



# Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

January 22-23, 2020  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

1     *This*  
2             *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:

Craig Ely, Chairman of the Board	Andrew Walch, ODFW
Dave Stiefvater, Board Member (Phone)	David Stroppel, ODFW
Candy Yow, Board Member (Phone)	David Nuzum, ODFW (Phone)
John Breese, Board Member	Mary Newcomb, ODFW
Amy Patrick, Board Member	Dylan (Jack) Edwards, ODFW
Tom Thornton, ODFW	Kevin Blakely, ODFW
Travis Schultz, ODFW	Tom Segal, ODFW (Phone)
Curt Melcher, ODFW	Scott Marlega, Weyerhaeuser
Nancy Taylor ODFW	Michelle Metcalf, Weyerhaeuser
Doug Cottam, ODFW	Ken Hand, OHA
John Paustian, ODFW	

10  
11 **MEETING**

12 On Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 1:02 p.m. Chairman Craig Ely called the Access and  
13 Habitat Board meeting to order.

14  
15 **Meeting Minutes Review**

16 **Action:** Dave Stiefvater moved to approve the minutes as presented. Amy Patrick seconded  
17 the motion. The Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

18  
19 **Board Members Update**

20  
21 Willie Bronson:  
22 Absent

23  
24 Dave Stiefvater:  
25 Dave is continuing to work with Treasure Valley Community College's Natural resources  
26 department on getting a new habitat technician.

27  
28 Candy Yow (Phone):  
29 Candy has just returned from the sheep expo in Reno, and has been on several hunts since  
30 our last meeting. She and her husband both got deer, she helped a friend get an incredible  
31 bull in Arizona, and her sister drew a big horned sheep tag which she filled with potentially  
32 record setting success.  
33

1 Nate Bailey:

2 Board member Nathan Bailey has voluntarily resigned due to work obligations. The A&H  
3 board and ODFW thank Mr. Bailey for his time with the program, and for his continued service  
4 in the Oregon National Guard.

5  
6 John Breese:

7 Dixie meadows just finished the permission to hunt project that ended 1/1/20. Lots of hunters  
8 enjoyed the property, and the juniper cut has been completed. There are still 800 acres of  
9 downed juniper to manage, and they are working on cutting firelines.

10  
11 Amy Patrick:

12 A&H participation in the Sportsman Show has been delayed to 2021 due to preexisting  
13 arrangements. For next year's show, there is discussion about the organization applying for  
14 A&H tag to promote the program. Amy's work with OHA is allowing her to continue to work  
15 with landowners to foster positive relationships with hunters.

16  
17 Craig Ely:

18 Craig has been enjoying the calm winter and has had to manage little damage compared to  
19 past years in Eastern Oregon.

20  
21 **Auction and Raffle Updates**

22 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

23  
24 Due to schedule changes and the resignation of board member Nathan Bailey, the board  
25 updated the attendance schedule for the 2020 auction and raffle events. Additional updates  
26 were presented including advertising, forms and presentation materials.

27  
28 The board discussed the minimum acceptable bid for the auction tags for future years. The  
29 board agrees that \$10,000 for deer and \$15,000 for elk tag minimums would be appropriate.

30  
31 **Director's Office Update**

32 Director Curt Melcher

33  
34 Director Melcher updated the board on the department's budget development for the up  
35 coming biennium. The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee passed this  
36 last legislative session which will allow for the department to help implement its conservation  
37 strategies for all species, not just those that are hunted or fished. The committee is currently  
38 being selected by the Governor. The department does need to raise 1 million dollars in  
39 donations to match the funds provided by state general funds.

40  
41 The department has historically adjusted fees every 6 years, but it is currently unlikely that we  
42 will need increase all license fees in 2021 as previously scheduled, due to our current financial  
43 stability.

44  
45 **Regional Council Appointment**

46 David Stoppel, NW Regional Coordinator

1 The NW Regional Council has two applications for appointment; Scott Marlega as a  
2 landowner representative, and Adam Stebbins as a hunter representative. The board  
3 discussed and reviewed the applications.

4  
5 **Motion:** Amy Patrick moved to approve both applicants for the NW Regional Council. John  
6 Breese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

7  
8 **A&H Program and Budget Reports**

9 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

10  
11 Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board  
12 packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

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

15 Discussion followed on the current budget, allocations, forecasts, VPA (Open Fields) funding,  
16 and changes occurring with fee hunting in Oregon.

17  
18 **Enhanced Enforcement Update**

19 Kevin Blakely, Doug Cottam

20  
21 Last week, Oregon State Police (OSP) came to the department to inform that they will no  
22 longer be able to provide enhanced law enforcement with retired troopers after 2020. This  
23 applies to all A&H and Open Fields projects and access areas that utilize enhanced law  
24 enforcement. This change comes from concerns about the safety of the retired officers as  
25 they are not able to receive the same training as all other OSP officers.

26  
27 Discussion followed about what options may be available for patrol and TMA management in  
28 the future. These included ODFW seasonal technicians, over time pay for OSP officers, and  
29 alternate law enforcement agencies. The board discussed the impacts this has on existing  
30 projects and proposed projects.

