



Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

October 17, 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.*

2
3 Notice of these meetings had been published through Oregon Transparency Website and ODFW
4 Website: <http://www.oregon.gov/transparency/Pages/PublicMeetingNotices.aspx> and
5 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/index.asp>.

6
7 Those attending part or all of the meeting included:

<u>Board Members:</u>	<u>ODFW:</u>	<u>Others:</u>
Amy Patrick (Chair)	Travis Schultz	
Ron Borisch	Derek Broman	
John Breese	Jon Paustian	
Nic Callero	Jessica Clark	
Jeff McNerney	Dylan Edwards	
Morgan Olson	Tom Segal	
Amy Patrick	<u>Virtual:</u>	
Candis Yow (Vice Chair)	David Stroppel	
	Roxie Borisch	

8
9 **Meeting**

10 On Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 8:04 a.m. Chair Amy Patrick called the Access and Habitat Board meeting
11 to order.

12
13 **Board Member Reports**

14
15 Amy Patrick

16 Currently working on the creation and implementation of a ‘women’s network’ for OHA now that the
17 legislative session is over. No major hunting plans for the season, just trying to take care of a nuisance
18 bobcat on the property.

19
20 Ron Borisch, Landowner Representative

21 Update on access in the Santiam Canyon; most roads have been reopened. The exception is the Forest
22 Service where they have begun falling danger trees along some of their road systems and remain closed.
23 This has been a problem for the general public as a safety issue. It has been a bad year for gates on roads,
24 we have replaced two vandalized gates and multiple locks since our last meeting. We are allowing walk-in
25 on our company ground, and it has been popular as most hunters get frustrated with road driving hunters.
26 We also have been replacing our company lands signs which state the rules for recreationalists. We have
27 been in contact with the Linn Co Forest Deputy A&H project and get monthly reports.

28
29 John Breese Landowner Representative

30 A thank you to Jessica Clark for her work getting the Regional Council filled and she is now able to get
31 projects on the ground. On our ranch, we had some success with Spring Turkey Hunts. This Fall, we had a
32 youth antelope hunter who was not successful, and one adult hunter who did harvest an antelope. We had

1 three deer hunters, who were all successful getting buck deer. We are busy getting fall/early winter ranch
2 work done.

3
4 Nic Callero, Hunter Representative

5 Lots of salmon fishing this past month in Astoria and Newport. Finding lots of success with coho but
6 chinook not as much. After chasing elk in the coast range with the bow, I'll be focused on finding a mature
7 blacktail during the general season with this extended season into November. On the work front we are
8 beginning to gear up for legislative sessions in multiple states focused on new policies that protects habitat
9 connectivity in key areas. Lastly, running around from school to aftercare to soccer practice to gymnastic
10 practice with a seven-year-old daughter is exhausting.

11
12 Jeff McNerney

13 We (McNerney Farms) finally finished up all harvests on Sunday Oct 7th. We started with cherries on July
14 15th and continuously harvested fruit-cherries, blueberries, apples and pears since. Now we're getting in
15 fall clean-up and spraying chores before the weather gets too wet and cold.

16
17 McNerney Farms allowed a few turkey, deer, elk and bear hunters access on some of their properties during
18 the year. No success from four turkey hunters, three blacktail deer harvested, no bears taken by hunters but
19 two removed by damage control agent during cherry season and two bull elk wounded but not retrieved
20 during archery season. With a later season and rainy weather during rifle deer, the success seems to be
21 better than normal based on anecdotal evidence.

22
23 I spoke with John Cole from Green Diamond Timber just prior to rifle deer season and he stated that
24 hunting access is allowed on their lands behind locked gates on foot and non-motorized bicycles. All their
25 local properties are locked up to prevent motorized vehicle access.

26
27 Morgan Olson, Hunter Representative

28 Good numbers of game birds in NE Oregon this fall. Great start to the archery season with fall rain which
29 has provided lots of green-up. Union/Wallowa County Chapter of OHA hosting a women's pheasant hunt
30 October 21st in Cove Oregon. Lots of trail work completed this summer in the Eagle Caps this summer
31 with all goals met by Wallowa Mountains Hells Canyon Trails Association.

