



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2021

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 approved by the*
3 *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, Board Chair	Mary Newcomb, ODFW
Candy Yow, Board Member	Shaianne Green, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Tom Segal, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Dylan Edwards, ODFW
Nic Callero, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW
Amy Patrick, Board Member	Travis Schultz, ODFW
Kevin Blakely, ODFW	Andrew Walch, ODFW
David Nuzum, ODFW	David Stroppel, ODFW
Jerry Anderson, Hancock Forest Management	Brian Wolfer, ODFW
Hillary Freeburg, Hancock Forest Management	

10
11 **MEETING**

12 On Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 8:02 a.m. Chairman Craig Ely called the Access and Habitat
13 (A&H) Board meeting to order.

14
15 **Meeting Minutes Review**

16 The board reviewed the meeting minutes for both the January 19, 2021 meeting, and the
17 February 8, 2021 meeting.

18
19 Page two line 1 - didn't have a cow tag, accompanying first time hunter.
20 Page 3 line 8 investments spelled wrong

21
22 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the January 19, 2021 minutes as amended. John
23 Breese seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

24
25 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the February 8, 2021 minutes as presented. John
26 Breese seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

27
28 **Board Member Reports**

29 Candy Yow, Hunter Representative

30 Candy will conduct a Ladies Hunting Camp at the end of July. Additionally, she will hold a
31 pistol and self-defense camp and advanced shotgun/bird dog camp. Candy has been
32 looking to fill spring bear and turkey tag.
33
34

1 Nic Callero, Hunter Representative

2 Nic lives in Milwaukee OR, he grew up in Salem and is a U of O graduate. He grew up
3 fishing and got into hunting in high school. Works in wildlife conservation, focusing mostly on
4 state and federal regulations. He works for the nonprofit Pew Charitable Trusts for 6 years
5 focusing on big game migratory habitat.

6
7 John Breese, Landowner Representative

8 Youth hunt for turkeys on property- no success yet but a lot of fun (and some ticks).
9 He is anticipating an early fire season and has been prepping his two fire trucks.

10
11 Willie Bronson, Landowner Representative

12 Willie owns property in Lane County's Goal 5 big game range was not able to build on his
13 land. Willie owns a property in Lane County that is classified as F2.

14
15 Amy Patrick, Landowner Representative

16 Her work with OHA has involved a lot of legislation lately. Amy is now doing lobbyist work for
17 OHA. She is also creating a learn to hunt program for first time hunting adults.

18
19 Craig Ely, Chairman

20 Craig ask any members of the Board to contact him prior to the next meeting if they are
21 interested in open vice chair position. The A&H State Board selects what officers/positions
22 are needed.

23
24 **A&H Program & Budget Reports**

25 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

26
27 Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board
28 packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

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

30
31 Budget docs show deficit for next biennium, however, this is resolved by increasing project
32 limitation. Additionally, there are open field's funds that can be utilized to mitigate deficit as
33 well.

34
35 Currently there is over \$2 million in open fields projects remaining. Currently asking for 1
36 year extension, which would make expenditure deadline September 2024.

37
38 Discussion followed on current farm bill and its impact on the Open Fields program. There
39 would not be an impact on current funds and projects, but it certainly could impact the
40 coming cycles of Open fields.

41
42 **October A&H Meeting Location**

43 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

44 Staff would like to propose that the Oct. board meeting be moved from Prineville to La
45 Grande to allow for a field tour on the Hancock project that will be before the board. Both
46 regional coordinators are supportive of the move of venue.

47
48 **Motion:** Amy Patrick moved to approve moving the Oct board location to La Grande. John
49 Breese seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

1
2 On the subject of meetings, a WeyCo app came in past the deadline and staff is requesting
3 an emergency board meeting to review this one project.
4

5 6:30 pm Wednesday May 5 will be the date for the emergency board meeting.
6

7 **2021 Auction and Raffle Update**

8 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

9 This year's auctions have been one record setting sale price after another. Revenue from
10 this year's A&H tags have already surpassed last year's total sales and we still have several
11 tags to go. We thank our sponsors for once again hosting auctions in a safe manor
12 consistant with covid-19 precausions. The online and bid-by-phone auctions have been
13 extremely successful due to their efforts.
14

