



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

Monday-Tuesday, October 15-16, 2018
Port of Morrow/Riverfront Center
2 Marine Drive NE
Boardman, Oregon 97818

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	Travis Schultz, ODFW
Dave Stiefvater, Board Member	Jo Morato, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Jade Keehn, ODFW
Candy Yow, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Andrew Walch, ODFW
Amy Patrick, Board Member	Dave Nuzum, ODFW
Steve Cherry, Heppner Field Office	Dave Stroppel, ODFW (Phone)
Melody Henderson, Heppner Field Office	Tom Thornton, ODFW

MEETING

On Monday, October 15, 2018 at 8:00a.m., A&H Board members, and ODFW staff met up for a field tour of the Heppner Regulated Hunt area and Columbia Basin UCAP project area.

On Tuesday, October 16, 2018 at 8:00a.m. Craig Ely called the Access and Habitat Board meeting to order.

Action:

Meeting Minutes Review

Willie Bronson moved to approve the July 24, 2018 and the September 25, 2018 Wasco/Sherman Emergency Fire Seeding teleconference meeting minutes as presented. Dave Stiefvater seconded the motion and motion was carried unanimously 6-0.

Board Members Update

Candy Yow: Candy was involved in the NW Lady's Hunting Camp last July. It was well attended with classes and trainings in firearms, archery, and many more. Candy got bull elk and a small buck this summer. She is now getting ready for a hunting trip to Utah.

Willie Bronson: Willie got a Sled Springs tag. He had noticed a decline in wildlife numbers. He talked to several hunters in the area and they have voiced the decline in numbers as well. The hunters also supported the road closures but they complained about bicycles. There are no maps in the kiosk in the Hancock NE access area. He noticed that 7 out of 9 harvested are white-tailed deer. He is curious if ODFW tracks white-tailed data.

1 Dave Stiefvater: Dave went on a mountain goat hunt with former A&H member Doug Bailey.
2 Doug hired an outfitter. He shot his animal the first day in 150 yards. Dave saw a lot of goats
3 in the Elkhorn. Dave welcomed Travis and wish him luck on the new position. Dave
4 encourages ODFW staff to knock on people's doors and turn negativity around by engaging
5 them in conversations.

6
7 John Breese: John stayed close to home and is working on several projects. He is concerned
8 that we are changing the rangeland from perennial grass to annual. He also noticed that his
9 property Dixie Meadows have more deer this year than elk.

10
11 Amy Patrick: Amy did habitat work in her property and have seen the increase in wildlife since
12 the habitat restoration. It is important to do habitat work to draw wildlife in.

13
14 Craig Ely: Craig thanks Steve Cherry and Melody Henderson for the tour yesterday. He wants
15 to remind everybody that A&H funds started the Heppner Regulated area.

16 17 **A&H Program and Budget Reports**

18 Travis Shultz, Access & Habitat Coordinator

19
20 Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board
21 packet materials and can be viewed at links provided:
22 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/October/index.asp>. Travis mentioned
23 that the budget will change slightly in the future. He is still working on understanding how it
24 works and has ideas to improve it.
25

26 **2019 A&H Meeting Dates and Locations**

27 The Board discussed the meeting dates for 2019 and have agreed on the dates and locations:

- 28 • January 15 – Salem
- 29 • April 8-9 – The Dalles
- 30 • July 16 – Salem
- 31 • October 14-15 - Frenchglen

32 33 **2019 A&H Board Auction Events Sign-up**

34
35 The Board discussed the auction events sign-up for 2019 and have agreed on the following:
36

Auction Tag	Organization/Contact	Date & Location	A&H Board #1	A&H Board #2
Deer	Mule Deer Foundation National	February 16, 2019, 9:00pm MDT Salt Palace Convention Salt Lake City, UT	Dave	Candy (alt)
Elk	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Corvallis Chapter	February 16, 2019, 7:30pm PST Boys & Girls Club Corvallis, OR	Willie	Nathan
Elk	Oregon Hunters Association Redmond Chapter	February 23, 2019, 8:00pm Deschutes County Fairgrounds Redmond, OR	Dave	John

