



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 9, 2018 – 8:00 a.m.
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Commission Room
Salem, Oregon 97302

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4 *This Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes is considered as a draft until approved by*
5 *the Board.*
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7 Notice of these meetings had been published through Oregon Transparency Website and
8 ODFW Website. <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>,
9 <http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx>
10

11 Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

Craig Ely, Board Chair	Isaac Sanders, ODFW
Alan Christensen, Board Member	Jo Morato, ODFW
Dave Stiefvater, Board Member	Jade Keehn, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Tom Segal, ODFW (phone)
Candy Yow, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Andrew Walch, ODFW
Riley Stephenson, Starker Forests	Dave Stroppel, ODFW
Kevin Blakely, ODFW	Davia Palmeri, ODFW

12 13 **MEETING**

14
15 On Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 8:00a.m. Chair Craig Ely called the Access & Habitat Board
16 meeting to order.
17

18 **Action:**

19 **Meeting Minutes Review**

20 Dave Stiefvater moved to approve the October 16, 2017 minutes. Alan Christensen seconded
21 the motion and motion was carried unanimously 6.0.
22

23 **Board Member Reports**

24 John Breese:

25 John said that the elk population in his property were not as good as he hoped. He thinks the
26 weather was not cooperative to bring the elk down his ranch.
27

28 Cancy Yow:

29 Candy had a very busy hunting season. She had lots of successful hunts some of them in
30 the Access and Habitat land in Oregon. She also hunted some access land in Utah. She
31 worked on the video for A&H. If the video is going to be used in the banquets, Candy
32 suggested that it should be just over a minute long. She agreed on adding a footage of
33 someone signing in which she does not have in her collections of footages so she will wait
34 until someone to give her one if not, she has to go and film that. She hopes to get the video
35 wrapped up before the first banquet this year.
36
37
38

1 Willie Bronson:
2 Willie chased elks in Imnaha country. The women in the family harvested nice bulls this year.
3 He worked on additional access lands at Hat Point Road in the Imnaha that Jon will followup.
4 Also some possibilities of timberlands on the westside. Willie will work with the local biologist
5 to work with landowners to create more opportunities for hunters in the west side.
6

7 Dave Stiefvater:

8 Dave went out with Pheasants Forever in Ontario for habitat work. They burnt some grassland
9 to get better feed plots for birds. This year pheasants hunting was good in his area. With the
10 good spring and good habitat, the pheasants bounced back. Good habitat is really key for
11 wildlife.
12

13 Alan Christensen:

14 Alan went hunting with his son in the Zumwalt Prairie. More hunters than seen before. He
15 harvested a nice cow the last morning. Alan joined the Board of the Friends of Tualatin River
16 Wildlife Refuge. Alan had been a volunteer naturalist in the refuge for a couple of years. He
17 thinks there is an opportunity there for the state. They get 10,000 school kids a year and they
18 are all handled by volunteers and they never hear about the state's Department Fish and
19 Wildlife.
20

21 Craig Ely:

22 Craig had been working with Isaac reviewing the raffles and how much we charge. He spent
23 time in Montana for the birth of his second grandchild. He also spoke to a local biologist there
24 about their Block Management Access program. He is going back there and will visit the local
25 officials and talk more about the program.
26

27 **State Coordinator Program and Budget Reports**

28 Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator

29 Isaac mentioned the new 2018 big game regulations including the changes. The new ODFW
30 customer-oriented website. The best way to navigate to A&H program site is to use the search
31 function on the top right corner of the new site.

32 The Oregon Wildlife Foundation (OWF) has a small grants program for tax-exempt
33 organizations. Eligible projects must fall under habitat restoration, public access, outdoor
34 education, invasive species removal and studies that support wildlife management. They are
35 particularly interested in oak savannah restoration with one to one match. The OWF is
36 interested in working with A&H.

37 The next Commission meeting will be on January 19, 2018 in Salem. They will be approving
38 Hancock Forest Management Access Area project and the appointment for new landowner
39 and hunter representatives for A&H Board. On the March 16, 2018 Commission meeting in
40 Salem, they will be approving projects from today's meeting, A&H chair appointment and our
41 small grant program. The June 8, 2018 Salem meeting, the Commission will be approving
42 project recommendations and our 2019 auction and raffle tag allocations.

43 The next A&H Board meeting will be on April 9 and 10, 2018 in Klamath Falls. It will include a
44 field trip, the 2019 auction and raffle tags, Columbia Land Trust-Wasco Oaks acquisition and
45 council appointments.

46 The VPA-HIP grant funds have been obligated and pending the Commission's approval of
47 the Hancock Forest Management project.

1 Isaac Sanders provided an update on the current A&H Program Budget (refer to packet and
2 A&H website <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/January/index.asp>
3

4 **A&H Habitat Small Grant Program**

5 Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator

6 This small grant program is for habitat projects only. Funds for each project will not exceed
7 \$6,500 per region per biennium. It will require a 25% non-ODFW match and project report
8 will due 30 days after project completion. The Small Grant Program needs this Boards
9 recommendation to move forward.

