

**Access & Habitat Board Meeting
July 23rd, 2012
Salem, OR**

Attendees

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

ODFW Staff: Matt Keenan, A&H Program Coordinator; Christina Schmidt, Administrative Assistant

A&H Regional

Coordinators: Jon Paustian, NE Region; Dave Nuzum, N. Willamette Region; Vince Oredson SW Region; Larry Pecenka, High Desert Region

Other: Jim Yuskavitch, A&H Publicity

Steve called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Longer Hunt Seasons for Raffle/Auction Winners:

Repeat auction tag buyer (Wayne Holm) sent in a letter asking that the hunt season for auction and raffle tag winners be extended at least through December 31st. Current hunt season for raffle/auction winners is 3 months (September 1 – November 30).

ODFW's Biologist's Cited Concerns regarding auction season expansion through December 31:

1. Biological Concerns
 - a) Up to 8 deer and elk hunters in any given part of the state
 - i. Some hunters hire several scouts/guides to help locate animals
 1. Late season "hazing" pressures may distress animals on critical winter grounds, particularly mule deer.
 2. Concentrations of animals near feeding grounds would be vulnerable (i.e. Wenaha Wildlife Area)
 3. Winter survival is extremely important
 - b) Some animals may have shed antlers by December 31
2. Management Concerns
 - a) Several road closures/winters closures take effect December 1
 - b) Some hunts have weapon restrictions beginning December 1
3. Social Concerns
 - a) Auction and Raffle program is seen by some hunters as "catering to the rich"
 - i. Extending the season may compound this perspective

Discussion: Board felt the current season is long enough, and was hesitant to change the season structure that was originally established to provide a premium hunting opportunity while considering impacts to wintering deer and elk herds.

Motion: Alan moved to not extend the hunt season; Robert seconded the motion. Motion passed 5:1. Jim Morrell opposed.

Jim is opposed to not extending the hunt season because given Wayne Holm's previous auction bids, and the fact that we have small pool of auction bidders, Mr. Holm could significantly impact auction tag revenue if he decided not to participate in the future.

Auction Protocol

Matt gave an overview of the current auction instructions.

Discussion:

There has been a lot of confusion during auctions as to who has the highest bid and second highest bid as well as the amount of the highest bid and second highest bid.

Suggestions (in no particular order):

- Stopping the auctioneer and clarifying what the current high bid is and who has it when confusion arises
- Having flaggers with different colored flags for the high bidder and second highest bidder
- Meeting with the spotters prior to the auction to go over protocol
- Spotters need to keep their hand, wand, flag, etc up as long as they have the highest bidder
- A white board listing bids
- Asking the auctioneer to slow down
- Meet with the auctioneer and spotters prior to auction to go over protocol
- Having a separate spotter for every bidder and having the auctioneer go back and specify the winning bid and alternate bid
- Have spotters stand next to highest bidder and second highest bidder and keep a hand/flag up
- Have the auctioneer recognize the amount of the highest bid and alternate bid after tag is sold
- Auctioneer needs to slow down

Matt will add the following to each contract and create instructions to be given to the auctioneer:

- Spotters must maintain a visual signal (raised hand or flag, etc.) to indicate who the high bidder is, until that bidder has been outbid.
- After the auction, the auctioneer must recognize who the tag was sold to (or the spotter representing the final high bidder) and the high bid amount, as well as the alternate bidder (or spotter representing alternate bidder) and amount of alternate bid.
- The sports group must make sure that these instructions are given to the auctioneer.

Discussion:

There were some issues last auction season with the PowerPoint presentations for a couple of the auction events.

Suggestions:

- Need to double check that you have the correct presentation for the venue and hunt be auctioned
- Make sure the format works with the DVD player being used at the event

- Set up TV and DVD player at January's meeting for a demonstration on how to operate it

Project Evaluation Form

Matt gave an overview of the Access and Habitat Program Project Evaluation Form:

**Access and Habitat Program
Project Evaluation Form**



Program Objective: *The Access and Habitat Program's motto, "Landowners & Hunters Together for Wildlife," conveys the program's basic mission to foster partnerships between landowners and hunters for the benefit of the wildlife they value. The program also seeks to recognize and encourage the important contributions made by landowners to the state's wildlife resource.*

Project Name: _____ **Project #:** _____

	Access Acres	Habitat Acres	Habitat Category: <input type="text"/>	Total Score: <input type="text" value="0"/>
"Welcome" Private			Habitat Category: (range: 1-6; see flow chart on page 4. Not applicable to access-only projects)	Total Possible: 36
By-Permission Private				
Inaccessible Public*				
Accessible Public*				

Instructions:

Project Type	Complete these sections			
	General Criteria	Access Criteria	Habitat	Criteria
Access Only	X	X		
Habitat Only	X			X
Access & Habitat	X	X		X

Mark 1 point in the corresponding "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met. Example: for question 2, if partnerships include 4 sports groups, award points for the first 2 criteria. Do not mark more than 1 point per box. Point schedule is designed to weigh access-only and habitat-only projects equally.

