

A&H Board Meeting
October 20-21, 2009
Bend, 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; Game Program Manager, Tom Thornton

A&H Regional Coordinators: Jon Paustian, Dave Nuzum, Jim Young, Crystal Strobl, Vince Oredson, Tom Segal (for Dan Gonzalez)

Steve called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Review of the July 21, 2009 Meeting Minutes:

Ron Borisch motioned to approve the meeting minutes; Duane Bernard seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Board Member Reports:

Jim Morrell:	Attended the Grants Pass commission meeting in September
Tom Alkire:	Nothing to report
Robert Jaeger:	Nothing to report
Ron Borisch:	Nothing to report
Duane Bernard:	Nothing to report
Barry DelCurto:	Nothing to report
Steve McClelland:	Appreciates Jim attending the commission meeting and would encourage any Board members that have the opportunity to attend one

Wildlife Division Re-organization (Tom Thornton):

The Wildlife Division is undergoing a re-organization; the Access & Habitat program has been shifted from the habitat program to the game program. Steve requested that staff names be added to org chart and send out to the Board members so they have a better understanding of who is in what position. Matt will add the names and send out.

2010 A&H Board Meeting schedule:

Proposed meeting dates are all on Tuesdays; away meetings are scheduled for a Tuesday meeting, Wednesday tour.

Steve feels it is beneficial for all two day meetings to have the tour on the first day followed by the meeting the next day. Tuesday/Wednesday meetings are tough for Steve since it falls in the middle of the work week, and is hard for him to accommodate the travel around his work schedule. Several Board members voiced the same concern.

The board decided to schedule away meetings for Monday (tour)/Tuesday (meeting). Matt will revise the 2010 Board meeting schedule and send out to everyone.

Coordinator's Report:

- September Commission Meeting – all four projects passed
- Oregon Hunter Access Map testers: Steve (high speed), Ron (high speed), Jim M (high speed)
- 2008 Farm Bill Voluntary Public Access Program – past three or four weeks they are calling for action to get this program going, it is in the process of making it's way through the policy makers. This will be a block grant; they are looking at having money out to the states in January 2010. It is not yet known whether this money will be able to be spent on easements.
- Project Updates
 - Alvord/Kueny project is up and running; we separated the project into two contracts (one for each of the sons that took over the property from their dad). Matt has received a lot of great feedback from hunters about the area.
 - Ontario Access Project: see memo in board packet. They had a very successful youth pheasant hunt on the access area. One of the most used A&H properties. District staff determined they do not need the funds allocated for dedicated law enforcement (\$18k). Because of it's close proximity to the city of Ontario, city police patrol it regularly and an OSP officer stops in frequently. The district staff also help keep an eye on the property.
 - Upland Habitat Initiative: see updated in board packet

Steve wanted to thank the coordinators for taking the time to work with the cooperators to complete the project completion reports and project updates

Public Comment:

None

2010 Auction Event Sign Up:

The 2010 Auction event schedule is as follows:

2010 Auction Tag	Organization	Date & Location	A&H/ODFW Representative(s) to attend	
Statewide Elk	Safari Club International, Santiam River Chapter Glean Melow (503) 851-6158	Linn County Fair & Expo Center, Albany OR February 6, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. PST	1. Ron Borisch	2. Barry DelCurto
Statewide Deer	Mule Deer Foundation Ken Hand (541) 281-2224	Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City UT February 12, 2010 at 8:15 P.M. PST	1. ODFW Staff	2. Steve McClelland
Statewide Elk	Mule Deer Foundation Mike Romtvedt (541) 891-3551 <i>Auction tag sponsored by Unlimited Pheasants</i>	Klamath County Fairgrounds, Klamath Falls OR February 20, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. PST	1. Jim Morrell	2. Robert Jaeger
Statewide Deer	Oregon Bow Hunters Association Karen Demaris (541) 536-2252	Chinook Winds Casino, Lincoln City OR February 27, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. PST	1. Barry DelCurto	2. <i>Tom or Ron (?)</i>
Statewide Combo Deer/Elk	Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation, National Kristy Bosworth (406) 523-0242	Reno/Sparks Convention Center, Reno NV March 5, 2010 at 1:15 P.M. PST	1. ODFW Staff	2. Robert Jaeger
Statewide Deer	National Wild Turkey Federation, Rogue Gobblers Jeff Heil (541) 621-9091	Red Lion Hotel, Medford OR March 20, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. PST	1. Steve McClelland	2.

