

**Access & Habitat Board Meeting
October 18, 2011
Lakeview, OR**

Attendees

Board: Steve McClelland; Robert Jaeger; Barry DelCurto; Ron Borisch; Alan Christensen; Jim Morrell

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

A&H Regional Coordinators: Jon Paustian, NE Region; Dave Nuzum, N. Willamette Region; Tom Segal, Malheur Region; Vince Oredson, SW Region; Meg Eden, Deschutes/Klamath Region

Steve called the A&H Board meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Review of the July 26, 2011 Meeting Minutes:

Ron Borisch moved to approve the July Meeting Minutes. Alan Christensen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Board Member Reports:

Jim Morrell: Nothing to report.

Alan Christensen: Nothing to report.

Ron Borisch: Having an issue with locks being taken off gates (8 within 1 ½ weeks) on the Abiqua Basin Access Area Project (Longview property). OHA has been opening and closing the gates so it may be a case of poachers. OSP will be setting up decoys to investigate further.

Barry DelCurto: Nothing to report.

Robert Jaeger: Nothing to report.

Steve McClelland: Expressed his appreciation for the field tour given by District Biologist Craig Foster the previous day. He found it to be very informative.

Coordinator report:

- been spending a lot of time on the Open Fields program
 - recruited and trained a Willamette Valley Coordinator, Ron Bramlett
 - put together new application forms to streamline the process, there's been a lot of landowner interest
 - created the Open Fields website
- created the 2011/12 version of the Private Lands Hunting Opportunities Packet
- spent time finalizing the "By Permission" and "Welcome to Hunt" access signs

Discussion:

Robert said there are some By-Permission signs posted in his area and under contact info they say "various".

Matt said that he would look into why the contact info says "various".

Alan suggested doing a presentation about the Open Fields program at an Oregon Technical Advisory Committee (OTAC) meeting. There are approximately 100 groups that have representatives that attend the meeting who could potentially reach landowners.

Matt said he would look into attending an OTAC meeting.

- been working on auction and raffle publications
 - Created brochures and poster
 - Put an ad in Northwest Sportsman that will run in November and December issues;

Discussion:

Steve asked how the auction and raffle events are advertised - had an avid hunter in his office that said he was aware of the auction but didn't know about the raffle; we need to figure out a way to bring more money in for auction tags.

Matt said he was open to suggestions on advertising for the auction and raffle.

Alan suggests a testimonial from someone like Chad Thompson who only purchased 30 tickets and/or comparing harvested animals with those from other states.

Robert asked if it was possible for something to pop up on the POS screen reminding POS agents sales staff to ask if the customer would like to purchase raffle tickets.

Matt will let the board know before the next meeting if this can be done.

Barry suggested putting a date under all pictures to let the public know when the animals were taken.

- A&H purchased more domain space for the Open Fields program, auction, and raffle:
 - www.OregonRaffleHunts.com
 - www.OregonAuctionHunts.com
 - www.OregonOpenFields.com
- Went to NCTMA annual enforcement meeting; discussed how to implement standardized access area signs on Travel Management Areas – some changes would be needed to gain landowner support.
- Gave a presentation to the Portland Chapter of Pheasants Forever

Discussion:

Jim suggested pursuing a television ad with Gary Lewis Outdoors, which is a local show. Jim knows Gary and would be happy to talk with him about it.

Matt agreed that it's a great idea.

Alan asked if the A&H program has ever been on Oregon Field Guide.

Matt did not think so, but said he would check into it.

Barry commented that a local radio station talked about the Lookout Mountain Access Area.

Matt will look into radio airtime.

Matt will update the Board at the next Board meeting regarding advertising.

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

Discussion:

Alan asked if they have asked for the unspent limitation from the 2009-11 biennium. Matt indicated that ODFW had not.

Tom Thornton explained that going back to the Emergency Board asking for the additional funds is something the agency takes very seriously. It's a decision that comes from the director's office working with Ron Anglin and Wildlife Division Administration. They have limited opportunities to go to the Emergency Board. It's certainly something that could occur but takes preparation and planning.

Barry asked if rules could be changed so limitation left over from one biennium could be automatically rolled over to the next biennium. Tom Thornton replied that it would have to be discussed with legislature.

Ron asked if the recent sale of Jeld-Wen is it going to affect the JWTR TMA project. Meg didn't know that it was being sold and neither did Matt. Both will check into it.