32
33 Candy Yow, Hunter Representative

34 Our last meeting was between our Ladies Hunting Camp and Youth Hunting Camp, both were very
35 successful and lots of new faces and fun. We have achieved our 501-C3 status in hopes we can continue to
36 help educate women and youth in the Outdoors full-time. Went on a Colorado Muzzleloader hunt, and was
37 not successful, but on lots of great bulls just no ethical shot. It was an interesting hunt in that we didn't see
38 any rag horn bulls, lots of spikes, 1- 5 point, and every other bull was a 300 class and up. Great and
39 exciting to see the big bulls but makes me worry about what they will have in the next couple of years, it
40 may be due to another rifle hunt they have added, if they are shooting meat bulls the rag horns are
41 taken. On the Oregon deer hunt, we saw very few deer and only smaller bucks but had a great time. We
42 leave on Wednesday for our Utah Deer hunt. I have been asked to put on a Ladies Day Out at the Portland
43 Sportsman's Show on February 16th from 2-4 pm, with speakers and activities for the ladies. It's a pretty
44 big undertaking but excited to pull it off in great fashion. Amy Patrick will be involved with OHA Ladies
45 Outreach.

1 **Meeting Minutes Review**

2 The minutes from the July 18, 2023 meeting were reviewed. John Breese moved to approve the minutes as
3 written. Morgan Olson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 7-0.

4
5 The Meeting Minutes are in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:
6 https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/July/July%20AH%20Meeting%20Minutes_Final.pdf
7

8 **Public Comment**

9 No public comments.

10
11 **A&H Coordinator Reports**

12 All projects were approved at the September 15, 2023 Commission meeting. Working on getting the
13 assistant position filled soon, working with ASD and DAS for insurance requirements. Recent judicial
14 rulings on the Oregon recreational use statute poses potential legal ramifications for the A&H program.
15

16 **A&H Budget Report**

17 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

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

20 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/October/Budget%20for%20the%20web.pdf>
21

22 **Open Fields - Farm Bill Update**

23 The deadline for the VPA-HIP past on September 30th without a new farm bill, so the most hopeful
24 estimates are for December passage of at least a continuing resolution to keep most of the farm bill
25 programs afloat as most of the major programs start expire in December. The commodity pricing will be
26 the driver, if a continuing resolution is not passed in December, dairy's commodity year is the first up and
27 will resort to the 1930 pricing model. I am not sure how high that would kick our milk prices, but the 1930
28 model is based on the economics of the great depression. March is likely the earliest that could see the
29 passage of the farm bill. The last hard deadline would be the adjournment of the session, December 2024.
30 After that, the bill would start for scratch in the new legislative session, it could be entered in with the same
31 language again.
32

33 **Meeting Dates and Locations**

34 By Statute the A&H Board needs to meet at intervals of no more than 120 days. The Board has
35 always met January, April, July, and October. The April and October meetings have generally
36 included field tours and January and July have usually been held in Salem. Proposed dates are
37 January 16, April 8-9, July 15, and October 21-22. The proposed locations are Salem for
38 January and July, Enterprise for April to tour Carman Ranch, Bear Creek and the Minam
39 Acquisition. The board was asked to think about what projects they are interested in touring this year.
40

41 Travis showed map of previous meeting locations. Meetings are scheduled to avoid conflict with
42 Commission meetings. 2024 proposed dates were discussed and the board recommended Baker for the
43 month of October. Board discussed possible tour locations for July that would be closer to headquarters.
44

45	January 16	Salem
46	April 8-9	Enterprise
47	July 15	Salem
48	October 21-22	Baker

1 Morgan Olson moved to approve the meeting dates listed above. Jeff McNerney seconded the motion. The
 2 motion carried unanimously 7-0.
 3

4 **Auction Event Sign-Up**

5 There are eight auctions and the raffle drawing that need to have A&H representation. Each
 6 event listed in the 2024 Auction Events Signup generally need two representatives, as a reminder
 7 ODFW staff will also be present at each event. The Big Game Raffle drawing will be conducted
 8 in-house at ODFW Headquarters following the controlled hunts seed number drawing. This will
 9 ensure the best possible video and audio for our viewing audience. Please select those events you
 10 wish to attend; any remaining open events will be covered by A&H Program staff. The raffle
 11 drawing is the only event that requires both A&H Representatives.
 12