Definitions:

Inaccessible Public*: Access will be provided through private land to public land that is completely landlocked (surrounded) by private land, legally precluding public hunting access. Total area includes only public land within the boundary of private ownership.

Accessible Public*: Access through private land will improve accessibility to public land. Public land may be extremely difficult to access otherwise, but is not legally surrounded by private land. Total area includes only public land that is closer (in linear distance) to the landowner's access point(s) than any other public access point.

* Access to public land MUST be provided on a "Welcome to Hunt" basis

General Criteria

(mark a "1" in the "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met)

1. *Habitat Condition*

Score 1 point only if the property contains the resource in sufficient abundance/quality to support target species referenced in questions 11, 15, 16 and 19 (during at least one season of the year). For habitat projects, use the predicted future condition. Justify your score.

Food: _____
Water: _____
Cover: _____

Project Score	Access Fee Assessment		
	Private Land	Inacc. Public	Acc. Public
	n/a	n/a	n/a
	n/a	n/a	n/a
	n/a	n/a	n/a

2. *Partnerships*

Partners contributing financial or in-kind support:

1 or more Sports groups.....
3 or more Sports groups.....
Educational programs / non-governmental organizations.....
Other government agencies or ODFW programs (i.e. OWEB, R&E).....

	n/a	n/a	n/a

		Access Fee Assessment		
		Project Score		
3. Matching Funds	Total matching funds (monetary and in-kind)			
	> 1% matching funds.....			
	> 25% matching funds.....			
	> 50% matching funds.....		n/a	n/a
4. Damage	Project would mitigate current damage to private property:			
	Wildlife damage occurring on private property.....			
	Landowner participates in ODFW damage control programs.....			
General Total		0	n/a	n/a
<i>General Possible</i>		12	9	9

Access Criteria - Applies to **private land** access that would be provided under the proposed project.
(mark a "1" in the "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met)

5. Public Land	Project located in Wildlife Management Unit with <50% public land.....		n/a	n/a	n/a
6. Private access	Private land access type:				
	Project would provide access to private land.....				
	Private land access would be on a "Welcome to Hunt" basis.....				
7. Public access	Access through private lands would:				
	improve access to public land.....				
	provide access to otherwise inaccessible public land.....				
8. Special Access	Project would provide special youth or disabled hunter access opportunities.....		n/a	n/a	n/a
9. Species Permitted	Species groups include big game, waterfowl, upland birds, turkey, and predators/varmints.				
	2+ species groups available and permitted.....		n/a	n/a	n/a
	4+ species groups available and permitted.....		n/a	n/a	n/a
10. Under-rep. Species*	Project provides access to under-represented species in the watershed.....		n/a	n/a	n/a
11. Harvest Restriction	Landowner would not restrict sex or species permitted for lawful harvest.....		n/a	n/a	n/a
12. Season Restriction	Landowner would not restrict access to any hunting season(s).....		n/a	n/a	n/a
13. Dispersion	Property would provide access to animals pushed off of publicly accessible land during hunting season.....		n/a	n/a	
Access Total		0	n/a	n/a	n/a
<i>Access Possible</i>		12	6	6	5
Payment Fee Total			n/a	n/a	n/a

* lists of under-represented species will be created by A&H state coordinator and approved by A&H Board

Habitat Criteria (mark a "1" in the "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met) Project Score

14. Department Priorities Project is located within target area and will benefit target species identified in any of these Department programs: Mule Deer Initiative, Sage Grouse Initiative, Black-tailed Deer Plan Implementation.....

15. Location importance: Applies to species that the habitat work will benefit. Question structured to equally weigh big game and game bird projects - score "1" if either item in each bracket is true:

{ Area populations < 90% of management objective (deer and elk).....
or:
Project will increase wintering populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....

{ Area populations < 75% of management objective (deer and elk).....
or:
Project will increase breeding populations of upland birds/waterfowl.....