10 **Action:**

11 Willie Bronson moved to approve the Small Grant program as discussed with the following
12 guidelines:
13

- 14 1. Each project will not exceed \$6,500 per region but if one region has more than one
15 project and other regions did not use the allotted \$6,500, the funds can be pooled
16 and used in another regions additional project.
- 17 2. On durable goods, only consumable items or equipment that are normally used-up
18 during the course of the project (e.g. spray equipment).
- 19 3. Education and outreach materials can be used only if it is part of the habitat project
20 (e.g. signs, brochure/alerts).
- 21 4. A 25% non-departmental cash or in-kind match is required. Match can be cash,
22 volunteer labor, donated material, and/or equipment time.

23
24 Dave Stiefvater seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 6.0

25
26 Davia Palmeri introduced herself to the A&H Board. Davia is the new Conservation Strategy
27 Coordinator in ODFW. She will be doing alternative funding for the agency and will try to tap
28 into general funds among other things. Davia is from New York and brought her horse with
29 her to Oregon.

30 **Archeology –SHPO and the Tribes**

31 Danny Pettit, Archeologist, ODFW

32 Danny presented to the Board the importance of cultural resource compliance to A&H
33 Program. Stewardship, grants, liability and fines, and penalties are the four main reasons
34 why as a program that allows ground disturbance, the A&H should be aware of the federal
35 and state rules that protects archeological significant sites. Danny's presentation are
36 included in the Board packet materials and be viewed at links provided:
37

38 <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/January/index.asp>
39

40 **Discussion on SHPO Requirements:**

41 Isaac mentioned that the Regional Coordinators can email Danny if they are starting a new
42 project so Danny can check in the database if the site is known to have archeological
43 significant. A&H will pay for Danny's time. Danny ask the Regional Coordinators if they are
44 requesting to check on a site before starting a project to focus only on the area of the
45 ground disturbance site and don't give a 30-mile radius for example. Willie asked if a
46 landowner wanted to know if there is a significant archeological site in their property is there
47 a website they can go. Danny said all that information is protected from the public to avoid
48 desecration and artifacts being stolen from known sites. The landowner may contact SHPO
49 directly.

1 Candy asked if fixing a pre-existing fence required a SHPO permit and Danny replied that it
2 depends on the disturbance. John asked if an old project had a permit from SHPO and a
3 new project in the same site if starting, does it need a new permit. Danny said that it is good
4 to reach out to SHPO for each project. Alan mentioned that it is important to be aware of this
5 permitting ahead of time and the majority of the time, you will not need a permit anyway.
6 Isaac said that if no archeological importance was found in a site, Coordinators can put
7 documents on file for future project. Willie commended that it is important to the Board to
8 understand SHPO regulations to be compliant. Craig mentioned that the first impression is
9 that you cannot lift another stone in a project site but that's not true. Danny said that planting
10 and cutting juniper requires very light ground disturbance and does not require a permit. It's
11 the using of backhoe and other large ground disturbing equipments that requires checking
12 with Danny. Craig said that the A&H grant application form has to be changed adding SHPO
13 requirement and a letter from Danny and that Regional Coordinators should build this
14 requirement to their project plan. Isaac said that the application form is being amended
15 already to include the SHPO requirements.

16 17 **Project Applications Review**

18 These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at
19 links provided: <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/January/index.asp>

20 21 Grizzly Mountain Wildfire Restoration

22 Discussion ensued regarding the choice of chemicals and seed mix. Isaac mentioned that
23 the seed mix they proposed to use is an ODFW central Oregon recommended seed mixture
24 for rehabilitating landscapes after fires.

25 **Action:**

26 John Breese moved to approve the Grizzly Mountain Wildfire Restoration as proposed. Alan
27 Christensen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 6.0

28 29 Coos Mountain Travel Management Area

30 Discussion ensued regarding the 25,750 acres of road maintenance in the budget portion
31 that will cost \$20,000 annually of A&H funds. The Board would like to see the breakdown of
32 land ownerships on the road maintenance. There are a lot of BLM lands mixed in and BLM
33 maintain their roads. The Board would like to see which portion of the road is controlled by
34 whom and how many acres. Although the Board is anxious to approve this project, this
35 project is tabled until Forest Investment Associates can present a budget that has more
36 descriptive maintenance cost. An open to the public teleconference will be scheduled in a
37 reasonable time for the Board to receive the updated budget breakdown and to vote on the
38 project.

39 40 **Regional Advisory Council Appointments**

41 Tom Segal: East Region, High Desert Council

42
43 The High Desert Council in the East Region has 5 positions to be filled. Applicants for the
44 positions are:

- 45 Roy Youngblood, first term as hunter representative
- 46 Michael Greeley, first term as landowner representative
- 47 Jarod Lemos, Chair and hunter representative
- 48 Andrew Shields, second term and hunter representative
- 49 Nick Miller, first term as hunter representative

1 **Action:**

2 Alan Christensen moved to approve the appointments of the 5 listed applicants. Dave
3 Stiefvater seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 6.0

4
5 Additionally, Isaac Sanders requested that the Board vote on 2 positions on the Southwest
6 Council that were not included in the appointment voting during the July 18, 2017 meeting in
7 Salem.

