

A&H Board Meeting  
April 20, 2010  
Central Point, Oregon

**Attendees:**

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

ODFW Staff: A&H Coordinator, Matt Keenan; Administrative Assistant, Heather Thomas; Wildlife Division Administrator, Ron Anglin; Deputy Director, Debbie Colbert

A&H Regional Coordinators: Jon Paustian, Dave Nuzum, Jim Young, Vince Oredson, Dan Gonzalez

Others: Paul Seibert, Legislative Fiscal Office; Jim Yuskavitch, A&H Publicist; Tami Wagner, Asst Wildlife Biologist; Lt Andy Heider, Oregon State Police; Lt David Gifford, Oregon State Police; Sgt Kirk Meyer, Oregon State Police; Bill Floyd, Oregon State Police

Steve called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Review of the January 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes:**

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

**Board Member Reports:**

Alan Christensen: Attended the March Commission Meeting.

Jim Morrell: Attended the Roseburg RMEF and Newport OHA banquets; spent some time going through the OHAM Beta testing, and thinks it is a big improvement over what we have had; went hunting at the New River access area.

Tom Alkire: Nothing to report.

Robert Jaeger: Attended several auction events; Attended the RMEF banquet in The Dalles (they did not have an auction tag), and was surprised to find that they didn't know about the A&H program.

Ron Borisch: Attended the OHA banquet in Newport, thanked Jim Morrell for his hard work recruiting last-minute bidders for the auction tag.

Barry DelCurto: Attended the SCI banquet in Albany, the OBH banquet in Lincoln City, and the RMEF banquet in Roseburg – all three events went well.

Steve McClelland: Thanked all the board members for taking the time to attend the banquets, with a special thanks to Jim for his dedication to find bidders for the auction tag in Newport. Reminded Board members that we all agreed to attend a commission meeting, and asked Matt to call the Board members a couple of weeks before the commission meetings to remind them and make sure they are still available.

Steve expressed the importance of Board packets getting out on time as it is critical for Board members to get it well in advance of the meeting so that they have time to review the materials in order to do their job well and be able to respond adequately. He requested they be in the hands of Board members 10-14 days in advance of the meeting.

**Coordinator's Report:**

- Commission Meeting sign up – It is good to have one of the Board members present for the Commission meetings to answer questions that the Commission might have and the Commission really appreciates seeing them there.

- The Commission approved all 16 A&H projects. The Commission requested in future Commission packets to list the percentage of private land in the WMU in which the project is located.
- Presented information about A&H at an OHA Portland Chapter meeting.
- Attended a meeting in Heppner regarding the Upland Habitat Initiative. The contract expires in December; we are hoping Dennis Newman will be able to take a permanent position funded by NRCS, and possibly cost shared with Peasants Forever and ODFW.
- Joined the SW Regional Council and North Willamette Council meetings where they reviewed projects.
- Attended 5 auction events and promoted the auction and raffle program and hunting in Oregon in general.
- The video footage gathered this year was great basic footage, but hopes next year will produce even better with the users getting more experience and our new editing software capabilities.
- Auction sales seem to be holding steady this year; we broke a record in Reno for the Governor's Combo tag.
  - Steve would like a report back on - Of the auction tags we sell, how many of them are repeat buyers? How do we expand the interest pool and get more competition?
  - Alan thinks we should be working with the organizations about marketing with the individuals attending their event directly.
  - Robert suggested we advertise in magazines and maybe on tv?
  - Jim – thinks we should be definitely advertise in BUGLE.
- There were a couple of issues at the auction events this year:
  - The deer tag in Medford (NWTF) sold for a \$21,000 because they lost cell phone coverage with one of the auction buyers.
  - At the OHA banquet in Newport the sponsoring organization lost the number for one of the primary bidders that had registered to bid over the phone. Matt will in the future talk to the organizations in advance about who is planning to bid by phone and provide that information to the board member(s) that are attending the event.
- Raffle Event is coming up next month, a lot of time is being spent preparing (reviewed raffle ticket process with the board).
- OSP retired troopers will still be able to be used for the A&H program; there were some union issues, but those have been resolved.
- Matt followed up with Lt Andy Heider with OSP on the issue of retirees using decoys and was told there is no reason they can not participate. There is a rule that there has to be two officers on all decoy operations -- Heider followed up and will try to check in with Steve Lane to find out why that was an issue in the past
- Oregon Hunting Access Map Update: Beta testing is under way and it should go live to the public in a month or so. Jim Morrell commented that he would like to see it go live now even if it's not a perfect product so that it is available prior to the controlled hunt deadline.

#### **Budget:**

Debbie Colbert and Paul Seibert provided an update of the A&H Program budget, the ODFW budget process, and the process to seek additional limitation (refer to A&H Board Packet).

Alan Christiansen motioned to seek approval to increase limitation to fund projects currently before the Board for review and future projects that may be of a habitat nature. Robert Jaeger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

#### **Measure of Hunter Use:**

Coordinators met to discuss ideas on how to measure hunter use. We are on track for putting together a proposal on how to do this for the board to discuss, and Matt will provide the Board with an update before the next meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Mike Beagle, Trout Unlimited Field Coordinator (500 members in Jackson and Josephine counties) testified in support of the Jackson TMA.

Chuck Smith testified in support of the Jackson TMA. A possible solution to the increased cost of enforcement would be to specify contract dollar amount instead of number of hours. As the previous A&H Board chair he wanted the Board to know that the original objectives of many TMA projects included more than just securing hunting access.