16. Conservation Strategy Project addresses Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) concerns:
Project action benefits Strategy Habitat or Strategy Species.....
[above] AND action occurs in Conservation Opportunity Area (COA).....

17. Critical Habitat Applies to the specific GAME habitat that the project will maintain or enhance. Use accompanying flow chart and definitions to determine habitat category. Definitions are slightly amended from OAR Division 415 to be game-specific.
Project meets requirements of Habitat Categories 1-4.....
Project meets requirements of Habitat Categories 1-2.....

18. Habitat Connectivity Project will help facilitate local animal movement (fence removal, etc.).....
Project will help establish or maintain a wildlife habitat corridor or otherwise reduce fragmentation on landscape level.....
Description of habitat connectivity benefit:

19. Habitat Impact Describes the predicted impact that the project will have on the habitat. Habitat work must benefit game species.
Project will increase the habitat quantity/quality >25% per unit treated.....
Description of habitat impact:

20. Population Impact Describes the predicted impact that the habitat improvements (excluding external variables such as weather, etc.) will have on game animals on the project site. Provide estimates for all targeted species.
Local abundance of at least one game species should increase >25%.....
Local abundance of at least one game species should increase >50%.....

<u>Estimated Abundance</u>			
Species	Pre-treatment	Post-treatment	
			Habitat Total
			<i>Habitat Possible</i>
			0
			12
			Grand Total
			<i>Total Possible</i>
			0
			36

21. Miscellaneous Describe other project details that may help with prioritization or fee assessment (i.e. current market value of similar hunting leases in the vicinity)..... NO POINTS

Discussion:

Alan suggested changing "game animals" on #20 to "game species" to keep it consistent with the rest of the sentence.

Matt will revise #19 and #20, giving #19 two potential points and #20 one potential point. He will add "Project will increase the habitat quantity/quality >50% per unit treated..." under #19 and delete "Local abundance of at least one game species should increase >50%" under #20.

Motion:

Ron moved to approve the Access and Habitat Program Evaluation Form with proposed changes; Barry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

A&H Project Renewal Proposed Criteria

A&H Project Renewal proposed criteria was discussed with A&H Regional Coordinators at a previous meeting on July 10, 2012. Regional Coordinators comments from that meeting on the proposed criteria are shown below. Comments in green are things that can be done or that everyone agreed on, comments in blue are neutral (neither positive nor negative), comments in red are concerns they have with that topic.

1. No Automatic Renewal

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- All agree

2. Additional Criteria for Project Renewal (Data Driven – Is it Worth the Money)

a. Project Data – Evaluation of Management Objectives for Project (Landowner)

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Vehicle counters and permits: see proposed budget below

b. Project Data – Evaluation of Management Objectives for Project (Landowner)

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- See completion report – additional questions needed?

c. Project Data – Hunter Satisfaction Surveys (On-Site or Web)

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Insert link to satisfaction survey on Oregon Hunting Map
- Access Area Permits – see budget below

d. Focus surveys – phone calls

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- WMU-specific: does not capture bird hunter data
- Random Calls:
 1. Many hunters don't know that they are on A&H area
 2. \$3/call: inefficient

2011-2013 Hunter Use/Satisfaction Budget

Region	Quantity	Item	Cost	Total
	26	Mailbox	\$20	\$520
	26	Ammo Can	\$10	\$260
	26	Locks	\$5	\$130
Malheur	3	Iron Ranger	\$750	\$2,250
	20	Traffic Counters	\$550	\$11,000
	3	Technician (months)	\$4,000	\$12,000
	3	Vehicle/Fuel (months)	\$600	\$1,800
	3	Per Diem (months)	\$667	\$2,000
Northeast	5	Iron Rangers	\$750	\$3,750
	30	Traffic Counters	\$550	\$16,500
TOTAL				\$50,210

Discussion on 7/23/12 related to questions 1-2 and budget:

Steve feels measuring hunter use on access projects is very important as they have been asked for years how successful the program is.

Matt explained the budget and informed the Board that ongoing costs associated with the increased monitoring would be approximately \$15,000-\$16,000 per biennium. The Board is not voting on these future costs now, but would be committing to if they decide to purchase the counters.

Jim asked how they would know that they the counters were actually counting hunters and not people out there dumping garbage, etc.

Dave Nuzum replied that he has primarily been using the counters on private timber access where it's gated and the gates are either open on the weekend or open at the start of a season and close at the end of it, as opposed to state or federal land where the bulk of the garbage dumping seems to take place. He's pretty sure he is counting mostly hunters.

