



# Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2019  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

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3 *This Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes has been finalized*  
4 *and approved by the board on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.*  
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6 Notice of these meetings had been published through Oregon Transparency Website and  
7 ODFW Website. <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>,  
8 <http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx>  
9

10 Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

Craig Ely, Board Chair	Jon Gutcher, ODFW (Phone)
Dave Stiefvater, Board Member	Andrew Walch, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Jade Keehn, ODFW
Candy Yow, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Dave Nuzum, ODFW
Amy Patrick, Board Member	Patrick Hayden, ODFW
Nathan Bailey, Board Member	Tom Thornton, ODFW
Travis Schultz, ODFW	

## 11 MEETING

12  
13 On Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 8:00a.m. Craig Ely called the Access and Habitat Board meeting  
14 to order.

### 15 **Action:**

#### 16 **Meeting Minutes Review**

17 Dave Stiefvater amended the minutes from the January 15, 2019 meeting as follows; on page  
18 2 line 9 strike the word working and replace with wording. On page 6 line 1 strike the word  
19 bocks and replace with blocks. Willie Bronson moved to approve the minutes as amended,  
20 Dave Stiefvater seconded. The Motion carried unanimously 7-0.  
21  
22

#### 23 **Board Members Update**

##### 24 Willie Bronson:

25 Not a lot to report, went to the Rocky Mtn Elk Foundation's auction in Albany with Amy. The  
26 orange cards are working well for organizing bid takers. Got \$41,000 for the tag. A lot of the  
27 questions that were received from hunters were on Weyerhaeuser. My question to staff is  
28 how do we prioritize funding, the demands we see coming and the lack of funds to cover  
29 those? How do we adjust rates per acre wise? Currently, the regional councils approve  
30 projects and then we have to go 'wait we do not have funds to cover these.' We, the A&H  
31 Board need direction from the top down. Suggest starting with a committee with the Chair, a  
32 Board member and Salem ODFW staff.  
33  
34

##### 35 Dave Stiefvater:

1 Pheasant Forever met with Ontario's mayor about a hunting access area that ODFW has an  
2 agreement on, about 500 acres. The area is mostly made up of pivots with corners that  
3 could be used for habitat. The city currently pumps effluent that could be used on site for  
4 habitat development. The ground is salty and poor for farming. They are working on an  
5 agreement for habitat development with the city. They are also working on acquiring a  
6 range drill and may be able to use a grant for tourism.

7  
8 Candy Yow:

9 Very busy, two more banquets to go, which will make number seven with what we are involved  
10 in and A&H. Salt Lake was great, sold deer the tag for \$45,000, National Turkey Federation  
11 I did with John and it went very well. Willie and I are doing the Rocky Mtn Elk one in John  
12 Day which I hear is a hoot. It is our combo tag so I am very excited about that. I work a lot  
13 with our local radio station and he is constantly asking me to do an interview on the A&H  
14 program. I will do the interview the day before the banquet in John Day as he is the emcee  
15 for the event. Also doing an interview with Oregon Hunters Association in Bend. If you have  
16 any information please let me know. Ladies camps are doing awesome and filling up fast. I  
17 have been selected to represent Oregon as part of the DC Project to meet legislators to  
18 discuss 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment rights.

19  
20 Nate Bailey:

21 Just coming off of waterfowl season, spring goose kind of fizzled out but looking forward to  
22 green up and looking for bears. Working with OHA and have a bunch of youth hunters lined  
23 up for spring turkey hunts.

24  
25  
26 John Breese:

27 He found meeting hunters at the banquet auctions to be very informative on the current state  
28 of hunting. His A&H project is moving forward with removing additional acres of juniper.  
29 Contracted the juniper removal with Quicksilver who provided 18 sawyers. About 700 acres  
30 were treated in a little over a week and half. Leaving the trees lay for about 2 years then will  
31 remove the boles of the trees with the goal of reintroducing fire and improve grazing. 10 years  
32 of monitoring was done prior to the juniper removal so should provide valuable information  
33 after completion.