13 Board reviewed dates and signed up for auction representation. Travis will distribute the dates to the board.
 14
 15

2024 Auction Events Board Member Schedule

2024 Auction Tag	Organization / Contact	Date & Location	A&H Board #1	A&H Board #2
Deer	National Wild Turkey Federation, Baker Cty Longbeards Jason Preston, (541) 693-4597	February 3, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. (MST) Elks Lodge, Baker City	Morgan Olson	Nic Callero
Deer	Oregon Bow Hunters, Oregon Wayne Endicott, (541) 556-7039	February 10, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. (PST) Benton County Fairgrounds	Amy Patrick	Ron Borisch
Deer	Mule Deer Foundation, National Ray Crow (801) 973-3940	February 16-18, 2024 Salt Palace CC, Salt Lake City, UT	Morgan Olson	Candy Yow
Elk	Safari Club International, Lewis & Clark Jeremy Coburn, (702) 622-7664	March 9, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. (PST) PDX Embassy Suites Portland	Nic Callero	Amy Patrick
Elk	National Wild Turkey Federation, Ochoco Chris Henry, (541) 604-6209	March 16, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. (PDT) Crook County Fairgrounds Prineville	John Breese	Jeff McNerney
Elk	Oregon Hunters Association, Blue Mountain Bryan Cook, (971) 270-7035	March 23, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. (PDT) Pendleton Convention Center, Pendleton	Morgan Olson	Jeff McNerney
Elk	Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Klamath Falls Daniel Beraldo, (541) 790-9256	April 2-4, 2025 Online auctions.rmef.org/auctions	Online	Online
Deer	Oregon Hunters Association, State Bryan Cook, (971) 270-7035	May 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. (PDT) Seven Feathers Casino, Canyonville	Ron Borisch	
Combo Deer and Elk	Wild Sheep Foundation, Oregon Walter Chuck, (541) 270-4919	May 4, 2024 at 8:00 p.m. (PDT) Riverhouse on the Deschutes, Bend	John Breese	Candy Yow
Big Game Raffle	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	May 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. (PDP) ODFW HQ Commission Room		

16
 17
 18

1 **Permit Drawing**

2 Oregon Hunter’s Association Redmond Chapter donated two prizes for the daily access permit drawing, a
3 Vortex 10X42 Diamondback Binoculars and a RTIC camo all weather hunting bag. The department’s
4 Game Program Manger Derek Broman drew Elisha Bailey for the binoculars and Colin Woodbury for the
5 RTIC bag. A big thank you to OHA for donating the prizes again this year.
6

7 *BREAK at 9:20 – readjourn at 9:30*
8

9 **Regional Council Appointments**

10 Jessica Clark presented the hunter and landowner representative applications she received for the
11 Deschutes/Klamath A&H Regional Council. The Council recommended appointing Ken Inman to the
12 vacant Hunter Representative position and Dave Pinkerton as the Landowner Representative.
13

14 John Breese moved to appoint Ken Inman as a Hunter Representative and Dave Pinkerton as a Landowner
15 Representative on the Deschutes/Klamath Regional Council. Nic Callero seconded the motion, the motion
16 passed unanimously 7-0.
17

18 **Project Review**

19 *Open Fields Access Projects Extension*
20

21 This project will extend the ten Open Fields access projects that are ending prior to the 2024-25 hunting
22 season for one year. The projects are the Fort Rock Access, four Willamette Valley Access (Calvin, Kropf,
23 Tenbush, and Manning), three Columbia Basin Access (Bunker Hill, Four Mile, Social Ridge), Manulife
24 Westside Access, and Weyerhaeuser Westside Access. Manulife Northeast and GDRC Northeast are
25 funded through the 2024-25 hunting season.
26

