

Access & Habitat Board Meeting
April 19th, 2011
La Grande, OR

Attendees:

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

ODFW Staff: Matt Keenan, A&H Coordinator; Christina Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Tom Thornton, Game Program Manager

A&H Regional Coordinators: Jon Paustian, Dave Nuzum, Tom Segal, Meg Eden, Vince Oredson, Larry Pecenka

Others: Jim Yuskavitch, A&H Publicist; Brian Wolfer, Springfield District Biologist

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

Review of the January Meeting Minutes:

Ron Borisch moved to approve the meeting minutes; Alan seconded the motion; vote unanimous. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Board Reports:

Alan Christensen: Attended two auction events which went quite well; Testified before Ways and Means about the budget

Jim Morrell: Attended two auction events, attempted three but was unable to travel to Klamath Falls due to icy conditions

Barry DelCurto: Attended RMEF National Banquet in Reno

Ron Borisch: Attended two auctions: SCI event went well, OHA event only had 2 bidders going for tag and it didn't sell for as much as he would've liked

Robert Jaeger: Attended OHA, Tioga Chapter auction event

Steve McClelland: Thanked Ron for stepping in at last meeting as Chair, was suppose to attend Klamath Falls banquet but was unable to make it due to icy conditions

Coordinators Report:

- Commission approved projects at March meeting
- Prioritized auction/raffle advertising: sending out mailings, inserting brochures in Big Game Regulations requested from non-residents, etc.
- Participated in Regional Council meetings: quite satisfied with the high level of participation and administrative effectiveness of councils.
- Served as Regional Coordinator at the S. Willamette Regional Council meeting because there is currently no chair (Jim Young has retired)
- Spent time working on publications:
 - Columbia Basin Bird Hunting Guide, will be updated as projects are approved
 - New biennial report, shows A&H Accomplishments in the 09-11 biennium

Budget Report:

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

Admin Budget: Maps and Signs

Map and sign budget was \$15,000 last biennium, recommendation for next biennium is \$30,000 due to request from the Board and Commission to measure hunter use on access projects.

Project update

Dave Stiefvater with Pheasants Forever gave an update on the Ontario City Access Area Project. This project is a unique and successful partnership with the City of Ontario, ODFW, Treasure Valley Community College, and Pheasants Forever. Volunteers have installed two kiosks on the property that have drop boxes for permits to measure hunter use. They are working on weed control and planning on doing a lot of habitat work on the property. They have a very successful annual youth hunt that averages approximately 30 kids.

Auction/Raffle Tag Allocation

2011 A&H Auction/Raffle Tag recommendation

Motion:

Jim motions that the auction/raffle tag allocation remain unchanged from 2011; Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Auction Sponsor Selection Process:

See attached document for references to presented criteria/requirements

Existing Requirements

Discussion:

Keep all existing requirements.

Proposed requirements

Applicant will be represented (in person or via telephone) at July A&H Board Meeting

Discussion:

Robert suggests this should be a recommendation not a requirement to see which groups are more serious about getting a tag. Jim and Alan agree with Robert. The Board agreed that the language should read that it's recommended the applicant present in person or present via phone if they are unable to be there in person.

Auction proceeds will be used to conduct big game/game bird habitat and/or hunter access improvement projects IN OREGON

Discussion:

Alan wanted to clarify that this is regarding the proceeds retained by the organization (10% of sale price). Steve and Alan were concerned that the definition was too narrow, precluding activities that may provide an indirect benefit to hunters or wildlife. The Board agreed that this should be a recommendation, not a requirement. Alan suggested something similar to "the Board recommends that proceeds retained by the sponsoring organization be spent in a manner that benefits Oregon hunters or wildlife through access or habitat improvements". Jim suggested noting this recommendation but providing space for the applicant to describe their intended use of proceeds.

Tags awarded only to events held in Oregon and adjacent states (except recommended national events: RMEF, MDF, WSF)

Discussion:

Alan suggests adding "preference given". The Board agrees that the language should read *Tags awarded with preference to events held in Oregon* and take out adjacent states.

Additional criteria

Existing Criteria

Organizations history of sales with ODFW/A&H auction tags

- *Sale price of each tag compared with average annual sale price*
- *No individual chapter receive a tag more than two years in a row*

Discussion:

Ron thinks that the two-consecutive year requirement should be scratched because it takes the decision making away. The Board agrees it should be left out.

