

Access and Habitat Meeting
July 22nd, 2014
Salem, OR

Attendees

Board:

Chair Barry DelCurto; Jim Morrell; Alan Christensen; Dave Stiefvater; Doug Baily; Ron Borisch (via telephone)

ODFW Headquarters Staff:

Matt Keenan, A&H Program Coordinator; Christina Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Ron Anglin, Wildlife Division Administrator

Regional Coordinators:

Vince Oredson; Dave Nuzum; David Stoppel; Tom Segal (via telephone)

Chair DelCurto called the meeting to order 8:06 a.m.

Review of April Meeting Minutes

Dave moved to approve the minutes as written; Doug seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Board Member Reports

Doug Baily:

Doug had nothing to report.

Dave Steifvater:

Dave had nothing to report.

Alan Christensen:

Alan commended the Department on how efficiently the sale of leftover tags went. His son did not draw a tag this year so he tried to purchase a leftover tag and they were very impressed at how well the system worked.

Jim Morrell:

Jim had nothing to report.

Barry DelCurto:

Barry attended the Big Game Raffle event at the OHA State banquet. He said it was well attended and went very well.

Ron Borisch:

Ron had nothing to report.

Coordinators Report (Matthew Keenan)

Commission Meeting – June

- Approved auction and raffle tag allocations
- Approved projects as proposed

Open Fields

- VPA-HIP will be administered through NRCS
 - \$20 million available this year
 - \$20 million available in next RFP
 - Over \$50 million in requests this year
- ODFW/A&H Request: \$1.7 million
 - Willamette Valley Goose Access
 - Columbia Basin Upland Access
 - Statewide Hunting Access
 - Statewide Habitat (on access areas)

Discussion

- Alan commented that 5 year agreements should be approached with caution because of changes that can occur over 5 years. For example, if someone has an issue with goose damage, after being hunted for a couple years the property may no longer have a goose damage problem.
- Matt said those types of things would be taken into consideration.

Weyerhaeuser lease and permit areas

- Matt gave a summary of land that Weyerhaeuser plans to lease or sell access permits to for the 2014 hunting season. Approximately 20,000 acres were previously part of the North Coast TMA and approximately 92,000 acres were previously part of the Willamette Private Lands project.

Auction and Raffle

- May 17 – OHA State Banquet
 - Elk Tag: \$33,000
 - Raffle: \$133,509 total revenue

Auction Bidder Forms

- To be distributed to sports groups so they can obtain and have available contact information for all telephone bidders prior to the start of the auction.

Discussion

- Matt mentioned that he spoke with Division regarding flags for spotters and Division's direction was for A&H to not purchase flags because that is the sports groups' responsibility.
- Alan commented that they could suggest it to the sports groups.
- Matt said he could insert a note when he mails the contract to the sports group.

A&H Budget Report

Matt Keenan, A&H Coordinator, provided an update of the current A&H Program budget (refer to A&H packet).

Regional Reports

Vince:

The manager of C2 Ranch unexpectedly retired and Vince has been working with the new ranch manager who has a lot to learn. Vince is not sure that the new manager wants to continue with the C2 Ranch Ranch Access Project. Vince has also been getting ready for the new season on the Jackson TMA.

Dave Nuzum:

There have been some vandalism issues on the gate at the Tillamook Bay Wetland Area so Dave had to repair the gate. The yearly NCTMA meeting with cooperators, and OSP is scheduled for the third week of August. Davis is still waiting to see if an area by Jewell Wildlife Area has been leased or not yet. He's not sure when the bid closes.

Tom Segal:

Tom has been replacing signs, repairing kiosks, and putting out permit boxes. Tom let the Board know that Paul Davis accepted the offer of reduced payment for his project.

Dave Stroppel:

Dave had nothing to report.

