



# Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

April 25, 2023  
Bandon Community Center  
1200 11<sup>th</sup> ST. SW.  
Bandon, OR. 97411

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

Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

Amy Patrick, Chair	Travis Schultz, ODFW
Candy Yow, Vice Chair	Derek Broman, ODFW
Ron Borisch, Board Member	Amanda Wright, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Dylan Edwards, ODFW
Morgan Olson, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW
Nic Callero, Board Member	Jessica Clark, ODFW
Jeff McNerney, Board Member	David Stroppel, ODFW
David Nuzum, ODFW	Tom Segal, ODFW (remote)
Steve Cherry, ODFW	Willie Bronson, Landowner
Charlie Chamberlain	Jim Kamph, New River Access Area

## Meeting

On Monday, April 25, 2023, at 8:07 a.m. Chair Amy Patrick called the Access and Habitat Board meeting to order.

## Meeting Minutes Review

The minutes from the January 18, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Nic Callero moved to approve the minutes as written. Jeff McNerney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

The Meeting Minutes are in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link: [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/January%20AH%20Meeting%20Minutes\\_TS\\_db.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/January%20AH%20Meeting%20Minutes_TS_db.pdf)

## Board Member Reports

### Morgan Olson, Hunter Representative

Attended the OHA auction last weekend where our tag went for \$65,000. OHA and BHA working on [legislative items](#), making a lot of contacts. [Trail program](#) has several projects lined up in [June](#) and [July](#). If interested many projects each week. Great snowpack in NE Oregon. Chucker numbers are good and should have phenomenal hunting opportunities.

### Nic Callero, Hunter Representative

Tracking bills in many states for legislative session. A request for appropriation (RFA) called “Wildlife Highway Mitigation” was approved by the Utah Legislature in the 2023 Legislative Session budget. This funding request was for \$20M of State funds to be allocated to the Utah Department of Transportation explicitly for wildlife highway mitigation efforts including the construction of wildlife overpasses, underpasses, and fencing. The Utah Chapter of BHA was very supportive of this RFA during the Session The legislation, sponsored by Representative Doug Owens, serves as a significant win for wildlife and is on its way to the Governor for signing.

The Colorado General Assembly passed legislation to fund wildlife road-crossing projects across the state. Rep. Julie McCluskie, D-Gunnison, said Senate Bill 151 has broad support from sportsmen and women, land and wildlife conservation groups, and community leaders from both parties.

[House Bill 2999](#), an Environment Oregon-backed bill to further strengthen Oregon's wildlife-vehicle collision program and invest in more wildlife crossing projects across the state passed unanimously out of the House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water on Tuesday. More nature means abundant wildlife in our world – from butterflies floating by, to coyotes howling at night, to whale tails breaching the surface just visible from shore. Nature works better when it's connected.

But in Oregon and in the U.S., our wild spaces have been fragmented by roads, fences and other products of human development that block the movement of animals. This can push whole ecosystems out of balance, cut off genetic flow between populations, leave animals short of key resources, interrupt migration cycles and leave species more susceptible to other challenges like disease, wildfires, and climate change.

#### Candy Yow, Hunter Representative

Went to Salt Lake auction, had some issues to go over later. Last year was first [youth camp](#) which was great success. Traveled to Washington DC a few times. [First ladies camp](#) will be a long-range shooting camp in Wyoming. May will be a self-defensive camp at Fort Rock in June, a youth hunting camp July 14th -16th and a huge [ladies camp](#) July 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### Jeff McNerney, Landowner Representative

Hood River valley growing 19-days later than the 30-year average, going to be a very late going to affect all berry cultures. Pruning cherry's pears and blueberries. Starting to spray and fertilize. We do allow people to hunt turkeys on the property. Helped OSP with hunter safety first week of April.

#### John Breese Landowner Representative

Very different year, we started off dry in Crook County, all weather maps show we are in the bullseye of extreme drought. In April we got typical February and March weather with a lot of rain and snow. Ochoco reservoir was to where you couldn't put a boat in, it is almost full now. The Crooked River is a very flashy type of water, last week was at the level it was last year, and now it is coming up fast. It appears we will have an OK water year, with a lot of water coming up. Calf operations have begun on the ranch, so doing that.

#### Ron Borsich, Landowner Representative

Last week snow was at 4,000 feet at the site he needed access to. Most of the snow came in so heavy and fast that many animals are down in the back yards. The Santiam Canyon got burnt bad last year, working really hard conducting tree removal along the roads, but there's still a ton of roads that are closed due to the trees, including the National Forest and Little North Fork and Santiam. Uncertain if it will be open for hunting season.