Budget/Funding Priorities Discussion

Matt went over revisions to the project evaluation sheet:

Discussion:

Tom Segal said he would like "turkey" added back into under-represented species for Malheur Watershed District.

Alan asked about removing "space" from #1 of General Criteria: he thinks it's a good idea to have something that addresses wildlife movement, particularly in areas where there are migratory animals such as mule deer and other wildlife corridors.

Steve asked Matt to create a separate question that addresses movement of migratory animals before the Board reviews changes to the evaluation form.

Matt provided an overview of the Board's comments on project prioritization.

Discussion:

Ron asked Matt to email the comments to the Board.

Matt remarked that the idea of cancelling a current access agreement has been discussed before, and Wildlife Division does not generally support this action except in the case of extenuating circumstances. Matt asked the Board to provide reasons they would consider acceptable for cancelling an agreement.

Alan suggested talking to the regional coordinators to get info on how the project is going.

Matt will discuss this issue further with Division.

Alan asked if it's possible to tie in the following two comments:

- Additional criteria for renewals: was it worth the expense? (hunter use, management objectives).
- Early termination of medium-priority projects?

Steve would like the Board to do the following before January's Board meeting:

- Decide if they want the following criteria:
 - Additional criteria for renewals: was it worth the expense? (hunter use, management objectives).

- Payment modification (ex: lower annual payment for 10-year contract than for 2-year).
- Think about additional criteria
- Go over the current comments/criteria, add comments/criteria if you want, and send it to Matt a couple of weeks before January's meeting

Steve requested that someone from ODFW explain the details of the A&H contract at January's meeting.

Public Comment

No public comment 11:30 a.m.

2012 Board Meeting Schedule

January 18-19	Salem, OR
April 23-24	Lincoln City, OR
July 23-24	Salem, OR
October 15-16	Enterprise, OR

Auction Even Sign-up

2012 AUCTION EVENT SCHEDULE

2012 Auction Tag	Organization	Date & Location	A&H/ODFW Representative(s) to attend	
Combo	Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation, National Convention	Las Vegas NV February 3, 2012	Jim M.	ODFW
Deer	Mule Deer Foundation, National Convention	Salt Lake City UT February 10, 2012	Steve M.	ODFW
Elk	Safari Club International, Santiam River Chapter	Albany OR February 11, 2012	Tom A.	2. Ron
Deer	Oregon Hunters Association, Columbia Basin Chapter	Pendleton OR February 18, 2012	Steve M.	Barry
Deer	Oregon Bow Hunters, State Convention	Lincoln City OR February 25, 2012	1. Alan	2. Ron
Elk	Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation, Lincoln County Chapter	Newport OR March 10, 2012	Robert J.	Ron?
Elk	Foundation for N. American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter	Hillsboro OR April 21, 2012	1. Robert	2. Alan?
Elk	Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter	Vancouver WA May 5, 2012	Tom Alkire	Barry D.
Deer	Oregon Hunters Association, State Convention	Redmond OR May 19, 2012	Jim M.	Steve M.

Motion

Jim motioned to accept the auction event schedule. Ron seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Regional Reports

- Meag Eden:
- Updated the group on the Jeld-Wen bankruptcy situation and explained how it will not affect the JWTR TMA
 - Presented update of the Star 1 Trust project that is now complete
- Jon Paustian:
- Been posting signs on new properties that were funded last cycle and swapping existing signs with new signs on other access areas

- Commented on measuring hunter use (#4 of the Funding Priorities sheet): he feels hunter use is very hard to measure as the permits at the check stations are not mandatory
- A couple of habitat projects that were funded last year such as McGinnis Ranch Habitat Enhancement just got started due to moisture last winter and spring. They were also waiting on a granular form of Plateau to be licensed in Oregon which isn't going to happen this fall so they're going to go with the liquid. The seed for that project is purchased, and the Antelope youth hunt will begin in 2012.

Dave Nuzum:

- This is the last year of fertilization on the 3 projects located outside of Vernonia – he has received a fair amount of inquiries about these properties from hunters who have visited the website and he put them in contact with the landowners
- The North Coast TMA kicked off with archery season which was kind of slow due in part to several fire closures
- A week before archery season opened up, 4 elk were poached just inside one of the popular gates - still no suspects
- This year the focus for traffic counters is the Trask unit - last year it was Saddle Mtn. Expects wider coverage in the Trask because Stimson Lumber has some of their own travel access areas with gate tenders who open and close gates every weekend and gather data on number of vehicles passing through, license plate numbers, number of hunters, and harvest success.
- Increased effort during opening weekend of rifle deer, due mostly to favorable weather. Vehicle counters are out collecting data; will have a full report at January's meeting.
- OSP made a case on a spotlighter by using the counters. The counter data showed a pattern of late night incursions which OSP followed to catch the person.

