This Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes is considered as a draft until approved by the Board.

Notice of these meetings had been published through Oregon Transparency Website and ODFW Website. [http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp), [http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx)

Those attending part or all of the meeting included:
- Craig Ely, Board Chair
- Dave Stiefvater, Board Member
- Willie Bronson, Board Member
- Candy Yow, Board Member
- John Breese, Board Member
- Amy Patrick, Board Member
- Nathan Bailey, Board Member
- Paul Davis, Alvord Ranch
- Ken Hand, Mule Deer Foundation
- Michael Moore, ODFW
- Nathan Ulrich, Columbia Land Trust
- Dennis Yaws, OSP
- Ryan Niehus, OSP
- Isaac Sanders, ODFW
- Jo Morato, ODFW
- Jade Keehn, ODFW
- Tom Segal, ODFW
- Jon Paustian, ODFW
- Andrew Walch, ODFW
- Dave Stroppel, ODFW
- Tom Thornton, ODFW
- Tom Collom, ODFW
- Trevor Watson, ODFW
- Andy Elsbree, GDRC
- Paul Randall, OSP

MEETING

On Monday, April 9, 2018 at 8:00a.m., A&H Board members, ODFW staff, Green Diamond Resource Company (RC), and OSP officers met up for a field tour of the Green Diamond RC Travel Management Area and Scanlon Ranch.

On Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 8:00a.m. Craig Ely called the Access and Habitat Board meeting to order.

**Action:**

**Meeting Minutes Review**
John Breese has a few spelling corrections and Willie would like to see the conversations on the January 24th meeting. Dave Stiefvater moved to approve the January 9, 2018 and January 24, 2018 meeting minutes with the corrections from John and Willie. Willie seconded the motion and motion was carried unanimously 6.0.

**State Coordinator Program and Budget Reports**
Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator
On the March 16 Commission Meeting, the Commission approved the Coos Mountain Access Area and the Smalls Grants Program. The Commission also appointed Craig Ely’s second term as Chair of the A&H Board.
In the upcoming June 8-9, 2018 Commission meeting in Baker City, the Commission will vote on the A&H Board recommended projects from today’s A&H meeting and the 2019 A&H Big Game Auction and Raffle Tags allocation recommended by this Board.

The A&H Small Grant Program funding has increased to $10,000 per region. The project completion report form is on the ODFW Wildlife drive for regional coordinator’s to access. The completion report form is very simple, one page with pictures will suffice. Pictures of small grants projects will be important to show to Commission and to promote the program. There are opportunities to work with ODFW social media staff Tim Akimoff to highlight this program and do a social media story.

Isaac will be attending the Connect 2018 conference in Seaside this month. He will be promoting the A&H program and looking for partners/cooperators. The 2018 Western Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) conference will be held in Eugene from July 12-17, 2018. Isaac Sanders and Jo Morato are involved with the WAFWA planning committee and will be busy during this time.

The next Board meeting is on July 24 in Salem. The 2019 auction tag sponsorship, A&H survey drawing, projects, and possible council appointments will be in the agenda. The 2019 auction tag sponsorship invitation letter will be sent out in April to sporting groups. It has been published in the A&H website already. Applications are due June 1, 2018 and will be ready to be presented to the Board for allocation on the July 24th meeting in Salem.

The access area rule restrictions for Welcome to Hunt only areas OAR 635-065-0760(11) will be in the 2019 regulations and will be effective January 1. Regional Coordinators will need to codify the area use rules for the Access Areas in their Regions. On the new map, the kiosk/permit boxes will be shown. New signs will be posted showing the regulations on each area using custom stickers the Field Coordinators will order.

Isaac Sanders provided an update on the current A&H Program Budget (refer to packet and A&H website http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/)

Public Comments:
Ken Hand from Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) spoke to the Board about separating the black tail and white tail from the deer auction/raffle tags. The A&H Program will gain additional $60K - $100K a year. Craig Ely explained to Ken that the Board is limited to 10 tags under legislative action. He suggested that Ken spoke with Tom Thornton, the Big Game Manager about it. Ken will attend the July 24th A&H Board meeting in Salem. Ken also talked about the MDF chapters. Oregon has 10 chapters. The MDF National wanted every state to have at least 16 chapters. Ken also takes care of a small portion of Nevada. Ken thanks the A&H for the opportunity to work with them.

Acquisitions and Easements
Nate Ulrich, Columbia Land Trust
The Columbia Land Trust works to conserve habitats by land acquisitions and easements. Nate wanted to talk to the Board about possible land acquisition projects. Nate pointed out the difference between habitat acquisition and conservation easement. Nate says that the Board can use acquisition or easement to further its missions. Oregon has about 12-15 land trusts that are non-profits and has the same priorities as this Board. It preserves and creates public access and conserve and restore wildlife habitats. The Columbia Land Trust is a member of the Land Trust Alliance.
The Land Trust Alliance has an accreditation program that specify criteria for standards and practices for land conservation. This is important to make sure that systems are in place to ensure that money is spent wisely, transparently and investments are secure for the long haul. Conservation acquisition acquires timber, mineral, and access rights, also the rights to build homes or to sell. Conservation easements are purchase of development rights. OWEB, USF&W, USDA, and BPA are primary funders for acquisition or easement projects. This Board can have a very critical role in seeing good habitat acquisition and conservation easement projects that then comes back to recognizing and communicating a broad base of support from larger funders. This Board can match with other larger entities for acquisition projects. (Refer to packet and A&H website http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/)

Isaac Sanders mentioned that it is legal for A&H to spend their money on land acquisitions.

Craig Ely asked Nate to work with the regional A&H coordinators in putting forward projects.

**Recommended 2019 Auction Tags**
- Governor's Statewide Combination Hunt Tags: One (1) deer and one (1) elk
- Statewide Deer Hunts: Four (4) tags
- Statewide Elk Hunts: Four (4) tags

**Recommended 2019 Raffle Tags**
- Governor’s Statewide Combination Hunt Tags: One (1) deer and One (1) elk
- Statewide Deer Hunt Tag: One (1) deer
- NE Oregon Deer Hunt Tag: One (1) deer
- SE Oregon Deer Hunt Tag: One (1) deer
- Central Oregon Deer Hunt Tag: One (1) deer
- NE Oregon Elk Hunt Tag: One (1) elk
- Central/SE Oregon Elk Hunt Tag: One (1) elk
- Western Oregon Elk Hunt Tag: One (1) elk
- Statewide Elk Hunt Tag: One (1) elk

Discussion on changing one of the deer tags to black tail followed. Isaac doesn’t think that it will do well. Tom declared that the Board will be better off if they requested the Commission to add more tags rather than changing one of the tags.

Craig reminded the Board members not to buy A&H auction or raffle tags due conflict of interests.

**A&H Program Video**

*Candy Yow, A&H Board Member, Hunter Representative*

Candy Yow showed the video she had produced for A&H. She needed a short clip of someone signing into an A&H permit box. She captured that during the tour yesterday. She will insert that clip into the video and it will be complete. Candy will save the video to thump drives and or CDs and mail to Jo.

**A&H Auction Event Update**

Discussion on the auction events ensued. Willie mentioned that the TV does not work with the thumb drive when he was trying to play the old video during the recent auction he attended.
Willie and Steve also mentioned the use of a flash card that sporting groups can use during
the auction. The sporting groups are supposed to supply the flash cards and some do but the
majority of the time they do not have them. The Board members agrees that there should be
pre-made flash cards with the supplies they take to the events. Tom Thornton said that the
staff will create hunter-orange flash cards for the Board to have with the supplies for their next
event.

Updated Project Application Form
Isaac Sanders, A&H Coordinator
The updated project form is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at
links provided: http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/April/index.asp
Willie wants to add on number 10 in the application form for access the cost per acre.
John said that #20 on fire can be more simple and generalized. Craig wants the numberings
to be checked and corrected.

Access Area Regulations and Map
Isaac Sanders, A&H Coordinator
The new Access Area Regulations and Map is located in the Board packet materials and
can be viewed at links provided:
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/April/index.asp
Willie suggested on the overnight use to add the hour before sunset/sunrise. Isaac agreed.
Not all OSP officers are not familiar with this rule yet. Isaac will talk and work with law
enforcement people more about this new rule.

Project Applications Review
These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at
links provided: The updated project files are located in the Board packet materials and can
be viewed at links provided:
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/April/index.asp