Organization's fund raising and live auction experience

Discussion:

No concerns, leave in.

Proposed Criteria

Discussion:

Keep all proposed criteria with two exceptions:

- Remove "Gross expected revenue of the auction event"
- The use of PowerPoint at some smaller banquets may be impractical – in these cases the lack of PowerPoint should not count negatively toward applicant.

Procedural Notes

Discussion:

Keep all procedural notes, with two exceptions:

- No random selection process to select "tie-breaker" for date conflicts
- The Board will select 1 alternate organization that can host either a deer or elk auction tag if the need arises.

Public Comment

No comment (11:15 a.m.)

Public Land Access Payments

Discussion:

Tom would like to see the word "proposed" put in front of value. Steve thinks the language needs to be clear in a proposal to show that we are paying for access through the landowner's property to get to public land and suggests projects be proposed as an easement to public land or a right of way. Tom Thornton said the language can be changed to make it clearer and when the next project like this comes up he and Matt will work on changing the language. The Board agrees not to change the language on current projects, they will remain as written.

Project Reviews:

Note: The Board voted on project approvals after presentation of all projects; exceptions for specific projects are noted below.

2011-22 Wendling Travel Management area

Brian Wolfer, Springfield District Biologist and Tally Patton, Weyerhaeuser Company, presented this project (refer to the A&H Board packet for Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

This project proposes to funding assistance for implementation and enforcement of the Wendling TMA. The majority of the area in this TMA has traditionally been open to hunter access only on weekends. This TMA will allow hunting access 7 days per week from the beginning of early archery season through the close of rifle buck season except when closed due to fire danger or for management purposes. Vehicle use will be allowed on designated roads only.

2011-12 Lucky Creek Mule Deer Habitat Enhancement

Regional Coordinator Meg Eden presented this project with Paul Neuharth, Landowner, via phone (refer to the A&H Board packet for Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

This project proposes to remove 500 acres of juniper, burn 240 acres of juniper slash and seed sites, develop one spring site, fence ½ mile of the Crooked River (both sides of the river), and install one solar pump off-site water trough.

Motion

Barry DelCurto motioned to approve this project as proposed; Alan Christensen seconded the motion; Barry DelCurto withdrew the motion.

2011-13 Pringle Creek Habitat Enhancement

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

The Pringle Creek Habitat Enhancement is part of a large scale, long term project encompassing 5,969 acres, including 3,040 acres of juniper removal and 5,869 acres of prescribed burns. This project will also thin 100 acres of juniper and ponderosa pine, slash pile 400 acres of juniper/pine, develop 14 springs, seed 1,220 acres, and spot spray 950 acres of noxious weeds.

2011-17 Wilson Wetland Habitat Restoration

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian presented this project with Peggy Brown, Brown Consulting (refer to the A&H Board packet for Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

This project proposes to restore seasonal-emergent wetlands, riparian buffers, wet meadow, and native upland habitat in the North Powder River drainage. On the low lying wet meadows, berms with water control structures will be constructed and irrigation ditches filled in. Additional conservation practices include fence construction, riparian and upland planting, and planting of bird food plots on the upland portion of the project. Furthermore, this project will significantly improve habitat for both upland game bird (pheasant) and big game (mule deer) species.

2011-16 Virtue Flat Access Area

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian and Peggy Brown, Brown Consulting, presented this project (refer to the A&H Board packet for Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

This project proposes to provide "Welcome to Hunt" access on 7,087 acres of private land in the Lookout Mountain Unit for a period of 5 years to hunt upland game birds, big game, and predators. This project will also improve/enhance access to adjacent Access and Habitat program lands and 10,848 acres of BLM lands.

2011-14 Rice Access Project

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

This project proposes to allow "By-Permission Hunting" access on 1,231 acres of private land in the Starkey Unit for a period of five years to hunt deer, elk, bear, cougar, coyote, and upland game birds (i.e. blue and ruffed grouse, Hungarian partridge, turkey and California quail). This project will also improve access to adjacent Access and Habitat program lands and ODFW's Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area lands. This block of public/private lands is known collectively as the Glass Hill Access Area.

2011-15 Dutch Flat Ranch

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

This project proposes to allow "Welcome to Hunt" access on 9,500 acres of private land in the Fossil Wildlife Management Unit for a period of 5 years to hunt upland game birds, big game, and predators. This project will also improve/enhance access to adjacent BLM lands.