Deer	Oregon Bow Hunters	March 2, 2019, 6:30pm PST Deschutes County Fairgrounds Redmond, OR	John	Willie
Deer	Safari Club International Lewis & Clark Chapter	March 9, 2019, 8:00pm PST Embassy Suites Convention Portland, OR	Craig	Amy
Elk	Oregon Hunters Association Yamhill County Chapter	March 16, 2019, 8:00pm PST Evergreen Aviation & Space Center McMinnville, OR	Amy	Nathan
Deer	National Wild Turkey Federation Central Oregon	April 6, 2019, 8:00pm PST Bend Elks Lodge Bend, OR	John	Candy
Deer/Elk Combination	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation John Day Chapter	April 20, 2019, 7:30pm PST Grant County Fairgrounds John Day, OR	Candy	Willie
Elk	Oregon Hunters Association Oregon Chapter	May 18, 2019, 8:45pm PST Chinook Winds Casino Lincoln City, OR	Craig	Candy?

1 Craig Ely said the list can change and will allow the Board to switch places depending on their
2 schedule but to make sure they let the Salem staff knows so appropriate changes can be
3 made logistically.
4

5 **Public Comments:**

6 There were no public comment at this time.
7

8 **Project Applications Review**

9 These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at
10 links provided: <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2018/October/index.asp>
11

12 Central Oregon TMA Enforcement

13 This project proposes to purchase high-quality trail cameras for deployment in several
14 Central Oregon Travel Management Areas (TMAs) with chronic cases of illegal
15 motorized vehicle use on closed roads during restricted periods. The cameras will help
16 Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Wildlife Troopers be able to obtain license plates
17 and build cases, ultimately leading to more contacts and citations of violators.
18

19 **Action:** Dave moved to approve the Central Oregon TMA Enforcement project as proposed.
20 Candy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 6-0.
21

22 C2 Ranch Habitat Improvement 2018)

23 This project proposes to improve wildlife habitat and provide public hunting. Habitat
24 improvement will consist of removing invasive Himalayan blackberry from pasture, mowing
25 decadent buckbrush to promote new growth, seeding new pasture for wildlife forage, and
26 fertilizing pastures (see proposed project areas, Attachment 1). Hunting will consist of 6
27 unguided adult archery deer hunts, each for 3 days, and guided youth hunts consisting of 10
28 deer hunts and 12 spring turkey hunts, each for 1 day, for two seasons (2019 and 2020).
29

30 **Action:** Willie moved to approve the C2 Ranch Habitat Improvement 2018 as proposed.
31 Candy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 6-0.
32

1 Keuny Ranch Emergency Fire Seeding

2 This project is located on low elevation rangeland, which was historically occupied by
3 sagebrush steppe ecotypes. Wildfire risk in low elevations is increased due to invasion from
4 non-native annual grasses. The projected seeding area is located adjacent to the Kueny
5 Ranch Access Area, which provides public access to a large portion of the east side of
6 Steens Mountain. Seeding this area with perennial grasses would reduce the risk of annual
7 grass invasion, reduce fine fuel continuity, and lower the risk of wildfire to wildlife habitat at
8 higher elevations. There are amendments that would improve the success of this seeding
9 project. The amendments are use of herbicide Imazapic to reduce competition from annual
10 grasses and grazing rest for 2 years post-seeding. The soil texture present at the project
11 area is high in sand and would benefit from grazing rest while seeded plants are
12 establishing on the site.

13
14 John Breese asked if this project has been run through regional council. Tom Segal yes and
15 that it only requires one council member to approve it.

16
17 **Action:** Dave moved to approve the Keuny Ranch Emergency Seeding project as
18 proposed. Amy seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 6-0.

19
20 **Regional Advisory Council Appointments**

21
22 West/South Willamette Region Council:

23
24 Tom Zandoli, Hunter Representative
25 John Patterson, Hunter Representative

26
27 The Council recommended Tom Zandoli for second term as Hunter Representative.

