

Oregon's Access & Habitat Board News

Fall 2007



The Oregon Legislature established the Access and Habitat Program in 1993 using a \$2 surcharge on hunting licenses. The A&H Board, composed of members of the public, identifies and recommends funding for projects that improve wildlife habitat and facilitate public hunting access on private lands.

A&H Program establishes 42,000-plus acres of new 'welcome to hunt' areas in E. Oregon

Hunters in Malheur and Harney counties will find more than 42,000 additional acres of private lands open on a 'welcome to hunt' basis beginning with the 2007-08 hunting season offering a variety of high-quality opportunities to pursue big game, predators, upland birds and waterfowl.

These private lands have been opened to public hunting through agreements between the landowners and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Access and Habitat Program. These agreements involve per-acre payments to the landowners in return for permitting the public to hunt on their lands. In addition to providing more private land hunting opportunities, some of these properties also allow access to adjacent public lands that are otherwise difficult to reach. The access agreements range from five to 10 years in duration.

More information about these areas is available at the ODFW office in Hines at 541-573-6582 and from ODFW headquarters in Salem.

The newest A&H Program 'open to hunt' opportunities in Harney and Malheur counties include:

Otley Access Area

This diverse habitat on Steens Mountain offers opportunities to hunt mule deer, elk, pronghorn, sage grouse and upland birds on 16,737 acres for a 10-year period. Public hunting access is available annually from August 1 through March 1.

Roaring Springs Ranch

A total of 20,137 acres of the Roaring Springs Ranch, located in the Catlow Valley on the west side of Steens Mountain, will be open to public hunting access from August 1 through March 1 for the next 10 years.

Hunting opportunities on this High Desert property include mule deer, pronghorn, sage grouse, upland birds, waterfowl and predators.

Bentz Access Area

Deer, chukar and predators may be found on this Malheur County property located on the north side of Highway 20, 5.5 miles east of Juntura, where access has been expanded to 4,676 acres from a previous agreement. A road posted as open leads to the property.

The area consists of sagebrush and juniper rangeland and, in addition to hunting opportunities, provides driving access to a large tract of BLM land as well. Motorized vehicles must stay on the BLM

access road posted as open.

Public hunting access to this property is available from August 1 to March 1 through 2012.



Through cooperative agreements with landowners, the A&H Program has opened up many new public hunting opportunities including increased access to Steens Mountain.

Ontario Public Access Site

A total of 800 acres owned by the City of Ontario will be open to public hunting access during upland bird and waterfowl seasons through May 31, 2017. The property is located in the east Beulah Wildlife Management Unit adjacent to the city of Ontario.

For more information on this access area contact the ODFW field office in Ontario at 541-889-6975.

A&H board tours new Harney County access project

Access and Habitat Board members and ODFW staff toured one of the program's new hunter access projects during the course of their October business meeting, which was held in Burns.

Known as the Otley Access Area, it opens nearly 17,000 acres of prime big game territory along the west face of Steens Mountain to public hunting access for the next ten years.

The board also approved six new A&H project proposals at the meeting.



A&H regional coordinator Dan Gonzalez leads a tour to the Otley Access Area.

A&H on the Web

www.dfw.state.or.us/AH/

Calendar of Events

September 14

A&H Grant Application Deadline
503-947-6314

January 29, 2008

A&H Board Meeting,
Salem, 503-947-6314

April 21 - 22, 2008

A&H Board Meeting,
Seaside, 503-947-6314

July 21-22, 2008

A&H Board Meeting,
Halfway, 503-947-6314

Roy Elicker named ODFW Director, Curt Melcher, Deputy Dir.

Roy Elicker was appointed Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Director by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission in August, replacing former Director Virgil Moore.

Elicker has worked for ODFW since 1993 and has been Deputy Director since 2001. He has also served as Interim Director on two occasions. Other positions he has held include Fish Division Deputy Administrator and Legislative Coordinator.

Curt Melcher was named Deputy Director. He has been with ODFW for 20 years, most recently as Fish Division Assistant Administrator for the Columbia River and Marine Programs.

Matt Keenan hired as A&H Coordinator

Matthew Keenan has been selected as the new A&H Program Coordinator and began his official duties on October 8th.

