



# Access and Habitat Board Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024  
Stay Plus Best Western, Enterprise OR.

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

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
Ron Borisch- Landowner Rep.	Marcus Thompson - ODFW
John Breese- Landowner Rep.	Derek Broman - ODFW
Morgan Olson – Hunter Rep.	Jon Paustian - ODFW
Truman Stone – Hunter Rep.	Jessica Clark - ODFW
	Ken Inman- Des./Klamath Regional Council

## Meeting

On Tuesday, October 22, 2024, at 8:02 a.m. Chair Amy Patrick called the Access and Habitat Board meeting to order with a special thank you for Jon Paustian for the excellent field tour he organized.

## Board Member Reports

### Ron Borsich, Landowner Representative

In fire news, a fire was found on us and burned roughly 6,000 acres. A company grader was taking equipment back and found a fire surrounded by three people smoking meth with trash strewn about. The grader operator was able to put the fire out. But, the road in to the area is not gated, so we will likely have to do something there. Road projects on U.S. Forest Service and BLM should be done this week.

### John Breese Landowner Representative

John had five deer hunters out on the ranch, and all were successful. His ranch prioritizes providing youth hunting, especially first-time youth. However, one youth hunter called for access a little too late to get in. He first saw the annual grass Ventenata on a tour of the Zumwalt. Once home, a similar looking grass was found on the property that was ultimately identified as Ventenata. The Ventenata spread like wildfire up the drainages, eventually replacing medusahead in places. He is looking into a grant from NRCS to protect old rye fields from annual grass encroachment. Early rains really appeared to help the upland bird populations, lots of Mountain Quail coveys.

### Morgan Olson, Hunter Representative

The Wallowa Mountain Canyon Trail Association this year removed 1,242 trees and maintained many miles of back country trails. Continued focus on the grant and shared project with Forest Service repairing and replacing signs in Eagle Cap and Hells Canyon wildness areas. The Union/Wallowa County Oregon Hunters’ Association chapter just did their women’s hunt and had a good turnout. There were 50 birds released but due to the winds the ladies got four out of the fifty

1 released birds. Each group got a bird which was good education for some first-time hunters. The  
2 chapter started their banquet planning process for 2025. About \$10,000 in scholarships was given out  
3 by the chapter to help students with their enrollment in college. The BHA chapter had conversations  
4 on prohibiting E-bikes from motorless areas and some further discussion on motorized vehicles.  
5 Lastly, we are starting to see cool weather come in, which is good due to all the acres burned in  
6 Oregon, approximately two million acres burned. In the Richland area doing some visual surveying  
7 of surrounding burned area, the good news is there were a bunch of chukars and a few deer in the  
8 burned-out area. Also, good chukar and blue grouse numbers in the Grand Ronde Valley.

#### 9 10 Truman Stone

11 A special thank you to the staff that took us on the tour and specifically the landowners. Cory  
12 Carmen provided some real western hospitality for having us out and providing the Board with an  
13 amazing tour of her property. It was really encouraging to see the passion of the landowners for those  
14 projects and how as a program we can partner with them. Truman and his dog volunteered at the EE  
15 Wilson youth pheasant hunt, which was completely booked. He had the privilege of seeing a young  
16 man who he previously took out the last two years and was back with his dad and they a dog this  
17 year. It was great to see the family getting fully invested in pheasant hunting. Truman went out  
18 hunting with a pair of cousins, first time hunters, and had some good success.

#### 19 20 Amy Patrick

21 From an OHA standpoint, her focus has been on bills and the legislative session. This will be the  
22 focus of her work for the next few months, honestly to next July. This weekend is the first Women of  
23 OHA event with a bitterbrush planting on the Crooked River National Grasslands and a chukar hunt  
24 at the end. There are some new gals and some seasoned hunters coming, the entire goal of the  
25 weekend is to just make that mentor and friendship connection for the ladies. The bulk of her time  
26 has been spent planning and coordinator for this event and lastly ,on a personal note, she is canning  
27 like mad!

#### 28 29 30 **Meeting Minutes Review**

31 The minutes from the July 15, 2024 A&H meeting were reviewed by the Board.

32  
33 John Breese moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Ron Borisch. The  
34 motion carried unanimously 5-0, voting in favor: Patrick, Stone, Breese, Borisch, Olson

#### 35 36 37 **Public Comment**

38 No public comment

#### 39 40 41 **A&H Coordinator Reports**

42 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

43 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/DRAFT%20AH%20Meeting%20Minutes7-15-24\\_.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/DRAFT%20AH%20Meeting%20Minutes7-15-24_.pdf)

44  
45 Thanked Jon Paustian for a phenomenal tour yesterday and thanked Carmen Ranches for the  
46 hospitality. Cory Carmen highlighted that trust in this program and personnel is critical for success,  
47 that trust is developed and maintained by field staff. A huge thank you to all the field staff for all that  
48 you do.

