



# Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 15, 2019  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

*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	Nancy Taylor, ODFW
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	Dave Stroppel, ODFW
Nathan Bailey, Board Member	Mark Vargas, ODFW
Travis Schultz, ODFW	Christopher Yee, ODFW (Phone)
Don Whittaker, ODFW	Scott Marlega, Weyerhaeuser
Doug Cottam, ODFW	Michelle Metcalf, Weyerhaeuser
Roxie Borisch, ODFW	Matt Hardiage, Pheasants Forever

## MEETING

On Tuesday, January 15, 2019 at 8:00a.m. Craig Ely called the Access and Habitat Board meeting to order.

### Action:

#### Meeting Minutes Review

The minutes from the October 15-16, 2018 meeting were approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

#### Board Members Update

##### Willie Bronson:

Noted the decrease in deer numbers on the east side when he was hunting. With influx of greater numbers of white tail deer, may be beneficial to get a count/percentage of northeast Oregon white tail.

##### Dave Stiefvater:

Dave reported that in November, Malheur County Chapter of Pheasants Forever and Treasure Valley Community College Nature Resource students worked on a habitat seeding project. First, the TVCC students and PF handpicked forage kochia seed from a local farm that specializes in fire habitat restoration. A week later, the group hand raked and seeded the forage kochia and Siberian wheat grass on the Ontario Access Property. Note; forage

1 kochia is a perennial that is high in protein, which is a food source for cattle, deer, elk, and  
2 upland gamebirds. (The forage kochia is not to be confused with the weed kochia!)

3  
4 On January 11, 2019, Dave invited local ODFW staff, Oregon Hunter Association, Snake  
5 River Sportsmen, PF members, USDA Soil & Water (Lynn Larsen), Linda Rowe Malheur  
6 County Soil & Water), and Roy Youngblood from Flying High Pheasant Reserve to share  
7 thoughts on "Upland Gamebirds Recovery Plan for Malheur County". OHA, SRS, and PF  
8 would start small with habitat projects on Ontario Skyline Access and Ontario Access  
9 properties. USDA said they would start adding wording to grant projects that would require  
10 habitat in pivot corners. He emphasized that this is a huge start for pheasant recovery.

11  
12 He will also be meeting with Mikal Cline, Upland Game Bird Coordinator.

13  
14 Candy Yow:

15 Did a hunt in Utah and got a nice three point! Went on a pheasant/chucker hunt in eastern  
16 Oregon with some friends on a ranch. Spoke with the landowner that had not heard of forage  
17 kochia and was actually trying to get rid of the birds he had because he did not think they  
18 would get through the winter. They talked about this and he will be contacting staff to get  
19 some additional information regarding habitat/cover. Also went on a sheep hunt in East John  
20 Day and got a beautiful ram and the new state record was taken the same day about a mile  
21 away. Just returned from an archery show in Kentucky (Archery Training Association) and  
22 will be attending three more shows (Shot Show, Wild Sheep Show and the Mule Deer  
23 Foundation Show.) She called Ken Hand to get tickets for the Salt Lake City banquet and  
24 somehow Oregon's tag is on Saturday instead of Friday (usually on Friday auction.) It is  
25 printed in the synopsis correctly for Saturday (although in the past it has been on Friday.)  
26 Board members discussed the large crowd that attends the Salt Lake City auction. It was felt  
27 that having two representatives there would be beneficial to manage crowd/bidders but cost  
28 might be an issue. With the tag auction being on Saturday this year, it could be an even larger  
29 crowd.

30  
31 Two ladies camps are scheduled for this year and will probably be adding several more.  
32 ODFW helps promote the events and provides equipment and some instructors and events.

33  
34 Nate Bailey:

35 Nate said it was a busy fall with the highlight being taking five kids with tags in the Ochocos  
36 hunting. Had a great trip. Waterfowl season has been amazing in Oregon and he just returned  
37 from waterfowl hunting in Coos Bay area.

