



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

April 20, 2022
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

1 *This Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes is considered as a draft until*
2 *approved by the Board.*
3

4 Notice of these meetings had been published through Oregon Transparency Website and
5 ODFW Website. <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>,
6 <http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx>
7

8 Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

Amy Patrick, Board Chair John Breese, Board Member Morgan Olson, Board Member Nic Callero, Board Member Willie Bronson, Board Member Candy Yow, Board Member David Stropple, ODFW Tom Segal, ODFW Travis Schultz, ODFW	Brian Wolfer, ODFW Jon Paustian, ODFW Dylan Edwards, ODFW Amanda Wright, ODFW
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10 **Meeting**

11 On Wednesday, April 20, 2022, at 8:31 a.m. Chair Amy Patrick called the Access and Habitat
12 Board meeting to order.
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15 **Meeting Minutes Review**

16 The minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Morgan Olson moved to
17 approve the January 19, 2022 minutes. Willie Bronson seconded the motion. The motion
18 carried unanimously 5-0. The budget files are located in the Board packet materials and
19 can be viewed at the following link:
20 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2022/January/index.asp>.
21

22
23 **Board Member Reports**

24 Willie Bronson, Landowner Representative

25 Willie said he did not have a lot to report but noted that there was some confusion this year
26 at one of the auctions for a deer tag. The auctioneer started 3 minutes early, and in the
27 process added a phantom bid that could not be confirmed at the close of the auction.
28 Wildlife Division was informed and made the call to award the high bid at \$75,000.
29

30 Morgan Olson, Hunter Representative

31 Attended a few auctions with Nic Callero, attended a banquet recently and looking forward
32 to the spring weather arriving.
33

1 Nic Callero, Hunter Representative

2 Nic attended a couple auctions this year, very successful. He is spending his work time
3 focusing on migration space. USGS migration atlas was one of the current projects. Another
4 is the posting Ungulate GPS collar data from across the west at USGSmigrationatlas.com
5

6 Candis Yow, Hunter Representative

7 We had a great first Arizona Ladies Hunting Camp, with ladies from across the country
8 attending. Did a little Archery Deer & Javelina hunting while down in Arizona as well. Busy
9 preparing for our summer camps that are coming up as well.
10

11 John Breese, Landowner Representative

12 Working on range rehabilitation and juniper removal currently. We have full weekends of
13 turkey hunters, with lots of birds and exciting hunt stories. We have some young hunters on
14 their first and second hunts, and a women's group that is planning to camp out. Kudos to
15 the work Candy does working with her camps.
16

17 Amy Patrick, Hunter Representative

18 Amy reported that she has been doing a lot of work with OHA on policy, legislative issues,
19 and budgets issues for next year
20
21

22 **A&H Coordinator Report**

23 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

24 Great to be back in person. A big thank you to Jon Paustian for a great field tour, an
25 amazing diner last night, and all his assistance in organizing this board meeting. The
26 Commission unanimously approved both the Manulife and Lincoln Projects at the March
27 meeting. Multiple commissioners stated that speaking with Amy answered their questions
28 and addressed their concerns, thank you Amy. Additionally, the Commission appointed
29 Amy Patrick as Access & Habitat Chair and John Breese as a Landowner Representative on
30 the A&H Board, both of which were unanimous.
31

32 **Update on A&H Contracts** – The agreement templates with landowners need to be
33 reviewed by Dept. of Justice (DOJ) every 5 years. The last known DOJ review occurred in
34 2007. All contracts will be based on same template with different components added as
35 needed. Any agreement that is over 150k will need to go to DOJ for legal sufficiency
36 review. DOJ will not suggest changes on how the project operates, only to ensure the
37 contact language is appropriate. Additionally, DOJ is looking into see if our federal grant
38 agreements qualify as a pass-through grant. If qualified as pass through, then anything
39 over 150K will not have to go to DOJ for review.
40

