

**Access & Habitat  
Board Meeting  
July 26, 2011  
Salem, OR**

**Attendees**

Board: Steve McClelland; Ron Borisch, Barry DelCurto; Jim Morrell;  
Alan Christensen; Tom Alkire

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

A&H Regional  
Coordinators: Jon Paustian, NE Region; Tom Segal, Malheur Region; Vince  
Oredson, Southwest Region; Meg Eden and Larry Pecenka,  
Deschutes/Klamath Region

*Chair Steve McClelland called the A&H Board meeting to order at 8:05am*

**Review of the April 19, 2011 Meeting Minutes:**

Jim Morrell motioned to approve the April Meeting Minutes. Ron Borisch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

**Board Member Reports**

Tom Alkire: Nothing to report.

Alan Christensen: Attended Commission Meeting on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, but the Commission did not get to A&H business until June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Jim Morrell: Attended the OHA State convention.

Barry DelCurto: Attended the OHA State convention, felt it was a successful event. People have been telling him that they've had trouble locating access areas on the online map.

Ron Borisch: Nothing to report.

Steve McClelland: Nothing to report.

**Coordinator Report**

- The Commission approved all projects and the reappointment of Steve McClelland as Chair.
  
- The Programmatic Environmental Assessment for the Open Fields program is complete and has been approved by FSA. We have now been awarded both Year 1 and Year 2 funding; Year 3 is still contingent upon federal funding availability. Although we are still waiting to actually receive the check, we have the approval and authority to fund projects. The ODFW Procurement team is still in the process of developing the grant agreement template to be used for projects funded through Open Fields. Travis Shultz, ODFW Wildlife Technician in Heppner, has been hired to serve the next six months as the Columbia Basin Open Fields Coordinator. We hope to release a job

announcement soon for the Willamette Valley Open Fields Coordinator position.

- Been working on maps: ODFW is in the process of standardizing color schemes for next year's maps; looking into expanding online map.
- Gave a presentation on A&H at the first annual Gun Dog Expo in Albany; attendance was lower than expected. There was enthusiasm & interest regarding the A&H program. Overall, it was a good event.
- Spent a lot of time writing Interagency Agreements with OSP for A&H TMA's

#### Discussion

Alan suggested using retired federal employees to patrol the TMA's. Matt said he would look into it.

#### **Open Discussion**

Steve McClelland addressed future Board meeting locations. The Board had expressed at the last meeting that they would like to have at least one more away meeting so they could visit more projects. Steve explained that it was better to keep the July meeting at ODFW Headquarters due to the sports groups that attend for the auction tag allocations. He suggested keeping the January meeting in the Willamette Valley and going out in the field.

Jim Morrell inquired as to whether or not they could go to the coast. Steve replied that it's a possibility.

Matt Keenan suggested touring sites that are part of the Willamette Valley Goose program under Open Fields in January and keeping the meeting at ODFW Headquarters.

Alan Christensen would like to visit projects under the Open Fields program and meet with the landowners to get their insight on the program.

Matt Keenan agreed with Alan's suggestion on meeting with landowners.

The Board agreed that January's meeting will be kept at ODFW Headquarters and they will tour sites that are part of the Willamette Valley Goose Hunting Access program (Open Fields) and meet with landowners. It will be a two day meeting, Monday-Tuesday. Dates will be set in October.

#### **Public Comment**

No public comment, 8:37 a.m.

#### **2012 Auction Tag Sponsorship Requests:**

Organization representatives present to testify were:

Oregon Foundation for North American Wild Sheep: Alan Day and George Houston

Mule Deer Foundation: Ken Hand

Oregon Bow Hunters: Karen Demaris

Oregon Hunters Association: Ty Stubblefield

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation: Dave Wiley, Lee Fries, and Dustin Herman

Safari Club International, Santiam River Chapter: Dewey France and Glean Melow  
Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter: Jim McWhorter

Combo Tag:

Alan Christensen motioned to allocate the Governor's Statewide Deer/Elk tag to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's National Chapter; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Elk Tags:

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate a Statewide Elk tag to Safari Club International's SW Washington Chapter; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Ron Borisch motioned to allocate a Statewide Elk tag to Safari Club International's Santiam River Chapter; Jim Morrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Alan Christensen motioned to allocate the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep's Oregon Chapter a Statewide Elk tag; Jim Morrell seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Barry DelCurto asked the FNAWS representatives if they wanted to wait until the deer tags were allocated to see if they would receive a deer tag (their application indicated Statewide Deer as their first choice). Both Alan Day and George Houston agreed to accept the elk tag. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate a Statewide Elk tag to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Lincoln County Chapter; Alan Christensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Deer Tags:

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate a Statewide Deer tag to the Mule Deer Foundation's National Chapter; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Alan Christensen motioned to allocate a Statewide Deer tag to Oregon Hunters Association's Columbia Basin Chapter; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Jim Morrell motioned to allocate a Statewide Deer tag to Oregon Hunters Association's State Chapter; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Barry DelCurto motioned to allocate a Statewide Deer tag to Oregon Bow Hunters' State Chapter; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Alternate:

Jim Morrell motioned to appoint Oregon Hunter Association's Capitol Chapter as the alternate; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Auction Tag Allocations:

Combo:	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National Chapter	February 3, 2012
Elk:	Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter	May 5, 2012
Elk:	Safari Club International, Santiam River Chapter	February 11, 2012
Elk:	Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter	April 21, 2012
Elk:	Rock Mountain Elk Foundation, Lincoln County Chapter	March 10, 2012
Deer:	Mule Deer Foundation, National Chapter	February 10, 2012
Deer:	Oregon Hunters Association, Columbia Basin Chapter	February 18, 2012
Deer:	Oregon Hunters Association, State Chapter	May 19, 2012
Deer:	Oregon Bow Hunters, State Chapter	February 25, 2012
Alternate:	Oregon Hunters Association, Capitol Chapter	March 17, 2012

Final Vote:

Alan Christensen motioned to approve all tag allocations; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

**A&H Budget**

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

**Project Prioritization**

Matt Keenan provided an overview on project prioritization (refer to A&H Board Packet).

Discussion:

Jim Morrell suggested the district biologists rank the projects within their region when projects are presented to the Board.

Matt Keenan replied that if the district biologist is not at the presentation for the project or has not written a support letter then you can assume the project is not a priority in that district. Matt also explained that because the A&H regions vary greatly in the number and diversity of projects within them, such a ranking system could lead to inaccurate comparisons between projects with the same "rank" located in different regions. The most helpful solution would be one that allows the Board to compare projects from a Statewide perspective.

Steve McClelland asked each Board member to come up with a couple of potential solutions and get them to Matt within a month.

**Regional Coordinator Reports:**

Jon Paustian: Been busy re-posting signs on old properties and posting signs on new properties. It's been a wet spring making it hard to get onto some of the new project areas - hopefully he will be able to soon. Working on Open Fields projects; Dutch Flat was scheduled to start August 1 – it has been delayed but should open soon.

Alan asked why it is delayed.

Matt replied that after the funding was secured, procurement had to revise the grant agreement to meet federal funding requirements.

Steve McClelland asked Jon Paustian to provide a couple of ideas regarding project prioritization.

Jon's thoughts on project prioritization: the Evaluation Form that is currently part of all project proposals already provides a numeric score that could be used to rank projects. Any additional numeric ranking would be very difficult to do. The district biologist currently submits a letter of recommendation for projects they support and are a priority for the District. Jon is concerned that comparing ranked lists between regions may not be a fair way to prioritize projects.

Larry Pecenka: Will be contacting Craig Foster soon to get October's field visit lined up, because Larry will be out of town and unable to attend the October meeting. Suggested touring the Micke Ranch project, which will benefit bighorn sheep, during this visit.

Larry seconded Jon's thoughts that if the Board wants to prioritize projects numerically, the existing project evaluation form should be used.

Meg Eden: Asked the Board for direction regarding new projects. She's been involved in 7 habitat projects and most will be complete by this fall. She wanted to know how receptive the Board would be to another project from the Maury area that may involve about \$20,000 - it would be primarily a habitat project that may have some limited access.

Jim Morrell replied that obtaining partner funding for the project would carry a lot of weight with the Board.

Steve McClelland suggested that the Board may be more likely to approve a one-time payment for habitat work than the ongoing payments association with long-term access projects.

Ron Borisch said he would pay special attention to projects that are a part of the Mule Deer Initiative.

Vince Oredson: Expanded the C2 Ranch project this year, adding 4 adult archery deer hunts and several more youth hunts. Established a formal process for hunters to apply for the hunts and sent out a news release advertising the opportunity. The application is online and gets submitted to Vince's office. Interest in these hunts has been very strong.

OSP had a difficult time finding a patrol officer for Jackson TMA, but has recently selected one.

Tom Segal: Has been occupied with MDI and wildlife area management duties. At the next meeting, he will be bringing forward a

habitat project to be funded through Open Fields that is targeted toward mule deer and elk forage enhancement.

He would like to reiterate earlier comments regarding prioritizing projects, it's tough to compare projects from different regions.

Project Prioritization Discussion:

- Tom Alkire: Believes that down the road and the next few years, they're not going to be able to fund all the projects, not even the medium and high priority ones. He thinks they need to look at how the good projects can continue without as much A&H funding by seeking different sources of funding such as private groups or federal funding.
- Alan Christensen: Feels that current properties enrolled in A&H should be subject to a review process for renewal and not be automatically renewed. Maybe some new criteria should be developed that they would have to meet such as hunter use data.
- Jim Morrell: Suggests that they split the state in half and compare projects within each half, east side and west side. He feels that projects should bring in cooperator funding; a good project is obvious to other groups and will bring in match.
- Barry DelCurto: Feels they should look at evaluation points and the hunter use information that the Board has asked the coordinators to get. He would like to have that data at January's meeting and possibly look at changing funding by reducing cost per acre.
- Ron Borisch: Thinks they should look at the highest priced projects such as TMA's and decide if they need enforcement through the entire season. For example, some projects may not require as much enforcement in the later part of archery season.
- Matt Keenan: Suggested that Vince Oredson, Dave Nuzum, and David Stroppel evaluate the enforcement on TMA's to see if Ron's suggestion is a possibility.
- Steve McClelland: Suggested possibly funding an ODFW employee instead of a police officer to patrol projects. Steve would like to continue this discussion with input from the Board at next meeting.

*Steve McClelland adjourned the meeting at 1:20 pm.*