34  
35 Amy Patrick:

36 Excited to have taken on a short term position with OHA as their outreach coordinator funded  
37 through grant funds they have available. I will be working on membership, diversity, and  
38 interfacing with tribal contacts and interface between hunters and landowners. That is a spot  
39 that I really enjoy working at.

40  
41  
42 Craig Ely:

43 Updated the Board on his meeting with the Fish and Wildlife Commission on projects and  
44 prioritizing the upcoming projects. The commission was very thankful for Craig's comments  
45 to them on the deliberations on the Weyerhaeuser project. Craig has asked ODFW  
46 leadership, A&H regional coordinators and the A&H Coordinator to prioritize the projects  
47 before the A&H Board. The request is timely as there are several large projects coming before  
48 the board soon.

49 **Regional Advisory Council Appointments**

1 Dechuttes Klamath Council:

2 The Council recommended Russell Mercer and Colton Morgan for their first terms as  
3 Landowner Representatives.

4  
5 **Action:** Dave Stiefvater moved to accept the recommendations of the Regional Council  
6 from Deschutes/Klamath that we appoint Russell Mercer and Colton. Nate Bailey seconded  
7 the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 7-0.

8  
9 **A&H Program and Budget Reports**

10 Travis Schultz, Access & Habitat Coordinator

11  
12 Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board  
13 packet materials and can be viewed at links provided:

14 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2019/January/index.asp>.

15  
16 Discussion followed on the current budget, allocations, forecasts, and projects that are under  
17 review today. Suggestions for a better budget sheet were made as well, color coding,  
18 summaries, different totals. Board asked that Liz Dreith present at the July A&H meeting to  
19 explain the budgeting process. Budget sheet design will be discussed at the July meeting as  
20 well.

21  
22 **Public Comments:**

23 No public comments

24  
25 **Recommended 2020 Auction and Raffle Tags**

26 Travis Schultz, Access & Habitat Coordinator

27 The A&H Board was shown the recommended auction and raffle tags for 2020.

28  
29 Discussion followed on allocation to groups, instate versus out of state, and overall process  
30 for allocating tags. Potential to add a blacktailed deer tag, we are limited to 20 tags by  
31 statute. Board asked to be provided with the last 5 years to which group was awarded each  
32 tag.

33  
34 **Action:** Nat Bailey moved to accept the recommended 2020 Auction and Raffle tag  
35 numbers. Candy Yow seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 7-0

36  
37 Discussion on Auctions in General

38 The Board discussed minimum bid amounts, banquet holder's responsibilities, issues with the  
39 phone number provided by bidders, potentially contacting outfitters to increase the number of  
40 bidders and the auctioneers influence on bids. Craig asked that at the July meeting the Board  
41 be presented with auction prices for the last 5 years and have a discussion on the  
42 reserve/minimum bid amounts.

43  
44 **Project Applications Review**

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

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48 2019-01 Lawen, Betty Opie Access, 2019-02 Lawen, Brown Access, 2019-03 Lawen, Ross  
49 Opie Access, and 2019-04 Lawen, Temple Access.  
50 Presented by Jon Gutcher

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2 All applicants are part of one access area and were discussed as a group. This is a  
3 renewal of the Lawen Projects in Harney County. The projects are four intermixed  
4 properties, are basically one project, and provides over 4,100 acres of Welcome to Hunt  
5 Access for deer, pronghorn, waterfowl, pheasants and coyote hunting.  
6

7 Discussion on the projects included hunter use, hunter success, hunter satisfaction, location  
8 near the refuge, waterfowl coming from refuge, access to the refuge, better waterfowl  
9 hunting, great pheasant hunting, value of access area versus the refuge, access area dries  
10 up so no carp issues, and how the cost per acre is determined.  
11

12 **Action:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the Lawen Projects as presented. Dave Stiefvater  
13 seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 7-0.  
14