Matt shared other thoughts on ways to correct the vehicle counts to estimate hunter visits. The counters that David Stroppel bought for the South Willamette Region are on the ground and collecting baseline traffic data to see what the normal patterns are outside of hunting season, which could be compared to traffic data obtained during hunting season, to establish a correction factor to adjust hunter use estimates.

Alan feels that obtaining hunter use data will help with deciding on which projects to renew in the future.

Alan asked if this can be done through the mandatory reporting calls. If a hunter were to report which unit they were hunting in, they could narrow down which A&H access area they might have been hunting on.

Matt said that this has been discussed before and it is unlikely to be an option in the near future due to a backlog of current obligations with our harvest survey contractor. They have talked about having an online form that people could fill out to report hunter use and satisfaction information. There could be links to this form from the Oregon Hunting Map and possibly a link from the page where people initiate their mandatory hunt report.

Motion:

Barry moved to approve the 2011-2013 Hunter Use/Satisfaction Budget as proposed; Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Further Discussion:

Ron is concerned about the 13-15 budget especially if the two projects being proposed on 7/24/12 are approved, but does think that that the counters are necessary.

3. Utilize Existing Project Evaluation Matrix
 - a. Provide Cutoff Points for Numeric Score High/Medium/Low
Regional Comments 7/10/12:
No comments
Discussion 7/23/12:
All agree to keep, but would like Matt to come back with a proposal on what the cutoff points are.
 - b. Only Fund (or focus on) "High" Numeric Ranked Scores
Regional Comments 7/10/12:
 - **Strict threshold not recommended**Discussion 7/23/12:
 - * Board agrees with regional coordinators comment, take this out of criteria.
 - c. Reduce Matrix Payments by \$0.50 Across All Categories
Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:
 - **Perhaps reduce only for lower-priority projects**Discussion 7/23/12:
 - * All agree to keep for lower priority projects, but would like Matt to come back with a proposal on what the cutoff points are.
4. Separate Projects by Region – West/East Side or Wet/Dry Side
 - a. Provide a Balance Between Regions for Both Access & Habitat
Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:
 - **What is the proper balance?: current state-wide funding ranges from 60%-80% access**Discussion 7/23/12:
 - * Barry would like Matt to show which projects are access projects.
 - * Alan suggested using an asterisk to indicate access projects.
 - Matt agreed to put an asterisk next to access projects on future forms.
 - * Barry suggested listing how many project acres on West/East side.
 - Matt will add acres to the list as well.
 - * Matt showed the group a map showing high priority projects in each region.

- * Jon suggested taking the project name off the map and leaving a dot to show where the project is.
- * Jim suggested using separate symbols or colors for access and habitat projects
- * Matt agreed with Jim and said the map is still a work in progress, this is the first draft.
- * Matt said would like the size of the dot to reflect dollars spent on that project and is going to add acres.
- * All agree they would like to see West/East side separately.

- b. Encourage Shorter Term Access projects 2-4 Years
Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- **Recommend 5 years: Commission comments & hunter benefit**

Discussion 7/23/12:

- * Barry commented on how some of the units on the east side take at least 5 preference points to get a tag which wouldn't give them an opportunity to hunt on the access area if it's a 2 year project.
- * Steve reminded the group that these are criteria for renewing a project so they apply to existing projects that have already been funded at least once, which means they've been in existence for at least a few years.
- * All agree this should be taken out.

5. Encourage Habitat Component Projects

- a. Consider Habitat Projects First

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

No comments.

Discussion 7/23/12:

- *All agree to keep as general guideline because habitat projects are generally short-term and don't require long-term funding.

- b. For Multi-Year Habitat Project – Give Higher Consideration to projects that span across biennia

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

No comments.

Discussion 7/23/12:

- * All agree to keep as general guideline to: consider the distribution of project cost over different biennia, and how that affects the A&H budget.

6. Utilize Other Opportunities for Project Funding

- a. Look for Partners – Local, Other State Programs, Federal Programs

- Secure annual funding commitments from Sports groups to be used to maintain access areas.

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

○ **No response to direct letters in High Desert Region**

○ **Matt can discuss opportunities at Sports Group Leaders Meeting**

Discussion 7/23/12:

- *Alan commented on how there are some new programs being talked about in the farm bill and thinks we need to be aware of those as there may be a match there in federal funding.

*Matt will stay up on the farm bill.

