



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

July 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*
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	Tom Segal, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Travis Schultz, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Shaienne Green, ODFW
Amy Patrick, Board Member	Bryan Cook, OHA
Candy Yow, Board Member	Amanda Yeeter, MDF
Morgan Olson, Board Member	Chris Henry, NWTF
Nic Callero, Board Member	Darren Springer, EcoTrust Management
Andrew Walch, ODFW	James McWhorter, SCI
David Nuzum, ODFW	Jason Preston, NWTF
David Stropple, ODFW	Ken Hand, MDF
Don Whittaker, ODFW	Kevin Martin, FNAWS
Dylan Edwards, ODFW	Shane Stenquist, RMEF
Jon Paustian, ODFW	Tom Peterson, FNAWS
Kevin Blakely, ODFW	Dan Beraldo, RMEF
Brian Wolfer, ODFW	Linda Bentz

10
11 **MEETING**
12 On Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at 8:00 a.m. Chairman Craig Ely called the Access and Habitat
13 Board meeting to order.

14
15 **Meeting Minutes Review**

16
17 **Motion:** Willie Bronson Moved to approve the April meeting minutes. Amy Patrick seconded
18 the motion. The Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

19
20 **Motion:** Amy Patrick moved to approve the May emergency meeting minutes. Morgan Olson
21 seconded the motion. The Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

22
23 **Appointment of Vice chair**

24
25 Candy Yow moved to nominate Amy Patrick as Vice Chair. Morgan Olson Seconded the
26 motion
27 Motion passed unanimously 6-0.
28
29

1
2 **Board Member Reports**

3
4 Willie Bronson, Landowner Representative

5 Willie does not have a lot to report on, has been able to watch wildlife in his garden.
6

7 John Breese, Landowner Representative

8 John is also dealing with the dry weather and its affects. Having to haul water to cows due to
9 the springs running low, and having to move them a lot faster due to poor production of
10 grass growing. Noticed in the upper meadows that he has not seen as many snipes as they
11 usually do, although he is seeing more wrens and blue birds.
12

13 Amy Patrick, Hunter Representative

14 Looking forward to fall, Amy has been busy working on a project to oppose ballot initiative IP-
15 13. She is taking a lead role in building a coalition of groups to fight it.
16

17 Craig Ely, Chairman

18 Has a few fires happening in his area. Put in some new seedings this spring. Craig and his
19 wife will be heading to Alaska this week for three and a half weeks.
20

21 Morgan Olson, Hunter Representative

22 Not a lot to report, woods are very dry. Working on a few trail projects in the eagle caps.
23

24 Nic Callero, Hunter Representative

25 Spent a lot of time with the family, traveled to Central Oregon to escape the heat and was
26 able to do some fishing on the Metolius river.
27

28 Candy Yow, Hunter Representative

29 Candy has been working with her Ladies Hunting camp. She has also been working on
30 the Oregon DC project which also includes advocating for 2nd Amendment rights, and
31 also is working to oppose ballot initiative IP 13. Getting ready to fly to Florida to attend a
32 professional speaking class. Dealing with the drought in her area, expressed concern for
33 the local farmers and ranchers. Looking forward to the upcoming hunting season.
34

35 **A&H Coordinator Report**

36 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

37
38 Auction and Raffle Sales Update

39 The Access and Habitat Program would like to thank all the host organizations that worked
40 diligently to conduct the auctions in a safe manner ensuring a successful auction was not
41 done at the expense of their members health. 2021 was the best year on record for the
42 A&H program in sales revenue for Auction and Raffle hunts. Overall raffle sales were up for
43 the program. However, 3 raffles did not see an increase from last year; SE deer and
44 Western elk are down, and NE Elk is roughly the same. The number of individuals entering
45 the raffle this year is down from last year, but they purchased more raffle entries per
46 individual. There appears to be some chasing the raffles with lower sales numbers from
47 2020, NE Deer is up 190% and SE Central Elk is up 167% above the sales from 2020.
48

49 **A&H Budget Report**

1 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

2
3 Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board
4 packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:
5 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>

6
7 Discussion followed on the current budget, allocations, forecasts, enforcement, and
8 individual projects.

9
10 **Public Comment:** None

11
12 **Emergency Fire Reseeding updates**

13 Andrew Walsh, ODFW and Dylan Edwards, Regional Coordinator

14
15 **J Spear Ranch:** 8,100 acres of J Spear Ranch were burned by wildfire in 2020. This area is
16 important wildlife habitat in the interstate wildlife management unit, a crucial winter range for
17 mule deer and year-round sage grouse habitat. In October the A&H board authorized an
18 emergency fire reseeding project to treat and replant 7,100 acres. The total A&H cost was
19 \$132,000 at a rate of \$18.64 an acre. The landowner paid the helicopter contract costs.
20 Considering the historically low water year in South Central Oregon, the results have been
21 relatively positive for this project.