15 2019-05 Glass Hill, Rice Access  
16 Presented by Jon Paustian  
17

18 This is a renewal project to pay Dr. Rice a \$1.80 an acre for By Permission access to just  
19 over 1,200 acres in the Starkey WMU for big game and upland game hunting. Permission  
20 to hunt the Dr. Rice's property is run through the La Grande ODFW office. The landowner is  
21 part of the Glass Hill Access Area, there are five landowners in the access area, two are By  
22 Permission and three are Welcome to Hunt. Project started in 2008, worked with RMEF to  
23 buy the land. Many habitat projects have occurred on the property. Chair Ely did inform the  
24 board that his property is next to this property  
25

26 Discussion on the project included the tour of the property a couple years ago, hunter  
27 harvest, non-consumptive use, wintering elk and damage prevention to neighboring lands.  
28

29 **Action:** John Breese moved to approve the Glass Hill, Rice Access project as proposed.  
30 Candy Yow seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 7-0.  
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32 **Regional Coordinator Reports:**  
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34 Jon Paustian: Northeast Council, La Grande

35 Union County was 250% above normal snow fall for February, Umatilla was 220%. These  
36 late season snow event drive elk down the mountain. On the Union county side once they  
37 hit the valley floor they cannot go lower. Physically counted just under 1700 elk in the  
38 Grande Ronde Valley. Three very large landowners allowed elk to be pushed on them.  
39 Most landowners are generally tolerant of elk, there are a few vocal ones that are not. The  
40 Forsea Access Area in Baker County on Lookout Mountain. Baker County is utilizing a  
41 RS2477 claim on the road through the Forsea ranch. If the claim is approved the landowner  
42 has stated he will pull the Forsea out of the A&H program.  
43

44 Patrick Hayden: South Willamette Council, Corvallis

45 Willamette properties hunter use was about 300 total hunters, who harvested about 104  
46 geese. Currently in the process of taking down signage, there are four access areas in the  
47 valley. Lots of hunter calls on finding places to hunt in the valley. Regional Council will be  
48 meeting in May to review two landowner vacancies and reappoint two members whose first  
49 term is over as well. They will be bringing the Willamette private lands project before the  
50 board as the current agreement expires at the end of the year.

1  
2 Jade Keehn: Southwest Council, Central Point  
3 Getting our youth hunters signed up for turkey hunts on the C2 Ranch. 12 kids this year, it  
4 should be a good turkey year with the late season rains. The toms are in full strut. The  
5 chair is expiring along with another member of the council so we will be recruiting for them.  
6 Small grants used on the coquille valley project. Denman WA had its first popup archery  
7 event. About 100 archers attended the event. Attended trainings on Pitman Robinson and  
8 stream restoration.

9  
10 Dave Nuzum: North Willamette Council, Tillamook  
11 Small grants was spent on access areas and forage seeding in small acreages using the  
12 same forage mix we use at Jewell WA. Finished elk survey, above bull ratio in all units.  
13 Looking at options to add opportunity as part of the regulations review work for 2020. Still  
14 see some hoof rot in elk. The North Coast TMA, only used 4 retired troopers so we used a  
15 bit of trooper overtime to cover the area. Troopers had 2,200 hunter contacts and 2,400  
16 other contacts, so lots of use on the TMA. Placed vehicle counters out to estimate use,  
17 most studies have a range of hunters per vehicle at 1.5 to 2.1 hunters per vehicle. 9,500 to  
18 12,000 hunter days on the TMA. The landowner are very pleased with the enforcement.

19  
20 Andrew Walch: Deschutes/Klamath Council, Bend  
21 Dixie Meadows and Aspen Valley online registration, 1 buck, 1 pronghorn, and a bull elk on  
22 Dixie Meadows and 2 bucks and a cow elk on Aspen Valley. The winter closure  
23 enforcement cameras did not get used this year due to the late snows. The signs were  
24 placed. Started negotiation with Green Diamond, 608,000 acres. We let them know \$1.00  
25 or even .50 an acre was not an option with the A&H budget. Their bottom is \$.25 an acre.  
26 They need some habitat work so would take habitat work at a 1 for 1 value. Small grants  
27 juniper treatment project and aspen fencing project.

28  
29 **ADJOURNMENT:**  
30 Chair Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.