Matt is completing his Masters at Penn State University this fall where he studied antlerless white-tailed deer harvest and hunter distribution in Pennsylvania.

His past biological experience has included: telemetry and GIS support for beaver research with the University of Massachusetts; a stint in South Africa capturing African game and studying habitat management practices and its human dimension and; deer and moose movement pattern work in Utah. He has also taught GIS courses at Penn State.

He replaces former A&H Program Coordinator Nick Myatt.

Have an idea for an A&H Project?

If you have an idea for a project that increases public hunting access to private lands and/or improves wildlife habitat contact the A&H Regional Coordinator nearest you for advice and assistance on applying for an A&H grant.

Northwest Region

Troy Laws, Tillamook 503-842-2741
Jim Young, Corvallis 541-757-4186

Southwest Region

Vince Oredson, 541-826-8774
Central Point

High Desert Region

Larry Pecenka, Bend 541-388-6444
Dan Gonzalez, Hines 541-573-6582

Northeast Region

Jon Paustian, La Grande 541-963-2138

To receive a free subscription to *Oregon's Access and Habitat Board News* just fill out this form and mail it to: Access and Habitat Program, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 3406 Cherry Avenue, N.E., Salem, OR 97303

Name _____

Street/P.O. Box _____

City/State/ZIP Code _____

To be removed from this mailing list check the box to the left and return coupon or contact: melissa.m.stanton@state.or.us



6 New A&H Project Grants Approved

F&W Commission awards \$510,000 for new projects at September 2007 meeting

1 Linn Forest Protection

A three-year, \$30,000 grant has been awarded to the Linn Forest Protection Association to help fund a Linn County Deputy to provide law enforcement services on 389,500 acres of private lands and 121,300 acres of public lands in Linn County during the general deer and elk seasons.

The A&H Program has helped fund this project since 1997, which has resulted in these private lands remaining open to the public for hunting.

2 Hope Well Restoration

The ZX Ranch in Lake County has received a \$15,000 grant to re-drill and case a well that supplies water to an 11-mile pipeline for livestock and wildlife on a 150-square-mile Bureau of Land Management allotment.

The well, which provides water for about 250 pronghorn, 130 bighorn sheep, 400 mule deer and 150 sage grouse, suffered a partial collapse in January 2007.

3 L.D. Bennett Juniper Cut

L.D. Bennett and the Goose Lake Fishes Working Group, of Lake County, will use a \$15,000 grant to maintain the overall health of a bitterbrush and sagebrush understory by cutting junipers on 250 acres of mule deer winter range located on private land. Removing the junipers will reduce competition with the bitterbrush and sagebrush for sunlight, water and nutrients.

The landowner allows public access for mule deer hunting on 370 acres of his property, which is located within the Interstate Wildlife Management Unit.

4 Blue Mountains Elk Initiative

A \$100,000 grant has been awarded to the Blue Mountains Elk Initiative that will be used to improve elk management in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon. These funds will be matched on at least a one-to-one ratio with Blue Mountains Elk Initiative funds for habitat improvement projects on private lands such as controlled burns, spring development, rangeland rehabilitation and noxious weed control.

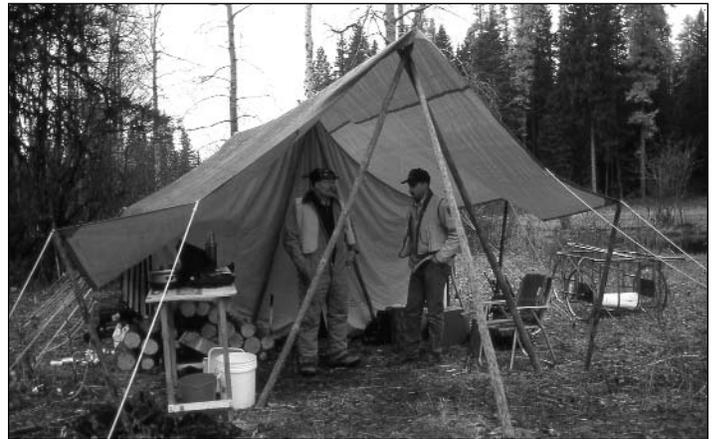
The Blue Mountains Elk Initiative is a federal, state and tribal cooperative effort that was created in 1990 to address elk and elk habitat issues through partnerships with natural resources professionals, tribal nations, concerned citizens, non-profit organization and private landowners.

