

**Access & Habitat Board Meeting
Malheur County Extension Office
710 SW 5th Ave, Ontario
October 18, 2016**

Attendees

Board Members:

Jim Morrell, Chair; Dave Stiefvater; Alan Christensen; Doug Baily; Craig Ely; Willie Bronson;
Candis Yow

ODFW:

Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator; Josephine Davis, Staff Assistant; Tom Thornton,
Game Program Manager

Regional Coordinators:

Jon Paustian; Nancy Breuner; Tom Segal

Habitat Tour

Tour of Local Landowner Restoration Project:

The Board, ODF&W staff and guests went on a tour of a private land where habitat restoration is being done in collaboration with Malheur Watershed Council, University of Idaho Extension Service, and USDA NRCS. The landowner have been planting forage kochia, also known as summer cypress, *Bassia prostrata*. Summer cypress is native to central Eurasia. It is not the annual noxious weed kochia, *Kochia scoparia*, common in the area. Summer cypress is readily grazed during late-summer through winter by livestock and wildlife. It also has the potential to be used as firebreaks to control wildfires protecting habitat and the expensive restoration projects after wildfires. Summer cypress out competes annual grasses such as cheat grass and medusahead.

Tour of Field Planted with Kochia for Seed Collection:

A local seed grower planted forage kochia cultivar "Immigrant" where he sells the seeds to the Bureau of Land Management and to other agencies in Utah.

Tour of Ontario Access Area:

The Ontario Access Area belongs to the City of Ontario. This site is currently being leased to a farmer that planted the fields with corn. The City of Ontario is providing public hunting access to 800 acres, 365 days a year of recreational use, plus 161 days of hunting. When spring turkey hunting is available, it will increase the hunting days to 208. The property provides access to bird watching, hiking, upland game bird hunting, archery deer hunting, and waterfowl hunting. There are kiosks installed that provide information for safety, hunter ethics, sign-in/out, and pamphlets.

Chair Morrell called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.

Board member reports

Candis Yow:

Candis took the iLearn class on protocols for public meetings, formalities and understanding of government procedures. It is an online class and she is highly recommending it to the rest of the Board. Candis is also doing hunting seminars for Cabela and busy educating women hunters to the sport.

William Bronson

Willie drew a tag in a controlled access area and was successful. He also went turnkey hunting.

Craig Ely:

Craig visited Jim on the Desolation Project. He also attended the Commission meeting in La Grande.

Doug Baily:

Doug went hunting with fellow members and went fishing in the Umpqua River.

Alan Christensen:

Alan has nothing to report.

Dave Stiefvater:

Dave went to the La Grande cougar meeting. He also visited Lookout Mountain and saw 20 - 24 big horn sheep but did not see any hunter.

Meeting Minutes Review

Dave approved the July 19, 2016 meeting as presented.

Motion: Alan moved to approve the July meeting minutes; Craig seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously 5:0.

A&H Program Coordinator Report

Isaac Sanders, A&H Coordinator, gave the coordinators report.

- September 2 Commission Meeting:
Commission declined to approve Desolation Creek and Hancock Forest Management projects. Questions and issues are the concern about cost and future ability to pay; equability to hunters statewide and the need for more data on hunter use. It was voted to postpone to October 7th Commission meeting with requests for additional details.
- October 7 Commission Meeting:
Provided additional program and project details. Both projects were unanimously approved as recommended.

- A&H Board Chair and Hunter Representation applications closed on October 14th. There were 2 applicants for Chair, at least 7 applications for Hunter Representative. The appointments will be made on the December 2nd Commission Meeting in Salem.
- Isaac Sanders gave an update on the Access Area OAR Concept. ODF&W legal counsel reviewed the concept and feels it has potential. One item that need to be discussed is how best to incorporate/coordinate dates in the OAR and on the maps. One idea is to print maps with a “valid through” date on each map and refer to the “valid through” date in the regulations. A complication is the dates Access Areas are open to the public vary from area to area. Also need to consider the overlap of big game seasons and the printed Regulations. The 2018 Big Game Regulations will be distributed on November 2017. However, the Hunting seasons in the 2017 Big Game Regulations extend from August 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 (plus cougar season - Jan 1 – Dec 1, 2017).

A&H Budget Report

Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator, provided an update of the current A&H Program Budget (refer to A&H packet).

Jim Morrell asked for a copy of Isaac’s presentation.