38  
39  
40 John Breese:

41 No report

42  
43 Amy Patrick:

44 No report

45  
46 Craig Ely:

47 No report

1 **A&H Program and Budget Reports**

2 Travis Schultz, Access & Habitat Coordinator

3  
4 Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board  
5 packet materials and can be viewed at links provided:

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

7  
8 Discussion followed on the current budget, allocations, forecasts, and projects that are under  
9 review today.

10  
11 **2019 A&H Board Auction Events Sign-up**

12  
13 The Board discussed the auction events sign-up for 2019 and have agreed on the following:

Auction Tag	Organization/Contact	Date & Location	A&H Board #1	A&H Board #2
Deer	<b>Mule Deer Foundation</b> National	<b>February 16, 2019, 9:00pm MDT</b> Salt Palace Convention Salt Lake City, UT	Dave	Candy (alt)
Elk	<b>Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</b> Corvallis Chapter	<b>February 16, 2019, 7:30pm PST</b> Boys & Girls Club Corvallis, OR	Willie	Amy
Elk	<b>Oregon Hunters Association</b> Redmond Chapter	<b>February 23, 2019, 8:00pm</b> Deschutes County Fairgrounds Redmond, OR	Dave	John
Deer	<b>Oregon Bow Hunters</b>	<b>March 2, 2019, 6:30pm PST</b> Deschutes County Fairgrounds Redmond, OR	John	Willie
Deer	<b>Safari Club International</b> Lewis & Clark Chapter	<b>March 9, 2019, 8:00pm PST</b> Embassy Suites Convention Portland, OR	Craig	Amy
Elk	<b>Oregon Hunters Association</b> Yamhill County Chapter	<b>March 16, 2019, 8:00pm PST</b> Evergreen Aviation & Space Center McMinnville, OR	Amy	Reg Coord or Travis
Deer	<b>National Wild Turkey Federation</b> Central Oregon	<b>April 6, 2019, 8:00pm PST</b> Bend Elks Lodge Bend, OR	John	Candy
Deer/Elk Combination	<b>Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation</b> John Day Chapter	<b>April 20, 2019, 7:30pm PST</b> Grant County Fairgrounds John Day, OR	Candy	Willie
Elk	<b>Oregon Hunters Association</b> Oregon Chapter	<b>May 18, 2019, 8:45pm PST</b> Chinook Winds Casino Lincoln City, OR	Craig	Nathan

15  
16  
17 **Raffle Entries New System Update**

18 Don Whittaker, Ungulate Coordinator

19 Don Whittaker explained to the Board the new computerized raffle system that will be  
20 launched for the first time on May 18, 2019 in Lincoln City during the Oregon Hunters  
21 Association Annual Banquet. Don said a test run will be conducted prior to the event drawing.

1 **Director Report**

2 Curt updated the board on legislative initiatives, one being the A&H sunset elimination. Curt  
3 said that this is considered a permanent program (as well as the R&E program in the Fish  
4 Division). Dave asked Director Melcher about a recovery plan for upland game birds and  
5 discussion followed. Curt Melcher thanked the board for the service to agency on behalf of  
6 the Commission and constituents.

7  
8 **Update on Administrative Position**

9 Travis said that Human Resources is still completing desk audit on this position and hopeful  
10 that the position will be posted in the near future.

11  
12 **Public Comments:**

13 Matt Harding – Pheasants and Quail Forever– NW Regional Representative (covers  
14 Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Alaska and N. California.)

15 Matt said he has been in this position for four months and would like to see a game bird  
16 recovery plan and work with ODFW and other groups toward such a plan. He is looking  
17 forward to building relationships with ODFW and other groups.

18  
19 **Regional Advisory Council Appointments**

20  
21 Southwest Willamette Region Council:

22 The Council recommended James Fields, Hunter Representative, for a second term as  
23 Hunter Representative.

24  
25 **Action:** Dave Stiefvater moved to appoint James Field for his second term as Hunter  
26 Representative. Nate Bailey seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 7-0.

27  
28 **Project Applications Review**

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

31  
32 New River Aleutian Goose Project Renewal  
33 Presented by Jade Keehn

34 This is a renewal of a project that began in 2007. This project proposes to allow by-  
35 permission waterfowl hunting on 3,540 acres owned by five landowners, plus access to  
36 500 acres of BLM land near Bandon. This project is for two seasons, 2019-2020 and  
37 2020-2021. (\$31,500)

38  
39 **Action:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the New River Aleutian Goose Project project as  
40 proposed. Dave Stiefvater seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 7-0.

