



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 16, 2019
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

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2 *This Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes is considered as a draft until*
3 *approved by the Board.*
4

5 Notice of these meetings had been published through Oregon Transparency Website and
6 ODFW Website. <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>,
7 <http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx>
8

9 Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

Dave Stiefvater, Board Member	Liz Dreith, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Andrew Walch, ODFW
Candy Yow, Board Member (Phone)	Jade Keehn, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW
Amy Patrick, Board Member	Dave Nuzum, ODFW
Travis Schultz, ODFW	Tom Thornton, ODFW
Mary Newcomb, ODFW	Kevin Blakely, ODFW

10
11 **MEETING**

12 On Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 8:20 a.m. Dave Stiefvater called the Access and Habitat Board
13 meeting to order.

14
15 **Action:**

16 **Meeting Minutes Review**

17 Willie Bronson amended the minutes from the April 9, 2019 meeting as follows; on page 3
18 strike the word "Southwest" and replace with "South". On page 3 line 16 strike the word "will"
19 and replace with "were". John Breese moved to approve the minutes as amended. Willie
20 Bronson seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

21
22 **Board Members Update**

23
24 Willie Bronson:

25 Attended the John Day RMEF auction where the statewide combo tag went for \$70,000 this
26 year. Accompanied friends camping and bear hunting later this spring in the Wenaha area;
27 cougars proved to be more of a success than the bear. Discussed concerns he has heard
28 from sportsmen about their personal data not being well-secured by the state, including their
29 hunter information. Concerns arose from a recent state audit showing technological
30 vulnerabilities. He questions if our hunter's personal and financial data is adequately protected
31 and hopes it is being addressed by the department.

32
33 Dave Stiefvater:

34 Malheur County Pheasants Forever has been working on the Skyline Farm access. They have
35 teamed up with OHA and ODFW and are working on 20 acres of city property. A donor is
36 providing 300 pounds of seed for the fall. This year was the first year that turkeys were

1 harvested off of the city land. The spring turkey season went well, including taking first-time
2 hunters out and successfully helping them harvest their first turkeys.

3
4 Candy Yow:

5 Though her spring bear hunt was unsuccessful, she has been quite busy and returned
6 yesterday from Washington DC. She was there with a group of 50 women from all 50 states
7 meeting with senators and congressmen regarding the second amendment rights. She has
8 another camp this week, and next, which is why she was unable to attend the meeting in
9 person.

10
11 Nate Bailey:

12 Absent.

13
14 John Breese:

15 Dixie Meadows Open Fields program has completed the spring portion of the project adding
16 two more watering troughs supplementing two springs and expanded grazing ability for
17 wildlife. 800 acres of juniper cutting has been completed and he looks forward to seeing the
18 effects on the soil and vegetation. This is the last year for the 5000 acre property's permission
19 to hunt program which has been very enjoyable and allowed for quality hunts.

20
21 Amy Patrick:

22 She is currently enjoying her new position with OHA and learning a great deal. She was able
23 to attend the state banquet and raffle which went well. Her position placed her on the fringe
24 of the legislative session that has been one for the record books. She was able to be involved
25 in, and closely monitor, several important issues.

26
27 Craig Ely:

28 Absent.

29
30 **Open Fields Update**

31 Kevin Blakely, Deputy Administrator Wildlife Division

32
33 Kevin gave an overview of new legislative bills pertaining to ODFW and the A&H program:
34 Our legislative budget bill 580 is awaiting the governor's signature. Some key points include
35 the implementation of the new wolf plan, and three positions to support it. They plan on
36 placing one position in Western Oregon due to the expansion of wolf packs into the
37 Cascades. The end of session bill includes funding for additional wildlife services and
38 hatcheries.

39
40 The sunset for A&H program and Oregon land owner damage program have both been
41 removed. A&H will continue to create the biennium report. The non-resident cap on
42 controlled bear hunts has been raised to 5% which coincides with deer and elk. Another
43 legislative bill now allows more flexibility with leftover tag sales to be able to target those
44 who did not have the opportunity to get a tag for the year. Previously, it was first-come, first-
45 serve.

46
47 A bill banning scents and lures containing cervid urine has been passed to prevent the spread
48 of Chronic Wasting Disease which will take effect on January 1, 2020. ODFW field offices will
49 be coordinating the collection and incineration of these products.

1 The Federal grant for the Open Fields project provides \$1.6 million to the A&H program. There
2 was discussion about the grant timelines being unexpectedly changed for land owners who
3 were receiving Open Fields funding. Kevin advised the end date for grant funds changed at
4 the federal level and this had a nationwide effect, but there is discussion on how to handle
5 this in the future.

