



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2023
Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial DR.SE.
Salem, OR. 97302

1 *This*
2 *Access and Habitat Board meeting minutes is considered a draft until*
3 *approved by the Board.*
4

5 Notice of these meetings had been published through Oregon Transparency Website and ODFW
6 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:

Amy Patrick, Chair	Trent Gianella, Morrow SWCD
Candy Yow, Vice Chair	Travis Schultz, ODFW
Willie Bronson, Board Member	Mark Vargas, ODFW
John Breese, Board Member	Amanda Wright, ODFW
Morgan Olson, Board Member	Dylan Edwards, ODFW
Nic Callero, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW
David Nuzum, ODFW	Jamie Bowles, ODFW
Steve Cherry, ODFW	David Stroppel, ODFW (remote)
Craig Heuberger, OSP	Tom Segal, ODFW (remote)
Son Foster	
Arnie Grammon	
Arvid Anderson	

10
11 **Meeting**
12 On Monday, January 24, 2023, at 8:22 a.m. Chair Amy Patrick called the Access and Habitat Board
13 meeting to order.

14
15 **Meeting Minutes Review**
16 The minutes from the October 18, 2022, meeting were reviewed. Nic Callero moved to approve the
17 minutes as written. Amy Patrick seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 6-0.
18

19 **Board Member Reports**
20 Morgan Olson, Hunter Representative
21 Great snow pack this year. Good number of chukars in northeast Oregon.
22

23 John Breese, Landowner Representative
24 Crook County is in severe drought, reservoir is very low, hoping for a cold wet February.
25

26 Willie Bronson, Landowner Representative
27 Great video of elk in Grande Ronde, good looking bulls. The TMAs in the Sled Springs unit are going
28 to post on all their closed roads this year per OSP. Jon Paustian noted the roads that were closed
29 seasonally will now be closed year-round. There will remain a small portion of roads that will be
30 seasonally closed.
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1
2 Candy Yow, Hunter Representative

3 Deer herds are down, saw a few decent looking size bucks. Did a deer hunt in October. A youth hunting
4 camp scheduled for April and a ladies hunting camp in the Fort Rock area.

5
6 Nic Callero, Hunter Representative

7 Working on legislative issues for Montana and Utah to do with the Farm Bill mainly focused on funding
8 for wildlife crossings. Pretty confident that we will do some good work there. On the federal side, I'm
9 working with a coalition of national sportsman groups starting to talk about Farm Bill Priorities
10 including the voluntary public access and habitat incentive program, which is the open fields. The Farm
11 Bill will most likely be reauthorized before the end of the year. On the VPA-HIP front, there is already
12 a marker bill talked about that would increase that funding from 50 million to 150 million, so to triple
13 the previous amount.

14
15 Amy Patrick, Board Chair

16 Legislative session is in full swing. This Thursday there will be a CWD bill on the hearing floor. So far
17 there are only 2 bills that OHA is opposing. The WSF Women Hunt program at the FTW Ranch in
18 Texas this last October was an amazing experience. All of us training on our own rifles and scopes to
19 sight in and shooting to 1,000 yards by day one. It was an amazing experience to go from start to finish.
20 The course covered everything from sighting in, stalking, cleaning, butchering, cooking and making
21 sausage. Amy would like to start a woman's network within OHA.

22
23 **ODFW Directors Update**

24 Curt Melcher

25 Thank you for all the boards time and knowledge spent on the A&H Board. ODFW has a healthy budget
26 outlook, the agency has not needed a fee increase since 2015. There is a Commission related bill in the
27 legislature. The Commission statutes state seven commissioners total; one representative each from
28 east and west of the Cascades and one in each of the five congressional districts. Starting January 3rd,
29 Oregon has a 6th Congressional District that the statute does not account for. For the time being the Fish
30 and Wildlife Commission will continue with the current seven commissioners until were told otherwise.

31
32 **A&H Budget and Coordinator Report**

33 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

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

36 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/Jan_Budget.pdf

37
38 **Auction Protocol and Update**

39 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

40 A few key points from the protocol presentation and discussion; please ensure that phone bidders
41 identify who is bidding or if they have more than one bidder on their phone. The hunter for A&H deer
42 and elk hunts will have to buy their Oregon license before the tag will be issued to them. The A&H
43 program does not have statutory authority to issue a license as part of the auction hunt. Successful and
44 alternate bidders must notify the Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately upon the conclusion of
45 the auction event of the name, date of Birth or ODFW ID#, mailing address, and telephone number of
46 the individual to whom the tags shall be issued. We need to identify the individual who purchased the
47 tag. If the winning bidder or alternate will not give you the name of the tag holder, move on to the next
48 highest bidder and their bid amount.