41 **Emergency Re-Seeding Projects** – The J Spear project is complete, seeded 7,100 acres
42 for total cost of \$132,350. Richard Dodges seeding is complete, currently waiting on the
43 completion report for final payment. The project seeded 722 acres for a total cost of
44 \$24,562.80. Archie Creek project had no funds spent and no contracts were executed for
45 this project. This project is on the current obligated list as the cost code is active through
46 June. At that point it will likely be removed and the \$90K returned to unobligated.
47 Grandview Fire project is complete, seeded 125 acres for a total cost of \$10,131. Seed cost
48 came in under budget, about \$5,000 in cost savings. Clover Flat project is mostly

1 complete, 2 landowners have not turned in their completion reports. One of the landowners
2 is concerned that some of the area mapped for seeding is too steep for the seed drill and
3 may need to be aerially applied. They are working with the Jon Muir, Lakeview ODFW, who
4 will have final say on the appropriate seeding method. The total acres seeded will be very
5 close to the 2,044, we have competition reports for 875 acres so far.

6
7 Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board
8 packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:
9 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2022/April/index.asp>. Discussion followed on
10 the current budget, allocations, forecasts, enforcement, and individual projects. The overall
11 outlook is very good for the A&H program.

14 **2022 Auction and Raffle Update**

15 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

16 A total of 9 auctions occurred this year across the state. The bighorn sheep tag auctioned by
17 the Wild Sheep Foundation's National Chapter, shattered the previous sale record with
18 \$345,000. Statewide deer tag auctioned by the Oregon Bow Hunters set a deer record high
19 at \$85,000. Statewide Elk tag auctioned off by the Oregon Hunters Association's Pioneer
20 Chapter set the elk sale record at \$71,000. Average price for deer tag is up about \$13,000
21 from last year and 2021 was up about \$10,000 from the previous year. The average elk tag
22 is up about \$10,000 from last year and 2021 was up about \$13,000 from the previous year.
23 There was also discussion on ensuring a good auction, including going through the
24 agreement with the organization, getting/finding bidders, speaking with the auctioneer on
25 expectations, and online auctions.

26
27 As of April 14th, we sold 108,664 raffle entries for A&H tags, during the last 2 weeks 15,500
28 entries were sold. Hunters appear to be shifting to raffles that did not sell heavily last year.
29 There was discussion on how the raffle was advertised, social media presence, and whether
30 ODFW could post raffles on Facebook. In 2022, the program advertised in Western Hunting
31 Journal, Northwest Sportsman, OHA Hunter, Mule Deer Foundation.

34 **Recommended 2023 Auction and Raffle Tags**

35 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

36 There are no changes from last year's auction and raffle hunts proposed for next year. The
37 auction hunts are four statewide deer, four statewide elk, and one combo deer and elk hunt
38 to be auctioned for the A&H program. The raffle hunts are one statewide and 3 regional
39 deer hunts; one statewide and three regional elk hunts; and one combination statewide deer
40 and elk hunt. The season for all hunts run from August 1 to November 30, 2023.

42 **2023 Auction Hunts**

- 43 • 1 Governor's Statewide Combo Hunt, 1 deer and 1 elk.
- 44 • 4 A&H Statewide Deer Hunts
- 45 • 4 A&H Statewide Elk Hunts

1 2023 Raffle Hunts

- 2 • Governor's Statewide Combo Hunt, 1 deer and 1 elk
- 3 • Statewide Deer Hunt
- 4 • Southeast Oregon Deer Hunt
- 5 • Central Oregon Deer Hunt
- 6 • Northeast Oregon Deer Hunt
- 7 • Statewide Elk Hunt
- 8 • Northeast Oregon Elk Hunt
- 9 • Central/Southeast Elk Hunt
- 10 • Western Oregon Elk Hunt

11
12 Willie Bronson moved to approve the auction and raffle hunts as proposed and Morgan
13 Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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16 **Northeast Regional Council Appointment**

17 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

18 Two applications were received for the Hunter Representative vacancy, Thomas Baker of
19 Umatilla County and Russ Elms of Baker County. Thomas Baker is very active in the
20 conservation world doing a lot of volunteering through RMEF both at chapter and field level.
21 When applications were compared, Tom's was the top contender. Russ is far better a
22 candidate than his application showed. Jon will request that Russ resubmit his application
23 with more information. The Regional Council was somewhat concerned about having too
24 many advisory council members in Umatilla.

