

**Access & Habitat Board Meeting
January 19, 2012
Salem, OR**

Attendees

Board: Steve McClelland; Barry DelCurto; Ron Borisch; Jim Morrell; Alan Christensen; Tom Alkire; Robert Jaeger (via teleconference)

ODFW Staff: Matt Keenan, A&H Coordinator; Tom Thornton, Game Program Manager; Eric Rickerson, Wildlife Division Deputy Division Administrator

A&H Regional Coordinators: Meg Eden, Deschutes/Klamath Region; Dave Nuzum, N. Willamette Region; David Stroppel, S. Willamette Region; Jon Paustian, NE Region (via teleconference); Tom Segal, Malheur Region (via teleconference); Vince Oredson, SW Region (via teleconference), Larry Pecenka, Deschutes/Klamath Region (via teleconference)

Other: John Peel, Landowner; Ron Bramlett, Open Fields Coordinator

Steve called the meeting to order at 8:00 am

Review of the October 18, 2011 Meeting Minutes:

Barry DelCurto moved to approve the October Meeting Minutes as written. Ron Borisch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Board Member Reports:

Alan Christensen: Nothing to report.
Tom Alkire: Nothing to report.
Jim Morrell: Nothing to report.
Barry DelCurto: Nothing to report.
Ron Borisch: Nothing to report.
Steve McClelland: Apologized and expressed his appreciation to the board members for having to travel in the awful weather and asked them to please do what was necessary to get home safely even if it meant staying somewhere an extra night.
Steve commented on the A&H display located in the lobby saying he thought it was a great advertisement for the Auction and Raffle Program.

Coordinators Report:

Commission Meeting Update:

The Commission approved all three projects that the Board recommended and also approved the re-appointment of Barry DelCurto and Ron Borisch to serve for four more years as Landowner Representatives on the A&H Board.

Update on the Project Evaluation Form:

Alan had suggested adding criteria for projects that promote habitat connectivity or facilitate animal movement. A&H Coordinators met via teleconference and discussed Alan's suggestion, as well as any other potential changes to the form. ODFW's Habitat Connectivity Biologist Julie Schneider was also present. She has been working to establish definitions and delineate areas of habitat connectivity importance as part of an overall agency directive which is close to

completion. Because the coordinators were having hard time establishing objective criteria to determine if a location meets these criteria, they felt it was appropriate to wait until Julie's work is complete and use the standardized definitions. Matt's hoping to bring this back to the Board for the next meeting.

Auction and Raffle Program:

- Spent a lot of time preparing for the upcoming national auction events - lots of logistics involved. Out of state travel was approved this year but Matt cautioned that is never a certainty.
- Spent a lot of time with the ODFW marketing team looking at ways to get the word out and make it easier for those who are interested in the program to get the information that they need. They created simple website domains to list on all publications so people can remember them easier (www.OregonRaffleHunts.com and www.OregonAuctionHunts.com). Those domains still go to the same webpage and the next step is to revamp the webpage to be more marketing oriented to help sell raffle ticket sales.
- Purchased a 2-sided poster display with brochure racks that will go to the Sportsman's Show in Portland and Redmond.
- Sent the Auction Hunts brochure to all of the previous successful and alternate auction bidders for the past 5 years, sent 25 each of the Raffle Hunts brochure and a raffle poster to all POS agents and will send another round of brochures in a couple of months.
- Oregon Hunter Magazine is running a Big Game Raffle ad, which they've done for many years. This will be the third year of running the current version of the ad.
- Ran a new ad in NW Sportsman Magazine for 2 issues.
- Gary Lewis' Adventure Journal is going to produce a 30 second commercial that will air during his show for 3 ½ months, February 1st-May 15th, which will reach markets throughout the Northwest. His show airs 4-6 times per week depending on the market. Gary has already done a plug on his radio show. Gary is interested in filming a hunt on an A&H area(s) and talking about the program throughout the hunt, then plugging the auction and raffle at the end.
- Discussed advertising with Comcast - they have their Outdoor GPS show that has a broad following and Comcast would also give us a significant amount of random commercial spots on other shows throughout their sports network. They couldn't make any promises as to when the random airings would take place but did promise to air every other week on Outdoor GPS and there are 3 live shows per week. Haven't made any commitments to Comcast, waiting to hear what the Board's feedback is after going over the budget.

Discussion:

Alan asked if the money for the commercials would come out of the administrative budget.

Matt replied that there are enough funds in the administrative budget to cover the Gary Lewis commercial, but it would be a stretch to also cover the Comcast commercial. So, if the Board decides to go ahead and do more than the Gary Lewis commercial they need to look at dedicating some funds which would come out of projects.

Alan asked if ODFW has ever attended the Outdoor Writers convention.