Discussion:

Steve would like to see this project enrolled in the Open Fields Program

Motion:

Alan Christensen motioned to move this project to Open Fields Program; Ron Borisch seconded the motion contingent upon the landowner agreeing on enrolling for the 1st year only. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

2011-18 Baker County Project Tech

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

This project proposes to hire a seasonal ODFW employee for 3 months in 2011, 2012, and 2013 to install and maintain signs, install and maintain hunter "Check-in/Check-out" kiosks, and patrol A&H Access Area in Baker, Union, and Wallowa Counties.

Motion

No motion; Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian withdrew the project.

2011-20 C2 Ranch Access

Regional Coordinator Vince Oredson and landowner Dave Picanso (via phone) presented this project (refer to the A&H Board packet for Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project).

This project proposes to improve wildlife habitat and provide public hunting opportunities. Habitat improvement will consist of removing invasive Himalayan blackberry from pasture, cutting back decadent brush fields, and fertilizing. Hunts will consist of 4 adult archery deer hunts (2 early season, 2 late season, each for 2 days), and guided youth hunts consisting of 28 deer hunts, 5 elk hunts, and 10 spring turkey hunts, (youth hunts will be for 1 day), for one season, 2011/2012.

2011-21 Rock Creek Access Area

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

This project proposes to provide significant public access to otherwise non-accessible lands. It would allow "Welcome to Hunt" access on 29,980 acres of private land in the Beaty's Butte Wildlife Management Unit for a period of 3 years to hunt mule deer, pronghorn, sage grouse, waterfowl, and predators.

2011-23 Columbia Basin Access Program

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

This project would open approximately 95,000 acres of private land in the Columbia Basin to public hunting access. This proposal requests authorization to expend Year 1 funds of the Columbia Basin Access Program component of the Oregon Open Fields grant. This funding was made available through the 2008 Farm Bill and awarded to ODFW from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in September 2010. This proposal is consistent with the original proposal submitted to the FSA. This proposal requests only funding provided through this federal grant; no regular A&H funds are requested.

Motion

Barry DelCurto motioned to approve project as proposed; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

2011-24 Willamette Valley Goose Access

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

This project would open up to 95,000 acres of private land in the Willamette Valley to public hunting access. This proposal requests authorization to expend Year 1 funds of the Willamette Valley Goose Hunter Access component of the Oregon Open Fields grant. This funding was made available through the 2008 Farm Bill and awarded to ODFW from the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in September 2010. This proposal is consistent with the original proposal submitted to the FSA. This proposal requests only funding provided through this federal grant; no regular A&H funds are requested.

Motion:

Alan Christensen motioned to approve Pringle Creek Habitat Enhancement, Rice Access Project, Wilson Family Ranches Habitat Restoration, C2 Ranch Access and Habitat Project, and Wendling Travel Management Area as proposed; no second to the motion.

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to approve Lucky Creek Mule Deer Habitat Enhancement reduced by 8% (\$25,760 of A&H funds), Pringle Creek Habitat Enhancement reduced by 8% (\$32,566 of A&H funds), Rice Access Project as proposed, Wilson Family Ranches Habitat Restoration as proposed, C2 Ranch Access and Habitat Project as proposed, Wendling Travel Management Area as proposed, and the Map & Sign budget as recommended (\$30,000). Ron Borisch motioned to amend the previous motion by approving only the law enforcement patrol component of the Wendling TMA proposal (\$23,220 of A&H funds); Barry DelCurto seconded the motion as amended. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Regional Council Appointments

Northeast Regional Council

Discussion:

Northeast Regional Advisory Council has two Hunter Representative vacancies. The council voted to appoint John R. Groupe and Morgan Olsen.

Motion:

Barry DelCurto motioned to approve John R. Group and Morgan Olsen to the Northeast Regional Advisory Council as Hunter Representatives; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion items not on the agenda:

Reappointment of A&H Board Chair

Motion:

Jim Morrell motioned to approve Steve McClelland as Board Chair for another four-year term; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Future A&H Board Meetings

Jim Morrell suggests going to the Southwest Region for January's meeting. Matt will add this to the agenda for October's meeting to discuss. The Board would like to move January's meeting to somewhere other than Salem. Matt will check with Wildlife Division and let the Board know what the decision is at July's Board meeting.