#### Amy Patrick, Board Chair

At the capitol a lot for legislation on behalf of OHA. Encourages everyone to weigh in on a few things relevant. The ODFW budget will be up for more discussion in Ways & Means committee in May. Wildlife Area at Coquille has been picked up in governor's budget, but the GNA positions have not. Outside of OHA work, hunting with husband this year, no major hunt goals currently.

## **A&H Budget Report**

Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

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

<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Budget%20Tables.pdf>

OSP gives minimum number of hours spent on our TMAs.

## **Auction and Raffle Update**

Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

The A&H program had a phenomenal, record-setting year for auctions and raffle revenue. This year's revenue will likely ensure that is the first biennium that auction and raffle proceeds exceed license income for the program. Travis also presented auction protocols, auction announcements, bid sheets, procedures, legal requirements and incidents that have occurred at auctions this year. Good discussion led to adding verbiage to Big Game Regulations page for A&H auctions for 2024 stating what information is required at time of auction from the successful bidder and alternate and ensuring that an ODFW employee is at each auction. The raffle tag update files are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/2022\\_Raffle\\_Info.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/2022_Raffle_Info.pdf)

## **2024 Raffle and Auction Hunts**

Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

Travis presented the proposed auction and raffle tags for 2024. There were no changes from last year's tags for either auction or raffle.

The auction and raffle tag files are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Proposed%20A%20and%20H%20hunts.pdf>

Candy Yow moved to approve with no changes, Morgan Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

## **Malheur Regional Council Appointments**

Tom Segal

Jeremy Elliot, very complete application. Retired from public works in Ontario. Jeff McNerney approves, Morgan Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

One application was received for the Landowner Representative vacancies from Erika Fitzpatrick. The Regional Council recommends Erika's appointment to the council. Nic Callero moves to approve, Morgan Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

## **Southwest Regional Council Appointments**

Dylan Edwards

One application was received for the Landowner Representative vacancy on the council from Joe Vargas. The Regional Council recommends Joe's appointment to the council. Retired detective in

Medford. Very active community knows how TMAs work. John Breese motions to approve Morgan Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

The Regional Council Applications are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:  
[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Regional%20Council%20Apps\\_Redacted.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Regional%20Council%20Apps_Redacted.pdf)

## **Public Comment**

Break

## **Project Review**

### **2023-04 Bear Creek Access Area, Jon Paustian**

New project, new landowner. Prior to purchase in 2022 was owned by timber. This project provides "Welcome to Hunt" access on 10,092 acres of private land in the Minam WMU for a period of three years to hunt big and upland game birds. Anticipated hunter use will be high on this property as it provides one of the few early spring entry points into the Minam. Additionally, the project will also enhance important wildlife habitat by treating noxious weeds and improving habitat connectivity through the removal of 32 miles of interior fencing. Open Fields funds will be used to provide the first two years of access payments on the project.

Morgan Olson moved to approve the project as proposed, Candy Yow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:  
[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Bear%20Creek%20for%20the%20web\\_Redacted.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Bear%20Creek%20for%20the%20web_Redacted.pdf)

### **2023-05 Carman Ranch Habitat & Access, Jon Paustian**

Renewal project has been with A&H since about 2007. Also applies for RMEF grants. The project will improve wildlife habitat and livestock grazing operations by treating noxious weeds and increasing yield through staged reseedings on 960 acres. Carman Ranch will utilize a no-till pasture renovation plan to eradicate the extensive weed infestations and use staged reseedings to out-compete weed growth. Fertilizer will be applied to improve soil chemistry in year three or four. Hunting access will occur on a "By-Permission" basis to 2,628 acres of private land in the Sled Springs

Wildlife Management Unit for a period of three years. All hunter access will be managed through the ODFW Grande Ronde Watershed Wildlife Habitat Biologist and Regional A&H Program Coordinator. Additionally, continuing to provide hunter access to Carman Ranch lands will assist ODFW in addressing damage complaints and elk distribution issues.

Amy Patrick moved to approve the project as proposed, Candy Yow seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Carman%20Ranch%20for%20the%20web\\_Redacted.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Carman%20Ranch%20for%20the%20web_Redacted.pdf)

**2023-06 Harshfield Ranch Habitat & Access, Jon Paustian**

Very supportive of youth and senior activity. Encourage overnight camping because early morning is best hunting. The project will enhance wildlife habitat and livestock grazing by treating noxious weeds on 448 acres. Fertilizer will be applied to offset unwanted utilization by elk and maintain sufficient grazing. Hunting access will occur on a "By-Permission" basis to 448 acres in the Sled Springs and 292 acres in the Chesnimnus for a period of three years. Hunter access will be managed by Pamela Harshfield and monitored by the Regional A&H Program Coordinator. Additionally, the project will assist ODFW in addressing damage complaints and elk distribution issues by providing hunter access to the elk causing damage.