15 Discussion followed on previous auction winners and how we can better connect them with
16 our sponsors.
17

18 Current raffle sale numbers are well above what they were this time last year, by about
19 187%. Total sales are currently at 52% of last year's total sales. Hopefully the upward trend
20 continues until the May 22 deadline.
21

22 **Recommended 2022 Auction and Raffle Tags**

23 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

24 The staff proposed auction and raffle tags for 2022 have no changes from years past.
25

26 **Motion:** Candy Yow moved to approve the proposed auction and raffle tags as presented.
27 Willie Bronson seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.
28

29 **Public Comment:** None
30

31 **Enforcement Project**

32 2021-22 OSP Enforcement Project

33 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

34 The project provides \$625,312 in A&H funds to enhanced enforcement on 1.6 million acres
35 over six A&H TMA projects, from July 2021 through June 2023. This will provide funding for
36 approximately 11 months for two troopers, or 3,400 hours of patrol.
37

38 Previously, A&H utilized retired Oregon State Police (OSP) Officers, but due to OSP policy
39 changes, we had to switch to active-duty officers. This has greatly increased the cost per
40 hour. In 2020, our agreement with OSP was for 5,100 hours though the actual number of
41 hours worked was significantly higher.
42

43 Of the six A&H projects this agreement would cover, three are currently under contract, and
44 the North Coast TMA is under contract for 5 years, but only included 1 year of enforcement
45 due to uncertainties in enforcement at the time of project proposal. The Willamette Private
46 Lands and East Lane TMA would be extended for two years under this proposal as well, as
47 they are enforcement only projects and landowners do not receive direct payment for
48 access.
49

1 Discussion followed on OSP's contacts in the field. Landowner feedback of enforcement
2 over the last year has been positive. Travis advised that they will be providing more detailed
3 information on contacts per the Departments request. Travis also advised that there will not
4 be three troopers solely dedicated to these 6 A&H projects, but that the total number of
5 hours will be used by any available trooper. Additionally, comparison was done between
6 OSP enforcement and utilizing multiple Sheriff's departments. Due to the jurisdiction
7 limitations, budget and enforcement analysis is a difficult comparison. There would be
8 approximately 15 different sheriff's departments to contract with.
9

10 Chairman Craig Ely expressed concerns of the A&H program paying for separate, full time
11 employees for OSP, in addition to the Departments' \$14 million Wildlife Division OSP
12 officers. He inquired if this will result in the hiring of two new OSP personnel, or if they would
13 be existing employees. Kevin Blakely advised that it ensures there would not be two
14 additional F&W OSP vacancies.
15

16 Chairman Craig Ely advised the board that if we continue on with OSP at these increasing
17 rates, he is concerned about the amount of funds that this burdens A&H with and takes it
18 away from project funding.
19

20 Board members expressed concerns on the A&H contributions and funding positions that
21 they feel could and should be funded by general funds. Additionally, the A&H board has
22 been very responsive to the changes within OSP policy, but it is pushing the program into
23 different directions than perhaps originally intended. Clarification was provided that OSP has
24 several funding sources and that the A&H is just one source of many.
25

26 Board member Nic Callero requested that we try to get enforcement citation information on
27 lands outside of the A&H program for comparison. John Breese echoed that reviewing the
28 amount of contacts is a different perspective than cost/acre enforced.
29

30 Chairman Craig Ely requested the Department attempt to get an OSP representative to
31 discuss this with the board.
32

33 **Motion:** John Breese moved to approve the proposed enforcement project as presented.
34 Candy Yow seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.
35

36 **Project Applications Review**

37 These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the
38 following link: <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>
39

40 2021-21 Hancock Access Area

41 David Stroppel, Northwest Regional Coordinator

42 Hillary Freeberg, Hancock Forest Management

43 Jerry Anderson, Hancock Forest Management
44

45 This is a renewal project that began in 2018. This project would provide public access for
46 approximately 111,390 acres of managed forest at \$1/acre. Access would be a combination
47 of drive-in and walk-in. Outside of fire season, as declared by Oregon Department of
48 Forestry, walk in access is allowed in all areas covered by the program, and drive in access
49 is allowed on open roads only. Gates or signs will indicate the roads that are closed for