25
26 Morgan Olson made the motion to appoint Thomas Baker as a Hunter Representative on
27 the Northeast Regional Council, Nic Callero seconded the motion. The motion carried
28 unanimously 5-0.

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31 **Malheur Regional Council Appointment**

32 Tom Segal, Malheur Regional Coordinator

33 One application was received for the Hunter Representative from Kipp Domby. He hunts on
34 public ground, A&H access areas, and a few hunting leases. Not a lot of conservation
35 volunteer experience but he does work as a volunteer firefighter and works in agriculture
36 sales. The Regional Council felt he would be a good Hunter Representative.

37
38 Morgan Olson moved to appoint Kipp Domby as hunter representative on the Malheur
39 Regional Council, Willie Bronson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

40
41
42 **Southwest Regional Council Appointment**

43 Dylan Edwards, Southwest Regional Coordinator

44 Two applications were received for the two Hunter Representative vacancies on the council,
45 Brian Perkins and Rob Schab. The Malheur Council Recommended the Board appoint both
46 applicants. Rob Schab was on the phone and spoke to the board. He thanked everyone for
47 the opportunity. He has lived in SW Oregon and is an active hunter.

1 Willie Bronson motions to appoint both Brian Perkins and Rob Schab as Hunter
2 Representatives on the Southwest Regional Council. Morgan Olson seconded motion, the
3 motion carried unanimously 5-0.
4

5 There will be additional upcoming vacancies to fill on the Southwest Regional Council as the
6 Chair resigned due to health issues and another Hunter Representative vacancy will open in
7 a few months.
8
9

10 **Break 9:54 a.m.**

11 **Back 10:04 a.m.**
12
13

14 **2022-03 Territorial Youth Deer Hunt**

15 Dylan Edwards, Southwest Regional Coordinator

16 The Territorial Youth Deer Hunt project located south of Eugene. This three-year project
17 provides access for the 10 to 13 youths successful in drawing the 620T controlled youth
18 hunt to hunt one black-tailed deer during weekends in November. Additionally, two of the
19 youth deer hunters will be chosen at random to also hunt the access area for bull elk during
20 the General Western Oregon Coast 1st Season.
21

22 Dylan is working with RMEF to get match money added to this program by revising grant
23 application to move RMEF's contribution from security salary to an access payment. OHA's
24 Umpqua chapter supplies \$500 and does a lot of in-kind work.
25

26 Willie Bronson pointed out that Seneca, the project landowner, is now owned by Sierra
27 Pacific.
28

29 *[Candy Yow lost her connection to the meeting, and Chair Amy Patrick elected to continue
30 when it became apparent that Candy would not be able to quickly rejoin the meeting.]*
31

32 Willie moved to approve project as proposed, Nic Callero seconded the motion. The motion
33 carried unanimously 4-0.
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36 **2022-04 Bentz Access Area**

37 Tom Segal, Malheur Regional Coordinator

38 The Bentz access area provides "Welcome to Hunt" access to 4,276 acres of private land in
39 the Malheur River Wildlife Management Unit for 5 years. Higher elevation sage brush,
40 scattered juniper, springs, creeks, and small meadows. Some portions are fenced and some
41 of the sections are fenced in common with BLM ground. This is the only access project in
42 the southern Malheur unit.
43

44 This property is also enrolled in the Open Fields program with a habitat project to treat
45 invasive annual grasses. The project was started in 2007.
46

1 Morgan Olson moved to approve the project as proposed, Willie Bronson seconded the
2 motion. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

