

# Oregon's Access & Habitat Board News

Winter 2009



The Oregon Legislature established the Access and Habitat Program in 1993, funded primarily through 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.

## 2008 A&H raffle hunt ticket purchase pays off big time for Gaston hunter

**H**unter Joe Rutledge intends to buy his friend Andy Morris a couple hundred dollars worth of Access and Habitat raffle tickets for next year. As far as Joe is concerned, he owes him big time. Because if Andy hadn't talked Joe into buying A&H raffle tickets, he never would have shot his 8x9 Roosevelt elk last September.

Each year, the A&H Program raffles a total of 10 deer and elk tags at the annual convention of the Oregon Hunters Association. Winners are entitled to a three month hunting season, from September through November, in virtually every place in Oregon where public hunting is legal. Raffle revenue is used to fund wildlife habitat and hunter access projects throughout the state.

Rutledge's A&H hunting adventure began last May when he attended the OHA convention in Lincoln City. It was the second year he had purchased A&H raffle tickets, this time splitting \$200 worth between the Statewide and Western Oregon elk hunts.

As the winning Western Oregon Elk hunt ticket was drawn, Rutledge watched with joy as his name flashed across the big screen in the banquet hall.

September first found Joe, who lives in Gaston, hunting in the Hagg Lake area near Forest Grove. "We had seen a big bull elk up there over the past couple of years when we were bowhunting," said Joe of the bull that was always out of arrow range. "This year I thought I would surprise him with a rifle." But the bull didn't show up so Rutledge started looking for new hunting grounds.

Fortunately, A&H raffle hunt winners receive a packet in the mail with lots of current information on Oregon deer and elk population data along with the names and contact information of ODFW field biologists, intended to help winners pick the most productive places to hunt.

Rutledge called Stuart Love, ODFW District Wildlife Biologist based at the Charleston field office. Love gave Rutledge an overview of elk numbers in the area and some ideas on the best places to hunt.

With that information in hand, Rutledge chose the Powers Wildlife Management Unit in southwest Oregon for his second try. With referrals from some of his hunting buddies he even found a Myrtle Point hunting guide, John McCollum, who offered to take Joe out free of charge when he had some spare time.

It didn't take long and on September 5, Joe, Andy, and McCollum were in the woods scanning clearcuts for elk with a spotting scope. On the first day they saw only cows. But their luck soon changed.

On the next day, Andy spotted two groups of elk, but all were cows. Then, in a clearcut about a mile away, they watched as a big bull herded a cow out of the timber, then laid down behind a stump.

"When we saw the size of that bull, we knew we had to get down there," related Joe.

The three men scrambled through the brush and positioned themselves about 300 yards away. "Then the bull stood up and I got him with a good shot at 300 yards," said Joe. "He scored 348 and 5/8ths, so he'll make the books." The 8x9 Roosevelt elk bull also had one 16-inch point and two double points.

But success hasn't turned Joe's head and he's ready to thank the guy who helped put that big bull in his scope.

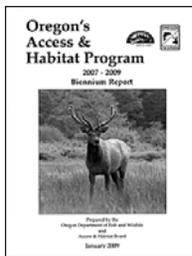
"I'll put \$200 into tickets for Andy this year because he's the one who got me into the raffle," said Rutledge. Hopefully, it will pay off for Andy as well as it did for Joe.



Joe Rutledge (right) and friend Andy Morris with Joe's trophy Roosevelt elk, harvested on an A&H Western Oregon Elk raffle hunt tag. Photo courtesy Joe Rutledge

# 2007-09 Biennium Report features A&H accomplishments

Every two years, the Access and Habitat Program prepares a biennium report that is presented to the Oregon Legislature so it can review the recent activities and accomplishments of the program. Here are a few facts from the 2007-2009 biennium report:



## Two new A&H Board members appointed

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission appointed two new A&H Board members to replace Tally Patton and Reinard Okeson, whose terms expired in December 2008.

Thomas Alkire, of Portland, and James Morrell, of Sisters, were appointed as hunter representatives.

Alkire is a journalist and active in a number of sportsmen's organizations. Morrell was a Captain in the U.S. Navy, past A&H Deschutes/Klamath Regional Advisory Council Chair, and former Field Administrator for the Oregon Hunters Association.

Board member Steve McClelland has replaced Tally Patton as Board Chair and public representative.