1 driving. During fire season, open roads will be accessible under Industrial Fire Precaution
2 Level (IFPL) 1 and 2 and all roads closed to driving on IFPL 3 and 4. Walk in is allowed
3 under IFPL 1-3. All public access is closed under IFPL 4. Members of the public are notified
4 via sign, local newspapers, joint effort with ODF, their website, and there is a hotline to call.
5 Hancock Forest Management (HFM) will maintain all roads, gates and signs and one
6 security personnel at their expense. The proposal is for \$111,390 annually.
7

8 The last project was for over 200,000+ acres, but a large portion of land was sold, and some
9 of the land has been turned to fee access, the total has been reduced to the 111,390 acres
10 that is before the board today. HFM presented the board with maps, explanations of
11 property sold, the habitat work they do in the area, and their total expenses for allowing for
12 public access. Discussion followed on fire closure policy, funding sources, project duration,
13 and changing to Open Fields Funding.
14

15 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed, but for three years with
16 open fields funding. Nic Callero seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.
17

18 2021-11 Jenkins Access

19 Tom Segal, Southeast Regional Coordinator
20

21 This is a renewal of a project that began in 2008. This project proposes to pay Rich Jenkins
22 \$2.40 per acre for 8,187 acres of "Welcome to Hunt" access and \$1.08 per acre for 4,770
23 acres of "By Permission" access in the Steens Mountain Wildlife Management Unit near
24 Diamond, OR from August 1 to March 15 for one year beginning fall of 2021. The hunter
25 satisfaction has historically been high and positive.
26

27 Discussion followed on why the landowner is only wanting a one year extension. Tom Segal
28 advised he was not aware.
29

30 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed. Candy Yow seconded
31 the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.
32

33 2021-12 Mackenzie Access Area

34 Tom Segal, Southeast Regional Coordinator
35

36 These renewal projects have been enrolled in the A&H program since 2006. There are three
37 separate properties that combined create the Mackenzie Access Area.
38

39 This project proposes to pay Mark Mackenzie \$2.40 per acre for 3,576 acres of "Welcome to
40 Hunt" access, Sam Mackenzie \$2.40 per acre for 640 acres of "Welcome to hunt" access,
41 and Duncan "Wannie" Mackenzie \$2.40 per acre for 6,813 acres of "Welcome to Hunt"
42 access annually, in the Owyhee Unit for five years
43

44 In total, the Mackenzie Access Area (Access Area) is 11,029 acres and is located on the
45 east side of the Owyhee River, just northwest of Jordan Valley. The access area is
46 composed of rocky cliffs, juniper stringers, desert springs, wet meadows, and sagebrush
47 grasslands. The Access Area receives heavy use from deer hunters, High Desert Elk
48 hunters, antelope hunters, predator hunters and upland bird hunters. Due to its proximity to

1 the Boise/Nampa/Caldwell area, a large proportion of the upland bird hunters who use this
2 access area are non-residents.

3
4 **Motion:** Candy Yow moved to approve the project as proposed. John Breese seconded the
5 motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

6
7
8 2021-13 Pine Creek Access

9 Tom Segal, Southeast Regional Coordinator

10
11 This project has been enrolled in the A&H program since 2011. This project proposes to pay
12 Mr. Dryer \$2.40 per acre for 12,104 acres of “Welcome to Hunt “access in the Malheur River
13 Wildlife Management Unit, near Drewsey, OR, from August 1 to March 1 for 5 years. The
14 Pine Creek Ranch Access Area is composed of diverse wildlife habitats including aspen, fir,
15 pine, juniper, mountain shrubs, and meadows. This is the only access area in the Malheur
16 River Unit north of Highway 20. This access area provides public hunting opportunities for
17 deer, elk, pronghorn, turkey and predators. Mr. Dryer is an active participant in many NRCS
18 programs and works diligently to conserve wildlife habitat on the ranch.

19
20 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed. Nic Callero seconded
21 the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

22
23 2021-14 Alvord Ranch Access

24 Tom Segal, Southeast Regional Coordinator

25
26 Originally, this property was part of the Alvord/Kueny Access Project, A&H Project since
27 2007. Since then, it has changed names and project duration lengths over the years. This
28 project currently proposes to pay Tom Davis Livestock LLC. \$10,000 of A&H funds per year
29 for three years of “Welcome to Hunt” access to 3,532 acres of private land, including the use
30 of ranch roads allowing access to thousands of acres of otherwise difficult to access public
31 property on the east side of Steens Mountain.

