

A&H Board Meeting
July 20, 2010
Salem, 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; Administrative Assistant, Christina Schmidt; Game Program Manager, Tom Thornton

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

Others: Jim Yuskavitch, A&H Publicist; Lt. Andy Heider, Oregon State Police

Steve called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Review of the April 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Jim motioned to approve the meeting minutes, Ron Borisch asked that Longview Fiber be changed to Longview Timberlands, correction noted, Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Board Member Reports:

Alan Christensen: Prior to joining on the Board, he helped apply for an A&H grant for a project near John Day; wants to thank the Board for approving it.

Tom Alkire: Attended June Commission meeting. Commission discussed Goose damage issues and talked about the Goose Task force; A&H may need to think about assisting with the goose hunting aspect of the initiative.

Jim Morrell: Attended the June Commission meeting, has been helping others get familiar with the new Oreong Hunting Access Map map - thinks it will be a good tool.

Rober Jaeger: Nothing to report.

Ron Borisch: Has been preparing the Thomas Creek and Abiqua Basin access areas for the upcoming hunting seasons.

Barry DelCurto: Nothing to report.

Steve McClelland: Appreciates the board showing up for the tour.

Coordinator's Report:

- Commission approved project recommendations and auction tag allocations.
- Future commission meetings – it's not necessary for a board member to attend when projects have been approved unanimously

- 2008 farm bill - provides \$50 million to improve hunting access to private lands and wildlife habitat on enrolled properties. Applications are due at the end of August. Working with Dave Budeau (Upland Gamebird Coordinator) on completing the application. Will keep the board updated on progress. They are looking into the possibility of having goose hunting in the Willamette Valley be a priority for this money as well as using it for the Mule Deer Initiative and improving big game habitat. Not sure yet how the funds will be dispersed. No state can request more than \$2 million per year; will have to apply every year for 3 years.
- Sample of Letter of appreciation for access project cooperation handed out. Letter will be signed by Steve McClelland and Roy Elicker.
- Was interviewed by cable television program Outdoor GPS about the access map as well as the A&H Program and what it can do for hunters. It was well received.
- More issue with USFS contract but they have been resolved and have been reassured that they will leave the terms as is for the next several years.
- Washington State is having the same problem as Oregon with losing private timberlands and they are looking at the A&H program to hopefully use as a model to implement in Washington
- Final auction sales:
Total sales were approximately \$4,000 less than last year. Compared to the past 5 years sales are on track and largely unchanged. Raffle tickets were a bit down this year; they seem to be affected more by the economy as they are targeted more towards your average hunter than the auction. There does seem to be a lot of public interest in the program.

A&H Budget Report:

Additional limitation (spending authority) has been approved by Oregon Legislators.

Discussion:

Barry would like to know if any portion of the budget will be allocated to emergency fire seeding .

Matt says that it is an option for the board to decide to do so, at any time they can make a motion to use funds for fire seeding.

Barry would like to see a portion of the funds set aside for fire seeding.

Matt says that even if funds are not set aside that process for getting funds for fire seeding can be expedited when they're needed; they would not have to wait for the next board meeting, they can meet via phone conference and then it will go to next commission meeting for approval.

Jon Paustian agrees that he would like to see funds allocated to emergency seeding as he has heard predications of an aggressive fire season.

Alan Christensen suggests contacting Ken Bierly with OWEB board regarding a match for fire seeding.

Alan makes a motion to allocate \$100,000 for emergency fire seeding dedicated funds.

Tom agrees that it is a good idea but doesn't think it's necessary to dedicate a specific dollar amount.

Ron thinks that it would be better to show a line item in the budget for seeding.

Alan thinks allocating a specific amount would be beneficial if Matt were to contact OWEB and other agencies for a match.

Matt would like clarification if we do set this money aside to let the coordinators know whether those funds would be used for regular projects if the remainder of the budget is expended.

Steve tabled the discussion until after the coordinator reports at which time we will bring it up for further discussion.

Additional discussion:

Barry still in favor of setting money aside for fire seeding.

Jim questions whether or not it may be a handicap by setting it aside because current proposals may not be initiated or may get tabled because the funds are dedicated to potential future projects.

Motion

Barry, Robert, Alan in favor.

Ron, Tom, Jim, Steve opposed.

Motion did not pass.

Habitat vs Access balance - the Board decided to not designate a specific split, but discuss "where we are at" at each Board meeting to make sure everyone is still comfortable with the balance.

Jim would like to know what tag/license sales are like.

Tom Thornton reported that the last summary he looked at showed license sales were down approx 15%, there will be more purchases coming up for deer and elk season, non residential sales are down around the 25% range.

Jim made a motion to monitor the proportion of habitat to access then removed the motion.

Jim requests that Matt monitor license/tag sales and update the board at future meetings.

Measure of hunter use:

Dave Nuzum has been researching tire counters. He would like to set some up in the North Coast TMA's during deer and elk rifle season to gauge hunter use.

Jon would like to purchase permit boxes to gauge hunter use in the NE Region.

Alan would like to see a self addressed postage paid permit in case a hunter forgets to drop the permit in the box. Matt will look into the cost of postage for the next round of permits as well as include an email address so that hunters have the choice to email in their information.

Access Easements:

Nancy Lorensen, Realty Specialist, Fish Division, gave an overview on easements.

Public Comment:

No public comment (10:20 a.m.)

A&H Law Enforcement Overview:

Timber property within the North Coast TMA is considering leasing land to hunters.

Lt. Andy Heider explained that if property was leased it would not be a priority area for OSP patrols. They don't actively patrol lands that are closed to public access, but do respond to complaints. Regular status officers would respond to those events; the retired troopers' time would be spent on the TMA properties that are open to public access.