31  
32 **ADJOURNMENT:**

33 Chairman Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

34  
35 **MEETING**

36 On Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 8:08 a.m. Chairman Craig Ely called the Access and  
37 Habitat Board meeting to order.

38  
39 **Biennium Small Grant Summary**

40 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

41  
42 The board was given updates from regional coordinators about the success of the Small Grant  
43 funds that were utilized last biennium. Accomplishments include habitat work on aspen and  
44 juniper utilizing inmate labor, fence replacement, solar pumps, native seed, and weed spray.

45  
46 The board discussed the distribution of Small Grant Funds due to the combining of the North  
47 and South regional councils that took place in October. The funds will be evenly divided  
48 between the 5 regions with the ability to shift funds from one region to another if needed.  
49

1 **Public Comment**

2 Ken Hand with OHA expressed concerns about the loss of the OSP retired officers. He hopes  
3 that the effectiveness of the additional officers recently hired under the Anti-Poaching program  
4 is not diluted due to the loss of officers from the A&H program. He requests that the  
5 department continue to communicate with the organization about these upcoming changes.  
6

7 **Project Applications Review**

8 These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the  
9 link provided:

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

11  
12 Introduction/Discussion of Similar Projects

13 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator  
14

15 Travis led discussions and overview of current A&H access projects with similar acreages to  
16 the projects proposed today.  
17

18 Weyerhaeuser Access Area

19 Presented by David Stoppel  
20

21 This project as proposed would provide access for 5 years for 211,430 acres along the west  
22 coast of Oregon. The proposed rate is \$.90/acre, with 10% of total project funds going  
23 towards wildlife improvement projects. The remaining funds would be utilized to help  
24 maintain the properties, roads, gates, and security costs. This project would help reduce the  
25 “checkerboard” access that currently affects this area due to multiple ownerships.  
26

27 Discussion included tribal lands, OSP enforcement, district concerns, budget, VPA funding,  
28 fire policy, gates, the different areas within the proposed lands, and hunter access.  
29

30 After much discussion, deliberation and negotiation, the Board and Weyerhaeuser agreed  
31 core acres totaling approximately 94,242 at \$.90/acre for 5 years, with 10% to be used for  
32 habitat projects. Many of the excluded acres will remain under existing agreements including  
33 the North Coast TMA, and Willamette Private Lands. Some excluded lands may be moved  
34 to fee hunting.  
35

36 **Action:** John Breese moved to approve the project as amended. Candy Yow seconded the  
37 motion. The motion was carried unanimously 4-0.  
38

39 Willamette Private Lands

40 Presented by David Stoppel  
41

42 This enforcement project is requesting funding for 4 OSP retired troopers for 5 years on  
43 approximately 411,000 acres. Historically, there have been enhanced patrol on these lands  
44 with 6 OSP retired troopers.  
45

46 Discussion followed about the changes in availability for OSP retired troopers, the history of  
47 the TMA, landowner needs, and budget restraints.

48 The board determined that two officers will be utilized for the Willamette Private Lands for  
49 the 2020 hunting season.

1  
2 **Action:** David Stiefvater moved to approve the project as amended. John Breese seconded  
3 the motion. The motion was carried unanimously 4-0.

4  
5 **Regional Coordinator Reports:**

6  
7 Jon Paustian: Northeast Council, La Grande

8 Jon has two new access projects he plans to bring forward to the board in April. The  
9 properties would help increase late season cow hunting which is a priority for the district.  
10 The Forsea Ranch Access Area is still in legal battles with the county regarding a road that  
11 goes through the property. He does not anticipate the landowner to re-enroll in the program  
12 regardless of the outcome.

13  
14 David Stroppel: Northwest Council, Corvallis

15 David has been working on the projects that have been before the board today. Additionally,  
16 there has been a lot of interest from hunters about Open Fields projects in his area. Going  
17 forward he will be working on the North Coast TMA project, and Linn County Deputy project  
18 that he plans to have before the board in April.

19  
20 David Nuzum: North Willamette Project Coordinator, Tillamook

21 David has been working on the North Coast TMA and will be working with landowners and  
22 OSP to coordinate enforcement.

23  
24 Andrew Walch: Deschutes/Klamath Council, Bend

25 The two Open Fields Projects hunter reports have been collected. Aspen Valley came back  
26 with 31 days hunted and Dixie Meadows has 42 days hunted. Landowners have generally  
27 been pleased with the program and hunter interactions. Aspen Valley project came in under  
28 budget due to the lack of opportunity to burn all acres originally planned.

29  
30 The Wasco/Sherman Emergency fire seeding has finished up and was very successful for  
31 landowners. The projects over all came in under budget.

32  
33 Dylan Edwards: Southwest Council, Central Point

34 Dylan has just filled the vacant position, and looks forward to working on projects with the  
35 board.

36  
37 Tom Segal: Southeast Council, Ontario

38 Tom has been maintaining A&H properties' gates, signs and kiosks. It has been a mild  
39 winter making for great conditions in his region.

40  
41 **ADJOURNMENT:**

42 Chairman Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 12:46 p.m.