Matt said he would look into it and see if there's something we can do to participate.

Jim Morrell suggested contacting Gary Lewis regarding the Outdoor Writers convention, Gary is an active member, possibly President at one time.

- Matt gave an overview of some Raffle/Auction marketing possibilities and costs

Discussion

Alan suggested modifying the auction agreement to add language regarding the sponsoring organization putting an ad in their magazine, if they have one. Steve commented that maybe they could look into getting a discounted ad at least.

Matt said he could talk to the sports groups.

Alan asked if the A&H program was able to bring in donations from Oregon-based companies such as Columbia Sportswear and Leupold to auction off with the A&H hunt tags.

Matt said he would look into it as he wasn't sure what the limitations on doing so are.

Jon reminded the Board that the A&H program was still being advertised on Steve West's outdoor show.

- Spent a lot of time working on new Open Fields access properties; will have measure of hunter use on the Open Fields properties at the next Board meeting. ODFW staffed an Open Fields exhibitor booth at the Willamette Valley Ag Expo and felt it was excellent exposure. ODFW also had a booth at the Oregon Rye Grass Growers event and Ron Bramlett will be presenting at the Oregon Clover Growers event. Matt will be presenting at the Oregon Technical Advisory Committee meeting in February. Year 3 Open Fields funding was not approved by US congress – all funds received need to be spent by Sept 30, 2012 as currently written in the contract.
- At the last Board meeting Robert asked about some By-Permission access signs he saw that listed the contact info as "various". Matt looked into it and explained that such signs are usually posted at the beginning of a large block of land containing multiple access properties. In addition to the large sign, there should be a smaller sign at each individual access area which lists a specific contact needed to hunt the property.

Contract Review

Eric Rickerson, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, explained the conditions in which the Department may terminate a contract.

- Funding not available – if Oregon Legislature held back A&H Limitation
- Changes in State and Federal rules and regulations
- Property is sold or landowner stops providing access
- Failure of recipient to follow provisions in contract

Other Business

Eric updated the board on recent administrative restrictions to state agencies to reduce costs instituted by the Governor and other state leadership. State agencies have been asked to look at all non-critical functions and limit those to the extent that they can. ODFW has limited participation in certain meetings and events to those who are required at the event such as presenters, moderators, etc. A recommendation has been made to staff to limit travel when possible, in the case of A&H Board meetings if a coordinator doesn't have a project to present they should participate by phone instead of traveling to the meeting. Eric asked the Board to think about to what degree field trips associated with the Board meetings are considered a critical

function. This direction was to last through the February legislative session, but ODFW is going to continue to implement it. If there are any changes in this direction or changes to leadership after the February session Matt will update the Board at the next meeting.

Budget

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

Budget/Funding Priorities Discussion

Matt gave an overview of project prioritization on recurring projects (refer to A&H Board Packet).

Discussion:

Jim thinks that the Regional Coordinators should reduce the percentage of projects they classify as high-priority because they are in the field and have the best sense of which projects are best.

Matt cautioned that using an arbitrary threshold to further restrict the number of "high priority" projects in each region could have undesired results. For example, one region's "medium priority" project may be more valuable to the Board than another region's "high priority" project. The list the Coordinators provided should be a starting point and further prioritization should be done on a state-wide level.

Robert suggested adding comment field to the A&H webpage for hunters to comment on a property they would like to see as an access area or to give their opinion on particular access areas.

Matt likes the idea of getting feedback from the public and will look into it.

Jon cautioned that dissatisfied hunters are often more vocal than their satisfied counterparts.

Jim suggested rather than having a system where hunters provide feedback for one property, we could provide hunters with the criteria and ask which projects they would like to fund.

Alan suggested perhaps having a priority list that included only long-term access projects (no recurring habitat projects) and using the new list to help weed out low priority access projects – (since long-term access projects are the main cause of our financial concerns).

Steve asked if the Sports Group Leaders Meeting, which takes place every month, would be an avenue in which to evaluate access areas.

Alan suggested decreasing cost per acre.

Ron suggested that for each new long-term access project the Board approves, we should identify an existing long-term access project that we are willing to let expire. Regarding the use of the internet for hunter feedback, he feels that veteran users of particular access areas would be unlikely to visit the website to find access info. Such a system would not provide feedback from these folks who have used the area for several years.

Tom would like to look at the geographical diversity of the projects and thinks they should consider it when looking at funding.

Steve asked that Matt e-mail the Board all of their comments and suggestions on project prioritization from this meeting, and the past couple of meetings, so we can discuss at the

next meeting.

Alan asked if the department supported the use of graduate students for doing things such as collecting data and doing market surveys on properties; he feels that would be an inexpensive source of quality research/analysis.

Matt said he would look into the use of graduate students.