3
4
5 **2022-05 Jenkins Access Project**

6 Tom Segal, Malheur Regional Coordinator

7 The Jenkins access project is a continuation of a project started in 2008 and provides
8 access to almost 13,000 acres, 8,187 acres of Welcome to Hunt and 4,770 acres of By
9 Permission access. Payments of \$2.40 per acre 8,187 of Welcome to Hunt Access and
10 \$1.08 per acres 4,770 By Permission access. The Welcome to Hunt area is sage brush
11 step, grassland, juniper woodlands, wet meadows, and aspen stands. The By Permission
12 pieces are rocky, sagebrush step with a large hay meadow. In combination with Otley
13 Access area.

14
15 Morgan Olson made the motion to approve the project as proposed, Nic Callero seconded
16 the motion. The motion carried unanimously 4-0. (Candi Yow not on phone).

17
18
19 **2022-06 Kueny Ranch Access Area**

20 Tom Segal, Malheur Regional Coordinator

21 The Kueny Ranch Access project will provide Welcome to Hunt public access for a period of
22 five years on 5,850 acres. The Kueny Ranch is surrounded by BLM land that is very difficult
23 or impossible to access from areas outside of the ranch, 4,282 acres in total. Payment is \$2
24 per acre, due to the limitation on access, check in is required. Non hunters are limited to use
25 around the hot springs and campground.

26
27 Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as proposed, Morgan Olson seconded the
28 motion. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

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31 **2022-07 Lawen Access Area**

32 Tom Segal, Malheur Regional Coordinator

33 The Lawen Access Area provides Welcome to Hunt access for five years on 5 different
34 ownerships comprising 6,167 total acres near Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. The five
35 landowners are: Betty Opie, Ross Opie, Vern Brown, Jolene Juhl, and Ty Temple. The
36 project provides hunting opportunities for waterfowl, pheasants, antelope, deer and coyotes.
37 On wet years this is a great area for waterfowl hunting. Dryer years the opportuning is with
38 pheasants, upland birds, deer, and antelope. Four of the cooperating landowners receive
39 \$2.00 per acre for access and Juhls receives \$2.40. The increase payment reflects the
40 habitat work conducted on the property and enrollment in the NRCS Wetland Reserve
41 Program.

42
43 Jon Breese moved to approve the project as proposed, Morgan Olson seconded the motion.
44 The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

1 **2022-08 Otley Access Area**

2 Tom Segal, Malheur Regional Coordinator

3 The Otley Access Area will provide Welcome to Hunt access to 15,417 acres for five years.
4 The project provides access to a large portion of the public lands on Steens Mountain.
5 Payment of \$2.25 per acre for Welcome to Hunt access. Habitat consists of high elevation
6 sagebrush step, pockets of juniper, good stands of aspen. Without the project area hunter
7 access and travel to BLM lands would be severely limited.

8
9 Morgan Olson moved to approve the project as proposed, the motion was seconded by Nic
10 Callero. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

11
12
13 **2022-09 Green Diamond Resources Access Area**

14 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

15 Green Diamond Resource Company Access Area provides “Welcome to Hunt” access on
16 commercial timberlands for a period of three years. The funding for this project comes 90%
17 from Open Fields and 10% from A&H funds. The final 10% payment is reserved to the end
18 of the project and will be paid after the deadline for Open Fields closes. Payment is set at
19 the same \$1.25 an acre as the Manulife project. This project is interspersed within the
20 Manulife access area project. In the past, this property was not affected by the camping
21 fees that Manulife employed because the bulk of these parcels are internal in the TMA,
22 there are only a handful located around the edge that could have been utilized to camp.

23
24 Willie Bronson moved to approve the motion as proposed; Morgan Olson seconded the
25 motion. The motion carried unanimously 4-0.

