



County Administration Building
207 Fourth Avenue North
Kelso, WA 98626
TEL (360) 577-3020
FAX (360) 423-9987
www.co.cowlitz.wa.us

News Release

March 12, 2014
Kelso, WA

Can our Elk be saved?

Question and Answer Forum March 27

6 – 8 pm

Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center

Contact

Jim Misner,
Commissioner, Dist 3
Phone: (360) 577-3020
misnerj@co.cowlitz.wa.us

A Hoof Disease Public question and answer forum will be held with a panel of experts at the Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center on Thursday, March 27 from 6 – 8 pm.

What are the root causes of Hoof disease? Has there been a decrease in herd size? Is it safe to eat an infected animal? These questions and more can be answered at this upcoming event.

County Commissioner Jim Misner and Mt. St. Helens Eco Park owner, Mark Smith will provide an “open mike” opportunity to the crowd for direct questioning of agency representatives and invited panel experts.

Sporadic reports of lame elk or elk with overgrown or missing hooves has existed for roughly twenty years, however, increased reports of severe hoof deformities since 2008 and a strong public outcry prompted WDFW to work with national and international experts to identify and characterize the hoof disease. Understanding the cause, prevalence, and geographic scope of hoof disease in elk in Southwest Washington will guide the management of this challenging problem.

“No animal should have to suffer the pain connected to hoof disease. Rather you’re a hunter or a naturalist, it’s important for you to be well informed about this growing concern and we appreciate your attendance”, said Commissioner Misner.

~End~