Public Comment

Dan Joyce, landowner:

Dan voiced his concern about the Board focusing more on the access part of the program and less on habitat restoration. The Ontario area used to have the best pheasants hunting ground in the entire state. Now it is mostly bare grounds with no place for birds to live. The deer are in the farm grounds eating farmer’s crop and are not in the hunting grounds because of the loss of habitat. If there are no habitat, there will be no access to hunting.

Bruno Jagelski, Atty:

Bruno thanked the A&H Board members for the volunteer time they give. As a sportsman himself he appreciate all the work the Board does for the sport.

Atty Jagelski mentioned to the Board the Johnson VS Gibson/Stillson Oregon Supreme Court Ruling. This case arose when plaintiff who was legally blind was injured when she stepped into a hole while jogging in a public park in Portland. Johnson filed a complaint against the City and the city employees who were responsible in the maintenance of the park. As defined in the Oregon Public Use of Lands Act, the landowners are immune from liability but the employees does not qualify as owners therefore are liable.

Atty Jagelski is concerned about recreational immunity to landowners but not the workers or renters. This Oregon Public Use Land Act was well intended but has bad results. They

should have added the employees in the immunity clause. Only the Legislature can fix that ruling. There is a bill coming out in the senate to fix it and he encourages the A&H Board to support this bill.

Allan Christensen proposed that Isaac Sanders to convey with ODF&W attorney and give the Board a briefing paper. Isaac mentioned that the ODF&W is already aware of this ruling and knows that it is an important issue that has a lot of people attentions.

Atty Jagelski said that he is here to increase awareness about this issue.

Regional Coordinator Reports

Jon Paustian, Northeast Region:

Jon reiterated to the Board that the majority of his time this past quarter has been spent on the Hancock Forest Management proposal. Providing additional information to both Wildlife Division and the Commission. He has been working closely with Hancock Forest Management staff in addressing additional questions regarding the application. Fall hunting seasons have been going very well with very few complaints and good success on A&H properties. Jon will be pursuing "Open Fields" monies for additional habitat work on current A&H access areas.

Nancy Breuner, High Desert Region, Deschutes/Klamath:
Nancy has nothing to report.

Tom Segal, High Desert Region, Malheur:

Tom reported that Chukar numbers are up. He spotted a lot of young birds. Pheasant hunts are also good. Quail is up but not like Chukar.

2017 Board Meeting Dates

Proposed schedule and location:

- January 9 or 10 Salem
- April 10 & 11 Bandon
- July 17 or 18 Salem
- October 16 & 17 La Grande

*All Board meetings occur on Tuesdays.

2017 Auction Event Sign-Up

2017 Auction Tag	Organization	Date & Location	A&H/ODFW Representative(s) to attend	
Elk	Oregon Hunters Association, Columbia Basin Chapter <i>Ken McCall (541) 602-1819</i>	Pendleton, OR February 11, 2017	1. Dave Stiefvater	2. Craig Ely
Deer	Mule Deer Foundation, National <i>Ken Hand (541) 281-2224</i>	Salt Lake City, UT February 17, 2017	1. New Chair	2. N/A
Deer	Mule Deer Foundation, Linn-Benton Chapter <i>Alan Bakkala (541) 501-2808</i>	Albany, OR March 11, 2017	1. Alan Christensen	2. Doug Baily
Elk	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Rose City Chapter <i>David Hardy (503) 505-0270</i>	Wilsonville, OR March 11, 2017	1. Willie Bronson	2. Craig Ely
Elk	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Rogue Chapter <i>Rex Walters (541) 601-2592</i>	Medford, OR April 1, 2017	1. Doug Baily	2. Candy Yow
Deer	National Wild Turkey Federation, Central Oregon Chapter <i>Mikal Moore (541) 550-7074</i>	Bend, OR April 1, 2017	1. Dave Stiefvater	2. Willie Bronson
Elk	Oregon Foundation for North American Wild Sheep <i>Thomas Peterson (503) 816-8124</i>	Hood River, OR April 8, 2017	1. Allan Christensen	2. Candy Yow
Combo	Safari Club International, SW Washington Chapter <i>Jim McWhorter (360) 607-1021</i>	Portland, OR April 8, 2017	1. Willie Bronson	2. Isaac Sanders
Elk	Oregon Hunters Association, State Convention <i>Ken McCall (541) 602-1819</i>	Lincoln City, OR May 13, 2017	1. New Chair	2. Craig Ely

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm