



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

Monday/Tuesday, April 9-10, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.
Running Y Ranch
5500 Running Y Road
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97601

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.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx>

Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

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

1 In the upcoming June 8-9, 2018 Commission meeting in Baker City, the Commission will vote
2 on the A&H Board recommended projects from today's A&H meeting and the 2019 A&H Big
3 Game Auction and Raffle Tags allocation recommended by this Board.

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

10 Isaac will be attending the Connect 2018 conference in Seaside this month. He will be
11 promoting the A&H program and looking for partners/cooperators. The 2018 Western
12 Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) conference will be held in Eugene from July
13 12-17, 2018. Isaac Sanders and Jo Morato are involved with the WAFWA planning committee
14 and will be busy during this time.

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

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

25 Isaac Sanders provided an update on the current A&H Program Budget (refer to packet and
26 A&H website <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/>
27

28

Public Comments:

29 Ken Hand from Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) spoke to the Board about separating the black
30 tail and white tail from the deer auction/raffle tags. The A&H Program will gain additional
31 \$60K - \$100K a year. Craig Ely explained to Ken that the Board is limited to 10 tags under
32 legislative action. He suggested that Ken spoke with Tom Thornton, the Big Game Manager
33 about it. Ken will attend the July 24th A&H Board meeting in Salem. Ken also talked about
34 the MDF chapters. Oregon has 10 chapters. The MDF National wanted every state to have
35 at least 16 chapters. Ken also takes care of a small portion of Nevada. Ken thanks the A&H
36 for the opportunity to work with them.

37

Acquisitions and Easements

38 *Nate Ulrich, Columbia Land Trust*

39 The Columbia Land Trust works to conserve habitats by land acquisitions and easements.
40 Nate wanted to talk to the Board about possible land acquisition projects. Nate pointed out
41 the difference between habitat acquisition and conservation easement. Nate says that the
42 Board can use acquisition or easement to further its missions. Oregon has about 12-15 land
43 trusts that are non-profits and has the same priorities as this Board. It preserves and creates
44 public access and conserve and restore wildlife habitats. The Columbia Land Trust is a
45 member of the Land Trust Alliance.
46

1 The Land Trust Alliance has an accreditation program that specify criteria for standards and
2 practices for land conservation. This is important to make sure that systems are in place to
3 ensure that money is spent wisely, transparently and investments are secure for the long
4 haul. Conservation acquisition acquires timber, mineral, and access rights, also the rights to
5 build homes or to sell. Conservation easements are purchase of development rights.
6 OWEB, USF&W, USDA, and BPA are primary funders for acquisition or easement projects.
7 This Board can have a very critical role in seeing good habitat acquisition and conservation
8 easement projects that then comes back to recognizing and communicating a broad base of
9 support from larger funders. This Board can match with other larger entities for acquisition
10 projects. (Refer to packet and A&H website <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/>)
11

12 Isaac Sanders mentioned that it is legal for A&H to spend their money on land acquisitions.
13

14 Craig Ely asked Nate to work with the regional A&H coordinators in putting forward projects.
15

16 **Recommended 2019 Auction Tags**

- 17 • Governor's Statewide Combination Hunt Tags: One (1) deer and one (1) elk
 - 18 • Statewide Deer Hunts: Four (4) tags
 - 19 • Statewide Elk Hunts: Four (4) tags
- 20

21 **Recommended 2019 Raffle Tags**

- 22 • Governor's Statewide Combination Hunt Tags: One (1) deer and One (1) elk
 - 23 • Statewide Deer Hunt Tag: One (1) deer
 - 24 • NE Oregon Deer Hunt Tag: One (1) deer
 - 25 • SE Oregon Deer Hunt Tag: One (1) deer
 - 26 • Central Oregon Deer Hunt Tag: One (1) deer
 - 27 • NE Oregon Elk Hunt Tag: One (1) elk
 - 28 • Central/SE Oregon Elk Hunt Tag: One (1) elk
 - 29 • Western Oregon Elk Hun Tag: One (1) elk
 - 30 • Statewide Elk Hunt Tag: One (1) elk
- 31

32 Discussion on changing one of the deer tags to black tail followed. Isaac doesn't think that it
33 will do well. Tom declared that the Board will be better off if they requested the Commission
34 to add more tags rather than changing one of the tags.
35

36 Craig reminded the Board members not to buy A&H auction or raffle tags due conflict of
37 interests.
38

39 **A&H Program Video**

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

41 Candy Yow showed the video she had produced for A&H. She needed a short clip of someone
42 signing into an A&H permit box. She captured that during the tour yesterday. She will insert
43 that clip into the video and it will be complete. Candy will save the video to thump drives and
44 or CDs and mail to Jo.
45

46 **A&H Auction Event Update**

47 Discussion on the auction events ensued. Willie mentioned that the TV does not work with
48 the thumb drive when he was trying to play the old video during the recent auction he attended.

1 Willie and Steve also mentioned the use of a flash card that sporting groups can use during
2 the auction. The sporting groups are supposed to supply the flash cards and some do but the
3 majority of the time they do not have them. The Board members agrees that there should be
4 pre-made flash cards with the supplies they take to the events. Tom Thornton said that the
5 staff will create hunter-orange flash cards for the Board to have with the supplies for their next
6 event.

7 8 **Updated Project Application Form**

9 Isaac Sanders, A&H Coordinator

10 The updated project form is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at
11 links provided: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/April/index.asp>

12 Willie wants to add on number 10 in the application form for access the cost per acre.

13 John said that #20 on fire can be more simple and generalized. Craig wants the numberings
14 to be checked and corrected.

15 16 **Access Area Regulations and Map**

17 Isaac Sanders, A&H Coordinator

18 The new Access Area Regulations and Map is located in the Board packet materials and
19 can be viewed at links provided:

20 <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/April/index.asp>

21 Willie suggested on the overnight use to add the hour before sunset/sunrise. Isaac agreed.

22 Not all OSP officers are not familiar with this rule yet. Isaac will talk and work with law
23 enforcement people more about this new rule.

24 25 **Project Applications Review**

26 These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at
27 links provided: The updated project files are located in the Board packet materials and can
28 be viewed at links provided:

29 <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/April/index.asp>

30 31 Owsley Canyon Access Area

32 This is a renewal of a 9-year A&H project. There is a fair amount of animal harvest in this
33 small amount of land for \$2.00 an acre.

34 **Action:** Willie moved to approve the Owsley Canyon Access Area as proposed. Candy
35 seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

36 37 Smutz Access Area

38 Part of the Glass Hill Access Area. Heavily utilized area for \$2.50 an acre. Very close to
39 town with a massive waiting list for sign-up to hunt.

40 **Action:** Willie moved to approve the Smutz Access Area as proposed. Candy seconded the
41 motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

42 43 Forsea Access Area

44 This is a critical bighorn sheep hunting ground for \$2.40 an acre. The Manning Creek Road
45 access was lost this year due to change of ownership. There are several access point and
46 Jon is working with BLM. This project has a damage component.

47 **Action:** Willie moved to approve the Forsea Access Area as proposed. Candy seconded the
48 motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

1 Widman Access Area

2 A unique property, been in the program for 9 years. There are 7,435 acres for access and
3 600 acres habitat improvement. They are doing aerial seed application. Mr. Widman is
4 partnering with NRCS, Tri-County CWMA, and Baker County Weed Control for improving
5 this habitat. This is a sage grouse habitat.

6 **Action:** Willie moved to approve the Widman Access Area as proposed. Candy seconded
7 the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

8
9 Carman Ranch Habitat and Access Area

10 By permission hunting opportunity for 2,628 acres. The permission is handled through Jon's
11 office in La Grande. This project has a strong habitat improvement. Neighboring landowners
12 are not happy with elk damage. The landowner is utilizing ODFW damage tag program.

13 **Action:** Willie moved to approve the Carman Ranch Habitat and Access Area as proposed.
14 Candy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

15
16 Green Diamond NE Access Area

17 Welcome to Hunt, foot traffic only for \$1.00 an acre. This is a 3 year project. This project
18 does not address damage directly but by providing vehicle-free security access it
19 substantially contribute to the elevation of predation on adjoining private lands. The vehicle-
20 free access continues to attract and hold big game animals longer, helping to reduce
21 damage complains on adjacent private agricultural and timberlands.

22 **Action:** Willie moved to approve the Green Diamond NE Access Area as proposed. Candy
23 seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

24
25 Jenkins Access Area

26 This is both "By Permission" for \$1.08 per acre and "Welcome to Hunt" for \$2.40 for 3 years.
27 This area provides quality access for pronghorn, deer, and elk hunters throughout archery,
28 rifle, and muzzleloader season in the Steens Mountain Wildlife Unit. Also provides access to
29 adjacent public land.

30 **Action:** Willie moved to approve the Jenkins Access Area as proposed. Dave seconded the
31 motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

32
33 Alvord Access Area

34 This is a "Welcome to Hunt" for 3,523 acres for \$2.84 from A&H funds and \$1.22 an acre for
35 Upland Bird Stamp money. It allows year-round hunting access on private land as well as
36 access to 16,000+ acres of BLM land along the east face of Steens Mountains. Landowner
37 provides year-round staffing to Alvord Hot Springs, a famous hot springs enthusiasts travel
38 destination in Oregon. Landowner Paul Davis said he wants to protect the Steens
39 Mountains. He said hunting is more than just the harvest, it is also appreciating nature while
40 visiting with friends and family. Craig asked if they can add more acreage to lower the
41 project cost. Paul Davis said no. It is a sanctuary for animals and he also have a high cost
42 for road maintenance. Tom said that the Board is not approving for the Upland Bird Stamp
43 money and could be removed from the total amount of A&H dollar/acre. Craig said that the
44 Board can only approve the A&H funds for \$2.84 an acre and wants to separate the Upland
45 Bird Stamp from A&H and approve this project for 3 years. Dave is concern about the
46 16,000 acre referencing to BLM land that this landowner is allowing the public to access,
47 once this is allowed the Board can open a can of worms where landowners will begin asking
48 for more money for allowing access to landlocked public lands, money that the Board
49 doesn't have. Willie is not opposing the project on its entirety but is opposing the Boards

1 lack of procedures for the good and consistency of projects coming to the Board. It looks like
2 this project was \$1.80 a year ago and now went up to \$2.84 because of access to public
3 lands.

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

8 9 **Regional Coordinators Reports**

10
11 Tom Segal: East Region, Ontario

12 Tom does not currently have a project that requires SHPO permit. He wants to clarify where
13 the funding is going to come for the extra time/work needed for this new requirement.

14
15 Dave Stroppel: West Region, Corvallis

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

23
24 Andrew Walch: East Region, Bend

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

34
35 Jade Keehn: West Region, Central Point

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

40
41 Jon Paustian: East Region, La Grande

42 The majority of Jon's A&H projects does not require SHPO permits. The Carman Ranch
43 project will need the Archeogist to come and take a look at the site to see if SHPO permit is
44 required.

45 46 **OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSIONS**

47
48 Chair Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.