This is more damage component, Amys concern is it seems like more of a grazing opportunity for their ranch vs wildlife.

Morgan Olson moved to approve the project as proposed, John Breese seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Harshfield%20for%20the%20web\\_Redacted.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Harshfield%20for%20the%20web_Redacted.pdf)

**2023-07 Jackson Cooperative TMA, Dylan Edwards**

Renewal, revision a lot of changes over the years. Silver butte is new in the program. As mentioned with the OSP Enhanced Enforcement project during the January A&H meeting, the Jackson TMA is not continuing as an enforcement project. The project will instead pay landowners \$1.80 an acre per year for Welcome to Hunt access for two years through spring of 2025. The project's road closures will reduce disturbance to deer and elk on important winter range across all landownerships including BLM and USFS. The green dot roads within the project area will remain open during the winter to allow access for hunters and recreationists.

Jeff McNerney moved to approve the project as proposed, John Breese seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Jackson%20TMA%20for%20the%20web\\_Redacted.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Jackson%20TMA%20for%20the%20web_Redacted.pdf)

**2023-08 Vollmer Habitat & Access, Dylan Edwards**

Provides By Permission access for youth hunters for deer, elk, and turkey using the Hunt by Reservation application system, and improves deer and elk winter range habitat by enhancing oak stands and increases forage on the property. Hunting will consist of roughly 20 youths for a week each. Oak stands will be thinned to agreed upon specifications and multiple two-acre food plots will be established. The project is within Jackson County's Especially Sensitive deer and elk winter

range, adjacent to a BLM special deer and elk management area and is a priority area for ODFW's Rogue District.

Candy Yow moved to approve the project as proposed, Morgan Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Vollmer%20Access%20for%20the%20web\\_Redacted.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/April/Vollmer%20Access%20for%20the%20web_Redacted.pdf)

### **Northeast Regional Coordinator Report**

Jon Paustian

A lot of time spent developing the 3-grant applications that were presented to the Board. Still working on the Minam purchase (1-2 days a week). Navigating the new Habitat Division structure and expectations. A lot of new duties/activities. Preparing for upcoming field season and performing maintenance on current access areas.

### **Northwest Regional Coordinator Report**

David Stroppel

Trying to fill many positions in my habitat program. Working on recruitment, hiring an intern, hiring a seasonal technician in the mitigation program and a new NRS1 for the habitat crew. This week we received our new habitat field truck which will tow our equipment between wildlife areas and FWS private land restoration sites. Two regional council vacancies as two members reached the end of their second terms. Planning for the July field trip to the North Coast TMA and the Alsea/Stott Mountain area.

Dave Nuzum and Charlie Chamberlain

Enforcement statistics are now available for the North Coast TMA and Travis will send them to the group. Traffic counts and OSP contact data for 2022 were consistent with previous years. We will be meeting with Stimson Lumber regarding their desires for TMA operations going forward. Currently they only participate in the TMA on select weekends in drive-in areas while allowing walk-in hunting mid-week. In the mid-week time frame, they receive no OSP attention since they allow drive-in for select individuals. We will be meeting with Stimson and OSP in May to further discuss the final year of the current project. Rayonier Resources has signed on as a new cooperator in the TMA, adding access acreage in the Saddle Mountain and – importantly – the Scappoose Units.

### **Southwest Regional Coordinator Report**

Dylan Edwards

The last 3-months have been spent on the Jackson TMA and Vollmer Access and Habitat Enhancement project, along with finishing out habitat projects for my 2022-23 Pittman-Robertson act funding grant and completing the 2023-24 PR grant request which dictates what I do for the next year. Recently completed a small grant project, and the report will be forthcoming. My position now falls under ODFW's Habitat Division, so much of the land-use duties for Jackson and Josephine Counties will be covered by my position; spring is a very active time for land-use applications because people want to get their developments rolling.

## **Deschutes-Klamath Regional Coordinator Report**

Jessica Clark

Jamie Bowles took the regional habitat bio position, I started the NRS2 Habitat Biologist position March 28, 2023. Currently covering two positions through the end of May. Plans this quarter and beyond and is to fill the vacant regional council board positions, chair, and hunter. One landowner application in the works, Kent Inman (recommended by John Breese).

## **Malheur Regional Coordinator**

Tom Segal

Coordination with new regional council applicants and associated regional council meeting. Maintenance, permit retrieval associated with existing projects.

Adjourned 12:37 p.m.