- Tax benefits for in-kind contributions? i.e. Bargain sales?

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

No comments

Discussion 7/23/12:

*Matt said they don't advise landowners on tax matters

*Alan said he thinks the point is to bring awareness to the landowner so they talk to their tax accountant

*Matt will keep this as something for the coordinators to keep in mind as they're framing up their projects. If there's a landowner contribution and a conservation group that might be interested, maybe the coordinator can connect the two.

- b. Encourage a Minimum of 30% Landowner Contribution

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Difficult for absentee landowners

Discussion 7/23/12:

* All agree this should be left in.

- c. Encourage a Minimum of 30% "Other Funds" (Partner \$\$)

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

No comments.

Discussion 7/23/12:

* All agree this should be left in.

- d. Think Outside the Box for Different Project Funding Opportunities

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

No comments.

Discussion 7/23/12:

* All agree this should be left in.

- e. Look at Ways to Reduce Costs within Project Proposal

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

No comments.

Discussion 7/23/12:

* All agree this should be left in.

- f. Develop Maximum Payout List for Project Elements (eg, Material Costs, Labor Costs, Equipment Rates,)

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Costs vary over time and within regions - long approval timelines

Discussion 7/23/12:

* All agree to take out.

7. Project Funding

- a. Reduce Annual Payments for **Access Projects** Based Upon Agreement Duration.

*Full payment for additional hunting opportunities (above and beyond what was originally proposed)

2 Year Project - Full Funding

3+ Year Project - 5% Reduction for Every Year Funded

e.g. - 10 Year Project (Reduce Request by 50%)

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Staff generally discourages longer than 5 yrs; property sales, etc.
- Staff encourage multi-year (5 yr) commitment from landowners

Discussion 7/23/12:

* Matt asked the board to just beware that we're trying to encourage multi-year agreements and there could be some disconnect there.

* All agree to take out

8. Ask the Landowner Funding Questions on Access Projects

a. Sometimes Money is Not the Issue - Controlling the Problem Is.

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

No comments.

Discussion 7/23/12:

* All agree to leave in.

b. Willing to Take Less in Payments or No Payment at All.

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Staff concerns re: landowner relations, keeping priority projects

Discussion 7/23/12:

* Steve thinks this is fine for future projects, not past.

* All agree this should be for new projects only.

c. Matrix System Standardized Payments - Good or Bad

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Staff use as starting point, then compare to other projects and adjust

Discussion 7/23/12:

* All agree to keep the payment tables as a starting point, but that coordinators need flexibility and Project Evaluation Form does not set price in stone.

9. Incentivize Landowners Beyond \$\$

a. LOP - Not Being Used Effectively

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Not used because landowners are not very interested.
- Outdate: most WMU's are below Management Objective
- Not popular with hunters

Discussion 7/23/12:

* All agree to take out.

b. Pair Project with Hunter Groups - Complete Work, Patrol Property....

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Reduced sports group activity in some regions.
- Poll for interest/availability at Sports Group Meeting

Discussion 7/23/12:

* Matt will include this with discussions related to sports groups.

c. Other?

Discussion 7/23/12:

* No discussion.

10. Develop Additional Criteria to Wean Long Term, Multiple Cycle Funded Projects Off A&H Funds without Jeopardizing the Continuation of the Project or the Overall Intent of the A&H Program.

*High-dollar commitments: reduce by 10-30%? (i.e. TMA's, BMEI)

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- Recommend evaluation of each project individually: Hours have already been reduced in some areas as pay rates have increased.

Discussion 7/23/12:

- * Something for the coordinators to consider on a case-by-case basis
- * No standard reductions

11. Other Ideas!!!!!!

*Future Farmers of America (FFA).

Regional Coordinator Comments 7/10/12:

- [Boy/Girl Scouts](#)

*Push the liability angle (Oregon Recreation Use Statute)

*TMA's - reduce hours to most critical periods for enforcement

*Consider regional context (i.e. other projects, public land)

Discussion 7/23/12:

* Barry suggested youth groups.

* Matt is working on a liability brochure to handout to landowners.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 5:41 pm.