Vince Oredson:

- Got a new patrol officer for JCTMA - a retired police officer, has been driving around with him and posting signs
- Getting C2 youth hunts together, sending letters out to the youths that drew for that

Tom Segal:

- Pine Creek opened up to rave reviews and lots of use;
- Lawen Access Area and refuge have lots of water and ducks, resulting in many full bags
- spending a lot of time reposting properties; helped state parks get their grassland restoration project going.
- Gave a brief explanation on the McDaniel's Acquisition and the meetings happening in the near future, and let the Board know that their comments and input at those meetings are welcome.

Regional Council Appointments

North Willamette Council

The North Willamette Advisory Council has one Hunter Representative position vacant. The council voted to appoint Brent Tannock to the Hunter Representative position.

Motion

Jim Morrell moved to appoint Brent Tannock to the North Willamette Regional Advisory Council Hunter Representative position; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Southwest Council

The Southwest Advisory Council has one Landowner Representative position vacant. The council voted to appoint Bill Buswell to the Landowner Representative position.

Motion

Barry DelCurto motioned to appoint Bill Buswell to the Southwest Regional Advisory Council Landowner Representative position; Jim Morrell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Project Review

2011-25 Pine Creek Access

Regional Coordinator Tom Segal presented this project (refer to the A&H Board packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project). This project proposes to increase the productivity of 495 acres of aspen, mountain mahogany, bitterbrush, snowberry, bittercherry, and chokecherry on the Pine Creek Access Area in the Malheur River Unit by cutting and piling competing conifers (western juniper and ponderosa pine).

Motion

Alan Christensen moved to approve this project as proposed; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

2011-26 Alvord /Kueny Access Area

Regional Coordinator Tom Segal presented this project (refer to the A&H Board packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project). This project is a renewal and proposes to continue to provide public access on 10,500 acres of private property and 28,200 acres of BLM land along the east base of Steens Mountain.

Discussion:

Tom Segal mentioned the landowners' concerns of hikers using the access area. They felt it should be for hunters only since it's being paid for with hunter dollars. Matt said that they could post "Hunter Use Only" type signs. Barry DelCurto brought up past issues with the landowner not wanting hunters accessing all of the property but just accessing it to get to the BLM land and wanted to know where the landowner stood with that now. Tom replied that the landowner was ok with hunters accessing all of the property now. Alan Christensen asked if the landowner would consider less than a 5 year agreement. Tom replied that he was uncertain how the landowners would react.

Motion

Alan Christensen moved to approve the project for 1 year with the caveat that Tom and/or the landowner be diligent in seeking match funding when the project comes up for renewal.

Discussion:

Steve McClelland suggested approving the project for a 2 year period, Barry DelCurto agreed with Steve.

Motion

Alan Christensen withdrew his original motion and moved to approve the project for two years; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

2011-27 Jordan Access Area

Regional Coordinator Tom Segal presented this project (refer to the A&H Board packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project). This project proposes to continue providing public hunting access to 640 acres of private land adjacent to Fish Lake. Areas of the property need fence repairs and rebuilding to restrict livestock trespass and to maintain wildlife habitat on property.

Motion

Jim Morrell moved to NOT approve this project, per recommendation of the Regional Council; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

2011-28 Murphy Ranch Well

Regional Coordinator Meg Eden and Craig Foster, District Biologist, presented this project with landowner Martin Murphy (refer to the A&H Board packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project). This project proposes to establish a permanent water source in an area where water is limited. A well would be drilled at the specified project site with a stock water tank installed for year-round livestock and wildlife access. This project will provide water in a shrub steppe habitat for upland game birds, pronghorn, and mule deer.

Motion

Barry DelCurto moved to approve the project as proposed; Alan Christensen seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jim Morrell asked Martin Murphy if he would agree to a 4 year access period instead of 2. Martin said yes.

Motion

Motion on the table did not pass; Jim Morrell moved to approve the project as proposed with a 4-year access period instead of 2; Barry DelCurto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Steve McClelland adjourned the meeting at 2 p.m.