Statewide Elk	Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation, Roseburg Chapter Ken Coble (541) 679-9579	Douglas County Fairgrounds, Roseburg OR March 20, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. PST	1. Jim Morrell	2. Tom Alkire
Statewide Elk	Oregon Hunters Association, Lincoln Co Chapter George Siniscal (541) 992-4476	Shilo Inn, Newport OR April 10, 2010 at 8:00 P.M. PST	1. Ron Borisch	2.
Statewide Deer	Oregon Hunters Association, State Chapter Duane Dungannon (541) 772-7313	Seven Feathers Casino Resort, Canyonville OR May 15, 2009 at 8:30 P.M. PST	1. Steve McClelland	2. Robert Jaeger

It was decided to leave a few events vacant for the new Hunter Representative Board Member to attend.

Steve would like to advertise the auction tags at the 2010 auction events differently than we have in the past. Steve feels it is important to have a slide show to present during the bidding process.

BMEI Auction Tag Discussion:

Jim Morrell suggested we ask for two additional tags – one for BMEI and one for the Roosevelt Initiative - and that perhaps presenting them as raffle tags would appeal to more of the hunting public rather than auction tags.

Tom Thornton will look into the possibility of doing a joint Oregon Washington tag (from a legal standpoint). The board also thought it might be a good idea to request an additional deer tag for the MDI.

Come back to the next meeting with more information about what it would take logistically for an additional tag, for a joint Oregon/Washington tag, and if we have any legislators that would be interested in possibly carrying it forward

Mark Henjum suggested a meeting with the two wildlife divisions, Matt, and the District Wildlife Biologists to find out whether or not it's do-able from all of their standpoints. Robert Jaeger and Barry DelCurto expressed interest in also attending this meeting.

Before that meeting is scheduled, Tom Thornton will talk to the Department's legal representative with the Dept of Justice to determine if there are any hurdles that would prevent us from moving forward.

Regional Coordinator's Report:

Jon Paustian: Been busy with access areas during hunting seasons. One small issue on the Rufenacht Land & Cattle Access Area because the landowner forgot that for 640 acres that he recently purchased, the prior owner retained the hunting rights. When the project was originally posted it was all posted as welcome to hunt. that portion was re-posted as closed, and the project area map was revised accordingly.

Dave Nuzum: Lots of contact with hunters on the North Coast TMA, which continues to be a very popular area because of the close proximity to the metro area. District staff have been working

with Stimson on some new signage and maps for some of their properties, which are now operated as a green dot system.

OSP made 674 contacts and issued just over 200 warnings and 25 citations in the month of September on the North Coast TMA.

Vince Oredson: Jackson TMA trooper was re-hired first of October, this is his second year working the project. The deer migration started early this year due to the snow on opening weekend – hunter success was good that weekend. The District has trail cameras set up inside the TMA and has received good video footage of deer migrating down to the lower elevations.

There are a lot of private timber land parcels that are coming up for sale; the Regional Council would like to try to pursue some easements on some of the areas that would block public access to some of the BLM lands.

Crystal Strobl: Star 1 Trust cleared another 20+ acres and the landowner has taken a lot of initiative to construct quality blinds for disabled hunters. The property supported a large population of coyotes, so he enlisted the support of Wildlife Services for predator control. He has also installed some additional culverts and two new springs.

We will be touring the Timbers/Spring Butte TMA tomorrow. Craig Johnson - OSP, Steve George - District Wildlife Biologist, and the landowner will be joining us.

The JWTR project is getting started on the ground. District staff have been posting signs and organizing work groups to install gates. The maps are in the process of being developed.

Jim Young: Has received calls from hunters inquiring about access projects in the valley. Due to the lack of access projects in the valley, he has directed a lot of the hunters to the two wildlife areas in the watershed, EE Wilson and Fern Ridge.

Is continuing to following up on the potential for the Zena project. The primary interest for the landowner is for habitat work.

Jim is planning for retirement on June 30.

Tom Segal: Alvord/Kueny project has been posted with new signs; 3 staff spend about three days posting the property.

Ontario Access Area – helped with the youth pheasant hunt; it was definitely a big hit! That property is very valuable to the citizens in that area.

Budget Report:

Matt provided an update of the current A&H Program budget (refer to A&H Board Packet).

Project Review:

#2009-27 Sundry/Rooster Rock Habitat Improvement Project

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian and District Biologist Nick Myatt (on the phone) 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 will cut juniper that has invaded sagebrush steppe habitat. The access for this project is listed as by-permission; all hunters who wish to access the property will be given permission but will need to check-in with the Baker ODFW District office for a map and other area regulations.