8 **Action:**

9 Alan Christensen moved to approve the appointments of Fred Craig and Joanne Bigman as
10 hunter representatives in the Southwest Advisory Council. Dave Stiefvater seconded the
11 motion. The motion was carried unanimously 6.0

12
13 **Curt Melcher, Director, ODFW**

14 The Director of ODFW thanked the Board for their volunteer time and efforts. Curt also
15 thanked Alan Christensen for his 8 years of service in the Access and Habitat Board and
16 presented him with a beverage flask with his name and ODFW and A&H inscriptions on it.
17 Chair Craig Ely also thanked Alan for his years of service in the A&H Board.

18
19 **Regional Coordinators Reports**

20 Tom Segal: East Region, Ontario

21 Tom is wrapping up with the bird season, checking kiosks, and assessing damage
22 situations. Several of his land owners are interested in the implementation of the access
23 area use restrictions.

24
25 Dave Stroppel: West Region, Corvallis

26 Dave is working with Nancy Taylor in Corvallis to meet up with both private land managers
27 and State and Federal land managers to see if they can have more A&H projects. The Open
28 Fields in his region is getting a lot of usage. There were 3 hunters that filled out their harvest
29 cards and says that they harvested pheasants and cayotes. David called those hunters and
30 explained to them that the Open Fields hunts are just for goose and waterfowl only. They
31 were apologetic and will be operating legally in the future. There is a signage in the parking
32 lot that says it's for goose and waterfowl hunting only and there really is no excuse not to
33 know that. There are 4 landowners signed up and 2 more expressed adding more acreage.
34 One new farmer with 300 acres is interested. Dave spoke with Oregon Hunters Association
35 Capital Chapter about Open Fields program and A&H in general. He asked for feedback on
36 habitat projects and encourage them to apply for an auction tag.

37
38 Dave Nuzum: West Region, Tillamook

39 We finished our deer survey on the northcoast unit and found robust buck ratio. There are 4
40 retired OSP troopers that patrolled 3041 hours from late August to November. Dave
41 continues to measure hunter use. He has 4 metal-detecting vehicle traffic counters at
42 various points. Data is being downloaded weekly or bi-weekly from these access points. The
43 cooperators on these access points are Greenwood Resources and Hampton Affiliates.
44 Dave presented the traffic count data for the Saddle Mountain Unit in 2017 covering Snow
45 Point, Fisher Mainline, Big Creek Mainline, and CZ Camp.

1 Andrew Walch: East Region, Bend
2 Aspen Valley had 41 registered hunters during a 3-day block. There were 4 bucks
3 harvested. Out of 41, 20 filled out the area use permits. Dixie Meadows had 35 registred
4 hunters with 2 bucks harvested. They are working on a targeted-email for potential hunters.

5
6 Jade Keehn: West Region, Central Point
7 Jade is a new Habitat Biologist in the Central Point office. She replaced Vince Oredson.
8 Jade has been meeting with coordinators for possible access and habitat projects. She will
9 have some stats on the next meeting to present to the board on the Jackson Cooperative
10 TMA. Jade has been involved with the C2 Ranch Youth Hunt. She's been talking with
11 landowners with elk damage issues. She's been reaching out with southcoast weed
12 management area regarding gorse management. She will keep the Board updated with
13 what they are doing with gorse control in the area once she finds out more.

14
15 Jon Paustian: East Region, La Grande
16 Jon is still having a terrible time with his traffic counters, its collecting moistures. He finally
17 received new ones in November. He has 30 counters out. He has 11 projects, 5 renewals, 6
18 are new. Several habitat projects but mostly access. Green Diamond bought 33,000 acres.
19 A&H does not have an agreement with them but will be talking to them soon.

20 21 **A&H Regional Priorities – Department Feedback**

22 Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator

23 As part of identifying funding priorities for A&H, a 9-questions survey was sent out. Of the 15
24 surveys completed, 6 were from Deschutes/Klamath Region, 4 from South Willamette, 2
25 Southwest and one each from Northwest, Malhuer, and North Willamette. A follow-up survey
26 to underreporting Districts resulted in 7 additional responses.

27 Results of the survey is available on the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the
28 link provided <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/January/index.asp>

29 30 **Implementing A&H Access Area Use Regulations**

31 Isaac Sanders, A&H Program Coordinator

32 New rule 635-065-0760 (11) is effective January 1. In Access Areas funded by the Access
33 and Habitat Program that are "Welcome to Hunt", hunters are required to follow the area
34 regulations printed on the map produced by the ODFW for each Access Area. Specific
35 regulations for each Access Area can be found through the Oregon Hunting Map at
36 www.oregonhuntingmap.com. Coordinators will need to codify the area use rules for the
37 Access Areas in their regions. Location of the kiosk/permit boxes on the map will also be
38 included. A new sign is being designed that will be placed on or nearby the kiosk/permit box
39 that shows the text of the new rule and the Access Area regulations pertaining to the
40 specific Access Area with custom made stickers (e.g. No Fires or wood cutting, No camping
41 or night-time use, etc).

42 43 **OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSIONS**

44
45 Chair Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.