Alan would like to see more complete completion reports in the future.

Steve McClelland adjourned the meeting at 3:25 pm.



Oregon Big Game Auction Tag Sponsorship Application



Note: This is a summary of proposed application content. This is not a proposed application format.

Organization Information

Name of Organization: _____

Number of Members: _____ Membership Area: _____

Applicant Contact Information

for application and contract correspondence

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Primary Phone: _____
Secondary Phone: _____
Email: _____

Auction Event Contact Information

name and telephone (for sponsoring organizations) will be published in 2012 Big Game Regulations

Name: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Primary Phone: _____
Secondary Phone: _____
Email: _____

Big Game Auction Tag Requested

First choice: _____
Second choice: _____
Third choice: _____

Available Tags:

- Statewide Deer (4 tags)
- Statewide Elk (4 tags)
- Statewide Deer & Elk Combo (1 tag)
- Bighorn Sheep (1 tag)
- Pronghorn Antelope (1 tag)

Organization Objectives/Goals: *(more space will be provided on application)*

Fundraising Event Information

Fundraising Event Date: _____ Location: _____
City State

Was a fundraising event held last year: Yes No

If Yes, how many people attended event: _____ Gross funds raised: \$ _____

Application Procedures:

- 1) All applications must be received at address listed below by **June 24, 2011**.
- 2) Deer and Elk auction tag sponsorship will be determined by the Access and Habitat Board during their **July 26** meeting in Salem. Applicants are encouraged to attend the meeting or call in; contact Matt Keenan at number listed below for details.
- 3) Pronghorn and Bighorn auction tag sponsorship will be determined by ODFW staff before **July 26**; contact Don Whittaker at number listed below for details.

Existing Requirements

Auction sponsors must:

- Provide organization and facilities to conduct a live auction between 1/1/12 – 5/31/12.
- Provide cellular phones and staff to accept phone bids for the auction.
- Advertise the auction where feasible, including organization publications.
- Provide up to two ODFW/A&H representatives with a ticket to the fundraising event at the state per diem rate of \$23 each.
- Allow members of the public to access the banquet for the big game tag auction in person or via telephone (free of charge, if so requested).
- Have space available (minimum 8' table) for ODFW/A&H information exhibit, free of charge.

Proposed Requirements:

- Applicant will be represented (in person or via telephone) at July A&H Board Meeting.
- Auction proceeds will be used to conduct big game/game bird habitat and/or hunter access improvement projects IN OREGON.
- Tags awarded only to events held in Oregon and adjacent states (except for recommended national events: RMEF, MDF, WSF)

Additional Criteria for Consideration**Existing Criteria:**

- Organization's history of sales with ODFW/A&H auction tags
 - Sale price of each tag will be compared with average annual sale price
 - Sports groups recommend no individual chapter (besides recommended national chapters and state OHA) receive a tag more than two years in a row
- Organization's fund raising and live auction experience
 - Years of experience as a group
 - Organization of auction event – coordinators, ring crew, etc.

Proposed Criteria:

- Gross expected revenue of the auction event
- Expected attendance at the auction event
- Previous year's contributions to big game, game birds, or hunter access IN OREGON
 - Quantify contributions based on # of projects, volunteers, hours worked, etc.
- Methods organization will use to contact bidders individually regarding the tag
 - Telephone, individual invitations, follow-up mailings, flyers, other.
- Efforts organization will make to promote, market, and advertise the tag
 - Radio/TV, newspaper/magazine, press release, newsletter, mailings/flyers, posters, website, sportsmen's show/expo, email, other.
- The role of ODFW/A&H in the promotion and sale of the tag.
 - Invite representative to present tag, show PowerPoint slides during auction, describe tag in event program, work with ODFW on tag description flyers.

Procedural Notes:

- Support for national events (RMEF, MDF, WSF), & state OHA receiving tags.
- Method to resolve issues of same-day events:
 - Two tags for the same species should not be auctioned on the same day.
 - No three tags should be auctioned on the same day.
 - Organizations will be contacted before applications are sent to the A&H Board to help resolve date conflicts - they may have alternate chapters.
 - To break a tie when a date conflict still remains after above steps:
 - Board will be asked to carefully consider "additional criteria" above
 - As last resort, a random selection process will be used to select event
- Board will select "alternate" sponsors for each species, in case an event is cancelled.