**Auction Tag Allocation:**

Barry DelCurto motioned to allocate 2010 auction and raffle tags the same as 2009; Jim Morrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

**Coordinator Reports:**

- Jim Young: Most of his time has been spent putting together the project proposals that are up for renewal
- Dan Gonzalez: Had a good access project come forward that is adjacent to the Bentz Access Area. The Board wanted to follow up on the previous conversation we had about purchasing an easement on the current Bentz Access project. Matt updated the Board on the discussions with Realty at the previous coordinators meeting. The easement will depend heavily on what involvement BLM is willing to have. Dan will be meeting with them mid-May. He will also pursue NRCS and see if they have any interest in cost sharing. Matt will send the Board a summary of the discussions that take place with BLM that pertains to the easement issue.
- Dave Nuzum: The farm fertilization projects received continued use by hunters, there were several antlerless cows harvested. Buck ratios in the Wilson and Trask Wildlife Management Units are doing well.
- Jon Paustian: Access areas opened up April 1<sup>st</sup>, so has been signing and doing some garbage clean up on some of the areas close to La Grande, and is looking at setting up a trail cam to see if they can catch the culprits. Received no complaints from anyone regarding closing the access areas during the winter months (to alleviate the shed hunters from harassing the wildlife on their wintering range)
- Vince Oredson: Gave the Board an overview of the emergency Fire seeding projects that were funding last fall.

**Project Review:**

**2010-22 Jackson Cooperative TMA**

Regional Coordinator Vince Oredson and Brian Slathey with Forest Capital 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 allow continued access to over 17,000 acres of private timberlands. The road closures and law enforcement presence will increase habitat effectiveness for wildlife, reduce disturbance to deer and elk on important winter range, and reduce soil erosion, road maintenance, vandalism, forest fires, timber theft, and illegal dumping.

**Public Comment:**

Bob Danner – Is in favor of some road closure, but it would benefit hunters if they re-opened again after elk season for the last two weeks of the season

Sandy Greenwald – has been a great program is very happy with the results it has had on the habitat and enforcement. Supports the renewal of the project

David Gifford, OSP – OSP is not as an agency opposed to ATV use. If they open this TMA during the final two weeks of the season it would be used not only by hunters but also other recreational users (including ATV users) that can cause tremendous damage and would make enforcement difficult.

Kirk Meyer, OSP – supervises the retiree that patrols this project. 176 Public contacts were made last year; topics ranged from illegal use to educational/informational dialogue. 45 citations or warnings were issued.

Mark Vargas, District Bio – In lieu of a letter of support for this project he did a 45 minute presentation to the Board on the importance on the project and strongly supports the renewal of the project.

Motion:

Robert Jaeger motioned to approve the project as proposed; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0 (Steve McClelland declared a conflict of interest because he is employed by Forest Capital).

**2010-17 Abiqua Basin Access Project**

Regional Coordinator Dave Nuzum 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 reimburse OHA volunteers for travel to the Abiqua Basin Access Area to open and close the main gate at the beginning and end of each day during the 2010-2012 deer and elk rifle seasons.

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to approve the project as proposed; Robert Jaeger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0 (Ron Borisch declared a potential conflict of interest because he is employed by Longview Timberlands, a project participant).

**2010-18 North Coast TMA**

Regional Coordinator Dave Nuzum 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 fund five retired OSP officers to patrol over 1.5 million acres of private land from August through December 2010-2014.

Motion:

Alan Christensen motioned to approve the project as proposed; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0 (Ron Borisch declared a potential conflict of interest because he is employed by Longview Timberlands, a project participant).

**2010-20 Linn Forest Protective Association Forest Deputy Program**

Regional Coordinator Jim Young and Eric Kranzush with the Linn Forest Protective Association (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 help fund one Forest Deputy to patrol almost 400,000 acres of industrial timberland in Linn County throughout the year from July 2010 – June 2015. Eric thanked the Board for the last 13 years of support. They have been able to side step a lot of the normal damage issues through participation of this program.

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to approve the project as proposed; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0 (Ron Borisch declared a potential conflict of interest because he is employed by Longview Timberlands, a project participant).

**2010-19 Willamette Private Lands**

Regional Coordinator Jim Young and Assistant Wildlife Biologist Tami Wagner 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 provide funding for six retired OSP officers to patrol approximately 1.25 million acres of private land from August through March 2010-2014.

Motion:

Barry DelCurto motioned to approve the project as proposed; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

**2010-21 New River Aleutian Goose**

Regional Coordinator Vince Oredson and Landowner Alan Haga (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 provide access to 4,780 acres of private land and 500 acres of land-locked public land for waterfowl hunting. The landowners would be compensated with fertilizer for 1,800 acres of pasture fields that provide forage for a large population of Aleutian Canada geese.

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to approve the project as proposed; Alan Christensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

**Discussion items not on the agenda:**

- o Matt presented numbers to the Board for tags purchased after the tag sale deadline
- o The Board decided they WILL review new projects at the July Board meeting
- o Jim Morrell asked Matt about the status of the letter of appreciation to A&H project participants. Matt had a sample certificate and asked the Board if they would like a letter or a certificate. After some discussion, the Board settled on a personalized letter of appreciation with dual signatures (ODFW Director and A&H Board Chair).
- o Tom Alkire would like an agenda item for our next meeting to discuss easements.
- o Steve McClelland would like to see on the next Board meeting agenda a discussion for the Board to determine the right balance between access and habitat projects.

**Adjourn:**

Steve adjourned the meeting at 2:20