



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

January 19, 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*
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, Board Chair	Mary Newcomb, ODFW
Candy Yow, Board Member	Tom Segal, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Dylan Edwards, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW
Amy Patrick, Board Member	Travis Schultz, ODFW
Morgan Olson, Board Member	Jamie Bowles, ODFW
Andrew Walch, ODFW	Hilary Freeberg, HFM
David Stoppel, ODFW	Jake Thiemans, HFM
Derek Broman, ODFW	Jerry Anderson, HFM
Tom Thornton, ODFW	

10
11 **MEETING**

12 On Tuesday, January 19, 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 November 5, 2020 Emergency Fire
17 Seeding meeting, and the October 20, 2020 meeting.

18
19
20 **Motion:** John Breese moved to approve the October 20, 2020 minutes as presented. Candy
21 Yow seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

22
23 Amy moved first for Nov, JLB 2nd. The Motion carried unanimously 5-0.
24

25
26 **Board Member Reports**

27 Candy Yow, Hunter Representative

28 Been busy, fairly successfully in Dec getting first lion. During migration and rutt loosing deer
29 daily on highway. Game cam saw several bob cats and cougars on property.

30
31 Landowner of the year award from OHA to her and Randy. IN AZ archery hunting for
32 another 2-3 weeks.
33
34

1
2 Willie Bronson, Landowner Representative

3 Accompanied a first time hunter.

4
5 John Breese, Landowner Representative

6 Moving ahead on A&H program removing juniper, very involved. Getting ranch work done.

7
8 Amy Patrick, Hunter Representative

9 Working with OHA member trying to get used to virtual fundraising and meetings taking her
10 whole focus.

11
12 Morgan Olsen, Hunter Representative

13 Chasing chucker and when snow cats

14
15 Craig Ely, Chairman

16 Seeing deer and elk. Hoping for a good winter.

17
18 **A&H Program & Budget Reports**

19 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

20
21 Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board
22 packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

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

24
25 Applications for Hunter Rep in and before commission in March.

26 Commission approved both projects at Nov meeting.

27 This is the last scheduled virtual meeting, but that is subject to change. We have over 40
28 project needing to be renewed in this next biennium. Next few meeting will be project heavy.

29
30 The budget shows that the unobligated after the proposed and forecasted projects will place
31 us over budget for this biennium; due to cost savings in several other areas (about 100k
32 from admin savings) though this would not be of concern. 21-23 and 23-25 biennium still in
33 the black.

34
35 There are still \$2.1 million in remaing Open Fields Funds remaining.

36
37 Discussion followed on how and where we can utilize savings. Board members discussed
38 and agreed upon utilizing the \$100k admin savings to be used by regional coordinators on
39 small grants. This will allow for regional coordinators

40
41 **2021 Auction Update and Board Sign Up**

42
43 The board selected auction events to attend, baring any covid-19 restrictions. Board
44 members are aware that events may be cancelled or held virtually, and that attendance is
45 not mandatory.

46
47 **MDI Update**

48 Kevin Blkely, Tom Thornton

1 In 2010, phase 1, 27 mill invested in 400k acres in 10 wmu. Implemebted collaboratively
2 with Feds, sportsmans groups, landowners, ect. 2015-19 phase 2 report summariezes
3 investments. Work happened in 14 wmu.

4
5 Looking at MD pop, unfortunately not a lot of improvement seen. Suggest pop in the NW
6 shows carrying compacity met. Current and extended droughts, juniper encroachment,
7 invasive species taking over habitat, and disturbance on the landscapes. The severe winters
8 we have had were also thought to decrease the carrying capacity as well.

9 As the carrying capacity shrinks across the shrinking landscape, it will take time to address
10 these habitat issues. This MDI summary for the next 5 years will continue this long term
11 work. As the report is rolled out to the public, there will be much discussion with the public.
12 They will also be define their herd ranges, both winter and summer, as to better monitor
13 them.

14
15 With the ranges more accurately mapped, they plan on adjusting their MO as they know the
16 differences in the herd range delineation during the different seasons.

17
18 The previous projects were heavily focused on winter range, and they are looking into
19 changing focus to summer ranges. While some states are seeing MD pop improvements,
20 they are in different weather climates. Throughout the states though it is still believed that
21 focusing on the habitat is the most crutial piece to turning things around, though road kill
22 and poaching rates are high as well.

23
24 Some of the best investments for long term MD pop increase is habitat, but there are
25 certainly interests in predator control which will be looked at as well. They will be looking on
26 what seasons predator control could be most beneficial.