- 23 new A&H projects were approved during the biennium:
  - 22% provide access and habitat benefits
  - 35% provide access-only benefits
  - 43% provide habitat improvement-only benefits
  - \$775,215 awarded for new grants
  - \$3,215,210 was contributed by A&H cooperators (more than \$4 for every \$1 of A&H funds spent)
- There were a total of 76 active A&H projects:
  - 76% of all 2007-09 projects provide hunter access
  - A total 4,479,585 acres of private land is open to hunting through A&H projects
  - 96,602 acres of private land has been improved for wildlife

## Calendar of Events

**March 13**

A&H Project Applications Due

**March 20\***

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting, Salem, 503-947-6044

**April 29**

A&H Board Meeting, John Day, 503-947-6087

**June 5\***

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting, Salem, 503-947-6044

**June 19**

A&H Project Applications Due

**July 21**

A&H Board Meeting, Salem, 503-947-6087

\*Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings where A&H business is being conducted.

## 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

Crystal Strobl, The Dalles 541-296-4628  
Dan Gonzalez, Hines 541-573-6582

### Northeast Region

Jon Paustian, La Grande 541-963-2138

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## A&H on the Web

[www.dfw.state.or.us/AH](http://www.dfw.state.or.us/AH)



## New A&H Projects

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved two new A&H projects at its December 12, 2008 meeting in Portland.

### Rogue Meadows Enhancement

A \$6,640 grant will be used to reimburse six landowners in Jackson County for 16 tons of fertilizer to repair wildlife-damaged meadows.

These meadows are heavily used by elk, which compete for forage with the landowners' livestock. Reimbursing the landowners for their fertilizer helps compensate them for the loss of forage while also helping to improve forage conditions for elk.

Four of the property owners allow some public hunting on their lands.

This is an ongoing project in cooperation with the landowners, ODFW, and volunteers from the Rogue Valley Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association.

### Blue Mountains Elk Initiative

A \$100,000 grant awarded to the Blue Mountains Elk Initiative (BMEI) will fund projects that improve elk habitat in the Blue Mountains region of northeast Oregon.

Seventy percent of the A&H grant funds are dedicated for projects on private lands, which make up about half of the area covered by BMEI and contain a substantial amount of elk habitat. The remaining 30% may be used on public lands at the public/private interface. Typical elk habitat projects include grazing management programs, controlled burns, water improvements, juniper management, and noxious weed control.

Created in 1990, BMEI is a cooperative effort composed of federal, state, local, tribal, and private agencies and organizations, including ODFW, which address elk management issues in Umatilla, Union, Wallowa, Baker, Grant, Morrow, Crook, Harney, and Malheur counties.



*The Blue Mountains hold one of the largest elk populations in the world.*

## Three A&H auction tags raise \$73,000

Three A&H Program big game tags recently auctioned at sportsmen's organization conventions have garnered \$73,000 for Oregon wildlife habitat improvement and hunter access projects.

A statewide elk tag was auctioned for \$22,500 at the La Grande Chapter, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in La Grande on Jan. 31. A statewide deer tag brought in \$27,500 at the Mule Deer Foundation convention in Salt Lake City on Feb. 5. On Feb. 7, another statewide elk tag went for \$23,000 at the Santiam River Chapter of the Safari Club International held in Albany.

These tags award the winning bidders with an extended hunting season from Sept. 1 – Nov. 30, 2009 anywhere in Oregon where there is an authorized deer or elk season.

Ten percent of those proceeds will go to the organizations sponsoring the auction while the A&H Program will use the remainder of the funds for projects that restore and enhance wildlife habitat and increase hunter access throughout the state.

## Six more A&H auctions to go for 2009

### Statewide Deer

February 28, 2009  
Oregon Bow Hunters  
Association  
Lincoln City  
Contact: Karen Demaris  
(541) 536-2252

### Statewide Elk

March 14, 2009  
Oregon Hunters Association  
Portland Chapter  
Portland  
Contact: Leslie Shaw  
(503) 259-9821

### Governor's Statewide Elk/Deer Combo

March 6, 2009  
Rocky Mountain Elk  
Foundation  
Fort Worth, TX  
Contact: Kristy Bosworth  
(406) 523-0242

### Statewide Elk

April 11, 2009  
Foundation for North  
American Wild Sheep -  
Oregon  
Warm Springs  
Contact: Mike Boethin  
(541) 480-6203

### Statewide Deer

March 7, 2009  
Wild Turkey Federation  
Rogue Gobblers  
Medford  
Contact: Jeff Heil  
(541) 779-8926

### Statewide Deer

May 16, 2009  
Oregon Hunters Association  
Grand Ronde  
Contact: Duane Dungannon  
(541) 772-7313

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**

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