



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2023
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE
Salem, OR 97302

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

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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:

Candy Yow, Vice Chair (remote)	Travis Schultz, ODFW	Wayne Endicott (OBH)
Ron Borisch, Board Member	Derek Broman, ODFW	Chuck Walter (ORWSF)
John Breese, Board Member	Roxie Borisch, ODFW	Marcus Gores (ORWSF)
Morgan Olson, Board Member	Jon Paustian, ODFW	David O'Connor (ORWSF)
Nic Callero, Board Member	David Stroppel, ODFW	Bryan Cook (OHA)
	Jessica Clark, ODFW	John Westly (MDF)
Board Members not in Attendance:	David Stroppel, ODFW	Chris Henry (ORNWTF)
Jeff McNerney	Dylan Edwards	
Amy Patrick		

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Meeting

On Tuesday, July 18, 2023, at 8:03 a.m. Vice Chair Candy Yow called the Access and Habitat Board meeting to order.

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Meeting Minutes Review

The minutes from the April 25, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Ron Borisch moved to approve the minutes as written. Nick Callero seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

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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/April/Minutes.pdf>.

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Board Member Reports

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Ron Borisch, Landowner Representative

Working with BLM, Confederated Tribes and Forest Service on gate maintenance, primarily in the Detroit area and Mary's Peak. A couple of gates have been vandalized; coordinating with agencies to maintain hunter walk-in primarily. At field tour yesterday there were questions on fire closures.

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Through OFIC landowners (some private entities as well) are listed on a matrix on who is allowed in and what kind of access there is statewide. This is posted on OFIC.Com. Hunters can use this to see where access allowed. Link is at: <https://ofic.com/private-forestland-closures/>.

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(It was recommended that this link be added to our website. After checking, it is on our website at the following webpage: <https://myodfw.com/articles/hunting-private-lands-access-habitat-program> under the link of Private Timberland Contacts and Closures)

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1 Morgan Olson, Hunter Representative

2 Morgan gave a big shout-out to completion of the second phase of the Minam project. He expressed
3 accolades and gratitude to all that have worked on this project including ODFW, Manulife and
4 RMEF. Lots of work on trail projects from fires last year. A big focus on Eagle Caps. Wallowa
5 Mountain Hells Canyon Trail Association have been very active and have set some lofty goals to try and
6 keep trails open for recreation. Union/Wallowa County OHA recently made some large donations to
7 youth...\$20K to youth trap shooting teams, Eastern Oregon University Trap Team, LaGrande High
8 School Trap Team, Wallowa High School Trap Team, and Union High School Trap Team. Also
9 awarded \$15K in scholarships to nine students within Union/Wallowa County.

10
11 John Breese Landowner Representative

12 Not much happening in Central Oregon. Appreciate Jessica Clark for getting Regional Council up and
13 running. Still in drought situation. There was lots of water this spring and the reservoirs were actually
14 filled in the area but its dry now; critical situation for fires.

15
16 Nic Callero, Hunter Representative

17 Work front has settled down a bit with Legislative Session coming to a close. Some of the projects
18 mainly dealing with wildlife movement and addressing impediments to wildlife in Oregon, Nevada,
19 Utah and a few other western states. Bills passed that allocated general funds to address wildlife
20 crossings – around \$40 million allocated which will be matched with federal dollars and leveraged
21 significantly to actually build projects on the group for migrating animals, which is very exciting. There
22 is a lot of momentum at the federal and state level and plans to build on this in coming years. On the
23 family front, spent the last week at Diamond Lake fishing with daughter and wife and refreshing
24 memory of the trials and tribulations that Diamond Lake as gone through over the past few decades. It
25 has rebounded and is truly an amazing, high quality recreation area. Commendations to ODFW for
26 maintaining these resources for hunters and anglers in Oregon.

27
28 Candy Yow, Hunter Representative

29 Working full time with husband to build new home and moved in two weeks ago. Just finished second
30 annual Youth Hunting Camp and it went amazingly well with great kids and instructors.
31 Had an interesting experience with dust devil that grew and grew. Ended with picking up two porta-
32 potties that were carried 150 yards, several trailers damaged, tin torn of wash-house. Nobody was hurt,
33 but was quite an experience. Ladies camp starts tomorrow.

34
35 **A&H Budget Report**

36 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

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

39 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/July/Budget%20Tables%20for%20the%20web.pdf>.