Auction Process Review

Matt confirmed the auction event schedule sign up sheet (refer to A&H Board packet) with the Board and went over the auction process, forms, and set-up.

Public Comment

No public comment 11:15 a.m.

Regional Council Appointments

Deschutes/Klamath Council

The Deschutes/Klamath Advisory Council has one Landowner Representative and one Hunter Representative position vacant. The council voted to appoint Jack Remington to the Landowner Representative position and Larry Lee to the Hunter Representative position.

Motion

Jim motioned to appoint Larry Lee to the Deschutes/Klamath Regional Advisory Council Hunter Representative position; Ron Borisch seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Motion

Alan motioned to appoint Jack Remington to the Deschutes/Klamath Regional Advisory Council Landowner Representative; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Discussion:

Jim asked if the applicants that do not get appointed receive a letter letting them know. Steve replied that there is no standardized system, and all applicants should receive a letter from the Board going forward.

Project Review

2012-01 Kareol Woodlands Habitat Enhancement

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian presented this project with landowner John Peel (refer to the A&H Board packet for the Regional Council review and application for detailed information on the project). This project proposed to restore two ponds on the Kareol Woodlands property. The proposed enhancements will provide "year-round" clean drinking water for wildlife, reduce soil erosion, control noxious weeds by seeding with native vegetation, enhance habitat for amphibians and other non-game wildlife, improve available habitat for waterfowl and upland game birds, and provide limited "By-Permission" youth hunting opportunities for big game and upland game birds for a period of 2 years.

Discussion:

Jim asked John Peel, Landowner, if he would be willing to extend hunting access to a 5 year period.

John Peel responded that yes he was willing to extend the youth hunting opportunities to a 5 year period.

Motion

Jim moved to approve the project as written with the exception of extending the youth hunting access to a 5 year period instead of 2 years; Tom Alkire seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Coordinator Reports

- Meg Eden:
- Gave an update on the status of current projects.
 - The Farm Bill with NRCS is expanding so that some of their funding sources will be going to the Mule Deer Initiative, which will help fund some activities that would have normally requested funding from A&H.
- Larry Pecenka:
- Thanked Meg and Craig Foster for handling the responsibilities in the Lakeview area for the last Board meeting in his absence.
 - After seeing the questions that came up regarding the Jeld-Wen issues in October's meeting minutes, he called Jon Muir and Tom Collum in Klamath who confirmed that it was only the door/window portion of the company that was having financial difficulties and not the properties.
 - Talked with Jon and Tom about how the hunting season went on the JWTR TMA and they indicated that there was a lot of hunter participation, no new issues just continuing issues with campfires and they're making a dent on dumping problems, according to OSP. Indication is that compliance is improving on the project area.
 - Talked with Jon and Tom about a possible A&H project proposal coming up that would involve Juniper cutting, water development, and limited premier hunting opportunities.
- Jon Paustian:
- Just finished reviewing 8 BMEI proposals; 6 will be funded.
 - Still working on MDI projects; finished up year 1 of the Murderer's Creek project and year 2 is getting started.
 - Been working with Mossy Oak, The Outdoor Channel, and The Bobcat Implement on a landowner seminar that they're hoping to have in April 2013. It's strictly going to target landowners that want to do habitat improvements on their own property. Mossy Oak is willing to come in with their native nursery division and do some test plots on some forage seedings and some shrubs so there is a possibility that they may see a request for some A&H funds to help implement that program.
- Dave Nuzum:
- Showed a PowerPoint presentation on enforcement facts and totals for the NCTMA which wrapped up in mid-December.
 - Attended meeting as part of the ODFW/OSP cooperative enforcement; had an offshoot meeting after with some of the Game Sergeants that supervise the A&H contract troops (retirees); they discussed more efficient use of time and space.
 - Gave an update on measuring hunter use with traffic counters.
- David Stroppel:
- Has a council vacancy and is happy with the amount of interest he has received in the position.
 - Been working on the Lincoln County Forest Protection project, was hoping to take the Board out to see the project but was unable due to weather, hopes to work it in during April's field trip. Working on updating the GIS information to provide hunters with an accurate map of the project area.
- Ron Bramlett:
- Gave an update on Willamette Valley Goose projects and overall hunter satisfaction of the properties.

Vince Oredson: • C2 Ranch's hunting season just finished - they had 25 kids come out for the youth deer hunt and had 5 youth elk hunts. C2 Ranch was happy with the way everything went and is interested in renewing for a couple more years – Vince will try to bring the proposal to the Board in April.

Tom Segal: • Still waiting to hear back from NRCS regarding funds for Pine Creek Habitat Enhancement.
• Been working with a couple of landowners on putting together some habitat proposals for the Open Fields Program.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.