badger hole but he modestly declined to offer many details.

Jeff visited Packard Creek and found an abundance of roosters, hens and quail even though it was late in the season.