Hunter Recruitment/Retention

How A&H Can Help (suggestions from the Information and Education Division):

- Prioritize access to western Oregon and Bend hunting opportunities – the closer to Portland, Salem, Eugene, Medford, and Bend the better.
 - Consider funding projects that provide not only access for hunting, but access for ODFW to hold hunting workshops and classes on. It is extremely difficult to find places to hold hunting workshops during hunting season – difficult for wildlife areas to take days out of the public hunting calendar.
- Consider funding projects that provide “high quality touch points throughout the customer journey”.
 - Projects that promote the awareness and consideration of hunting as recreational activities.
 - Projects that make it easier for hunters to find out what they need to go hunting.
 - Projects that make it easier for hunters to learn how to hunt (either directly or through DIY efforts such as how-to publications and videos).
 - Projects that make it easier for hunters to learn where to go hunting (such as the hunter access map that A&H has greatly supported).
 - Projects that make it easier for hunters to find these types of tools that the department is investing in (promotional campaigns, advertising, etc.).
 - Projects that provide recreational shooting opportunities.

Discussion

- Doug looked at the ODFW website and didn't see anything that he'd consider kid-friendly. He feels there should be some way to utilize the webpage to target youth. He's not sure what it should be, maybe educational and interactive types of activities like identifying fish and wildlife or the different types of hunting/fishing equipment and

habitat. Doug also suggested working with businesses (Cabela's, Fisherman's Marine & Outdoor, Sportsman's Warehouse) in sponsoring such a website.

- Alan suggested revisions to the mentored youth program such as kids having their own tag instead of using the adults tag. He feels some people are reluctant to use their points for a mentored youth hunt. Alan also suggested a program to pair mentors with youths who need a mentor, perhaps require Master Hunters to mentor a youth.
- Dave encouraged the sports groups to get involved by providing a "coupon" for a free hunting opportunity to Hunter Ed graduates to get them out in the field.
- Alan suggested a "cooking night" where everyone brought game dishes to show people what can be done with game meats.
- Matt said he'd compile these ideas and send them out to the board to review and comment on.

Access Area Permit Gun Raffle

1. Volunteer will draw 1 (proposed) winner and 4 alternates
 - Volunteer must have no permits in the draw
2. Two witnesses will verify the permits numbers that were drawn.
3. ODFW will verify validity of permits
 - Confirm Identity
 - Verify non-ODFW employee
 - Confirm acceptance
4. ODFW will coordinate transfer to FFL dealer of winner's choice.

Public Comment

No public comment at 10:05 a.m.

2015 Auction Tag Allocations

Matt explained that the auction contract requires organizations to have a 501(c)(3) status and pointed out that the following organizations that applied for tags this year that did not have that status:

- Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter
- Safari Club International, Portland Chapter
- Oregon Bow Hunters

Last year the Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter, was awarded a tag and by the time it was brought to Matt's attention, they were already listed in the Big Game Regulations and various publications so it was too late to allocate the tag to an alternate. As a contingency plan they were able to work through their parent chapter, Safari Club International Foundation, that is a 501(c)(3) and put together a three-party agreement. One thing that was added to the application this year was a check box under the "Recommended" section for organizations to check if they were a 501(c)(3). Matt asked the board if they would like to keep that under "Recommended" or list under "Required". Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter and Portland Chapter would like to work through the parent chapter as SW Washington Chapter did last year. Oregon Bow Hunters is looking to do something similar with a third party organization.

Discussion

- Jim asked if Oregon Bow Hunters was in the process of finding a 3rd party or have already found one.
- Alan pointed out that Oregon Bow Hunters' application says "awaiting tax status confirmation" and assumed that implies that they're seeking the 501(c)(3) status.
- Wayne Endicott, VP Oregon Bow Hunters, said they plan to partner with Oregon Outdoor Council, that has the 501(c)(3) status, and enter into a 3rd party agreement.
- Alan feels that if a potential bidder questions things as far as tax status it might dampen enthusiasm. If they were ever investigated by the IRS, having multiple parties in the handling of the money might be an issue.
- Wayne said this requirement is something new, they weren't aware of a requirement in the past and they're aggressively pursuing change in status but it takes some time.
- Ron Anglin explained that when this happened last spring, they identified the issue and did what they needed to in order to get through the spring. The 501(c)(3) status requirement has been in the auction contract. He feels that it is awkward to have one group conduct the auction for the hunt tag and have the money handled through another group. The contract needs to be with the entity that is actually conducting the auction.
- Barry suggested the application for next year be changed to reflect the 501(c)(3) status being a requirement instead of a recommendation.
- Alan suggested having a cutoff date as to when they have to meet the 501(c)(3) status requirement and if they don't meet it by the deadline the tag goes to an alternate.
- Ron said they could set a deadline for the groups to have to meet that requirement.
- Matt explained that if the board decided to designate a tag to one of the groups that does not have the 501(c)(3) status, they would need to pick an extra alternate in case the group wasn't able to meet that requirement by the August 19th deadline.

