

A&H Board Meeting
July 20-21, 2009
Salem, Oregon

Attendees:

A&H Board Members: Steve McClelland (Chair), Duane Bernard, Tom Alkire, Ron Borisch, Barry DelCurto, Robert Jaeger, Jim Morrell

ODFW Staff: A&H Coordinator, Matt Keenan; Administrative Assistant, Heather Thomas; and Habitat Program Manager, Eric Rickerson

A&H Regional Coordinators: Jon Paustian, Troy Laws, Dan Gonzalez, Dave Nuzum, Crystal Strobl, Vince Oredson

Budget Review/Discussion:

Eric gave the Board an overview of the agency budget process.

Matt presented the Board with a detailed Access & Habitat budget, and a project overview of what will be up for renewal over the next biennium.

Review of the April 29, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

Duane Bernard motioned to approve the minutes. Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Legislative Update:

Eric Rickerson, Habitat Program Manager, gave the Board an update on legislative issues.

The Access & Habitat bill (HB 2281) has been signed by the governor.

HB3089 now gives the Access & Habitat program authority to purchase access easements for the purpose of providing hunting access.

HB3089 also defines Grey Wolf as a special status mammal – should they be de-listed the commission could issue depredation permits. This bill provides the Agency with the legislative authority to carry out the wolf plan that has already been developed and approved by the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

HB2221 prohibits a person from offering for sale hunts of feral swine on public or private lands.

Board Member Reports:

Duane Bernard: Attended the state OHA convention, it went very good as usual

Barry DelCurto: Nothing to report

Tom Alkire: Nothing to report

Ron Borisch: Attended the state OHA convention; meeting yesterday to discuss A&H budget was very helpful

Robert Jaeger: Nothing to report

Jim Morrell: Nothing to report

Steve McClelland: Appreciates everyone coming in for an extra day yesterday to talk about budget, thinks it was very helpful to get everyone on the same page

Coordinator's report:

- Successful auction and raffle year, we broke record for auction & raffle sales by \$4,000
- We now have a contract in place with the US Forest Service for the BMEI John Day Noxious Weed Project. We will be able to use this contract as a template for future projects.
- A couple of items that came out of the previous Commission meeting:
 - There was a suggestion made by Commissioner Dan Edge to create a new auction tag specifically for the Blue Mountain Elk Initiative.
 - Access project duration – the Commission would like to see access project for multiple (2 or more) years; they do not want to see one year projects
 - Commission suggested that instead of reporting sign and map costs for each individual project we look into setting aside a sub-account to cover all project signs and maps
- Ontario Access project – proposed to hire retired OSP officer for 20 hours a week for two years. They are unable to find an officer willing to only work half time. The Board has the option to make that money available to regular troopers, which would be paid at an overtime rate. The local people involved in this project do not believe 20 hours per week are necessary; they feel 4-6 hours per week would be sufficient. Jim Morrell suggested we look into the possibility of hiring a retired deputy or city cop. Matt will look into it and will report back prior to our October meeting via e-mail or phone conference. If a deputy is an option and it would fall within the dollars already allocated for the project the Board is fine with Steve giving the approval to move forward. If not, we will get back together at our next board meeting or before – via phone conference or e-mail
- Landowners petitioned the County to abandon Clover Creek Rd in North Malheur County, which accesses a large piece of BLM land. This is a very popular hunting destination, that the ODFW District staff feels is a high priority to maintain access to because it helps to control a large elk herd. One of the main petitioners, Ray Belnap, has in the past received over \$50,000 in A&H funds for elk hazing and fencing. At this time they have decided not to abandon it, but there may be further discussions.
- We will have a hunter representative vacancy on the Board when Duane finishes up his term at the end of this year.

Items for October Agenda:

- BMEI AUCTION TAG ISSUE – Steve would like to have a full Board discussion to discuss what a new tag would look like and how to get there.
- MAPS AND SIGNS BUDGET – Steve would like to have the Regional Coordinators come up with an estimate of what they think they would need for this budget and have a full Board discussion.