49 **Break**

1
2 **Public Comment**

3 No public comment
4

5 **Raffle Updates and Discussion**

6 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

7 First auction was held in 1995. Travis provided a summary of last year's raffles which can be seen here
8 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/2022_Raffle_Info.pdf. This year's raffle
9 will not be combined with the OHA banquet and will close at 10 am on May 26, 2023, and drawing
10 will occur at ODFW headquarters at 2 pm. Oregon is one of the only states that offers a bundle deal for
11 purchasing raffle tickets.
12

13 **OSP Enforcement Update**

14 Craig Heuberger

15 The retiree trooper for TMA enforcement program ran for many years. About four years ago OSP
16 moved away from that model due to the risk associated with part time troopers. Although OSP
17 employed seasoned veterans, they were still working with a badge and a gun, making contact with the
18 public on one week of training. Due to the risk in our modern world OSP moved to using full-time
19 troopers as the model going forward. The 2021-23 enforcement funds two full time trooper positions,
20 roughly 6,800 hours worked per biennium. Those hours are split between north and southwest region
21 troopers to work the TMAs on the project schedule. There are many benefits of having full-time
22 troopers provide the enforcement; they're fully trained, they bring to the table a lot of experience, and
23 can carry a case from initial contract through any court appearances. In addition to the troopers on the
24 ground, OSP also has aircraft in Salem, Central Point, Bend and Baker City. The planes are equipped
25 with very high-powered cameras and can see a great distance. The combination of troopers on the
26 ground and aircraft maximizes the effectiveness of the enforcement benefit.
27

28 **Project Review**

29 OSP Enforcement Project

30 Provides enforcement on five A&H projects for two years, July 2023 to June 2025. Extends the East
31 Lane and Willamette Private Lands for two years to June 2025. Coos Mountain provides \$24,624 in
32 enforcement funding.
33

34 Morgan Olson moved to approve project as proposed. Candy Yow seconded the motion. The motion
35 carried unanimously 6-0.
36

37 The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following
38 link: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/OSP_Enforcement.pdf.
39

40 Foster Rach Habitat; Jon Paustian

41 Project proposes removal of 1,030 acres of encroaching western juniper, targeting two main types of
42 invaders. Proposing to treat 375 total acres of noxious weeds, reseeding efforts with a site specific. The
43 Ranch is also proposing to build elk, deer, and cattle exclusion fencing on approximately four acres of
44 aspen stand in need of browse relief. To help enhance the identified habitat improvement efforts, Foster
45 Ranch will also provide "By Permission" hunting opportunities during all applicable hunting seasons.
46 Requesting the purchase of five lockable hunting access gates to help minimize resource damage and
47 motorized access.
48

1 Morgan Olson moved to approve project as proposed. Candy Yow seconded the motion. The motion
2 carried unanimously 6-0.

3
4 The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following
5 link: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/Foster_Ranch_App.pdf.

6
7 Columbia Plateau; Jon Paustian/Trent Gianella

8 This intended to help address the habitat related decline of mule deer and upland game bird populations
9 in the Heppner and Columbia Basin Wildlife Management Units. The funding will help supply the
10 Habitat Technician with materials to implement habitat improvement projects throughout land enrolled
11 in ODFW Public Access Programs. Overall, this grant will increase the effectiveness of the
12 ODFW/SWCD cooperatively funded Habitat Technician position. Without this additional access
13 provided through the program, there would be very little public access in the project area. Only 5% of
14 land in the Columbia Basin Unit is public land.

15
16 Candy Yow moved to approve project as proposed. Morgan Olson seconded the motion. The motion
17 carried unanimously 6-0.

18
19 The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following
20 link: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/Columbia_Plateau_App.pdf.

21
22 **Regional Appointment**

23 Deschutes-Klamath Council, Jamie Bowles

24 Presented three candidates all with good backgrounds. Staff recommend Joseph Dehler of Crook
25 County as a landowner representative, Viri Glennon of Deschutes County and Norman Holiday of
26 Klamath County as hunter representatives. Staff made the recommendation as the council is severely
27 understaffed and cannot reach a quorum needed to vote on a council recommended candidates.

28
29 Morgan Olson moved to approve proposal as proposed. Candy Yow seconded the motion. The motion
30 carried unanimously 6-0.

31
32 Northeast Council, Jon Paustian

33 Jon shared information about Russell Elms who applied to be a hunter representative. Mr. Elms has
34 applied in the past but did not elaborate on his local activities.