27
28 Archery Elk update; hunt review team modifying the proposal for controlled archery elk for
29 the 2022 season. The plan is to continue with partial general season opportunity, and other
30 areas and units controlled.

31 32 33 **Regional Council Appointment**

34 David Stroppel, Northwest Regional Coordinator

35
36 Brad Reading, of Gaston, Oregon is applying for the vacant Hunter Representative position
37 on the Regional Council. Reading is a reforestation manager/forester with Stimson Lumber
38 and has worked in the field for about 12 years. He has done a lot of hunter out reach work
39 and assists with public access.

40
41 The board reviewed the applicant and discussed the needs of the regional council. It is also
42 noted on his application he marked Landowner Rep, but it was intended to be Hunter rep,
43 and that's what the regional council voted upon.

44
45 **Motion:** John Breese moved to approve Brad Reading as a Hunter Represenative for the
46 Northwest Regional Council. Morgan Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed
47 unanimously 5-0.

48
49 **Public Comment:** None.

1
2 **Project Applications Review**

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

5
6 Archie Fire Emergency Seeding

7 Dylan Edwards, Regional Coordinator

8
9 Acres to be seeded: 700. 40lbs per acre. Cost of seed \$74,480.
10 2 technicians for 1 month each to assist with reseeding: \$14,800

11
12 This project proposes to reseed 700 acres of private land severely burned in the Archie Fire.
13 ODFW and landowners provide equipment as in-kind cost share. The project funds 2
14 ODFW technicians for one month each and provides seed, fuel and equipment costs. No
15 specific landowners were identified in the application, only the general industrial
16 timberlands. The applications does not detail the critical wildlife habitat to be reseeded.

17
18 Discussion followed on the benefits of planting grass in areas that will be reforested. The
19 board would like to see maps of burned area, the landowners involved, the seed type, areas
20 and application.

21
22 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to table the renewal project until further information is
23 available. Morgan Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

24
25 Coos Mountain Access Area

26 Dylan Edwards, Regional Coordinator

27
28 This is a renewal of a project that began in 2018. The Coos Mountain Access Area would
29 provide Welcome to Hunt hunter and recreational access to both commercial timberlands
30 and to Bureau of Land Management sections only accessible via private logging roads.
31 Motorized access to this area would be along arterial roads and additional walk-in access
32 would be provided on spur roads. A&H provides \$24,628 of funding per year to enforce
33 access area restrictions for the access area. An access payment of \$20,000 per year would
34 be provided to FIA companies to partially offset (approx. 13%) the costs of maintaining
35 roads within the access area. OSP enforcement is provided on these lands. Other funds
36 include volunteer hours from Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) for project implementation,
37 and ODFW staff hours to administer the project. The Regional Council recommended the
38 project unanimously.

39
40 Discussion followed on enforcement on A&H access projects as a whole. Chairman Ely
41 advised that he would not like to see A&H fund permanent position on OSP as that will take
42 away from enhanced patrol on private land, which was the original intent of A&H funding
43 enforcement. In the beginning, it was cadets, then it was retirees, now with standard
44 troopers the cost per hour is significant higher.

45
46 Tom Thronton advised that concerns are shared and points out that there have been
47 troopers that have been able to stay employed because of A&H funding which does provide
48 more patrol than if not participating.

1 **Motion:** Willie Bonson moved to approve the project as proposed. John Breese seconded
2 the motion. Motion passed unanimously 5-0.

3
4 Jackson Access and Cooperative Travel Management Area (JACTMA)
5 Dylan Edwards, Regional Coordinator

6
7 The continuation of the Jackson Access and Cooperative Travel Management Area, which
8 began in 1995, will allow Welcome to Hunt access of Hancock Forest Management,
9 Chinook Partners, and Lone Rock Resources lands. The project area also includes public
10 lands managed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, BLM, and State of Oregon. Road
11 closures and law enforcement presence will increase habitat effectiveness for wildlife,
12 reduce disturbance to deer and elk on important winter range, and reduce soil erosion, road
13 maintenance, vandalism, forest fires, timber theft, and illegal dumping. Selected roads within
14 the project area will be closed to motor vehicle access in winter (October 15- April 30). OSP
15 enforcement is included in the project as well. This extension is for three years, from the fall
16 of 2021 through spring of 2023.

17
18 **Motion:** Amy Patrick moved to approve the project as proposed. Candy Yow seconded the
19 motion. Motion carried 5-0.

