

Oregon's Access & Habitat Board News



The Oregon Legislature established the Access and Habitat Program in 1993, funded primarily through a \$4 surcharge on hunting licenses and proceeds derived from deer and elk auction and raffle tags. 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.

Collecting Hunter Data Critical for A&H Decision Makers

Hunters coming upon a kiosk with data cards to fill out at an Access and Habitat property may regard it as just 'more paperwork,' but the information gleaned from those cards gives A&H Program decision makers critical information to help them provide more public access to private lands and better

species they are hunting, if they were successful, and their overall satisfaction with their hunting experience. There is also an opportunity to add comments or suggestions.

"That hunter information gives us a feel for what properties hunters like the most and helps us prioritize properties for the future," said Shultz.

Information gleaned from the data cards can also help determine which properties might benefit from additional habitat restoration work to improve hunting opportunities.

The second way the A&H Program evaluates A&H access property use involves placing traffic counters at vehicle entry points. These vehicle counts show how much public use a particular property is receiving, the most popular entry points, and

most heavily used areas.

Information that helps the A&H Board prioritize projects is especially important. If the A&H Program continues to fund all its current long-term access projects, budgets will be stretched.

By looking at hunter use and hunter satisfaction levels, A&H staff and Board members can determine what access projects give hunters the most 'bang for the buck' to ensure they receive continued funding and support.

New Wendling TMA Boosts Hunter Access

The Wendling Travel Management Area (TMA) located within the McKenzie Wildlife Management Unit was established last year to increase deer and elk hunting opportunities on nearly 90,000 acres of industrial timberlands while helping the landowners reduce damage to their trees. ODFW received a \$23,220 A&H grant in 2011 to help fund the project for two years.

Historically, most of the project area was open to public hunting on weekends or evenings only. This resulted in crowding during these time periods, which reduced hunt quality and success rates, despite the high numbers of deer and elk on these lands.

The TMA now allows public hunting all week long during legal seasons, and roads open to vehicles are less than two miles apart. This network of open roads is designed to support as many hunters as possible while maintaining a quality hunting experience for all.

The Wendling TMA logged 4,597 hunter visits during the 2011 deer and elk rifle seasons. "It's been an overall success," said ODFW District Biologist Brian Wolfer. "Hunter success has increased and the timber companies costs have been reduced."



Information provided by hunters at A&H property access points gives A&H staff and Board members valuable information for making future funding and management decisions. Photo by Jim Yuskavitch

hunting opportunities in the future.

"For the two types of properties, welcome to hunt, and by-permission, we collect data from checking permits," said Travis Shultz, coordinator for the Columbia Basin Access Program, which provides public hunting opportunities on private lands in the Columbia River basin, especially for upland game birds.

The types of information hunters are asked to provide include how many people are in their hunting party, what



Black-tailed deer buck, Wendling TMA Photo by Brian Wolfer/ODFW

2013 A&H Auction Hunt Sponsors Selected

Nine hunter conservation organizations have been selected by the Access and Habitat Board to sponsor A&H 2013 deer and elk auction tags. These tags will be auctioned at the various organizations' fundraising banquets and conventions in 2013 with 10 percent of the proceeds going to the sponsoring organizations and the remainder to the A&H Program to fund hunter access and wildlife habitat improvement projects throughout Oregon. Organizations selected for 2013 and the tags they will auction are:

Governor's Statewide Deer & Elk Combination

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, National

Statewide Deer

Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Oregon Chapter

Statewide Deer

Mule Deer Foundation, National

Statewide Deer

Oregon Hunters Association, State

Statewide Deer

Unlimited Pheasants Southern Oregon Chapter

Statewide Elk

Ducks Unlimited Sunset-Forest Grove Chapter



A&H auction hunts offer winning bidders the opportunity for the 'hunt of a lifetime.' Photo by Brian Wolfer/ODFW

Statewide Elk

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Hillsboro Chapter

Statewide Elk

Safari Club International, National

Statewide Elk

Safari Club International, Santiam River Chapter



Plan to Hunt A&H Properties this Year

Access and Habitat properties offer hunters a wide range of hunting opportunities for a variety of species including big game, upland birds, waterfowl, and predators. To help plan your trip, the A&H Program produces a packet

each year listing all the private lands in the state participating in A&H hunter access programs, hunting opportunities available, their locations, and any special rules and regulations for hunting them. In addition, you can also find information about "welcome to hunt" properties on the A&H website at:

www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/hunting/index.asp. Then consult the Oregon Hunting Map at www.OregonHuntingMap.com to find your way to the property.

For more information or to obtain a hardcopy of the 2012-13 A&H Hunting Packet contact A&H Program staff at (503) 947-6087.