5 Sled Springs Management Demonstration Area

The ODFW's Northeast Region and Gallatin Northeast Oregon Land and Timber, LLC have received a \$344,871 grant to be disbursed over a five-year period to continue an ongoing public hunting access program on 127,000 acres of private industrial timberlands in Wallowa County known as the Sled Springs Management Demonstration Area.

The funds will be used to hire an ODFW technician who will assist in estimating pre-season elk calf ratios, prepare gates and signage, patrol the area during hunting seasons, collect hunting data and prepare an annual report on project results.

The overall goals of the management demonstration area are to improve relations between hunters and private landowners, provide public hunting access to private lands, increase hunter satisfaction levels and test new elk management techniques.



Thanks to funding from the A&H Program, the Sled Springs Management Demonstration Area continues to provide high quality public hunting access to 127,000 acres of private timberlands.

6 C2 Ranch Habitat Improvement

The C2 Ranch in Jackson County has been awarded a \$5,000 grant to improve about 200 acres of pasture that are used by as many as 100 elk. One of the more important pastures for elk has been nearly completely overgrown with non-native Himalayan blackberry. To improve this elk habitat, the blackberries will be eradicated. In addition, 60 acres of pasture will be fertilized to enhance new forage growth and 20 acres of decadent wedgeleaf ceanothus will also be removed.

In return for the grant, the landowner will allow youth deer, elk and turkey hunting on 2,750 acres in 2007 and 2008.

Access and Habitat Board
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
 3406 Cherry Avenue, N.E.
 Salem, OR 97303-4924



For information on applying for an Access and Habitat Program grant contact A&H Program Coordinator Matt Keenan at 3406 Cherry Avenue N.E., Salem, OR 97303-4924 503-947-6087

Oregon's Access and Habitat Board News, Fall 2007, Vol. 12, No. 4

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, 3406 Cherry Avenue N.E., Salem, OR 97303-4924

Roy Elicker, Director

Matthew Keenan, A&H Program Coordinator
 J. Yuskavitch Resources, Design and Editing

Access and Habitat Board

Tally Patton, Chair Eugene
 Reinard Okeson Hillsboro
 Ward Armstrong Salem
 Theo "Tik" Moore Vale
 Robert Jaeger Condon
 Duane Bernard Rainier
 Steve McClelland Cove

**A&H Advisory Councils
 North Willamette**

Greg Oriet, Chair Carlton
 Keith Klecker Scappoose
 Eric Marsh Canby
 Wendell Locke Gaston
 Norm McLaren Seaside
 Jim Buchanan Forest Grove
 Brian King Seaside

South Willamette

Ken Nivens, Chair Salem
 Ron Borisch Keizer
 William Harris Florence
 Gregg Munson Shedd
 Roderick Johnson Corvallis
 Don Poole Salem
 Sam Flande Albany

Southwest

John Moore, Chair Coos Bay
 Bill Ryan Jacksonville
 Briggs Dunn Winchester
 David Montgomery White City
 Mike Kaiser Eagle Point
 Gary Grimes Medford
 Bill Leavens Central Point

Deschutes/Klamath

James Morrell, Chair Sisters
 Teal Purrington Redmond

Gerald Scanlan Malin
 William Friedlander Bend
 Roger Borine Bend
 Greg Concannon Madras
 Bradley Klann Madras

Malheur

Chris Payne, Chair Ontario
 Cynthia Coleman Burns
 John Haffner Ontario
 Clare Poulsen Burns
 Brian LaFollette Burns
 Ramey Mosman Nyssa
 Fred Hellbusch Hines

Northeast

Ron Deutz, Chair Pendleton
 Saralyn Johnson Wallowa
 Barry DelCurto Halfway
 Keith Garoutte Wallowa
 Shawn Bingaman Imbler
 Mike Rahn Enterprise
 Scott Spears Cove