28
29 **Action:** Dave moved to appoint Tom Zandoli for his second term as Hunter Representative.
30 Willie seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 6-0.

31
32 **Regional Coordinators Reports**

33
34 Dave Stroppel, South Willamette, Corvallis
35 Working with landowners of Open Fields properties. Lots of waterfowl hunts going on. Four
36 out of five hunters are happy about our Open Fields. One of the landowners is adding an
37 additional 1300 acres. Dave is getting ready to meet with the Willamette National Forest
38 staff to see if we can help implement habitat improvement projects that they have funding
39 for. They have \$100,000 in project approved this year and millions more in future years but
40 they lack the staff time to implement or contract out this work so ODFW are signing a Good
41 Neighbors Agreements with USFS and BLM so that we can help them with these projects.
42 Many of which have already received their NEPA/ESA approvals so USFS needs our help
43 to implement these projects, for example: install new forest gates, help with soil compaction
44 projects, possibly contract out red tree vole surveys, meadow renovation, snag creation, etc.
45 Some of these projects are access related while others are habitat
46 management/improvement focused. Dave is setting up a meeting with the Siuslaw NF,
47 along with Jason Kirchner, to hammer out some meadow enhancement projects in Lincoln
48 County. Dave mention that there is a possibility that Weyerhaeuser will sign back to the

1 program. Tom Thornton said that Wildlife Division is looking closely on how much we will
2 gain from it and if A&H can afford it.

3
4 Jon Paustian: Northeast Region, La Grande

5 Jon spent some time checking kiosks making sure there are maps, make sure there are
6 Access Area Daily Permits. Permits are disappearing and people are not filling the permits
7 completely. The Hancock property and Desolation Creek had fire closures. Hancock just
8 opened in time for buck season. Hancock is thinking of building a permanent campsite in
9 Sled Springs for additional revenue. Hancock has one person checking the A&H kiosks
10 covering over 200,000-acre property. It's impossible for one person to cover it. The La
11 Grande District office is thinking of taking back the kiosks duties to make sure it is done.
12 Willie commented the agreement said that Hancock will be responsible with the kiosks.

13
14 Jade Keehn: Southwest Region, Central Point

15 JACTMA renewal started this year. There are problems with people dumping garbage in the
16 forest. There was a whole RV dumped and cost a lot of money to move and clean-up.
17 Weyerhaeuser declined participation with Access & Habitat so OSP is out patrolling
18 informing hunters of the changes. Southwest district might hate a technician to help
19 monitoring various projects. Public seed-giveaway is popular this year.

20
21 Andrew Walch: East Region, Bend

22 The Dixie Meadow and Aspen Valley Open Fields projects are wrapping up. The registration
23 for these hunts opened on August 1 online. We talked to ODFW's Information & Education
24 department and sent out emails targeting people who has the right tags for these Open
25 Fields hunts. The archeology permits for Dixie Meadow and Aspen Valley took longer than
26 expected. The Commission went on tour at A&H projects during their meeting in Klamath
27 Falls. The small grant of juniper cuttings of County Inmates is doing well. Andrew was
28 offered the Wildlife Habitat Biologist position in the Deschutes Wildlife District which includes
29 the A&H District Coordinator's duties.

30
31 Tom Segal: East Region, Ontario

32 Southeast region had a slow fire this year, only 2000 acres are lost in wildlife. Tom has Mule
33 Deer Initiative projects funded by PR grants. They have been doing habitat restorations.
34 Tom has a 60-acre block of fire seeding under A&H small grant.

35
36 Dave Nuzum: West Region, Tillamook

37 West region has a growing number of garbage dumping in the forest. Disposal of these
38 garbage cost a lot of money. The North Coast TMA has 2 meetings this season. We want to
39 get together more often. We have 4 OSP retiree officers patrolling. We are missing OSP
40 retiree in McMinnville area but we can cover it with 2 active regular troopers so we won't
41 lose a lot of coverage. David has no small grant at this time.

42 43 **OTHER BUSINESS AND DISCUSSIONS**

44
45 Chair Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.