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41 Updates

42 At the June Commission meeting all projects were approved as were the A&H auction and raffle tags.
43 Changes to how A&H presents to the Commission has been simplified to introduction and questions.
44 Tracking current VPA-HIP, which is part of the 2023 farm bill, is moving forward in the US senate.
45 VPA-HIP will hopefully be introduced to House in September and approved by December.
46 With the goal to have Open Fields ready to go by April.

1 The method for determining map printing costs have changed. Map printing charges will now be
2 calculated by print area. Overall, our printing costs will remain consistent as we have both smaller and
3 large maps.

4 5 **Auction and Raffle Update**

6 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

7 Travis reviewed PowerPoint presentation showing auction and raffle sales updates and revenue. The
8 general theme is raffle entries sold is down, but revenue is up with more individuals buying smaller
9 packets of raffle entries.

10 11 **Auction Host Update**

12 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

13 Travis reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on Auction Contract Information and explained the process
14 and expectations. He emphasized the importance of the contractual requirements for the auctions and
15 working together to assure successful interactions with bidders and hosts. Successful auctions provide
16 roughly 50% of the Access and Habitat budget.

17
18 Candy thanked Travis for his report and the importance of the guidelines.

19 20 **Host Introductions**

21 Applications were received from 12 host organizations for allocation of nine A&H auction tags. Most
22 of the potential host organizations applying this year have auctioned tags for the A&H program in past
23 years.

24 25 **2024 A&H Auction Host Organization Applications:**

- 26 • Advocates for Sustainable Animal Populations (*withdrew application*)
- 27 • Houston Safari Club Foundation
- 28 • Mule Deer Foundation, National Chapter
- 29 • National Wild Turkey Federation, Baker County and Ochoco Chapters
- 30 • Oregon Bow Hunters
- 31 • Oregon Hunters Association, State, Blue Mt, and Mid-Willamette Chapters
- 32 • Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Southern Oregon and John Day Chapters
- 33 • Safari Club International, Lewis and Clark Chapter
- 34 • Wild Sheep Foundation, National and Oregon Chapters

35
36 The applicant Host Organizations introduced themselves and spoke about their organization and interest
37 in participating in the auctions.

38 39 40 **2024 Auction Tag Host Selection**

41 The Board discussed each tag and after considerable conversation, determined allocation. The following
42 chart shows allocation of the nine tags:

Organization	Chapter	1st Choice	2nd Choice	3rd Choice	Event Date	Event Location	2023 Tag Awarded
Wild Sheep Foundation	National	Bighorn Sheep	Pronghorn	Rocky Mt. Goat	Wednesday, January 17, 2024	Reno, NV	Bighorn Sheep and Pronghorn
Houston Safari Club Foundation		Rocky Mt. Goat	Pronghorn	Elk	Saturday, January 20, 2024	The Woodlands, TX (Houston)	Rocky Mt. Goat
National Wild Turkey Federation	Baker County	Deer	Elk	Rocky Mt. Goat	Saturday, February 3, 2024	Elks Lodge, Baker City	Deer
Oregon Bow Hunters		Combo	Deer	Elk	Saturday, February 10, 2024	Willamette Sportsman Show, Benton County Fairgrounds	Deer
Mule Deer Foundation	National	Combo	Deer	Elk	February 15 to 18, 2024	Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, UT.	Deer
Safari Club International	Lewis & Clark	Combo	Deer	Elk	Saturday, March 9, 2024	PDX Embassy Suites, Portland	Elk
National Wild Turkey Federation	Ochoco	Elk	Deer		Saturday, March 16, 2024	Casey Foster Hall, CC Fairgrounds, Prineville	Elk
Oregon Hunters Association (2)	Blue Mt.	Elk	Rocky Mt. Goat	Deer	Saturday, April 6, 2024	Convention Center, Pendleton	Elk
Oregon Hunters Association (3)	Mid-Willamette	Deer	Elk		Saturday, April 13, 2024	Boys & Girls Club, Albany	
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	John Day	Combo	Elk	Bighorn Sheep	Saturday, April 20, 2024	Grant County Fair Pavilion, John Day	
Oregon Hunters Association (1)	State	Deer	Combo	Elk	Saturday, May 4, 2024	Seven Feathers Casino	Deer
Wild Sheep Foundation	Oregon Chapter	Combo	Deer	Rocky Mt. Goat	Saturday, May 4, 2024	Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend	Combo
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	South Oregon	Bighorn Sheep	Combo	Elk	TBD	Online	Elk

Morgan Olson moved to accept the tag allocations as presented in the table above. Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Public Comment

Walter Chuck, Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation, thanked the board for the opportunity to speak and for their time as volunteers to serve on the A&H Board. He thanked the board for the allocation of the combo tag to their organization, and said they are looking forward to setting a new raffle record for this tag.