27 The projects were originally approved in 2020 and 2021 using Oregon Open Fields funds. Open Fields is
28 funded via the NRCS through the Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP), a
29 provision of the 2018 Farm Bill. The program was granted a no-cost extension to September 01, 2024. No
30 additional funds will be available prior passage of the 2023 Farm Bill. It is increasingly likely that the
31 Farm Bill’s passage will not occur in 2023. This project is a stopgap to continue to provide access while
32 providing time for the federal farm bill to be passed and the A&H program to apply for grant funds. If the
33 federal funding becomes available these projects will revert to federal funding.
34

35 Candy Yow moved to approve the project as proposed. Morgan Olson seconded the motion. The motion
36 carried unanimously 7-0.
37

38 The project application is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:
39 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/October/Open%20Fields%20Access%20Projects%20](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/October/Open%20Fields%20Access%20Projects%20Extension%20for%20the%20web.pdf)
40 [Extension%20for%20the%20web.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2023/October/Open%20Fields%20Access%20Projects%20Extension%20for%20the%20web.pdf).
41

42 **Coordinator Reports**

43
44 **Northeast Regional Coordinator Report**

45 **Jon Paustian**

46 The archery season and fall buck hunting seasons have gone very well. Very few complaints from the
47 hunting public- especially on Manulife lands and other corporate timber lands as hunters were able to
48 utilize these land bases much earlier this year because of the wet August and September months. We are

1 experiencing a widespread fall green-up throughout NE Oregon and as a result, big game is scattered across
2 the ranges. I have several new projects, Bear Creek Access Area and Harshfield Ranch, that were approved
3 by the A&H Board and ODFW Commission that needed signing and kiosk installations. Those efforts
4 were completed in early August, shortly before the Archery Season opener and hunter use on these
5 properties appears to be quite high. All other access areas in NE Oregon are functioning well and hunter
6 utilization appears to be consistent with prior years. The Minam Phase II Acquisition is scheduled to close
7 by November 14 and we are continuing to work our way through all of the due diligence measures
8 associated with that project. This is very exciting times as we have been working on this project for almost
9 4 years and the finish line is in sight! The Department is beginning to have conversations with USFS
10 regarding the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision and I anticipate that comments/coordination will amp
11 up over the next 12-18 months as USFS prepares a DRAFT Blue Mountains Forest Plan. This is going to
12 be very important for the communities in the Blue Mountains, especially private lands, as there are
13 conversations of improving working landscapes across public lands lessening the burden on private
14 timberlands. These are exciting times as it may lend to landscape level habitat restoration, especially on
15 public land summer ranges that are impacting big game populations.

17 **Northwest Regional Coordinator Report**

18 David Stroppe

19 As a member of the Prescribed Fire Workgroup, we've been working on developing guidance for ODFW
20 staff. We hope to improve staff understanding of regulations and permitting, training requirements,
21 equipment needs and resources available to them to implement prescribed fire on ODFW lands. We should
22 have this completed early in 2024. We hope to increase staff use of prescribed fire to improve habitat and
23 reduce the risk of wildfire.

24
25 We are moving forward with recruitment of the new NRCS Liaison position stationed in Tangent. This
26 ODFW position will work with mid-Willamette Valley landowners interested in improving oak woodland
27 and savanna habitats, as well as grasslands and wetlands. The position should be posted this month and
28 hopefully we'll have someone on board in January.

29
30 Met with staff to discuss our two GNA agreements and to plan upcoming field work. We have completed
31 all our meadow restoration work in the Willamette National Forest and are now focused on building and
32 installing seven gates to help USFS manage public access. We are working with The Dalles Screen Shop to
33 fabricate and install the gates.

34
35 Fantastic acorn crop in the Willamette Valley this year, plentiful and huge white oak acorns are raining
36 down across the valley.

38 **Southwest Regional Coordinator Report**

39 Ryan Battleson

40 Began the Wildlife Habitat Biologist position recently, with first day being Sept 15, 2023. It's been 0-
41 60mph since!

42
43 Have not had the chance to reach out to the SW regional A&H Council at time of October A&H board
44 meeting. Ryan knows Red Schlichting from work with ODFW STEP volunteering and has been in contact
45 with him. Aware that Ted Birdseye has approximately one year left in his term.

