

**A&H Board Meeting
Salem, OR
July 23, 2013**

Attendees

Board:

Barry DelCurto; Robert Jaeger; Ron Borisch; Jim Morrell; Alan Christensen; Dave Stiefvater; Doug Baily

ODFW Staff:

Matthew Keenan, A&H Program Coordinator; Christina Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Eric Rickerson, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator

Regional Coordinators:

Jon Paustian; Tom Segal; David Stroppel; Dave Nuzum; Vince Oredson; Meg Eden; Larry Pecenka

Barry called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

Review of April 2013 Meeting Minutes

Ron moved to approve the April 2013 meeting minutes as written; Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Board Member Reports

Dave Stiefvater:

Dave attended the OHA State banquet. There were approximately 500 participants, and he felt the ODFW staff did an outstanding job with the raffle event. The statewide deer tag sold for \$30,000.

Alan Christensen:

Alan had nothing to report.

Jim Morrell:

Jim let the board know about a really good article he found on Columbia White-tailed deer in Peterson's Hunting magazine written by Craig Boddington.

Ron Borisch:

Ron attended the OHA State banquet, thought it was well put together, and thanked the ODFW staff for making it successful.

Robert Jaeger:

Robert had nothing to report.

Barry:

Barry had nothing to report.

Doug Bailey:

Doug gave a brief introduction of himself.

Coordinator Report

- June Commission Meeting update
 - Doug Baily was appointed to the A&H Board Landowner Representative position
 - Wendling TMA project was approved as recommended by the board
 - Auction/raffle tags were approved as recommended by the board
- Regional coordinators will meet in August to continue the discussion on project priorities and should have a plan in place by October's meeting.
- Met with AFWA (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies) regarding the Farm Bill; still unsure when it may be authorized and what might be included. Matt will keep the Board updated.
- Met with National Wild Turkey Federation regarding a new initiative: Save the Habitat Save the Hunt. NWTFF is working with a number of different agencies to promote turkey habitat and hunting access (Matt showed the Save the habitat Save the hunt video).
- Met with Cascade Timber Consulting on a project that was funded through the Open Fields program. It's a habitat improvement project that also provides public hunting access. Project grant will fund experimental treatments in clear cut areas that might provide better forage for deer and elk.
- Continuing to make progress online:
 - Making progress on the Smartphone application for the Oregon Hunting Map, expecting Pittman-Robertson grant award in the coming days and project completion by 2014 fall hunting season.
 - Working on an online reservation system for the two Open Fields projects in central Oregon (Aspen Valley and Dixie Meadows) that should be completed within a couple of days. This is a pilot program and hopefully will be available for other coordinators and projects in the future.
- Meg worked with the OHA chapter in her area to get a rifle donated as an incentive for hunters to complete voluntary access area permits. One winner will be drawn at random from completed permits; will discuss how best to advertise the drawing at the coordinators meeting in August.
- Ordered new access area signs for industrial timberlands, similar to "Welcome to Hunt" signs but with language to allow the landowner to close their lands for logging operations and fire danger. Will keep the board updated.
- 2013 Auction/Raffle Sales update
 - Sales trend improving over recent years.

Discussion

- Robert suggested the Board consider extending the hunt season for auction/raffle tag hunts, and said the only tag he was aware of that sold for more than the Oregon Combo tag at RMEF National event was from Arizona and has a 6 month season.
- Matt replied that the board could bring that up at the April 2014 meeting if they want as that is the meeting they make decisions on tags.

Budget Report

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

Discussion

- Alan asked if in October if he could give them an update on PR funds.
- Matt replied that he would.

Public Comment

No public comment at 9:22 a.m.

Regional Council Appointments

Deschutes/Klamath Regional Advisory Council

The Deschutes/Klamath Regional Advisory Council has one Landowner Representative position and two Hunter Representative position vacancies. The council voted to appoint Jeff McNerney to the Landowner Representative position, Ralph Paull to a Hunter Representative position, and reappoint James Reiss to a second term as a Hunter Representative.

Motion:

Alan moved to approve the recommendations of the advisory council (appoint Jeff McNerney as a Landowner Representative and Ralph Paull and James Reiss as Hunter Representatives); Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Legislative Update

Eric Rickerson, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator, gave a legislative update.

2014 Auction Tag Allocations

Matt went over auction sponsorship requirements and auction protocol. He let the Board know that the Bighorn sheep tag went to FNAWS - National Chapter and the pronghorn tag went to RMEF, Central Oregon Chapter. He outlined the protocol where Board members would “recommend” tags going to groups. The Board would then have the opportunity to make changes to this list before voting.