Northwest Regional Council Appointments

David Stoppel, A&H Coordinator, NW Region

Two regional council appointments are vacant; one for a hunter representative and one for council chairman. David gave background information on these two applicants.

One application was received for the Chair vacancy from Riley Stephenson. The Northwest Regional Council recommends Riley's appointment as the council Chair. Morgan Olson moved to accept the appointment. John Breese seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

One application was received for the Hunter Representative vacancy on the council from Ken McCall. The Northwest Regional Council recommends Ken's appointment to the council. John Breese moved to accept the appointment. Nick Callero seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Budget Outlook and Open Fields Options

Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

Travis presented the A&H budget outlook to the Board on options should VPA-HIP not be approved by Congress this year or next. The budget files are located in the Board packet and can be viewed at the following link:

1 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/July/Biennium%20Summary%20for%20the%20web.pdf>.
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4 **Insurance Requirement on A&H Contracts**

5 April Brenden-Locke, Contract Services Manager & Kathy Blehm, Contract Specialist

6 April and Kathy gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining the insurance requirements for Access and
7 Habitat contracts. This is new for the A&H program that grant agreements and contracts now require
8 insurance. Moving forward, new A&H agreements will have insurance requirements based on activities
9 funded by grant. Grant insurance requirements are based on specific project activities and risk
10 assessment. Having insurance protects the grantee. If grantee is executing the habitat project
11 themselves, additional insurance may be required.
12

13 **Project Review**

15 **2023-09 Giustina Gate Install-NCTMA,**

16 David Stoppel, A&H Coordinator, NW Region

17 This project provides materials for two heavy duty gates and labor to install them on Giustina lands that
18 are enrolled in the North Coast Travel Management Area. The gates will assist the landowner by
19 keeping individuals off closed roads and reducing the costs to maintain the road network. David
20 emphasized that this will not close off or eliminate current access. The proposed dates are unlikely as
21 commission will not approve spending until September.
22

23 John Breese moved to approve the project as proposed. Nick Callero seconded the motion. The motion
24 carried unanimously 5-0.
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26 The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:
27 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/July/Giustina%20Gate%20Redacted%20for%20the%20web.pdf>.
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30 **2023-10 Enforcement Cell Trail Camera Purchase,**

31 Travis Schultz

32 This project will provide trail cameras to OSP for road closure enforcement on A&H TMAs with
33 chronic cases of illegal motorized vehicle use. The project will provide nine total trail cameras, three
34 trail cameras each for the Green Diamond Resource Company Access Area, WPL/NCTMA and the East
35 Lane TMA. The trail cameras will be cell-enabled where possible and practicable. The project will
36 assist OSP troopers to be able to obtain vehicle license plate numbers, build cases and respond quickly,
37 leading to more contacts and citations of violators.
38

39 Morgan Olson moved to approve the project as proposed. Ron Borisch seconded the motion. The motion
40 carried unanimously 5-0.
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42 The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:
43 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/July/Enforcement%20Camera%20for%20the%20web.pdf>.
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1 **Coordinators Reports**

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3 **Northeast Regional Coordinator Report**

4 **Jon Paustian**

5 Eventful couple of weeks with the Minam Acquisition project. We are expecting the full formal
6 Yellowbook Appraisal by August 15 with a potential closing date on the property in early November. It
7 has been extremely time intensive, fielding lots of requests from the Forest Service Forest Legacy
8 Program. Received a call last night from Don Foster – Foster Ranch Access and Habitat project. He
9 had an individual come on to his property at night and somehow managed to puncture the fuel tank,
10 which led to a vehicle fire. The Baker County Sheriff and local fire department with assistance from
11 Oregon Department of Forestry responded. At this time, I am not sure how much damage it did to the
12 surrounding landscape. Regarding the potential insurance requirements on future A&H projects, it
13 would serve the applicants and the program to be able to build Administrative funds into the grant
14 applications to help off-set any additional costs incurred by the applicants.