20
21 Columbia Basin Access, Open Fields
22 Travis Schults, State Coordinator

23
24 9,890 acres. \$30,862 Open Fields, A&H \$3,429 (10%)

25
26 This is a renewal of Columbia Basin Open Fields projects that began in 2012 and has
27 received a tremendous amount of use, both hunting and viewing. This access remains a
28 priority area for the Open Fields grant, and is also a milestone for the current grant. The
29 access areas are working wheat farms near Heppner. The access areas also contain CRP
30 enrolled acreage, canyons, and areas of bitterbrush and rabbit brush surrounding the wheat
31 fields. The access areas provide for hunting access to pheasant, Huns, chukar, quail and
32 some mule deer. Coyotes are also available on the access areas. A note on the acreage
33 and payment, total acres enrolled is 9,890, however the payment is based on 7390 acres.
34 The reason for this is due to the necessity of dry land farming. Rather than change each
35 year for chemical or tilled fallow an average was calculated at 2500 acres. This is done to
36 be consistent with our other access programs as the fallowed acres are not considered
37 habitat for payment purposes.

38
39 The district is in support of renewal, as are landowners. All properties are frequented by
40 hunters for game bird and deer hunting.

41
42 **Motion:** Candy Yow moved to approve the project as proposed. Morgan Olson seconded
43 the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

44
45 Willamette Valley Access, Open Fields
46 Travis Schults, State Coordinator

47
48 3,675 acres. \$23,815 Open Fields, A&H \$2,645 (10%).
49

1 This is a continuation of a group of projects started in 2012 with the first Open Fields grant.
2 The area remains a priority for the Open Fields Program and is part of the grant's
3 milestones. The projects provide hunter access to waterfowl, primarily geese, and assists
4 the landowner by utilizing hunter to address damage that the geese are causing. The fields
5 are currently in annual ryegrass with food, water, and cover provided. The Willamette valley
6 has very little public access for waterfowl hunting. By enrolling private land in the valley
7 which is currently experiencing damage we are gaining more opportunities for the public to
8 gain access to the resource while giving the landowner another resource to help alleviate
9 damage.

10
11 Discussion continued on the lack of regional council vote; as these are renewals, and time
12 was of the essence, the regional council was updated and all expressed support for project
13 renewals though no formal meeting was held.

14
15 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved as is. Candy 2. Unanimously 4-0
16 (Amy stepped away on a call and was not present for vote).

17 **Regional Coordinators Report**

18 Andrew Walch, Deschutes Regional Coordinator

19
20 J Spear Ranch reseeding was seeded and considered to be quite successful. They are
21 hoping for a late winter snow to assist with success.

22 Richard Dodge property, that borders WRWA; seed has been purchased and is awaiting
23 application. There is a contract in place with an applicator, but they are waiting for snow.

24
25
26 Aspen Valley had 3 bucks harvested this fall, and hunter satisfaction has been high.
27 Unfortunately archery hunting was heavily disrupted due to the fires.

28
29 He has been working on maps for the Fork Rock Access area and hopes for it to go live to
30 the public this spring. He has been serving as the DB for the last 3 month and hasn't been
31 able to locate new landowners, though he will have application for his reg council before the
32 board shortly.

33 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

34
35 Will have 11-14 projects before the board; mostly renewals. Fall hunting season went well,
36 though there were issues with Hancock with fire restrictions and camping fees. Discussion
37 continues with Hancock and they will continue to work with us on making a plan for the next
38 time it is up for renewal.

39
40 Discussion followed on Hancock's fee camping in areas closed to the public.

41 Dylan Edwards, Southwest Regional Coordinator

42
43 Been working on fire rehab, small grant funds are being used for habitat work as well.
44 Winter range work continues on Federal lands and OSU extension forest. They are working
45 to see how different thinnings will effect different wildlife.

46 David Stoppel, Northwest Regional Coordinator

47
48 He will have two large projects at the April meeting, including Hancock renewal. Hancock
49 has sold some land to Weyerhaeuser, which will also be before the board.

1
2 The projects are on two separate time frames which is why they will no be grouped as one.
3

4 David Nuzum

5 Looking at North Coast TMa, they just got the numbers from this last season from OSP and
6 will be providing that data for the next board meeting. There has been an increase in the
7 numbers in hunter in the area and days of use on access areas. OSP made great use of the
8 trail cameras we provided. Several cases were made using the footage.

9
10 Tom Segal, Southeast Regional Coordinator
11 Indian Creek burned about 50k acres, including MD winter range and sage grouse habitat.
12 Small grant funds were used on Dept of State Lands ground along with about \$50k PR
13 money to do habitat work that will prevent invasives from growing. He has 4 project
14 renewals before the board this April. He is continuing to work with landowners in his district
15 to find Open Fields Projects.

16
17 **ADJOURNMENT:**
18 Chairman Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.