Organization representatives present to testify:

- Ducks Unlimited, Sunset Chapter: James McDonald
- Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter: Dave Geelan and Alan Day
- Mule Deer Foundation, National: Ken Hand
- National Wild Turkey Federation: Mikal Moore
- Oregon Bow Hunters: Wayne Endicott
- Oregon Hunters Association, State: Ty Stubblefield
- Oregon Hunters Association, Clatsop Chapter: Ty Stubblefield
- Oregon Hunters Association, Tillamook Chapter: Ty Stubblefield
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National: Bob Bastian and Chad Klinkenborg
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Three Rivers Chapter: Bob Bastian and Chad Klinkenborg
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, N. Central Oregon: Bob Bastian and Chad Klinkenborg
- Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter: Todd Lambertson
- Unlimited Pheasants: Mike Romtvedt

Board Recommendations:

- Jim made a recommendation to allocate the statewide elk/deer combination tag to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National.
- Jim made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to Ducks Unlimited, Sunset Chapter.
- Jim made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to Mule Deer Foundation, National.

- Ron made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to Oregon Bow Hunters.
- Alan made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to Oregon Hunters Association, Clatsop Chapter.
- Jim made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to Oregon Hunters Association, State.
- Alan made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Three Rivers Chapter.
- Robert made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to Unlimited Pheasants.
- Robert made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to National Wild Turkey Federation.
- Ron made a recommendation to allocate the alternate tag to Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter.

Discussion

- Alan brought up an issue he had with the venue for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's National event. He felt that the venue is unproven and somewhat questionable, so he's concerned about the tag going there and the possibility that it might not be successful.
- Barry had the same concern as Alan.
- Robert had reservations but is curious and would like to know if it's going to work.
- Jim felt RMEF National should get the tag because he doesn't think people are necessarily going just for the rodeo, he feels that RMEF will have a good group of historical bidders that will go just for auction tags. He does have other concerns about the event taking place in Las Vegas in December and some of the impacts that could have.
- Bob Bastian let the Board know that the A&H combo tag would not be the only tag advertised. The Arizona tag that sold for \$385,000 this year at the National event as well as the Utah tag and others are going to be sold at the NFR.
- Barry asked if Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation would be responsible for the advertising of the tag.
- Bob Bastian answered yes.
- Barry asked if the NFR will be doing any advertising as well.
- Bob Bastian did not know, but said he would imagine they would as it's a draw for them too.
- Barry asked if the NFR held an auction, historically, or if this was the first time them.
- Bob Bastian said that he understands that they've had an auction and Cowboy Christmas every year.
- Dave commented that it's a different approach but he's willing to try it out. He then made a recommendation to move the statewide elk tag from Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, Three Rivers Chapter, to Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter.
- Alan asked if there's any demonstrable relationship between the NFR, Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, and conservation.
- Bob Bastian answered yes, he thinks that a lot of the people at the NFR are some of their biggest conservation donors and supporters.
- Ron made a recommendation to switch the statewide elk tag from Foundation for North American Wild Sheep Foundation, Oregon chapter to Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter. He was a bit disappointed with the deer tag at the FNAWS banquet last year.
- Jim recommended the statewide elk tag go back to RMEF, Three Rivers Chapter.
- Matt suggested the board make a motion on where the statewide elk tag should go.
- Barry clarified that this specific motion would be only for the statewide elk tag being recommended to RMEF, SCI, or FNAWS.

Motion

Jim moved to allocate the statewide elk tag to RMEF, Three Rivers Chapter; Alan seconded the motion. Vote passed 4:3.

Final Auction Tag Allocations

- Combo Tag: Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, National
- Statewide Deer: Mule Deer Foundation, National
- Statewide Deer: Unlimited Pheasants
- Statewide Deer: Oregon Bow Hunters
- Statewide Deer: National Wild Turkey Federation, Central Oregon Chapter
- Statewide Elk: Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, Three Rivers Chapter
- Statewide Elk: Oregon Hunters Association, Clatsop Chapter
- Statewide Elk: Oregon Hunters Association, State
- Statewide Elk: Ducks Unlimited, Sunset Chapter
- Alternate: Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter

Motion

Dave moved to allocate the alternate tag to FNAWS; motion not seconded.

Motion

Ron moved to approve the final auction tag allocations; Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:2. Dave and Alan opposed.

Other Business:

- Ron Bramlett, Open Fields Coordinator, gave a presentation on Open Fields.
- Doug Cottam gave a presentation on access use of the Stott Mountain – North Alsea TMA.

Regional Coordinator Report

Jon Paustian:

Jon has been in the process of getting a new office which took up quite a bit of his time, from late spring into June. He pulled some of the hunter use data from two of his access areas that have traffic counters, the issue he faces with approximately 90% of the access areas in the NE region is that there's no motorized vehicle use on the properties. The data that he gets is from county roads. There is a very large influx on the graphs during hunting season, but he doesn't know how many of those traveling the road are hunters. He does have kiosks up with the check-in/check-out system which is voluntary so not many hunters are filling out the permits. He has witnessed numerous hunters coming and going on the Glass Hill property and when he pulls permits from the box there are very few. Without a mandatory requirement it's difficult to get those data. He has good accurate data from the By-Permission properties. He put a kiosk on the Fur Mountain access area last week with a check-in/check-out system. Most of the properties open August 1st so he's been visiting the properties to check signs and permits. Waiting to see what happens regarding program funding before he brings anymore projects to the board.