1 Program updates, the commission approved all four projects recommended by the A&H Board. The  
2 NRCS approved a one-year extension for the Open Field funds and awarded the program an  
3 additional \$664,000. The funding announcement arrived at the end of July and provided the  
4 department with two weeks to get our application to the NRCS. The contract was finished in  
5 September and all funds must be spent by September 1, 2025. O’Loughlin Trade Shows reached out  
6 to our marketing team to potentially hold an event to provide additional funding for the A&H  
7 program. On federally funded projects the CFR rules have changed for pass through grants, we will  
8 need to do an analysis on the individual we are providing funding to. The rule change will most likely  
9 result in a more formalized reporting process to ensure we are covered. The department is close to  
10 getting SmartSimple for grant management. A&H is the smallest program looking at the software  
11 and will be first to use it. If all goes well, SmartSimple will live by next April’s meeting. Lastly,  
12 department marketing staff are redesigning the A&H logo so it will scale for social media.

13  
14 Travis presented the A&H budget to the Board. The budget files are located in the Board packet  
15 materials and can be viewed at the following link:

16 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/Budget%20for%20web%20OCT.pdf>  
17  
18

### 19 **Budget Spend Down**

20 Travis Schultz, A&H State Coordinator

21 Presented reasons for rise in the A&H dedicated account and options to spend the balance down to  
22 the Board. Discussion by the Board followed with general approval for increasing the limitation by  
23 \$500,000 for the 2025-27 biennium. The files for the budget spend down are located in the Board  
24 packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

25 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/Budget%20spendodwn%20web%20.pdf>  
26  
27

### 28 **2025 Meeting Dates and Locations**

29 Travis Schultz, A&H Board Members

30 After discussion with the Board and Regional Coordinators the dates for 2025 are January 13 in  
31 Salem, April 7-8 in Medford, July 14-15 in Salem, and October 20-21 in Baker City. Field tours of  
32 Jackson TMA in April, Manulife/Weyerhaeuser in July, and Baker area projects in October.  
33

34 The budget files are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:

35 <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/Board%20Location%20History%20for%20web%20.pdf>  
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### 39 **2025 Auction Event Signup**

40 A&H Board Members

41 Board members selected the A&H auction events they will attend. The auction protocols will be  
42 discussed and the auction sign-up re-visited at the January A&H meeting.  
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1 **Permit Drawing**

2 Derek Broman

3 Drew the winning and alternate permits for the prizes provided by the Redmond Chapter of OHA.  
4 The permits drawn are daily access permits for A&H access areas from the 2023-24 hunting season  
5 where the hunter turned in both the A and B sides of the permit.  
6

Prize	Winner	Alternate
Vortex 10X42 Diamondback Binoculars	Wade Marney	Anthony Guisto
Walker's Ultimate Muff	Josh Hughes	William Lehnertz

8  
9  
10 **Deschutes/Klamath Regional Council Appointments**

11 Jessica Clark, Deschutes/Klamath Regional Coordinator

12 HUNTER REPRESENTATIVE

13 One application was received for the Hunter Representative vacancy on the council from Dalton  
14 Romanowski. The Regional Council recommends Dalton’s appointment to the council on a split  
15 vote, 3:1. The dissenting council member felt the council needed representation from an area outside  
16 of the Bend.

17  
18 LANDOWNER REPRESENTATIVE

19 One application was received for the Landowner Representative vacancy on the council from Aidan  
20 Meyers. The Regional Council recommends Aidan’s appointment to the council on a unanimous  
21 vote, 5:0.

22  
23 Morgan Olson made the motion to appoint Dalton Romanowski as a Hunter Representative and  
24 Aidan Meyers as Landowner Representative on the Deschutes/Klamath Regional Advisory Council,  
25 John Breese seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously 5-0, voting in favor: Patrick,  
26 Stone, Breese, Borisch, Olson.