Action

- Jim moved to make 501(c)(3) status a requirement on applications for 2016 auction tags; Dave seconded.
- Motion passed unanimously 5:0

Organization representatives present to testify:

- Mule Deer Foundation, National: Ken Hand
- Oregon Bow Hunters: Wayne Endicott
- Mule Deer Foundation, Linn-Benton Chapter: Ken Hand
- Oregon Hunters Association, Capitol Chapter: Stu Crosby & Ty Stubblefield
- Oregon Hunters Association, Medford Chapter: Ty Stubblefield
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pendleton Chapter: Chad Klinkenborg & Bill Richardson
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Medford Chapter: Chad Klinkenborg & Bill Richardson
- Safari Club International, Portland Chapter: Gino Harrison
- National Wild Turkey Federation, Central Oregon Chapter: Mikal Moore
- Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter: George Houston & David Geelan
- Oregon Hunters Association, State: Ty Stubblefield

Board Recommendations

- Barry made a recommendation to allocate the combination tag to Oregon Hunters Association, State.
- Alan made a recommendation to allocate the combination tag to Safari Club International, SW Washington, and select Oregon Hunters Association, State, as an alternate for the combination tag.
- Alan made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to Ducks Unlimited, Sunset Chapter.
- Doug made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to Oregon Bow Hunters.
- Barry made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, Pendleton Chapter.
- Dave made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to Mule Deer Foundation, National.
- Dave made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter.
- Dave made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk or deer tag to National Wild Turkey Federation, Central Oregon Chapter.
- Dave made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter.
- Alan made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to Rocky Mt. Elk Foundation, Medford Chapter.

Discussion

- Jim feels that OHA does a great job, but last time they got the combination tag it was 2006 and he felt it was late in the season for the combination tag.
- Ty had the same theory regarding OHA state banquet auction being late in the season but this year the statewide elk tag sold for \$33,000 which is above average.
- Alan suggested allocating the combination tag to SCI SW Washington Chapter and having OHA State as the alternate.
- Jim said he'd like to give another sports group a shot at auctioning the combination tag. He felt that SCI did a great job but would like to see how another sports group does.
- Barry agreed with Alan about the combination tag going to SCI SW Washington Chapter and having OHA State as the alternate.
- Jim recommended the statewide deer tag go from OBH to OHA Capitol Chapter.
- Dave suggested OHA Capitol Chapter as an alternate instead (tag stays with OBH).
- Barry agreed with Dave on OHA Capitol Chapter being an alternate.
- Alan suggested MDF Linn-Benton Chapter as an alternate for a statewide deer tag.
- Matt reminded the board that they only need three alternates.

Final Auction Tag Allocations

- Combo Tag: Oregon Hunters Association, State
- Statewide Deer: Mule Deer Foundation, National
- Statewide Deer: Oregon Bow Hunters
- Statewide Deer: Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter
- Statewide Deer: National Wild Turkey Federation, Central Oregon Chapter

- Statewide Elk: Ducks Unlimited, Sunset Chapter
- Statewide Elk: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Medford Chapter
- Statewide Elk: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pendleton Chapter
- Statewide Elk: Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter
- 1st Alternate: Oregon Hunters Association, Capitol Chapter
- 2nd Alternate: Mule Deer Foundation, Linn-Benton Chapter
- 3rd Alternate: Oregon Hunters Association, Medford Chapter

Motion:

Doug moved to approve the final auction tag allocations. Alan seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:1. Jim opposed because he was concerned about OBH being able to obtain their 501c3 status by the deadline provided and feels that the tag should go to OHA, Capitol Chapter.

Meeting adjourned 12:38 p.m.