Regional Coordinator Administrative Budgets:

Matt proposed reallocating some of the funds for the Regional Coordinator's administrative budgets. Between the 6 Coordinator's the total dollar amount has not changed; the proposal is to shift some of the money from budgets that are not being utilized (primarily the west side coordinator's) to the coordinator's that are in need of additional funding (east side coordinator's).

North Willamette Watershed	\$2,000
South Willamette Watershed	\$2,500
Rouge Watershed	\$2,000
Deschutes Watershed	\$2,500
Malheur Watershed	\$5,000
Grande Ronde Watershed	\$5,000

Robert Jaeger motioned to approve the new allocations for the Regional Coordinator budgets; Duane Bernard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (6:0).

2010 Board meeting schedule:

Matt proposed a 2010 Board meeting schedule as follows:

January – Salem

April – Medford

July – Salem

October – Boardman (tour: Heppner)

Meeting dates will be set after the 2010 Commission meeting schedule is set. There were no objections from the Board to the proposed schedule.

2010 Auction Tag Sponsorship Requests:

Organization representatives present to testify were:

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation: Bob Bastian

Oregon Hunter's Association: Ty Stubblefield, Marcy Fullerton, John Gander

National Wild Turkey Federation: Ron Smallwood

Safari Club International: Tom Trissel, Glean Melow, Todd Labertson

Foundation for N. America Wild Sheep: Mike Boethin, Alan Day

Mule Deer Foundation: Ken Hand

Unlimited Pheasants: Mike Romtvedt

Oregon Bow Hunters: Karen Demaris

Bay Area Sportsman – Chuck Holloway (via phone conference)

Combo Tag:

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate the Governor's Statewide Deer/Elk Combo tag to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's national convention; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Deer Tags:

Barry DelCurto motioned to allocate one statewide deer auction tag to the National Wild Turkey Federation's Rogue Gobblers; Robert Jaeger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate one statewide deer auction tag to the Oregon Hunters Association's state convention; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Ron Borisch motioned to allocate one statewide deer auction tag to the Oregon Bow Hunters; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed 4:2. (Jim Morrell and Robert Jaeger opposed)

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate one statewide deer auction tag to the Mule Deer Foundation; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Elk Tags:

Barry DelCurto motioned to allocate one statewide elk auction tag to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Roseburg Chapter; Duane Bernard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Steve McClelland motioned to allocate one statewide elk auction tag to Safari Club International's Santiam Chapter; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0 **Duane Bernard abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest*

Robert Jaeger motioned to allocate one statewide elk auction tag to Unlimited Pheasants; Jim Morrell seconded the motion. The motion passed 3:2. (Ron Borisch and Tom Alkire opposed)

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate one statewide elk auction tag to Oregon Hunters Association's Lincoln County Chapter; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Auction Tag Allocations:

Combo:	Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation, National Convention	March 4-7, 2010
Deer:	National Wild Turkey Federation, Rogue Gobblers	March 20, 2010
Deer:	Oregon Hunters Association, Statewide Chapter	May 15, 2010
Deer:	Oregon Bow Hunters	February 27, 2010
Deer:	Mule Deer Foundation	February 12, 2010
Elk:	Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation, Roseburg Chapter	March 20, 2010
Elk:	Safari Club International, Santiam River Chapter	February 6, 2010
Elk:	Unlimited Pheasants	February 20, 2010
Elk:	Oregon Hunters Association, Lincoln County Chapter	April 10, 2010

Regional Council Appointments:

High Desert - Klamath/Deschutes Regional Council:

Discussion:

The High Desert – Deschutes/Klamath Regional Advisory Council has a vacant Hunter Representative position. The council voted to re-appoint Roger Borine to the Hunter Representative position.

Motion:

Duane Bernard motioned to approve Roger Borine to the Klamath/Deschutes Regional Council Hunter Representative position; Jim Morrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Public Comment:

None

Coordinator's Reports:

Dan Gonzalez: Last quarter has spent a lot of time on A&H maps, checking existing signed property, talking to hunters about access areas, and sending maps out to hunters. A lot of hunter inquiries for antelope hunting.

Troy Laws & Dave Nuzum: Been working with the landowners for Oblack Farm Fertilizer, Schmidlin Farm Fertilizer, and Ellis Farm Fertilizer projects that are up for renewal. Lots of hunter inquiries for the fall hunting season on the TMA's.