35
36 Willie Bronson moved to approve proposal as proposed. Nic Callero seconded the motion. The motion
37 carried unanimously 6-0.

38
39 The Regional Council applications are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the
40 following link:

41 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/January/Applications_for_Board_Redacted.pdf.

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47 **Northeast Regional Coordinator Report**

48 Jon Paustian

1 Received notification from Gary Bloomer that he will be withdrawing the Fur Mountain property and
2 keeping the Iron Mountain property enrolled in the program. He is withdrawing the Fur Mountain
3 property just due to a business standpoint.

4
5 Dr. Rice of Glass Hill Access Area has shown interest in coming back to the program this year. Still
6 working on contract issues with Manulife, their attorney and ours are in discussion. Desolation Creek
7 is transferring their parcel to ODF.

8 9 **Deschutes-Klamath Regional Coordinator Report**

10 Jamie Bowles

11 Vacated the A&H coordinator position but will continue to be involved until it is filled and will guide
12 the work once the new person starts. Quorum for the regional board has been met as of today Will
13 continue to work on filling the Chair and last landowner position with the goal of appointing at the next
14 meeting in April. The plan is to continue to seek out projects for the program.

15 16 **Southwest Regional Coordinator Report**

17 Dylan Edwards

18 Territorial Youth hunt was excellent this year. All but two youth hunters harvested a deer, with some
19 good mature blacktail in the mix. Both hunters selected for the elk opportunity (first year opportunity
20 was offered) were successful.

21
22 New River landowners are great to work with, as always. Board members may see Aleutian geese
23 during our tour at the April meeting. April is just after the close of late goose season in the SW Coast
24 zone, when Aleutian geese seem to be staging on the ranches heavily.

25
26 Testing out the Hunt by Reservation application that Branden Dyches who gave a presentation several
27 meeting ago. Should be a great tool that may be used on other A&H projects. Coos Mountain TMA
28 returns to the board in about a year. Paperwork was finally signed by all parties and cooperators were
29 paid. Update on Jackson TMA will not be seeking funds through the OSP enforcement project but
30 going to a per acre fee. There is support from on-the-ground staff, and recommended the
31 board/investors join, but was ultimately denied by them. Sam Wheeler (forester/manager?) believes
32 upcoming legislation or fire insurance premiums being too costly could change views in the next five
33 years. Recommended we (ODFW) approach them each year to engage interest. There would be two
34 cooperators left, Manulife (formerly Hancock) and Lone Rock/Juniper Properties. Both already provide
35 public access on their lands in SW Oregon outside of the TMA.

36 37 **North Willamette Watershed**

38 Dave Nuzum

39 In the North coast TMA, some access points didn't have access until mid-October. Big Creek mainline
40 had a culvert wash out just prior to Elk season only about a mile up the mainline. Complied all the
41 hunter number and trips from the traffic counters, came out to about 11,000 and 16,000 hunter days on
42 the cooperators land. Which is right in line with the numbers five years ago.

43 44 45 46 47 **Northwest Regional Coordinator Report**

48 David Stroppel

1 Working on an application for Giustina Land and Timber who want to install two gates in the North
2 Coast TMA. We will be asking for money for supplies and contract installation. Two active regional
3 recruitments being worked on: the first is the crew lead on the South Willamette habitat crew, the
4 second is a seasonal technician who will work on Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP)
5 properties in the valley. Some of these properties we own others are owned by SWCD's, NGO's, etc.

6 Trying to purchase a heavy-duty truck and trailer to transport equipment between restoration sites
7 across northwest Oregon but it looks unlikely the truck will be purchased this fiscal year due to supply
8 chain issues. While routinely monitoring budgets I found a backhoe repair bill for over \$12,000
9 mistakenly charged to my cost center, working on moving this bill to the correct account.

10 **Malheur Regional Council Appointment**

11 Tom Segal, Malheur Regional Coordinator

12 Great amount of snow and rain this year. Chucker numbers have been great. Finished fall rejuvenate
13 treatment on the Bentz and McKenzie properties in October. Other funding keeps trickling in for in
14 invasive annual grasses work so there will be another 2,000 acres of rejuvenate treatment this spring.
15 Some of that is on the Riverside Wildlife Area, which is near the Benz property and then some of that
16 on Department of State Lands Ground in the Juntura area.

17
18 Hunter rep application came in that will be present in April, there has also been some interest in the
19 landowner vacancies.

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22 Adjourned 2:09 pm

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