**Access & Habitat Board Meeting
July 24th, 2012
Salem, OR**

Attendees

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

ODFW Staff: Matt Keenan, A&H Program Coordinator; Christina Schmidt, Administrative Assistant

A&H Regional Coordinators: Jon Paustian, NE Region; Dave Nuzum, N. Willamette Region; David Stropfel, S. Willamette Region; Larry Pecenka, Deschutes/High Desert Region; Meg Eden, Deschutes/High Desert Region; Vince Oredson, SW Region; Tom Segal, Malheur Region

Other: Jim Yuskavitch, A&H Publicity; Brian Wolfer, Springfield District Biologist

Steve called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Review of the April 24th, Meeting Minutes

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

Board Member Reports

Alan Christensen: Nothing to report

Tom Alkire: Attended the SCI, SW Washington Chapter, auction event. They had a difficult time finding bidders for the A&H hunt tag.

Jim Morrell: Attended the SCI, SW Washington Chapter, auction and SCI National banquet on personal travel; represented A&H at the OHA banquet. Jim voiced concerns regarding the small pool of auction bidders for A&H tags.

Ron Borisch: Nothing to report

Barry DelCurto: Attended SCI, SW Washington Chapter, auction

Robert Jaeger: Nothing to report

Steve McClelland: Attended OHA State Banquet, it was the first time he had seen the raffle drawing process; shared a news article from his local paper written by Gary Lewis about the A&H program.

Coordinator Report

June Commission Meeting Update:

- Commission approved all five projects recommended by the Board (from April's meeting).
- Commission approved recommended auction/raffle tag allocations.

Other:

- Spent much of the past quarter working on Open Fields habitat projects: coordinating with regional A&H staff and writing contracts.
- Wildlife Division has prioritized Implementation of the Black-tailed Deer Management Plan. One important component is to improve wildlife habitat in Wildlife Management Units that have been identified as target areas. Cooperators in this effort are also interested in learning more about the relationship between hunters and deer as well as hunter satisfaction. The Tioga Unit is one of the priority areas and Matt attended a meeting regarding private lands, landowners, and hunter access. They are interested in what A&H might have to offer and are interested in getting some type of administrative project going. Matt will be meeting with Vince as well as some of the private landowners and Stuart Love, District Biologist.
- Spent two days at the Oregon Gun Dog Expo presenting information on A&H and hunting opportunities; distributed over 200 A&H Private Lands Hunting Opportunity Packets. The ODFW booth included a large computer monitor connected to the Oregon Hunting Map that people could use. This was a very popular item for folks who had never seen the map before as well as a handful of veteran users.
- Put a draft together for an Oregon Recreation Use Statute Brochure to use as a tool to educate landowners that may be interested in enrolling their property in the A&H program but are wary about the recreational use statute.
- Attended a couple of regional council meetings.
- Been working on, at the recommendation of Larry Pecenka, getting something out there in written form to keep these councils in the loop of what's going on as far as the budget and where they stand as a program, what's coming up in the future, the issues that they're dealing with as a board.
- Met with the Regional Coordinators to discuss hunter use, satisfaction data, and project priorities

Discussion:

Jim suggested having representatives from councils attend a board meeting to see what's going on as he spent six years on a council and feels that it would be a good way to inform and engage them. Maybe have one representative at each meeting.

Matt thinks it's a great idea but let him know that regional council members are not allowed to be reimbursed for travel.

Auction/Raffle Season:

- Auction sales were a slightly lower than last year
- Raffle sales increased over the past two years
- Going to continue marketing efforts, will be putting together some marketing packages, and options for the board to decide how they want to spend funds marketing

Open Fields Updates:

Received final approval to fund projects beyond September 30, 2012 but contracts have to be signed by September 30, 2012. Current habitat projects have an end date of September 30, 2012 which they will adhere by unless something comes up and a contract needs to be amended for an extension. For the Willamette Valley and Columbia Basin access program,

we have the opportunity to continue funding existing projects for four additional years. Staff is currently in the process of re-enrolling landowners because the original agreements were for one year. We will also continue to fund the technicians in those two regions at a reduced level to maintain the access areas that re-enroll in the program. Matt gave an overview of Open Fields Habitat Projects funded (see below).