41  
42 East Lane TMA

43 The landowner propose creating a new TMA using their property that was formerly located  
44 within the Wendling TMA (2011-2017) and adding additional acreage from other local areas.  
45 Free, seven-day/week public access would occur from the start to the end of the General  
46 Rifle Deer Season (including the youth extension weekend) and also provide access for  
47 other hunts occurring within that time period. Vehicle use would be restricted to designated  
48 open roads.

1 Discussion for this project suggested amending the proposal from five years to two years.

2  
3 **Action:** Dave Stiefvater moved to approve the East Lane TMA project with the amendment  
4 that this be two years instead of five. Amy Patrick seconded the motion. The motion was  
5 carried unanimously 7-0.

6  
7 Weyerhaeuser NW Access Area

8 This project will provide public access for approximately 217,221 acres of privately owned  
9 commercial timberlands for a period of five years for \$212,500 annually. Access would be a  
10 combination of drive-in and walk-in use. Motorized access during IFPL 1 and 2. Walk-in  
11 access during IFPL 3, closed access to all during IFPL 4. Weyerhaeuser would like to  
12 partner with the Access and Habitat program to create large areas of recreation  
13 opportunities on our landscape for the public in lieu of creating fee recreation permit or lease  
14 areas.

15  
16 The Board discussed this proposal at length. Discussion included reducing the dollar  
17 amount per acre, reducing length of contract, consistency with Hancock agreement, law  
18 enforcement funding issues, continuity of how projects are handled, and prioritization of  
19 funding. The board agreed that further analysis of numbers is needed.

20  
21 At this time Michelle Metcalf said they would withdraw the proposal and resubmit for  
22 consideration at a later date.

23  
24 **Regional Coordinators**

25 Craig Ely asked Regional Coordinators to meet and set priorities of how they want board to  
26 approach future funding requests. He suggested that the Project Evaluation form be  
27 reviewed to ensure funds are fairly allocated amongst regions as requests for funding often  
28 exceeds budget.

29  
30 Doug Cottam thanked the Regional Coordinators for the great job they do representing the  
31 agency. He emphasized the challenge in prioritizing the number of project requests we get  
32 and focusing on the whole state and what projects are most beneficial. He suggested that  
33 the board may want to meet with Commissioners to discuss decision process.

34  
35 **Regional Coordinator Reports:**

36 Due to time constraints, Regional Coordinator Reports were not given. The following reports  
37 were submitted for the record:

38  
39 Jade Keehn: Southwest Region, Central Point

40 SW region spent a lot of time in December and January helping with ELS customer  
41 overflow. Many habitat projects have been put on hold because of the federal government  
42 shutdown. We've had good success for hunters on our New River project, and saw some  
43 decent harvest by youth on the Territorial Youth hunt, including a nice four-point. Our  
44 Jackson and Coos TMA's are running smoothly, and we're getting ready to start the new C2  
45 grant cycle.

1 Andrew Walch: East Region, Bend

- 2 • Hunt season results from Aspen Valley and Dixie Meadow hunt areas:
- 3 ○ Aspen Valley – 27 hunters registered for 3-day blocks.
- 4 ▪ At least 2 bucks and one cow elk (during youth hunt) were harvested.
- 5
- 6 ○ Dixie Meadow – 28 hunters registered for 3-day blocks.
- 7 ▪ At least 1 pronghorn, 1 trophy buck, and 1 5-pt bull (by a young lady)
- 8 harvested.
- 9 • Trail cameras have been purchased and are being distributed to OSP for the Central
- 10 Oregon TMA enforcement project in time for winter range patrols.
- 11 • The A&H small grants project in Lake County using inmate labor to re-treat past
- 12 juniper cuts was a success, with the landowner very happy with the work completed.
- 13

14 Tom Segal: East Region, Ontario

15 Working on project renewals in the Hines area, in preparation for the April meeting.

16

17 **ADJOURNMENT:**

18 Chair Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.