32
33 In recognition of the importance of the area to upland bird hunters, particularly chukar
34 hunters, the Upland Bird Stamp Program will continue to provide matching funds of \$4,305
35 annually. The applicant is providing an estimated \$4,000 annually of in-kind road
36 maintenance and staffing of the hunting check-in station. In addition to upland bird hunters,
37 primarily hunting chukar and quail, this project provides access for hunting mule deer,
38 bighorn sheep, pronghorn antelope, and predators.

39
40 Willie had questions about the standard evaluation scoring process, Tom Segal noted that it
41 was requested by Paul Davis of Tom Davis Livestock from a previous renewal, and they
42 were able to come up with that money in recognition to the fact of staffing the check station
43 year round. Willie suggested to keep a paper trail to be consistent with the process, Travis
44 agreed and noted to do a more thorough job of this in the future.

45
46 Discussion followed on the location, property geography, and price per acre.

47
48 **Motion:** Amy Patrick moved to approve the project as proposed. Candy Yow seconded the
49 motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

1
2 **2021-15 Fur Mountain Access Area**

3 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator
4

5 This project proposes to pay Gary and Kathy Bloomer \$2.40/acre for “Welcome to Hunt”
6 access on 2,742 acres of private land in the Sumpter Wildlife Management Unit for a period
7 of 5 years to hunt big game (i.e. mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, bear, cougar, coyote) and
8 upland game birds (i.e. Hungarian partridge, chukar, California quail and grouse). The Fur
9 Mountain Access Area would also provide the only access point to 120 acres of completely
10 inaccessible public lands. This project was in the A&H program from 2009-2016 until the
11 landowner’s family withdrew in order to assist a family member with cattle grazing, not out of
12 dissatisfaction with the program.
13

14 Discussion followed on hunter access and satisfaction, and public land accessibility.
15

16 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed. Amy Patrick seconded
17 the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.
18

19 **2012-16 Iron Mountain Access Area**

20 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator
21

22 This project proposes to continue to pay Gary and Kathy Bloomer \$2.40/acre for “Welcome
23 to Hunt” access on 3,342 acres of private land in the Lookout Mountain Wildlife
24 Management Unit for a period of 5 years to hunt big game (i.e. mule deer, pronghorn
25 antelope, Rocky Mountain elk, bear, cougar, coyote) and upland game birds (i.e. Hungarian
26 partridge, chukar, California quail, turkey and grouse).
27

28 The Iron Mountain Access Area also provides the only access point to 4,215 acres of
29 completely inaccessible public lands and is a high priority to the local District. Prior to
30 enrollment in the program, members of the public would have to rent helicopter services to
31 access the tremendous mule deer and elk opportunity on the public lands and the access
32 area.
33

34 Camping not allowed and walk in access only outside of access roads due to roads
35 frequently damaged due to climate. Roads in the area are difficult to maintain and easily
36 damaged with vehicle use.
37

38 **Motion:** Nic Callero moved to approve the project as proposed. Willie Bronson seconded
39 the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.
40

41
42 **2021-17 Owsley Canyon Access Area**

43 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator
44

45 This project is a renewal and has been a part of the A&H program for the past 12 years.
46 This project proposes to continue to pay Luke Shaw \$2.00/acre for “Welcome to Hunt”
47 access on 435 acres of private land in the East Mt. Emily Wildlife Management Unit for a
48 period of three years to hunt big game (i.e. mule deer, white-tail deer, Rocky Mountain elk,

1 bear, cougar) and upland game birds (i.e. ruffed grouse, Hungarian partridge, turkey,
2 pheasant and California quail).

3
4 The only exception is that the landowners restrict coyote hunting due to their rodent control
5 benefit for the landowner. The landowner utilizes public hunting to assist in addressing elk
6 damage that occurs on the property.

7
8 The property has had great harvests and is close to town which results in heavy upland
9 game bird hunt use.

10
11 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed. John Breese seconded
12 the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

13
14 **2021-18 Smutz Access Area**

15 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

16
17 This project is a renewal, and has been a part of the A&H program over the last 15 years.
18 This project proposes to continue to pay Irwin Smutz \$2.50/acre for “Welcome to Hunt”
19 access to 1,414 acres of private land in the Starkey Wildlife Management Unit for a period of
20 3 years to hunt big game, predators, waterfowl and upland game birds. Continuing this
21 important partnership will also improve access to adjacent A&H program lands: Glass Hill
22 Conservancy, Hancock Forest Management LLC., and ODFW’s Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area
23 lands.