22
23 **Richard Dodge:** On February 9th a seeding occurred on 772 acres of Richard Dodge's
24 private land. Overall, the application of seeding has far exceeded expectations. Richard
25 Dodge is very happy with the results, and very appreciative of the board. Elk and Deer have
26 started to move back into the area.

27
28 **Archie Creek:** Dylan shared that an Archie Creek fire private landowner, Phil Starter, was
29 able to purchase and seed 100 acres. He is working on submitting those receipts . Not a lot
30 of interest from the larger timber companies to participate and help.

31
32 Willie Bronson wanted to know if the unused funds will go back into the A&H program for
33 other projects. Dylan noted that the unused funds will go back into the A&H program. Willie
34 also expressed intrest having pictures of the progress of these projects help to be able to
35 see how the project is progressing. John Breese and Willie noted that they support the use
36 of drones for photos to be able to see better results with these projects.

37
38 **2022 Auction Tag Sponsor Allocation**

39 The board reviewed all the host organization applications received and allocated them as
40 follows:

41
42 **Statewide Deer:**

43 MDF- National
44 OBH-State
45 NWTF-Ochoco
46 MDF- N Oregon

47
48 **Statewide Elk:**

49 OHA-Pioneer

1 SCI-Lewis and Clark
2 RMEF- S Coast
3 NWTF- Central Oregon
4

5 **Statewide Deer & Elk Combo:**

6 OHA- State Chapter
7

8 **Motion:** Amy Patrick moved to allocate the tags above to corresponding sponsors. Willie
9 Bronson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

10

11 **Access Permit Raffle**

12 The raffle has been postponed and will take place at the October meeting.
13

14 **Regional Council Appointment.**

15 Jon Paustian went over each application with the Board. The Board voted to fill the following
16 vacancies as follows:
17

18 Tim Campbell as the chair of the NE A&H Regional Council.
19

20 **Motion:** Morgan Olson moved to approve filling this vacancy as proposed. John Breese
21 seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.
22

23 Chris Brown as the landowner vacancy for NE A&H Regional Council.
24

25 **Motion:** Amy Patrick moved to approve filling this vacancy as proposed. Morgan Olson
26 seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.
27

28 **Project Applications Review**

29 These project proposals are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the
30 following link: <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>
31

32 Divide Ridge Access Area

33 Jon Paustian, NW Council Regional Coordinator
34

35 The Divide Ridge Access Area is made up of two different private landowners. Both private
36 landowners- the Carlson's and Gover's- are active A&H program participants. This project
37 proposes to continue to pay \$2.40/acre for "Welcome to Hunt" access for 290 acres of Jerry
38 and Karen Carlson's and 1,150 acres of Dan and Joyce Gover's private land in the Imnaha
39 Wildlife Management Unit for a period of 5 years. The Imnaha WMU offers a variety of
40 hunting opportunities including Rocky Mountain elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, predators
41 and upland game bird hunting. Access to private lands in the unit is limited, with the
42 majority of private landowners participating in fee hunting operations or keeping properties
43 closed to the general public. Over the past 5 years, the area has been a "Welcome to Hunt"
44 property that receives a tremendous amount of use from the general public.
45

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

1
2 Bentz Invasive Annual Grass Treatment
3 Tom Segal, Malheur Council Regional Coordinator
4

5 This project proposes to treat 1,960 acres of invasive annual grass with a selective
6 herbicide, Rejuvra, that provides annual grass control for up to four years. The project is
7 requesting \$131,320 of Open Fields Funding. Tom Segal noted that Linda Bentz will supply
8 a water truck to provide water for the helicopter application. Linda Bentz expressed her
9 excitement of this project and has high hopes. She also shared that if the board was
10 interested, she would hold a tour to be able to show this access area and the progress that
11 has been made.

12
13 The access requirement for the Open Fields project is provided by the A&H Bentz Access
14 Area. The Access Area has been enrolled in the Access and Habitat program since 2007.
15 The current access project runs through March 1, 2022.

16
17 The advisory council asked to modify the project acreage down to half, they also asked if
18 Linda had the ability to reduce the stocking rate, if she could allow year-round hunter access
19 and if she could extend the access agreement another for another 5 years. Linda plans to
20 re-enroll in the program after this hunting season and was uncomfortable shifting to the year
21 round hunter access. Linda enjoys having that time for her cows to be able to be on the
22 property without the chance of being disturbed by hunters. Tom noted that it would be
23 difficult for Linda to reduce the stocking rate to keep the cows out of the project area and he
24 does not believe that it is necessary. The current grazing from the cows in this area is light
25 and does not affect the project area.

26
27 Willie Bronson had questions on getting other funding to be able to help with sage grouse.
28 Tom noted that there is some opportunity. Willie Bronson expressed concerns for this
29 project in the long term, and how much the A&H program will benefit. Linda Bentz shared
30 that she can afford other herbicides and have done so. Rejuvra is more expensive but she
31 believes that Rejuvra will be very beneficial to use in this area.