Open Fields Habitat Projects

<i>Project Name</i>	<i>WMU</i>	<i>Access Type</i>	<i>Access Acres</i>	<i>Total Habitat Acres</i>	<i>Open Fields Funds</i>
Aspen Valley Ranch	Maury	5 Yrs By-Permission	8,000	5,000	\$296,949
Dixie Meadows	Ochoco	3 Yrs By-Permission	7,000	4,000	\$207,689
Carman Ranch	Sled Springs	3 Yr. By-Permission	3,185	3,185	\$102,945
Widman Habitat Enhancement	Lookout Mountain	Welcome to Hunt (existing)	8,430	1,200	\$100,000
Foster Ranch	Sumpter	Welcome to Hunt (existing)	7,120	640	\$99,750
Mackenzie	Owyhee	Welcome to Hunt (existing)	9,807	350	\$61,710
McBride Rangeland Improvement	Beulah	Welcome to Hunt (existing)	10,100	1,245	\$27,844
Moyina Hill	Klamath Falls	Youth Pronghorn Hunt of a Lifetime Wounded Warrior	~7,000	300	\$60,000
TOTAL			53,642	15,920	\$956,887

The future of Open Fields:

The Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program component of the 2008 farm bill is likely to comeback in the 2012 farm bill. The senate draft for the 2012 farm bill has \$40 million identified for this program and the house version has \$30 million, for a five year period 2013-2017. Although details are not known at this time, Matt assumes funding would be available through a competitive grant process open to all 50 states and tribes, similar to the previous process.

Travis Schultz, Open Fields Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Columbia Basin Open Fields projects.

Update on Wendling TMA

Brian Wolfer, Springfield District Biologist and Tally Patton with Weyerhaeuser gave an update on Wendling TMA project.

Regional Council Appointment **Northeast Council**

The Northeast Advisory council has a chair vacancy. The council voted to appoint Craig Ely to the chair position.

Motion

Jim moved to appoint Craig Ely to the chair position; Alan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Public Comment

No comment at 9:58 a.m.

2013 Auction Tag Sponsorship Requests:

Matt went over some of the guidelines and requirements that were added to the A&H Hunt Tag Sponsorship Application a couple years back.

Suggestions from sports groups:

- An A&H Representative should contact the chapter chair, let them know who's coming to the event.
- A&H Representatives should wear a tag displaying name and association.
- Provide sponsoring sports groups with the new auction protocol so they can give it to auctioneer.

Organization representatives present to testify were:

- Safari Club International, National: Marcus Gray (via phone)
- Ducks Unlimited, Sunset Chapter: Mike Carey
- Safari Club International, Santiam River Chapter: Dewey France and Lloyd Weigel
- Unlimited Pheasants, Southern Oregon Chapter: Mike Romtvedt
- Mule Deer Foundation, National: Ken Hand
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Hillsboro Chapter: Bob Bastian, Chad Klinkenborg, Chris Holmgren
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Baker City Chapter: Bob Bastian, Chad Klinkenborg, Chris Holmgren
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National: Bob Bastian
- OHA, State: Ty Stubblefield
- OHA, Tualatin Valley Chapter: Ty Stubblefield
- Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter: David Geelon and Alan Day

Recommendations:

Jim made a recommendation to allocate the Governor's Statewide Deer/Elk Combination tag to Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National.

Alan made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to MDF, National.

Robert made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to Ducks Unlimited, Southern Chapter.

Robert made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to Unlimited Pheasants.

Ron made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to SCI, Santiam River Chapter.

Alan made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to RMEF, Hillsboro Chapter.

Tom made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag to OHA, State.

Jim made a recommendation to allocate a statewide elk tag to SCI, National.

Steve made a recommendation to allocate a statewide deer tag FNAWS, Oregon Chapter.

Discussion:

Alan questioned whether or not an elk tag would do very well at the SCI National Convention with there being so many hunts.

Jim replied that he attended last year's SCI National Convention and feels that they could support several other tags as well. He thinks it could be an opportunity to expand to a different crowd.

Robert asked if going to three different national events was going to be an issue, due to expense.

Matt replied that the auction events are too far away to predict how restricted out-of-state travel will be. He added that for any auction event held outside of Oregon there is the potential that the group will need to auction the tag without an A&H representative present.

Alan questioned whether they should award SCI National their third choice tag, when they could award a first choice tag to OHA, Tualatin Valley Chapter. He's hesitant because an Oregon elk tag might not have as much appeal when compared to all the African Safari's, etc. that are auctioned at that event.

Jim reiterated what he said earlier about SCI National and if the recommendations are approved OHA would have two ODFW auction tags, including one that is not an A&H tag (Pronghorn). If the Tualatin Valley Chapter was allocated a tag then OHA would receive a total of three tags.

Ron was concerned with three tags going out of state. At one of the conventions he heard some comments about auction tags being sold out of state and he feels that an increase in out-of-state auction may look poorly in some of the hunters eyes.

Robert agrees with Ron and believes they should keep as many as they can in state but he feels there are a couple of the tags that should go out of state.

Barry agrees with Robert.