24
25 Chairman Craig Ely advised that he is an adjacent landowner to the property but has no
26 stake or benefit to the proposed project.

27
28 **Motion:** Candy Yow moved to approve the project as proposed. John Breese seconded the
29 motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

30
31 **2021-19 Virtue Flat Access Area**

32 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

33
34 This project is a renewal and has been a part of the A&H program for the past 5 years. This
35 project proposes to continue to pay Rex Nelson \$1.80/acre for “Welcome to Hunt” access on
36 7,087 acres of private land in the Lookout Mountain Wildlife Management Unit for a period of
37 5 years to hunt big game, predators, and upland game birds. This project will also
38 improve/enhance access to adjacent A&H program lands, Troy Ranches, and 10,848 acres
39 of BLM lands.

40
41 Unfortunately, the district has seen an increase of vandalism on this property during the
42 Covid-19 pandemic.

43
44 Over the next 5 years, there will be extensive habitat work done on the property that will
45 greatly benefit sage-grouse and mule deer populations.

46
47 **Motion:** John Breese moved to approve the project as proposed. Willie Bronson seconded
48 the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

1 **2021-20 Widman Access Area**

2 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

3
4 This project is a renewal and has been a part of the A&H program for the past 12 years.
5 This project proposes to continue to pay Widman Ranches \$2.40/acre for “Welcome to
6 Hunt” access on 7,435 acres of private land in the Lookout Mountain Wildlife Management
7 Unit for a period of three years to hunt big game and upland game birds. In addition to the
8 access area, Widman Ranches is also requesting an additional \$20,000/year to continue
9 with wildlife habitat improvement efforts/project(s), specifically aimed at treating invasive
10 noxious weeds, medusahead rye and white-top, and re-establishing perennial grasses and
11 forb populations. The proposed project will improve big game winter range, enhance year-
12 round upland game bird habitat(s) and directly impact critical sage-grouse habitat(s).

13
14 The District points out the landowner has made habitat a high priority, to the point of
15 choosing habitat over his farming operations. The mule deer populations surveyed on the
16 property reflect these efforts.

17
18 **Motion:** Amy Patrick moved to approve the project as proposed. John Breese seconded the
19 motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

20
21 **Regional Coordinators Report**

22
23 Andrew Walch, Deschutes Regional Coordinator

24 The Emergency Fire Reseeding Richard Dodge project received aerial application in early
25 February and was considered quite successful. Andrew’s job rotation has concluded and he
26 is back full time in his position. Looking at a potential access project in Klamath and will
27 hope to have that before the board this year.

28
29 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

30 Jon has been busy preparing for this meeting and coordinating with landowners in his
31 district heavily. He anticipates one new project and three renewals in July. It has been a mild
32 winter in the district and a very dry spring, which he hopes will benefit the local mule deer
33 population.

34
35 Dylan Edwards, Southwest Regional Coordinator

36 Dylan went hunting and harvested his first goose on the New River property. He has been
37 working on utilizing small grant funds on a winter range property in Jackson County that will
38 benefit deer and elk.

39
40 David Stoppel, Northwest Regional Coordinator

41 David will continue to work on the Weyerhaeuser project for the determined emergency
42 meeting in May and appreciates the board’s willingness to meet on such short notice. He
43 has been busy working on Pittman-Robertson (PR) grants and filling habitat tech positions
44 throughout the district.

45
46 David Nuzum, Northwest Regional Biologist

47 David has been working with the team heavily on the OSP proposal. The North Coast TMA
48 meeting will take place in August. He had a meeting last month with landowners in the area
49 who expressed gratitude and satisfaction for enhanced patrol.

1
2 Tom Segal, Southeast Regional Coordinator
3 Tom has been working on his Watershed grant proposal for PR grant funds and managing
4 Mule Deer Initiative projects. He is wrapping up sage-grouse surveys, looking at a few
5 habitat projects and hopes to have proposals before the board at the July meeting.
6
7 **ADJOURNMENT:**
8 Chairman Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 12:34 p.m.