

**Access & Habitat Board Meeting
Salem, OR
July 21, 2015**

Attendees:

A&H Board:

Barry DelCurto; Jim Morrell; Alan Christensen; Dave Stiefvater; Doug Baily; Craig Ely

ODFW:

Roblyn Brown, Acting A&H Coordinator; Christina Schmidt, Administrative Assistant; Kevin Blakely, Wildlife Division Deputy Administrator

Regional Coordinators:

Jon Paustian; Tom Segal; David Stroppel; Kyle Martin; Dave Nuzum; Nancy Breuner (by phone), Vince Oredson (by phone)

Meeting Minutes Review

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

Board Member reports

Craig Ely:

Craig has been busy building a greenhouse and went on a small pack trip.

Doug Baily:

Doug bought a big game raffle ticket to support the A&H program not knowing he wasn't eligible. After he was told that he was not eligible he contacted Roblyn and mailed her the ticket so that it was not put into the drawing.

Dave Stiefvater:

Dave visited the Ontario Recreational Access Area with one of the Ontario City Council members. The council member wanted to know all of what had been done with the project. Dave explained told him about the in-kind pipe work Pheasants Forever had done. They've invested over \$75,000 over the past 6 years on the Ontario Recreational Access Area. The council member took this information to the finance committee and they waived the \$5,100/year they've had to pay the city which is paid with A&H money. Pheasants Forever have been busy trying to establish habitat on the access area. The local ODFW office is going to help them do some mowing on the property. Dave let the board know that Mike Bentz, a landowner enrolled in the A&H program, was killed in a plane accident while trying to move cattle.

Alan Christensen:

Alan attended the FNAWS banquet. It felt it was well ran and well organized. He also attended the BMEI anniversary celebration.

Jim Morrell:

Jim attended OHA and combo tag went for \$68,000.

Barry DelCurto:

Barry also attended the OHA state convention banquet and was excited to see the tag go for as much as it did. He also went to the BMEI celebration and went on Starkey tour. The tour was great but he would have liked to see more landowner representation there.

A&H Program Coordinator Report

Roblyn Brown, Acting A&H Coordinator, gave the coordinators report.

Presented at June 5th Commission Meeting:

- Commission approved auction/raffle tag allocation
- Commission approved funding for the following projects:
 - Widman Access Area
 - Forsea Ranch Access Area
 - Fox Valley Access Area
 - Owsley Canyon Access Area
 - Glass Hill - Smutz Access area
 - North Coast TMA
 - New River Aleutian Goose Project

There are two new ODFW Commission members

- Bruce Buckmaster
- Jason Atkinson

Blue Mountains Elk Initiative 25th Anniversary

- Barry and Alan represented A&H Program

USDA Farm Bill VPA-HIP

- Application submitted in April
 - Oregon is applying for 1.7 million
 - 25 states applied
- ODFW/A&H Open Fields Projects
 - Willamette Valley Goose Access
 - Columbia Basin Upland Access
 - Statewide Hunting Access
 - Statewide Habitat (on access areas)

2015 Auction/Raffle Sales

- 74,679 raffle tickets sold
- \$133,850 income from raffle tickets
- \$279,900 income from auction tag sales

A&H Program Budget

Roblyn Brown, Acting A&H Program Coordinator, provided an update of the current A&H Program Budget (refer to A&H Packet).

Public Comment

No Public Comment 8:43 a.m.

2016 Auction Tag Allocation

Organization representatives present to testify

- National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF): Central Oregon Chapter: Mikal Moore
- Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter (SCI): Todd Lambertson
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF): Chad Klinkenborg
- Oregon Hunters Association (OHA): Paul Donheffner
- Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter (FNAWS): George Houston & Alan Day
- Mule Deer Foundation (MDF): Ken Hand

Discussion

- Doug asked if anyone in the room planned to use online bidding and if so he'd like to hear more about that concept.
- Todd Lambertson with SCI, SW Washington Chapter, said they were going to be using online bidding at their banquet.
- Jim asked if the bidders that are participating online are pre-qualified in some way.
- Todd replied that they send out an email to numerous people and whoever decides to register has to get their credit card info entered before they can start bidding.
- Craig asked what the cost was to implement online bidding.
- Todd thought it was approximately \$1500, but wasn't positive and said feel free to contact him later if there were questions about those types of details. Todd added that SCI doesn't run the online bidding. The company they contract with handles the emailing, marketing, and sends someone from Seattle to the event to set everything up and handle the whole thing. SCI also does their own marketing.
- Doug asked if the online bidding system is capable of being integrated with live bidders that are actually in the room as well as phone bidders.
- Todd replied that the online bids are put up on a screen so that you can see what the online bids are.
- Craig was wondering how many of the other sports organizations would be willing to go to an online bidding system.
- Todd offered to have himself or someone else from SCI do a presentation and tell others how it went.