Vince Oredson:

Finished spring fertilizing with the Rogue Meadows project, the meadows look fantastic this year. Trying to get more properties for youth turkey hunts, got two so far in Medford area, would like to get more in Roseburg area. Getting calls on youth deer hunts on C2 which don't start until December. He is getting ready to post signs for Jackson TMA.

Tom Segal:

Showed pictures of property damage done by the Holloway and Long Draw fires and gave an update on fire seeding projects.

Meg Eden:

OHA, Redmond Chapter, donated a rifle for an access area permit drawing. She has been working with Matt on issues with Lucky Creek project. She is starting to plan the tour for the October Board meeting.

Larry Pecenka :

He didn't have much to report. He hasn't been out soliciting new projects because of funding uncertainty.

Dave Nuzum:

This time of year is slow with exception of newly found corn damage. One thing he got completed this spring was a parking area "Tillamook wetlands acquisition" – a project A&H funded several years to improve waterfowl hunting access.

Dave Stroppel:

No report.

Discussion

Alan asked what it would take to get an A&H advertisement in the Big Game Regulations. Matt replied that he wasn't sure but would look into it.

Project Review

2013-09 Oblack Farm Fertilization

Regional Coordinator Dave Nuzum and landowner Larry Oblack presented this project (refer to A&H Board packet for the Regional Council Review and application for detailed information on the project).

This is a renewal project that has been funded since 2003. The project improves winter forage on livestock pasture lands for wildlife (primarily a large Roosevelt elk herd and black-tailed deer) throughout the year. The landowner is able to maintain land use needs and accommodate wildlife through the application of fertilizer in the spring each year and a one-time application of lime in the fall every three years. In exchange for assistance with pasture improvement, By-Permission hunting access will be allowed on the property.

Discussion

- Barry commented that the project has been funded many times before and he doesn't feel like it making a long-term improvement.
- Larry said they need some help with damage, whatever form that help might take.
- Doug asked how many properties in his area are similarly affected.
- Larry replied there are very few large farmers like he and Leonard Schmidlin.
- Robert asked if the fertilizer might be bringing the elk in.

- Larry said possibly.
- Alan asked if some of the fences could be modified so they wouldn't need to be repaired as the elk move around.
- Dave replied that there are elk friendly and elk proof fences. Elk friendly fences don't keep the elk out.
- Barry suggested ODFW and landowners investigate the use of inclusion fencing on some of the areas rather than continue perpetual annual funding.
- Dave said that they would go back and look at numbers on inclusion fencing.
- Larry commented that he is open to fencing but there's a highway and river that runs through the property and it would take a lot of fencing.

2013-08 Schmidlin Farm Fertilization #4

Regional Coordinator Dave Nuzum and landowner Leonard Schmidlin presented this project (refer to A&H Board packet for the Regional Council Review and application for detailed information on the project).

This is a renewal project. This project proposes to improve forage for deer and elk on pasture lands by applying fertilizer in the spring and fall. By permission hunting access will be allowed on the land.

Discussion

- Alan mentioned the option to approve funding for only one fall application, with the option to discuss a more long term or permanent solution next spring.
- Dave Steifvater recommended adding more emergency hunts.
- Dave Nuzum replied that they have a long term damage tag hunt in place and they've avoided dropping another emergency hunt in on top of that because the damage hunt goes from December 1st to March 15th.

Motion:

Robert moved to fund the project at 30% now and have them figure out another long term/permanent solution for future; Dave seconded the motion. Motion did not pass, 1:5.

Discussion

- Doug commented that he doesn't feel like fencing seems to be an appropriate solution in regards to elk habitat or hunting access. It addresses elk damage.
- Ron asked why there wasn't a support letter from the district biologist.
- Dave said it was because the district biologist has the same concerns that the board and regional council do.

Motion:

Alan moved to table both the Oblack Farm Fertilization project and the Schmidlin Farm Fertilization #4 project until the October board meeting and suggested Dave meet with the landowners to come up with a different solution; Doug seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

2013-04 Abiqua Basin Access Project

Regional Coordinator Dave Nuzum presented this project (refer to A&H Board packet for the Regional Council Review and application for detailed information on the project).

This is a renewal project that will provide public hunting access to approximately 60 square miles of Longview Timber Property during the 2013-2015 hunting seasons. OHA volunteers will open and close the mainline gate to allowing vehicular access during deer and elk rifle seasons. A&H funds will be used to reimburse OHA volunteers for their mileage.

Discussion

- Alan asked if the change in land ownership will significantly impact the project.
- Ron said it sounds like things are suppose to stay in place.

Motion:

Jim moved to approve the project as written; Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:0, Ron declared conflict of interest.

Meeting adjourned at 2:57 pm.