Motion:

Steve McClelland motioned to approve the project; Jim Morrell seconded the motion. The motion passed 4:2 (Ron Borisch and Robert Jaeger opposed)

#2009-25 Summer Lake Wetland Enhancement Project

Regional Coordinator Crystal Strobl and Wildlife Area Manager Marty St Louis (on the phone) 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 replace 1.3 miles of open earthen canal with pipeline to supply water for irrigation and wildlife use on about 3,000 acres of private and Summer Lake Wildlife Area wetland and upland habitats.

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to approve the project; Duane Bernard seconded the motion. The motion passed 4:2 (Ron Borisch and Robert Jaeger opposed)

#2009-29 Hay Creek Wildlife Habitat Restoration

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian presented the project; the applicant, Alan Christianson with Western Rivers Conservancy, and District Wildlife Biologist, Steve Cherry, were on the phone (refer to the A&H Board Packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

Discussion:

This project would fund weed treatment, planting of desirable non-native and native species of grasses, trees, and shrubs in the riparian zone, and the development of small water impoundments on a side drainage to Hay Creek.

Barry DeCurto suggested R&E cost share on this project since the project does benefit fish.

Jim Morrell had concerns that the property would not remain open for hunting access after it is purchased by State Parks. He would like to have something in writing from Parks that they will continue to allow hunting.

Steve McClelland had some concerns with spending \$4,500.00 of A&H funds for the applicant's administration costs.

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to NOT approve the project until there is something in writing from State Parks indicating that they will allow hunting on this property after they purchase the property; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion did NOT pass 1:5 (Tom Alkire, Robert Jaeger, Ron Borisch, Duane Bernard, Barry DelCurto opposed)

Motion:

Robert Jaeger motioned to approve the project; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:2 (Steve McClelland and Jim Morrell opposed)

#2009-24 Russell Canyon Water Enhancement

Regional Coordinator Crystal Strobl presented the project; the landowner, Gerald Scanlan, was on the phone (refer to the A&H Board Packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

Discussion:

This project proposes to construct two 2,500 gallon holding tanks which will provide year round water for wildlife and livestock.

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to approve the project; Duane Bernard seconded the motion. The motion passed 6:0

#2009-28 Blue Mountain Elk Initiative

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian and BMEI Coordinator Mark Henjum 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 improve elk habitat in the Blue Mountains.

Motion:

Barry DelCurto motioned to approve the project; Duane Bernard seconded the motion. The motion passed 6:0

#2009-26 Murderers Creek Winter Range Enhancement

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian and Assistant District Wildlife Biologist Greg Jackle 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 remove encroaching western juniper on 1,595 acres of critical mule deer habitat.

The board voiced concerns regarding the high cost of the juniper cutting and that the project would be conducted entirely on public land.

Motion:

Barry DelCurto motioned to postpone the project and have it brought back next year (July Board meeting); Robert Jaeger seconded the motion. The motion did NOT pass 3:4 (Duane Bernard, Tom Alkire, Jim Morrell, Steve McClelland opposed)

Motion:

Duane Bernard motioned to fund the project for \$50,000 (50% of proposed funding); Jim Morrell seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:1 (Tom Alkire opposed)

#2009- 30 Rogue Meadows Enhancement

Regional Coordinator Vince Oredson 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 fertilize 6 elk meadows totaling 200 acres for 4 years (2010-2013).

Motion:

Duane Bernard motioned to approve the project; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed 4:2 (Robert Jaeger and Ron Borisch opposed)

Project Maintenance Budget for Maps & Signs

Matt proposed a project maintenance budget for maps and signs for \$25,500 to be distributed as follows:

Project Maintenance Budget

	Maps	Signs	Technician	Total
Southwest	\$750	\$500	\$0	\$1,250
Deschutes/Klamath	\$750	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,750
N. Willamette	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	\$3,000
S. Willamette	\$1,500	\$500	\$0	\$2,000
Northeast	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$0	\$2,500
Malheur	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$10,000	\$12,500
	GRAND TOTAL			\$25,000

Motion:

Steve McClelland motioned to approve the sign budget for \$15,000 (with no technician for Malheur – and have that discussion at our next meeting), Robert Jaeger seconded the motion. Motion passed 6:0

Adjourn:

Steve adjourned the meeting at 3:40