Recommendations

- Jim recommended
 - SCI, SW Washington for the combination tag
 - RMEF, Bend Chapter for an elk tag
 - RMEF, Tillamook County Chapter for an elk tag
- Doug recommended NWTF, Central OR Chapter for a deer tag
- Dave recommended FNAWS, OR Chapter for a deer tag
- Alan recommended
 - OHA, State for an elk tag
 - OHA, Columbia Basin Chapter for a deer tag

- Craig recommended
 - MDF, National for a deer tag
 - MDF, Linn-Benton Chapter for a deer tag

Motion:

Jim moved to allocate the Statewide Elk and Deer Combination tag to SCI, SW Washington Chapter; Alan seconded the motion.

Discussion

- Alan said he's been to the SCI, SW Washington Chapter event before and it's well attended, well ran, and a good venue. He believes it has an opportunity to bring in more money.
- Craig added that he is voting to allocate the combination tag to SCI because they're going to have online bidding and it's an opportunity to see how it's going to work.
- Jim brought up that SCI brings in well-known speakers to the event which he believes brings in a big crowd.
- Dave explained that he leans towards allocating the tag to FNAWS because of the projects they do on the ground for the sheep and feels that they'd do a good job of bringing in some money.

Motion:

Motion passed 4:2.

Further Discussion

- Alan recommended that FNAWS gets their second choice which is a statewide deer tag.
- Barry recommended
 - RMEF, Tillamook County Chapter for a deer tag
 - OHA, Union/Wallowa Chapter for an elk tag
 - MDF, National for a deer tag.
 - OHA, Columbia Basin Chapter as the alternate

Final Auction Tag Recommendations

- Statewide Deer: Mule Deer Foundation, Linn-Benton Chapter
- Statewide Deer National Wild Turkey Federation, Central Oregon Chapter
- Statewide Deer Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter
- Statewide Deer Mule Deer Foundation, National
- Statewide Elk Oregon Hunters Association, Union/Wallowa County Chapter
- Statewide Elk Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bend Chapter
- Statewide Elk Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Tillamook County Chapter
- Statewide Elk Oregon Hunters Association, State
- Alternate: Oregon Hunters Association, Columbia Basin Chapter

Motion:

Doug moved to approve tag recommendations; Alan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Final Auction Tag Allocations

- Statewide Combo: Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter
- Statewide Deer: Mule Deer Foundation, Linn-Benton Chapter
- Statewide Deer: National Wild Turkey Federation, Central Oregon Chapter
- Statewide Deer: Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter
- Statewide Deer: Mule Deer Foundation, National
- Statewide Elk: Oregon Hunters Association, Union/Wallowa County Chapter
- Statewide Elk: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bend Chapter
- Statewide Elk: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Tillamook County Chapter
- Statewide Elk: Oregon Hunters Association, State
- Alternate: Oregon Hunters Association, Columbia Basin Chapter

Regional Council Appointments

North Willamette Advisory Council

The North Willamette Advisory Council has a Landowner Representative vacancy. The regional council voted to appoint Mark Morgans as the Landowner Representative.

Discussion

- Dave Stiefvater was concerned with Mark's application being short on information. Dave would like to know what his knowledge on hunting is, if he's an avid sportsman, and is he involved with any conservations groups
- Dave Nuzum replied that the regional council had the same concern.
- Doug asked if Dave has made any inquiries on how Mark might deal with conflicts of interest as far as his employer and his being on the regional council.
- Dave tried to contact Mark, but its fire season and Dave has been out of the office as well, so he hasn't had any success in getting a hold of him.
- Doug had some concerns in the email that Doug generated. He feels that they need to address the issue of potential conflicts of interest of those who are employed by companies that have or landowners that have projects in the A&H program. Doug made it clear that he does not know Mr. Morgans and his concerns have nothing to do specifically with him other than him being employed by a company who has land enrolled in the A&H program. Doug added that he thought there had been some recent changes in statues under the new governor on conflicts of interest. Doug would like to see that explored before they enter into a situation where the applicant has not had the question asked of him about how he would handle that.
- Craig suggested the A&H coordinator ask the ODFW attorney how the new ethics laws affect board and council voting.

Motion:

Craig moved to appoint Mark Morgans as Landowner Representative as recommended by the regional council; Alan seconded the motion. Motion passed 4:1

Further Discussion

- Alan suggested that Dave bring up the topic of ethics at next council meeting.

Coordinators Reports

Vince Oredson:

Vince is building check stations for permits at the New River Aleutian Goose project so that he can collect hunter use data. He would like to offer an incentive for hunters that submit permits. Vince has been working with a new landowner, Murphy Plywood, on the Jackson TMA. They intend to keep their land open for public hunting, but might close a few roads.

Nancy Breuner:

Nancy's most pressing issue is the Aspen Valley online reservation process. The online reservation process begins August 1st at 6:00 a.m. They are adding an additional archery elk tag. The Dixie Meadows contract expired in December and the landowner, John Breese is interested in renewing his contract if A&H is awarded VPA-HIP funding. Nancy is hoping to have a new project to present to the board this fall.