Vince Oredson: Finished up Rogue Meadows Fertilizer projects, which is getting a lot of elk use. Jackson TMA project will be up for renewal next year. There might be some public access issues because Forest Capitol has a lot of small checkerboard properties that are mixed with BLM, and they are starting to sell some of them. Some of the parcels have BLM roads through them that provide access to large tracts of BLM and Forest Capitol lands. BLM and Forest Capitol have joint agreements that allow both parties to travel the access roads for maintenance/business operations. The agreements have no provisions for public access and potential new landowners may close the road to public hunters wishing to access adjacent public/private land that is open to public hunting.

Crystal Strobl: Toured the Star 1 Trust project which is a large juniper removal project to improving Mule Deer wintering ground. The landowner, Dale Ackler, does offer recreational hunting to the handicapped, cancer patients, wounded warriors, and youth hunters.

Toured the Springs/Butte TMA and inspected/maintained sign postings and barriers. This TMA gets a lot of use due to its close proximity to Bend. Cascade Timberlands have maintained 24 guzzlers throughout the property.

Lane Sage Grouse project is a relatively small project with 500 acres but they have done a tremendous amount of juniper cutting.

Jon Paustian: Has spent quite a bit of time doing sign replacements, getting maps ordered, and getting contracts signed.

Restoration & Enhancement Program Overview:

Laura Tesler presented the Board an overview of the R&E program.

Project Review:

#2009-18 JWTR TMA

Regional Coordinator Crystal Strobl presented the project (refer to the A&H Board Packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

Discussion:

This project would help ensure continues access to 608,000 acres in the Klamath, Jackson, and Lake counties by hiring a retired OSP officer to address litter, vandalism, and other problems.

Public Testimony:

Testimony: Ken Hand, MDF; Ty Stubblefield, OHA; Jon Muir, Assistant District Biologist - Klamath Falls; Sgt Randy Hand, OSP Klamath Falls

Motion:

Robert Jaeger motioned to approve the project; Duane Bernard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

#2009-19 Oblack Farm Fertilization

Regional Coordinators Troy Laws and David Nuzum presented the project (refer to the A&H Board Packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project). Landowner Larry Oblack joined via phone.

Discussion:

This project would improve forage for wildlife (primarily a large Roosevelt elk herd and black-tailed deer) on livestock pasture lands.

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to approve the project; Duane Bernard seconded the motion. The motion did NOT pass 2:4 (Yes votes were: Jim Morrell and Duane Bernard; No votes were: Robert Jaeger, Ron Borisch, Tom Alkire, Barry DeCurto)

Robert Jaeger suggested to the landowner that they do come back in a couple of years when we do have more money – Ron Borisch added to that suggestion especially if it is proposed as a welcome to hunt area.

#2009-20 Schmidlin Farm Fertilization

Regional Coordinators Troy Laws and David Nuzum presented the project (refer to the A&H Board Packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project). Landowner Leonard Schmidlin joined via phone.

Discussion:

This project would improve forage for wildlife (primarily a large Roosevelt elk herd and black-tailed deer) on livestock pasture lands.

Motion:

Barry Delcurto motioned to NOT approve the project; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

#2009-21 Ellis Farm Fertilization

Regional Coordinators Troy Laws and David Nuzum presented the project (refer to the A&H Board Packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project). Landowner Stephen Ellis joined via phone.

Discussion:

This project would improve forage for wildlife (primarily a large Roosevelt elk herd and black-tailed deer) on livestock pasture lands.

Motion:

Barry DelCurto motioned to NOT approve the project; Robert Jaeger seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:1 (Duane Bernard opposed).

Amended Motion:

Duane Bernard motioned to fund Larry Oblack's project for 50% of the requested funded amount (still for three years). Duane Bernard withdrew that motion to be reworded.

Duane Bernard motioned to fund 50% of the fertilizer costs for all three projects (Oblack Farm Fertilization, Ellis Farm Fertilization, and Schmidlin Farm Fertilization). To receive these funds, the landowners must purchase the other 50% of the fertilizer. Jim Morrell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:1 (1 undecided - Robert).

Adjourn:

Duane Bernard motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 PM.