6
7 Kevin addressed the concerns of Chairmen Willie Bronson regarding the security of hunters'
8 information. He states that ODFW and A&H are aware of the security risks; we are training
9 employees and hiring third parties to do security audits to ensure data safety.

10 **A&H Program Funding Overview**

11 Liz Dreith, Wildlife Operations Manager

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14 Liz presented an overview of the different funding sources within ODFW, how legislation
15 regulates the funding, and how the program is able to utilize those funds.

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

17 Travis Schultz, Access & Habitat Coordinator

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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 the following link:

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

23
24 Discussion followed on the current budget, allocations, forecasts, and projects that are under
25 review today.

26 **Public Comments:**

27 No public comments

28 **A&H Access Permit Card Raffle Drawing**

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30
31
32 Larry Smith of La Grande, Oregon was drawn as the winner of one (1) trail camera and one
33 (1) pair of binoculars. Items were donated by the Oregon Hunters Association.

34 **2020 Auction and Raffle Tags Allocation**

35
36
37 Sportsmen's groups spoke and gave presentations about the work they have been doing in
38 Oregon, the impact on the environment and community, and the previous success of their tag
39 auctions. Board members discussed benefits of instate vs out of state auctions, live or over
40 the phone, and other variables to the success of the auction.

41
42 The board proposed: RMEF Northern OR Chapter – Elk, MDF National – Deer/Elk Combo,
43 SCI Lewis & Clark – Deer, RMEF Harney Chapter – Elk, NWTF Central OR – Deer, OHA Mid-
44 Willamette – Elk, OHA Klamath – Elk, Oregon FNAWS – Deer, OHA State – Deer.

45
46 **Action:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the tag allocations as presented. John Breese
47 seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 5-0.

1 **Project Applications Review**

2 These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at
3 links provided:

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

5
6 Aspen Valley Ranch 2019 Habitat
7 Presented by Andrew Walch

8
9 The application is to perform a prescribed burn on 1,000 acres, at a rate of \$31.50/acre.
10 This habitat project application is intended to replace the 3rd year of prescribed burning in
11 the original Aspen Valley 2017 Open Fields project that was lost due to shifting deadlines in
12 the federal funding source. The landowner was previously reluctant to perform spring burns
13 which also affected the timeline.

14
15 There was board discussion about the difficulties of spring burns, the success of hunts on
16 the by-permission property, and the benefits of managing the juniper in this district.

17
18 **Action:** John Breese moved to approve the Aspen Valley Ranch project as proposed. Amy
19 Patrick seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 5-0.

20
21 2019-05 Glass Hill, Rice Access - Amended
22 Presented by Jon Paustian

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24 This project was previously presented in April, for 1200 acres and has been amended to 900
25 due to the landowner leasing 300 acres to his neighbor. The proposed price per acre has
26 been decreased from \$2.00/acre to \$1.80/acre. Jon believes even without the 300 leased
27 acres, this land provides great by-permission access for the area, and historically, very
28 successful bull hunts. The leasee has also agreed to continue to allow youth hunts on the
29 land.

30
31 **Action:** William Bronson moved to approve the Glass Hill, Rice Access Amended project as
32 proposed. John Breese seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 5-0.

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34 **Regional Coordinator Reports:**

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36 Jon Paustian: Northeast Council

37 Forsea Ranch has chosen to opt out of the program due to a legal battle between the ranch
38 and the county pertaining to a road that runs through the property. The ranch is willing to
39 participate in the program in the future depending upon the resolution of the lawsuit. This
40 legal issue may end up affecting other program properties in the region as well.

41
42 David Stroppe: South Willamette Council

43 The Open Fields projects in his region are growing in land owner participation and in public
44 usage. The Willamette Private Lands project is up for renewal and he plans to bring that
45 forward to the board in October. The regional council has three vacancies to fill and it has
46 been difficult to find individuals available to fill the spots.

47
48
49
50 Dave Nuzum: North Willamette Council

1 He has been working on updating the North Coast TMA map for this year due to land
2 ownership changes. The acres in the program have not changed.

3
4 Andrew Walch: Deschutes/Klamath Council
5 The council is planning on bringing forward Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRC) to
6 the board at the October meeting. Andrew has been coordinating with GRDC on access,
7 patrol, and is hoping to keep all 608,000 acres in the program if possible.

8
9 **ADJOURNMENT:**
10 Board Member Dave Stiefvater adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.