Dave Nuzum:

Dave just received the 2015 North Coast TMA map. Two new landowners were added to the TMA. They put up approximately 5-6 cooperative gates with OHA and ODF to create some walk-in areas. They scouted out some areas of more recent clear cutting so there were some walk-in opportunities in areas without a lot of traffic.

Tom Segal:

Tom has been busy getting projects ready for hunting season. He's been updating signs, gathering all the traffic counter data, and replacing batteries. The city of Ontario has another piece of property just outside of town, 500 acres, that's not as productive as the Ontario Recreational Access property but it will offer different opportunities. The city is going to allow use for free.

Jon Paustian:

Jon has spent the last three months planning the BMEI celebration. He's been putting traffic counters out the last two weeks for the properties that open up August 1st.

Lawen Access Area

Regional Coordinator Tom Segal presented Opie Access Area, Ross Opie Access Area, and Temple Access Area which make up the Lawen Access Area (refer to A&H Board packet for the Regional Council Review and application for detailed information on this project). The projects were presented to the A&H board at the April 2015 meeting at \$2.50 per acre. The board asked Tom to go back to the landowners and negotiate a lower cost per acre. The landowners agreed to go down to \$2.00 per acre.

2015-01 Opie Access Area

This project proposes to maintain hunting access on 1495 acres of private land providing hunting opportunity for waterfowl, pheasants, antelope, deer and coyotes near Burns, OR.

2015-06 Ross Opie Access Area

This project proposes to maintain hunting access on 1,646 acres of private land at \$2.00 per acres for a total of \$3,292.00 annually over 4 years.

2015-07 Temple Access Area

This project proposes to maintain hunting access on 545 acres of private and at \$2.00 per acre for a total of \$1,090 annually for 3 years.

Motion:

Alan moved to approve Opie Access Area, Ross Opie Access Area, and Temple Access Area as proposed; Dave seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

2015-15 Territorial Youth Deer Hunt

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

This project proposes to allow access for between 10 and 13 youth deer hunters per year (depending on adjustments in tag numbers through the controlled hunt process) to hunt one black-tailed deer during weekends in November. Youths and accompanying adult(s) must register with the landowner, agree to conditions, and check in with a local security guard prior to accessing the property.

Discussion

- Alan asked how youths were selected.
- Vince replied that it's a controlled hunt and the youths have to apply by the controlled hunt deadline like other ODFW controlled hunts.
- Alan asked if there was the possibility to bump up the number of tags.
- Vince answered that the current tag numbers are what Giustina Resources feels the property can comfortable handle.
- Barry mentioned that Ken Hand said he had some money available and suggested Vince check with him on some partner funding.

Motion:

David moved to approve the project as proposed; Doug seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

2015-16 Warm Springs Access Area

Jon Paustian with District Biologist Leonard Erickson presented this project (refer to A&H Board packet for the Regional Council Review and application for detailed information on this project).

This project proposes to pay the landowner \$1.80 per acre for "Welcome to Hunt" access to 1.266 acres of private land in the Starkey Wildlife Management Unit for a period of three years to hunt deer, elk, bear, cougar, coyote, squirrel and upland game birds.

Discussion

- In total the landowner owns over 2200 acres, there is a portion of land around his house that he would like to exclude from the program which reflects in the proposal
- Craig's concern is the notion of damage. He asked how many elk have been harvested between LOP tags and kill permits.
- Jon answered that between LOP tags, Kill permits, and emergency hunts 114 cow elk have been harvested over 3 years.
- Jon added that under this year's tag scenario there is a cow hunt in place, South Starkey Private, 110 tags and property would be eligible for that for the individuals that hold that tag. Additional cow harvest above that is going to come in the form of LOP or emergency hunts.
- Craig asked if the landowner took all of his LOP tags and turned them in to the maximum number, how many that would be.
- Jon replied that under the new damage policy its 5 tags at a time and there's no cap on that. So if he comes in and files a complaint with Leonard and Leonard agrees that there is damage or Leonard's staff agrees that there is damage, up to 5 tags can be issued. Once those 5 tags have been filled, an additional 5 can be issued if the district feels that there is still damage, there is no limit.
- Alan asked how far the unit is under MO for cows.
- Leonard replied this year 93% and 94% of MO the year before.
- Craig asked if by approving this project it would solve his damage.
- Jon replied no.
- Craig asked what prevents the landowner from letting 5 LOP tag holders hunt the property right before the season.
- Jon replied that Leonard is able to write the hunt boundary right on the LOP tags and if they know there's a bull hunt coming up and they know they're going to have that disturbance factor maybe they write those 5 tags for the area around the home that is not in the program.
- Leonard agreed with Jon. They would make the LOP tags good for the non A&H property but if they had elk on the A&H property and no one was hunting and it's a need they can expand that damage tag hunt area.

Motion:

Craig moved to approve the project as proposed; Alan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 5:0.

Other Business

- Alan suggested bringing an ODFW Commissioner along on a field tour or maybe an elected representative.
- Barry will send out an invite to the ODFW Commission, via email, to the October field tour and meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.