



# Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2021  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302

1  
2 *This Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes is considered as a draft*  
3 *until 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	Travis Schultz, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Roxie Borisch, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Jon Muir, ODFW
Morgan Olson, Board Member	Andrew Walsh, ODFW
Candy Yow, Board Member	Brian Wolfer, ODFW
Amy Patrick, Board Member	
Absent: Nic Callero	

10  
11 **MEETING**

12 On November 22, 2021, at 3:00 pm Chairman Craig Ely called the Access and Habitat (A&H)  
13 Board meeting to order.

14  
15 **Budget Review**

16 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

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

19 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>  
20

21 **Project Application Review**

22 This project proposal is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the  
23 following link: <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>  
24

25 Clover Flat Winter Range/Sage Grouse Fire

26 Andrew Walch, Deschutes Regional Coordinator  
27

28 Applicants: Four neighboring landowners in the Interstate wildlife management unit in  
29 Lake County northwest of Lakeview.

30 Number of acres of habitat:	2,044
31 Wildlife Management Unit(s):	Metolius
32 Cost per acre per year:	\$29.60/acre
33 A&H Funds Request:	\$18,254
34 Proposed Start Date:	December 1, 2021

36 Andrew Walch explained to the board that it was a difficult fire year in southcentral Oregon,  
37 with more than 600,000 acres burning in Lake County alone. The Cougar Peak fire burned

1 approximately 90,000 acres this past September, impacting year-round mule deer and sage-  
2 grouse habitat, including winter range.

3  
4 There is a large cooperative effort going on in the area to provide soil stabilization and  
5 forage in the areas that were burned in the fire. This coordination with other agencies and  
6 grant sources has reduced the financial request of the A&H program compared with the  
7 initial scope discussed at the October meeting.

8  
9 The application is to utilize A&H emergency seeding funds to fund 29% of the seeding  
10 purchase for this project. OWEB funds will be used to purchase the remainder of the seed,  
11 and a large amount of cooperation, equipment, and in-kind match would make this project  
12 financially feasible for the A&H program.

13  
14 The total request of A&H is \$18,254 to contribute to the project of seeding 2,044 acres of  
15 private land. (The cost per acre figures on the initial evaluation sheet were a bit off; the total  
16 project cost per acre will actually be \$1.85/lb delivered to the site.) At the given rate of  
17 application (16lbs/acre), that amounts to \$29.60/acre. This is a great price, given current  
18 seed costs, and being this late in the fire rehab season.

19  
20 The project has been designed to prioritize lands that are the most crucial to stabilize and  
21 offer the greatest chance of success. Rangeland drills will be used to drill the seed in, which  
22 should increase project success rate, compared to aerial application.

23  
24 Jon Muir, the District Wildlife Biologist in Lakeview, has been coordinating with the  
25 landowners and cooperators, and is spearheading the project.

26  
27 Jon Muir

28 Through collaborating with other entities, we were able to reduce the financial request to  
29 A&H, but those dollars will be leveraged as match against several other grants, making  
30 these dollars turn into much bigger dollars.

31  
32 Jon said he focused this effort on lower elevation, deeper soils for several reasons:

- 33 • Primary concern after the fire is retention of topsoil. Getting seed on the ground in  
34 those places that have the best topsoil after a complete burn of every organic  
35 material present.
- 36 • Drill seed application tends to offer success rate advantages over aerial applications,  
37 and the landowners were very willing to do that work as their contribution to the effort.
- 38 • NRCS, with a much bigger pool of money to utilize, is focused on the surrounding  
39 uplands that will require aerial seeding or other techniques to stabilize soils

40  
41 This project area is within the Tucker Hills sage grouse PAC (priority area of  
42 conservation). BLM already had plans to treat annual invasive grasses in a portion of the  
43 burn area, which they completed a couple weeks ago. By complimenting that effort on the  
44 neighboring private lands, it will significantly improve the odds of that sage grouse  
45 population persisting, which is a big deal for the local economy and culture. Additionally,  
46 year-round range for mule deer that are in desperate need of forage resources right now.

47

1 Landowners are sharing in both the financial and labor burdens of this project. They are in  
2 for more than we are, and that speaks to the value of these hunter dollars we're about to  
3 spend.

4  
5 Jon thanked staff and the board for expediting this emergency meeting.

6  
7 **Motion:**

8 Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed. Candy Yow seconded the  
9 motion. Motion carried 6-0.

10

11 Chair Ely expressed his appreciation to Jon and Andrew for their thorough review and  
12 getting paperwork and signatures from landowners so quickly.

13

14 Travis thanked everyone for being available on short notice. He expressed his appreciation  
15 for support from the A&H Board. This project will go to Director's office for approval and then  
16 to landowners for implementation.

17

18 **ADJOURNMENT:**

19 Chairman Craig Ely adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.