46
47 The Jackson TMA has been revamped. All of the three private timber companies have signed their Grant
48 Agreements, and an RFR is underway. The BLM and USFS could not include the new parcels that are East

1 and SE of the town of Butte Falls until they go through their internal process, but they did add back their
2 old properties. The updated map is being published to the TMA website. Planning to get a press release
3 out in early November, and also maps printed by the beginning of late Archery Season (Nov. 18).

4
5 Upper Rogue TMA signage is being deployed Oct 30-Nov 1. USFS is again on-board and helping to
6 deploy signage. Rogue Wildlife Staff and OSP met to discuss coordination and priorities for the upcoming
7 General Cascade Elk season, and patrols in the TMA.

8
9 A large meadow thinning project, which encompasses 254 acres, and five separate meadow units is
10 working its way through ASD. Hoping to fly the Request for Proposals in mid-November. Snow will
11 likely limit any work for the late fall/winter, but work must be completed by end of June 2024. Rocky
12 Mountain Elk Foundation (\$25,000), Oregon Hunters Association (\$6,250), and Mule Deer Foundation
13 (6,250) have all contributed match funding to this project.

14
15 C2 Cattle Company never signed their most recent A&H grant agreement (approved in Sept 2022), which
16 would have gone through the 2024/2025 hunt seasons and included ongoing habitat improvements. After
17 multiple reminder letters, phone calls and a trip to the ranch, finally made contact in mid-October, and was
18 told that they wished to take a break from granting hunter access. A certified letter was sent informing
19 them they do not have a current A&H project and are not eligible for any habitat reimbursements until
20 document is signed. The late archery application window closed with 26 applicants, but no winners were
21 selected. The youth rifle (630T) opportunity will not be flown.

22
23 Assisting Dan Ethridge with a large land use rezoning proposal in Jackson County. The property owner is
24 wishing to rezone 435 acres from EFU to Aggregate. There is a direct conflict with Goal 5 Resources,
25 especially sensitive deer winter range and aggregate resources. ODFW is recommending denial by the
26 Jackson County Planning Commission unless significant mitigation that results in equal or better protection
27 can be found. With such a large swath of property, this is proving difficult. ODFW is advocating for a
28 conservation easement and ongoing habitat improvements on the property that will not be mined. The
29 Jackson County Planning Commission already denied the proposal, but a final decision is slated for a
30 November 15 meeting of the Jackson County Board of Commissioners.

31
32 Heard rumor of a Wild Turkey Foundation Chapter being formed in Coos Bay. Know one of the founding
33 members and look forward to working with them in the future, should it get off the ground.

34
35 Denman Wildlife Area host has been building new hunt boxes for the New River Access Area, and these
36 will be delivered over to the coast by early November.

37 38 **Deschutes-Klamath Regional Coordinator Report**

39 Jessica Clark

40 Site visits for potential new projects in Sherman County: Dave Pinkerton (upland birds and mule deer).

41
42 UCAP program already provides access (seeking funds for habitat--invasive species treatment, fence
43 removal, and forage seeding). Working with ODFW The Dalles staff and others throughout Region
44 (Deschutes County, Sherman County, Klamath County).

45
46 Site visits with existing projects: Fort Rock EFM Open Fields (Mary Jo Hedrick; looked at their road
47 closures, spring developments, and areas where she would like to do riparian restoration (conifer removal)
48 in the future.)

1
2 Council meeting 10/12/23: Reviewed two new council member appointment applications. No response
3 from one Council Member. Attempted email and phone calls prior to meeting. Discussed applicants and
4 voted 3:0 for both (Dave Pinkerton, Landowner Rep and Kent Inman, Hunter Rep.)
5
6 Council: Still have one vacant position for Chair. Plan to see if any existing members would be interested
7 in Chair position.
8
9 Other district activities: Hunting season- hunter checks, CWD check stations, posting road closures, etc.

10
11
12 **Malheur Regional Coordinator**
13 Tom Segal
14 Working on putting together a new access project proposal for the Toelle Ranch in the North Malheur
15 River Unit. Working on a renewal application for the Alvord Access Area. A&H coordinator duties for the
16 Malheur Watershed will be gradually shifting Landon Hardt.

17
18 **Next meeting**
19 January 16, 2024 (Salem)

20
21 **Adjourned:** 10:20 a.m.
22