Calendar of Events

September 7

Fish and Wildlife Commission
A&H project review, Hermiston
503-947-6044

October 15-16

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

December 7

Fish and Wildlife Commission
A&H project review, Portland
503-947-6044

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

Dave Nuzum, Tillamook 503-842-2741
David Stroppel, Corvallis 541-757-5237

Southwest Region

Vince Oredson, 541-826-8774
Central Point

High Desert Region

Larry Pecenka, Bend 541-633-1117
Meg Eden, Prineville 541-447-5111
Tom Segal, Ontario 541-889-6975

Northeast Region

Jon Paustian, La Grande 541-962-1838

A&H on the Web

www.dfw.state.or.us/AH



Five New A&H Projects Approved by F&W Commission

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved five Access and Habitat projects at its June 2012 meeting in Salem. These include:

Lincoln County Forest Protection Project

The Lincoln County Solid Waste District was awarded a \$150,000 A&H grant to continue law enforcement patrols on 308,510 acres of private forest land in Lincoln County.

Funds will be used to pay for a forest deputy who will patrol private timberlands open to public hunting from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2017. The A&H Program has supported this program since 1994. By reducing vandalism, garbage dumping, poaching and other violations, this law enforcement project has been instrumental in keeping these private timberlands open to public hunting access.

The properties are located within the Alsea and Stott Mountain wildlife management units and provide hunting opportunities for deer, elk, bear, forest grouse, and other game animals.

C2 Ranch Habitat Improvement Project

A \$24,000 grant to the owners of the C2 Ranch in Eagle Point will be used to help fund wildlife habitat improvements on 1,860 acres to benefit big game and wild turkey.

Habitat improvements will include blackberry removal, cutting back decadent brush to allow new growth more valuable to wildlife, and fertilizing pastureland to increase the growth of wildlife forage.

Located within the Rogue Wildlife Management Unit, the landowners will also allow limited hunting access on the entire 9,600-acre ranch for six adult archery deer hunts, 28 guided youth deer hunts and 10 guided youth turkey hunts for the 2012/13 and 2013/14 hunting seasons.

Territorial Youth Deer Hunt

Giustina Resources has received a \$7,944 grant to allow hunting access on 4,477 acres of private timberlands to 13 youth deer hunters each year for the next three years. A&H funds will be used for security, permits, and hunting access costs.

Located within the Siuslaw Wildlife Management Unit, the property offers high quality buck hunting opportunities in an area with few other hunters.

The A&H Program has been supporting this project since 2008.

Sutherlin Access Project

The Weyerhaeuser Company was awarded a \$2,715 grant to provide hunting access on nearly 90,000 acres of industrial timberlands for about 40 hunter annually for the next three years. Hunts would be for antlerless elk and hunters would be selected through two controlled hunt draws for the area. One hunt is a

youth-only hunt. Hunters will be provided with keys to access areas off limits to unauthorized motor vehicle traffic. The property is located within the Indigo Wildlife Management Unit.

A&H funds will be used to pay for signs, keys, locks, maps, and permits. The A&H Program has been supporting this project since 2008.

New River Access Area

A \$49,500 grant to four landowners along the lower New River on the southern Oregon coast will be used to purchase fertilizer for 1,800 acres of pastureland to compensate them for forage crops eaten by a large population of Aleutian Canada geese that stop on the property each year during migration.

The landowners receive this assistance in return for the public waterfowl hunting opportunities provided on their properties. During the 2011/12 hunting season, the New River Access Area provided over 500 hunter-use days. Hunting is on an advance registration basis and the number of hunters per day is limited to provide a better hunting experience. The combination of fertilizer and hazing provided by hunting helps mitigate the damage caused by the geese.

In return for the current grant, landowners will continue the waterfowl hunting program on their properties during the 2012/13 and 2013/14 waterfowl hunting seasons.

The properties are located within the Sixes Wildlife Management Unit. The A&H Program has been funding this project since 2006.

Craig Ely appointed to Northeast Regional Advisory Council

Craig Ely, of La Grande, has been appointed chair of the A&H Northeast Regional Advisory Council. Ely recently retired as Northeast Regional Supervisor for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. During his career with ODFW he was involved in the formation of the A&H NE Regional Advisory Council, and has worked with many groups on wildlife issues and management including the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Wolf Advisory Committee, ODFW Budget Advisory Committee, and the US Forest Service National Environmental Policy Act Interdisciplinary Team. He is also an avid hunter and angler.

A&H Newsletter to Go All Electronic

Beginning with the Fall 2012 issue, Oregon's Access and Habitat Board News will be distributed exclusively electronically. To be sure you continue to receive the newsletter and keep up with the activities and projects of the Access and Habitat Program go to www.dfw.state.or.us/lands/AH to subscribe to the electronic version.

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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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