Owsley Canyon Access Area
This is a renewal of a 9-year A&H project. There is a fair amount of animal harvest in this
small amount of land for $2.00 an acre.
Action: Willie moved to approve the Owsley Canyon Access Area as proposed. Candy
seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Smutz Access Area
Part of the Glass Hill Access Area. Heavily utilized area for $2.50 an acre. Very close to
town with a massive waiting list for sign-up to hunt.
Action: Willie moved to approve the Smutz Access Area as proposed. Candy seconded the
motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Forsea Access Area
This is a critical bighorn sheep hunting ground for $2.40 an acre. The Manning Creek Road
access was lost this year due to change of ownership. There are several access point and
Jon is working with BLM. This project has a damage component.
Action: Willie moved to approve the Forsea Access Area as proposed. Candy seconded the
motion. The motion was carried unanimously.
Widman Access Area
A unique property, been in the program for 9 years. There are 7,435 acres for access and 600 acres habitat improvement. They are doing aerial seed application. Mr. Widman is partnering with NRCS, Tri-County CWMA, and Baker County Weed Control for improving this habitat. This is a sage grouse habitat.
Action: Willie moved to approve the Widman Access Area as proposed. Candy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Carman Ranch Habitat and Access Area
By permission hunting opportunity for 2,628 acres. The permission is handled through Jon’s office in La Grande. This project has a strong habitat improvement. Neighboring landowners are not happy with elk damage. The landowner is utilizing ODFW damage tag program.
Action: Willie moved to approve the Carman Ranch Habitat and Access Area as proposed. Candy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Green Diamond NE Access Area
Welcome to Hunt, foot traffic only for $1.00 an acre. This is a 3 year project. This project does not address damage directly but by providing vehicle-free security access it substantially contribute to the elevation of predation on adjoining private lands. The vehicle-free access continues to attract and hold big game animals longer, helping to reduce damage complains on adjacent private agricultural and timberlands.
Action: Willie moved to approve the Green Diamond NE Access Area as proposed. Candy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Jenkins Access Area
This is both “By Permission” for $1.08 per acre and “Welcome to Hunt” for $2.40 for 3 years. This area provides quality access for pronghorn, deer, and elk hunters throughout archery, rifle, and muzzleloader season in the Steens Mountain Wildlife Unit. Also provides access to adjacent public land.
Action: Willie moved to approve the Jenkins Access Area as proposed. Dave seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Alvord Access Area
This is a “Welcome to Hunt” for 3,523 acres for $2.84 from A&H funds and $1.22 an acre for Upland Bird Stamp money. It allows year-round hunting access on private land as well as access to 16,000+ acres of BLM land along the east face of Steens Mountains. Landowner provides year-round staffing to Alvord Hot Springs, a famous hot springs enthusiasts travel destination in Oregon. Landowner Paul Davis said he wants to protect the Steens Mountains. He said hunting is more than just the harvest, it is also appreciating nature while visiting with friends and family. Craig asked if they can add more acreage to lower the project cost. Paul Davis said no. It is a sanctuary for animals and he also have a high cost for road maintenance. Tom said that the Board is not approving for the Upland Bird Stamp money and could be removed from the total amount of A&H dollar/acre. Craig said that the Board can only approve the A&H funds for $2.84 an acre and wants to separate the Upland Bird Stamp from A&H and approve this project for 3 years. Dave is concern about the 16,000 acre referencing to BLM land that this landowner is allowing the public to access, once this is allowed the Board can open a can of worms where landowners will begin asking for more money for allowing access to landlocked public lands, money that the Board doesn’t have. Willie is not opposing the project on its entirety but is opposing the Board...
lack of procedures for the good and consistency of projects coming to the Board. It looks like this project was $1.80 a year ago and now went up to $2.84 because of access to public lands.

**Action:** John moved to approve the Alvord Access Area after rewriting the proposal separating the Upland Bird Stamp funding from the total cost per acre, for $10,000 a year for three years as discussed. Candy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously, five (5) in favor; one (1) opposed.

**Regional Coordinators Reports**

Tom Segal: East Region, Ontario
Tom does not currently have a project that requires SHPO permit. He wants to clarify where the funding is going to come for the extra time/work needed for this new requirement.

Dave Stroppel: West Region, Corvallis
The Open Fields season wrapped up on March 10th. The received lots of phone calls, lots of use, satisfaction is pretty good. We had 2 of the 4 farmers is interested in expanding, another farmer has 300 acres that he is interested. The have currently 2 vacancy in Regional Council, they have not received any applications, they received one landowner application. Dave will sit down with the Hancock staff to talk about road access, etc. The new SHPO requirements is not affecting Dave, a lot of his projects at this time are access and not habitat restoration.

Andrew Walch: East Region, Bend
The biggest news is the small grants money applied for a small one-timer PR grant in cooperation with Jon Muir in the Lake View District. They will try a pilot program using an inmate labor crew of 10 workers for a day to cut small junipers trees in the Lakeview District. They are going to use $3,000 A&H small grants for a 25% match for a $9,000 federal grant. Andrew is anticipating a land acquisition project coming up from Columbia Land Trust. ODFW Archeologist Danny Pettit visited Aspen Valley and Dixie Meadow water pipe land projects to see if SHPO permit is needed. He didn’t find anything significant. They have 3 vacancies in the Regional Councils. Andrew will reach out to other biologists in the area if they know any people he can recruit for regional council members.

Jade Keehn: West Region, Central Point
Jade received good feedback from the access areas. Jade has one new project coming up for the Board. It will be habitat oak restoration. Most of Jane’s projects are funded by federal dollars and they have been ongoing so she has not have to deal with the A&H SHPO requirements. Most of her A&H projects are TMAs, and C2 Ranch.

Jon Paustian: East Region, La Grande
The majority of Jon’s A&H projects does not require SHPO permits. The Carman Ranch project will need the Archeologist to come and take a look at the site to see if SHPO permit is required.

**OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSIONS**

Chair Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.