26
27
28 *[Candy Yow regained her connection and rejoined the meeting.]*

29
30
31 **2022-10 Glass Hill Access Area (Rice)**

32 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

33 The Dr Rice portion of the Glass Hill Access area provides “By-Permission Hunting” access
34 on 911 acres for a period of five years. The project application was modified by the A&H
35 Board from 3 to 5 years and agreed to by the landowner. Payment of \$1.80 per acre on the
36 access area. This project will improve access to adjacent A&H access areas and ODFW’s
37 Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area. The property serves as an important travel corridor for animals
38 migrating between summer range and winter range. Winter range closures in February and
39 March to help address big game damage that occurs downstream. The property is enrolled
40 with Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation for which he receives benefits such as habitat
41 enhancement, noxious weed control, and pre commercial thinning. Access is regulated
42 through the local ODFW office. No reservations until 8/1, first come first serve. Entire year
43 can fill up in 30 minutes.

44
45 Willie Bronson moved to approve the project as modified to extend the project to 5 years at
46 the \$1.80 per acre per year. Morgan Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried
47 unanimously 5-0.

1 **2022-11 M.R. King Access Area**

2 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

3 The MR King Ranches Access Area provides “Welcome to Hunt” access to 4,475 acres for
4 a period of five years with a requested payment of \$2.00 per acre per year. The Lookout Mt.
5 unit is mostly private land and this project improves access to surrounding public lands,
6 providing critical hunter access to assist the department in addressing current damage
7 situations and aid in the effort to redistribute elk and reduce population numbers.

8
9 Morgan Olson moved to approve the project as proposed, Nic Callero seconds the motion.
10 The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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12
13 **2022-12 Troy Ranches Access Area**

14 Jon Paustian, Northeast Regional Coordinator

15 The Troy Ranches Access Area will provide “Welcome to Hunt” access on 5,696 acres of
16 private land and 1,797 acres of landlocked public land for a period of five years to hunt big
17 game, upland game birds, and predators. The payment of \$1.80 per acre is lower than MR
18 King due to a lack of bighorn sheep hunting opportunity. Provides access to adjacent A&H
19 access areas and public lands.

20
21 Nic Callero moved to approve the project as proposed, Morgan Olson seconded the motion.
22 The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

23
24
25 **Northeast Regional Coordinator Report**

26 Jon Paustian

27 The Minam Acquisition Phase I has closed and he currently waiting to start on Phase II
28 which closes end of 2023. The project’s Yellow book appraisals will be done this summer.
29 A celebration will take place in May for Phase I completion of the Minam Acquisition.
30 Jon is working on a new project to bring before the Board in July. The Carmen Ranch will
31 be due to renew plus landowner on each side of them maybe added. All would be by
32 permission only and all the lands would be within over-the-counter damage tag area.

33
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35 **Malheur Regional Coordinator Report**

36 Tom Segal

37 Related to Bentz access area Open Fields, senate bill 762 came out about 6 months ago
38 and came with \$20 million of wildfire resilience funding funneled through ODF. Interested
39 landowners will apply for grants, which Linda Bentz did. The grants are for forest thinning
40 and range fire resiliency. Linda’s grant will be able to use the Open Fields funds as match
41 for \$1 million that will go to other portions of Linda Bentz property, a rough total of 14,000
42 acres of annual grass treatment. High dessert partnership also received \$4 million dollars
43 for other projects near Bentz’s property.

1 **Southwest Regional Coordinator Report**

2 Dylan Edwards

3 He is wrapping up projects for the habitat program and budgeting PR for next few years.
4 The Southwest A&H Region will have multiple project renewals upcoming. He is working
5 with a private landowner just off the Rogue River for a small grants project for winter range
6 improvement, hope to present next fall. Chinook Forest Partners have been picking up land
7 within Douglas and Jackson Counties.

8
9

10 **Northwest Regional Coordinator Report**

11 David Stoppel

12 He is working on getting several new PR grants ready for the upcoming fiscal year. David
13 has recruitments going on for several positions. There is a great deal of turn over currently
14 in his habitat program. He is currently working with Brian Carroll of the Linn County Forest
15 Enforcement Project, ironing out the details for the field tour for the July meeting.

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