2011 Auction Tag Sponsorship Requests:

Organization representatives present to testify were:

RMEF: Bob Bastian, Dave Fuller

OHA: Ty Stubblefield, Shelly Knasley

SCI SW Washington Chapter: Duane Bernard, Jim McWhorter

SCI Santiam River Chapter: Dewey France, Glean Melow

National Wild Turkey Federation Rogue Gobblers: Jason Smith (via phone conference)

Foundation for North American Wild Sheep – OR Chapter: Alan Day, George Houston

Mule Deer Foundation: Ken Hand

Unlimited Pheasants: Mike Romtvedt

Combo Tag:

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

Deer Tags:

Robert Jaeger motioned to allocate a Statewide Deer tag to Oregon Hunters Association's state convention; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Alan Christensen motioned to allocate a Statewide Deer tag to the National Wild Turkey Federation's Rogue Gobblers; Jim Morrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate a Statewide Deer tag to Safari Club International's Santiam Chapter; Alan Christensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Alan Christensen motioned to allocate a Statewide Deer tag to the Mule Deer Foundation; Robert Jaeger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Elk Tags:

Robert Jaeger motioned to allocate a Statewide Elk tag to Oregon Hunters Association's Tioga Chapter; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate a Statewide Elk tag to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Central Oregon Chapter; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Robert Jaeger motioned to allocate a Statewide Elk tag to Unlimited Pheasants; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate a Statewide Elk tag to the Wild Sheep Foundation's Midwest Chapter; Robert Jaeger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Central Oregon Chapter and Oregon Hunters Association Tioga Chapter's banquets are the same day. They will stagger their auction times by an hour.

Auction Tag Allocations:

Combo:	Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation, National Convention	March 3-6, 2011
Deer:	Mule Deer Foundation	February 4, 2011
Deer:	Safari Club International, Santiam Chapter	February 5, 2011
Deer:	National Wild Turkey Federation, Rogue Gobblers	March 19, 2011
Deer:	Oregon Hunters Association, Statewide Chapter	May 21, 2011
Elk:	Unlimited Pheasants	February 19, 2011
Elk:	Wild Sheep Foundation, Midwest Chapter	March 4-5, 2011
Elk:	Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation, Bend Chapter	April 9, 2011
Elk:	Oregon Hunters Association, Tioga Chapter	April 9, 2011

Regional Council Appointment:

High Desert - Klamath/Deschutes Regional Council:

Discussion:

The High Desert - Klamath/Deschutes Regional Advisory council has a vacant Landowner Representative position. The council voted to appoint Rance Kastor.

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to approve Rance Kastor to the Klamath/Deschutes Regional Council Landowner Representative position; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Coordinator's Reports:

Dan Gonzalez: Just started visiting some of the projects in his region within the past couple of weeks due to snow.

Vince Oredson: Been helping landowners with some of their forms in order for them to get paid. Has been doing some small projects in the Jackson TMA with OHA. Been trying to get access with some of the big timber companies in his area and will continue down into the Charleston & Coos Bay area. No projects to present at this time but possibly in October.

Jim Young: Has considerable interest in doing some habitat projects. Is mostly concerned about the Goose problem. Would like to see an opportunity for hunting geese to help the issue. Does not have any projects in the works currently, everything is preliminary.

Dave Nuzum: Has been working with Matt and retired troopers on the MOU between ODFW, OSP, and Timber agencies for NCTMA, waiting on final revisions then will get that out to the various landowner reps. Been researching various models of tire counters to measure hunter use. On the habitat end; started to look at a county-owned piece of property with good access, Tillamook Bay Wetlands Acquisition (primarily waterfowl), currently overrun with Scotch Broom. Going to be doing a bit of restoration work partnered with OWEB. Dealing with a lot of bear damage and research. No projects coming forward for October unless they can come up with something for the wetlands acquisition.

Meg Eden &
Larry Pecenka: There is more interest in juniper removal. No projects to present currently. Could have some projects together by October.

Jon Paustian: Been working with Heather on getting new signs as the polyethylene signs he had were fading. Ordered some carsonite posts and signage with stickers. Finished a couple of BMEI projects. Has a few very large projects coming in October, depending on money coming his way, not sure how to prioritize his projects yet

Project Reviews:

2010-25 Sullivan Z Ranch

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian and Nick Myatt (via phone conference) presented this 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 cut juniper that has invaded sagebrush steppe habitat to improve wildlife habitat.

Motion:

Alan Christensen motioned to approve the project; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

2010-24 Bennett Upland Enhancement

Regional Coordinator Larry Pecenka presented this project (refer to the A&H Board packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

Discussion

This project is designed to cut juniper on 80 acres of mule deer winter range in the Interstate Wildlife Unit to maintain shrub component health and deer forage quality. Access and Habitat dollars will be used to cut 40 of the 80 acres, while OWEB Small Grant funds will be used to cut the remaining 40 acres. According to local contractors this project can be locally bid for \$90 an acre.

Motion:

Barry DelCurto motions to approve the project; Robert Jaeger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

2010-23 Star 1 Trust Continuation Project

Meg Eden and Dale Ackler (landowner) presented this 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 reseed 65 acres of reclaimed old farm fields (that failed during the winter of 2009) to improve wildlife habitat for mule deer and elk. It would also develop and enhance 3 spring sites to increase water availability for wildlife (particularly mule deer and elk) to evenly distribute big game across suitable habitat and to encourage optimal use of forage resources.

Motion

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

Adjourn:

Steve adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.