Jim reminded the board that their goal is to try to maximize the money they raise for wildlife in Oregon and if that involves going out of state to get the money and bring new bidders into the program that's what they should do.

Allocations:

Jim moved to allocate all the tags as recommended; motion not seconded.

Jim moved to allocate a statewide elk tag to Ducks Unlimited, Sunset Chapter; Robert seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Barry moved to allocate a statewide elk tag to SCI, Santiam River Chapter; Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Robert moved to allocate a statewide deer tag to Unlimited Pheasants; Alan seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Barry moved to allocate a statewide elk tag to RMEF, Hillsboro Chapter; Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Jim moved to allocate the statewide combination deer/elk tag to RMEF, National; Barry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Tom moved to allocate a statewide deer tag to OHA State; Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Alan moved to allocate a statewide deer tag to FNAWS, Oregon Chapter; Jim seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Alan moved to not allocate tags to RMEF, Baker City Chapter and Wild Sheep Foundation, Midwest Chapter; Tom seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Robert moved to allocate a statewide deer tag to OHA, Tualatin Valley Chapter; Barry seconded the motion. Motion did not pass 2:4.

Discussion

Jim recommended that they do not allocate a tag to OHA, Tualatin Valley Chapter and allocate the tag to MDF, National as they need a national presence.

Tom agreed with Jim as he feels they should cast a wider net and even though there were some issues at last year's MDF National event they should try again.

Ron moved to allocate the remaining tags as recommended; Jim seconded them motion. Motion passed unanimously 6:0.

Coordinator Reports

Jon Paustian: Nothing to report.

Dave Nuzum: Introduced one of his council members, Truman Stone, in attendance. Starting to ramp up into their preseason preparations for the NCTMA, will be having their late summer coordinating meeting soon between OFW, OSP, and landowners. This year he will be moving traffic counters and hunter use estimation to the Wilson WMU portion of the TMA.

Vince Oredson: Been working with the Army Corps of Engineers getting data on JACTMA, as they own quite a bit of that project area and they use counters to measure use. Vince is also Also working on a couple prospective A&H projects.

Larry Pecenka: City of Prineville will be using their waste water from their treatment to improve wetland habitat. City is using a consulting firm from La Grande, where a similar project is in place. Larry gave a brief summary of the Open Fields habitat project (Moyer Hill juniper cutting) being coordinated through the Klamath ODFW office. Discussed wetland restoration efforts on playa lakes. Historical efforts to dig increase the wetland habitat in the area by digging deeper ponds resulted in a "trenching" effect that actually decreased available water. New efforts through BLM could help restore this important sage grouse habitat.

David Stroppel: Open Fields – would like to have had more landowners signed up but it's hard to connect with them this time of year as they are plowing, seeding, baling, etc. Two small prospective A&H projects are on the horizon.

Discussion

Alan would like the Board to have a chance to meet one of the Willamette Valley Open Fields landowners the next time they meet in Salem – perhaps the one [Harvey Calvin] that wrote a very enthusiastic project completion report.

Board agrees they would like to try again to get out in the field January.

Meg Eden: Nothing to report.

Tom Segal: 7,000 acres of private rangeland have burned in his region and he plans to request emergency fire seeding money this fall.

Discussion

Alan suggested that Tom contact OWEB regarding fire seeding money, they have money set aside for such issues.

Budget

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

Project Review

2012-09 Juhl/Lawen Expansion

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

This project will provide 1,700 acres of "Welcome to Hunt" public hunting access near the existing Lawen Access Area. This property provides ample opportunity for waterfowl and pheasant hunting. The property is enrolled in the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and has already undergone extensive wetland habitat work by Ducks Unlimited, NRCS, and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Motion

Alan moved to approve the project as written; Ron seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 6:0.

2012-11 Zumwalt Prairie Elk Hazing and Habitat Protection Project

Regional Coordinator Jon Paustian, Mark Porter (Wallowa Resources), and Grande Ronde Watershed District Manager Nick Myatt (via telephone) presented this project (refer to A&H Board packet for the Regional Council Review and application for detailed information on the project).

Motion

Jim moved to approve \$16,000 for this project; the motion was not seconded.

Discussion:

Jim was opposed to approving the project as written due to shortage of A&H funds.

Barry commented on partner funding for this project

Motion

Robert moved to approve the project as proposed; Barry seconded the motion. The motion passed 5:0.

Other Business:

Steve announced this would be his last board meeting as he is stepping down.

Steve adjourned the meeting at 2:27 p.m.