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16 **Northwest Regional Coordinator Report**

17 **David Stoppel**

18 Dylan Edwards announced that he will be starting a new position in Corvallis on Monday, so will no
19 longer be representing the Southwest area. Acquiring some new equipment to replace 1978 truck and
20 trailer with a new Dodge and a 40-foot gooseneck trailer. This will enable staff to move tractors and
21 mowers more efficiently and safely around the valley as they work on wildlife areas and other
22 projects. The South Willamette Habitat Program has been short on personnel over the past year but will
23 soon be fully staffed.

24
25 Through Open Fields we have about six months of funding for the Northwest Region, the money hasn't
26 all be utilized over past few years. Plans are to hire a temp technician this fall to utilize funds to open
27 gates at the East Lane TMA, tour the Alsea/Stott Mtn area, gather harvest cards from our Open Fields
28 sites, support Linn and Lincoln County deputy projects, replace signage, watch for vandalism, cover the
29 ground and interact with landowners and hunters. Working on lots of expensive equipment repairs.
30 Working with USFWS, private landowners and biologists on various projects. Many projects on the
31 horizon as well as Good Neighbor agreements with the Forest Service and Detroit NF (which consisted
32 of installing half a dozen gates for them to manage access.) Did approximately seven acres of meadow
33 restoration that were being encroached by firs through our first GNA agreement in the Willamette NF.

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36 **Southwest Regional Coordinator Report**

37 **Dylan Edwards**

38 Dylan announced that he will be starting a new position in Corvallis on Monday. Completed a small
39 grants project treating 25 acres of big game winter range to improve green forage and oak stand health.
40 Treatment removed encroaching conifers up to 10" DBH and large brush, as well as some ecological
41 thinning of oaks to improve stand health and mast production. Work continues on the Jackson Travel
42 Management Area and finalizing the new map; hoping to get this and entry signs off to the printers soon
43 for install prior to the general western ALW deer hunt. Finishing out the 22-23 fiscal year for Pittman
44 Robertson Act funding as well as projecting what will be done during the 23-24 fiscal year.

1 **Deschutes-Klamath Regional Coordinator Report**

2 Jessica Clark

3 Working to fill three Regional Council vacancies: chair, landowner and hunter representative. Reaching
4 out to local hunting groups to see if there is interest. Had an informal meet-and-greet with current
5 Regional Council members which provided a good opportunity to get to know one another.

6
7 Desert conditions, the wet spring has led to a green summer, and standing water in places that are
8 normally dry this time of year. Completed very wet sage grouse survey season, peak lek attendance 7-10
9 days behind normal schedule. Pronghorn/goat flights end of July, currently deploying bat detector
10 stations, and conducted waterbird surveys end of June. All Hands All Brands- June, Ochoco National
11 Forest. Backcountry Hunters and Anglers event along with partners OHA, RMEF, NWTF, ODFW,
12 USFS hosted annual work party to build Beaver Dam Analogs. Successful and fun campout.

13
14 Working with USFS and State Parks fuels programs to provide wildlife habitat input as they plan their
15 hazardous fuels projects. Includes Deschutes NF 275,000 project. Wildlife passage updates, hwy 97 near
16 La Pine, received lots of calls this year about wildlife entrapment on highway-side of highway fencing
17 enclosures near undercrossing structures. Continued maintenance and monitoring. Hwy 20: Bend to
18 Suttle Lake- working with ODOT and other partners to start a feasibility study to implement similar
19 wildlife passage crossing structures in this area. Using lessons learned from Hwy 97.

20
21 Goal 5 updates: At the end of June, the Deschutes County Board of Commissioners voted to officially
22 end the G% update proposal and process. This proposal creates a new mule deer combining (or overlay)
23 zone and a corresponding new code chapter to address uses in that zone. The first phase of this project
24 took place in 2020-2021, in which Deschutes County initiated the process of considering updates to
25 three of its Goal 5 wildlife inventories.

26
27 Took some time off to get married. Later this week, joining Candy Yow at her Ladies Hunting Camp to
28 do some outreach and give a short presentation on how and what ODFW biologists do, and about the
29 A&H program.

30
31 **Malheur Regional Coordinator**

32 Tom Segal

33 Coordination with new regional council applicants and associated regional council meeting.

34
35 **Next meeting**

36 October 16 & 17, 2023, Burns, Oregon.

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38 Adjourned 12:40 p.m.