32
33 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed. Morgan Olson
34 seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously 6-0.

35
36 Mark Mackenzie Medusahead Control and Waterhole Renovation
37 Tom Segal, Malheur Council Regional Coordinator
38

39 The Mackenzie Ranch has been enrolled in the Access and Habitat program since 2006.
40 This project is within ODFW's Sage-grouse Core Area and is part of the Cow Lakes Priority
41 Area for Conservation (PAC). Invasive annual grass continues to be one of the major
42 threats to sagebrush steppe ecosystems in the Great Basin. Annual grasses, such as
43 cheatgrass, medusahead, and ventenata aggressively outcompete native plant species and
44 quickly reestablish following a wildfire. This project proposes to chemically treat 320 acres of
45 invasive medusahead rye via helicopter. Additionally, this project proposes to remove silt
46 from 4 waterholes that have rendered the waterholes dry. This project is requesting
47 \$25,400.00 of Open Fields Funding.
48

1 Willie Bronson requested to have clarification on the funds being shown as VPA Open
2 Fields Funding.

3
4 **Motion:** Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed. Morgan Olson
5 seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

6
7 2021-27 Wannie Mackenzie Rangeland Restoration
8 Tom Segal, Malheur Council Regional Coordinator
9

10 This project proposes to chemically treat 640 acres of invasive medusahead rye and
11 cheatgrass via helicopter and then seed the treated area to perennial bunchgrass. This
12 project is requesting \$20,480.00 of VPA Open Fields Funding. The Mackenzie Ranch has
13 been enrolled in the Access and Habitat program since 2006. This project will benefit
14 wildlife habitat by reducing annual grass densities throughout the project area, which
15 compete with desirable native forbs, grasses, and shrubs for soil moisture, nutrients and
16 sunlight. Left untreated, cheatgrass and medusahead will develop dense stands of residual
17 biomass that also lead to increased fire danger. Fires in sagebrush steppe habitat typically
18 convert the vegetation structure from a diverse mix of sagebrush, forbs, and perennial
19 grasses to a less diverse stand of perennial grass dominated by annual grass and exotic
20 forbs.

21
22 Amy Patrick had questions on the 10,000 dollars put towards the control burn. Tom said this
23 amount was just a rough guess. This will be going towards having water trucks and tenders
24 on site while they perform the burn.

25
26 Nic Callero had a question on the regional council recommendation, the motion that they
27 made was contingent on the landowner securing funding for seed and wanted more
28 information on this. Tom Segal stated that Wannie hoped to secure NRCS funding for the
29 seed, which he still may be able to do but at this time was not able to do so.

30
31 **Motion:** Amy Patrick moved to approve the project as proposed. Willie Bronson seconded
32 the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

33
34
35 **Regional Coordinators Report**

36
37 Andrew Walch, Deschutes Regional Coordinator
38

39 Aspen Valley hunt registrations begin Aug 1, getting a lot of interest from hunters who drew
40 Maury deer tags. Habitat work under the grant is being performed. A couple of large fires
41 are burning in the Deschutes/Klamath region. The Bootleg fire is 200,000+ acres and
42 growing in NE Klamath County. The Grandview fire is 6,000 acres and growing, in the core
43 of the Metolius Mule Deer winter range. They will be reaching out to affected landowners to
44 evaluate the ability to assist with recovery of the habitat out there and combat the spread of
45 invasive annual grasses. Deschutes Watershed wildlife staff is very shorthanded right now
46 due to staff promotions/rotations. Andrew will be acting as District Wildlife Bio again in
47 addition to his habitat duties for a few months but will be available to help develop A&H
48 Projects if they come up.
49

1 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

2
3 Jon has been working with RMEF and Hancock on a proposed land purchase between
4 union and wallowa county. He was able to get out and do some maintance work in some of
5 his access areas.

6
7 Dylan Edwards, Southwest Regional Coordinator

8
9 End of fiscal year work, working to make sure all the projects are done. Working on new
10 permit boxes for New River.

11
12 David Stroppel, Northwest Regional Coordinator

13
14 Working with private timber landowners on projects. Coordinating with Seneca Timber who
15 is a new private timber company to the A&H program. On the regional council, he received
16 two appilcations for the final vacancies that he has. Working With Dave Nuzum on the North
17 Coast TMA. One of his technicans left the agency, Dave was able to do a temporary
18 appointment to fill this position to help them through the summer and into the fall.

19
20 Tom Segal, Southeast Regional Coordinator

21
22 Tom has been busy working on Habitat work for the Mule Deer Initiative in the Steens and
23 North malheur river, and Beulah. They will be completing 1,000 acres of Juniper work down
24 on the south end of Steens with some of the funding from the Mule Deer Initiative. Working
25 on spraying for fires on the North Malheur River Beluah area from the Indian Creek fire that
26 had burned through that area last summer.

27
28 **ADJOURNMENT:**

29 Chairman Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 12:23pm.