27  
28 The Regional Council applications are located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the  
29 following link: [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/A-  
30 H%20board%20regional%20council%20app%20for%20web%20 Redacted.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/A-H%20board%20regional%20council%20app%20for%20web%20Redacted.pdf)  
31

32  
33 **Project Review**

34 2024-06 Open Fields Access Projects Extension and Block Grant

35 This project will extend the Open Fields access projects for one year through the 2025-26 hunting  
36 season. In addition, the proposal requests authorization to expend all remaining funds of the Oregon  
37 Open Fields grant, (VPA-HIP funds only). The block grant allows project review and approval by the  
38 A&H Coordinator and Wildlife Division. All projects must be consistent with the original proposal  
39 submitted to the NRCS. Access project will be funded for the 2025/26 hunting season only. Habitat  
40 projects must be completed by September 1, 2025. The department was awarded an additional  
41 \$664,000 from the NRCS for our VPA-HIP grant that funds Oregon Open Fields. All VPA-HIP  
42 grant funds must be expended by September 1, 2025.  
43

44 Morgan Olson made the motion to approve the project as proposed. The motion was seconded by  
45 Truman Stone. The motion carries 5-0, in favor: Patrick, Stone, Breese, Borisch, Olson

1 The project proposal is located in the Board packet materials and can be viewed at the following link:  
2 [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/Open%20Fields%20Access%20Projects](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/Open%20Fields%20Access%20Projects%20Extension.pdf)  
3 [%20Extension.pdf](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH/minutes/2024/October/Open%20Fields%20Access%20Projects%20Extension.pdf)  
4  
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### 6 **Deschutes-Klamath Regional Coordinator Report**

7 Jessica Clark

8 Jessica will be submitting an emergency fire reseeding application soon, for Sherman County.  
9 Currently working on the Aspen Valley project completion report, the landowner felt the three-year  
10 Open Fields grant timeframe was too short, he would prefer a five-year contract to get the work done.  
11 He is concerned with the increase deer carcasses he found and feels it is attributed to A&H hunters.  
12 During our last regional council meeting it became apparent hunters are not aware of the A&H  
13 program and what we do for the state. Increasing my outreach efforts and recently attended the Bend  
14 OHA Chapter meeting and gave a presentation on A&H and will continue outreach efforts. The Bend  
15 OHA chapter is also volunteering their time to monitor highway 97 crossing structure fencing and  
16 doing any needed maintenance work. The Bend to Suttle Lake effort is moving along currently in the  
17 engineering and design phase and trying to fundraise. Locally a lot of discussion of E-bikes  
18 specifically on Deschutes National Forest is scoping on a proposal to allow e-bike access on non-  
19 motorized trails.  
20

### 21 **Northeast Regional Coordinator Report**

22 Jon Paustian

23 Minam has been my life for the past six years, we just closed on phase three in September. We are  
24 now in the process now to assist Oregon State Parks to acquire land across the highway. Working  
25 with the review appraiser get the needed site visits done, that property could close as early as  
26 Thanksgiving. Pretty much other than that business as normal, busy fire season, fire season is over as  
27 of last night. Philip Schneider burned and waiting to see what we can do to start rehab. Deer collar  
28 data shows many deer survived the fires. Soil temperatures are already low so there will be no fall  
29 Greenup except for winter annuals, likely making for a bad ag damage year.  
30

### 31 **Northwest Regional Coordinator Report**

32 David Stroppel

33 He is anticipating a habitat application on the Seaside/Cannon beach area to see if it will be a good  
34 area for A&H project, hopefully with an access component. Linn county sheriff office enforcement  
35 project application would need to renew in January for 5 years. We are currently sitting on a  
36 landowner position and a vacant chair position. He is actively looking for new leads for a landowner  
37 position.  
38

### 39 **Malheur Regional Coordinator Report**

40 Landon Hardt

41 There were lots of fires this summer. The main fires in the Malheur district were the Cow valley fire  
42 and the Durkee fire, combined total 428,000 acres. Harney district main two fires were the Falls fire  
43 in the Silvies unit at 150,000 acres and the Telephone fire at over 50,000 acres. Spoke to many bow  
44 hunters on closures and preference point reinstatement in relation to these fires. Reposted signs on  
45 Lawen access area as they were getting dilapidated. The regional council is missing a landowner  
46 representative. Continuing to look for candidates, hopefully a little more digging will bring up some  
47 leads. He received a few emergency fire reseeding project applications and will get them in soon.  
48 Rebuilt three guzzlers on BLM to be more resistant to fire.

1 **Southwest Regional Coordinator Report**

2 Ryan Battleson

3 Southwest has a full council finally. The last few weeks have been dedicated to posting the Jackson  
4 TMA. New maps are posted with updated information. The Territorial youth hunt is starting soon, all  
5 youth who drew the hunt have been notified and we have confirmation of attendance. Upcoming  
6 project renewals for this winter for the Jackson TMA and New River access area projects. A small  
7 grant project was approved for \$700 for weed control treatments, the area is bordered by Murphy  
8 Timber, in total twenty-two acres will be treated. The Confederated Tribes of Siletz bought roughly  
9 2,000 acres that's bordered by BLM and The Nature Conservancy, and they may be open to habitat  
10 work/access on the property in the future.

11  
12 Adjourned at 11:40

DRAFT