

Oregon's Access & Habitat Board News

Fall 2005



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 Funds Upland Habitat Initiative in Malheur County

A major new project funded by the A&H Program, called the Upland Habitat Initiative, aims to increase upland game bird populations in northern Malheur County with a special emphasis on pheasants.

"I've seen a tremendous decline in pheasants here since 1993," said Ontario-based ODFW district wildlife biologist Walt VanDyke. "If we don't do something about that soon, they'll be at such low numbers there won't be much of a hunting season. We need to do something to turn that around."

The Upland Habitat Initiative was developed with a \$60,000 A&H Program grant, \$100,000 from the ODFW Upland Game Bird Fund and \$3,000 from the local Pheasants Forever chapter.

Those funds will allow Pheasants Forever to hire a habitat specialist who will work closely with local landowners and ODFW to improve pheasant and other upland game bird habitat on private lands. That will increase Malheur County's game bird populations as well as hunting opportunities.

While Malheur County has good summer pheasant habitat, it has very little permanent winter habitat. This is a major factor limiting the area's pheasant population.

This lack of winter habitat is due largely to the increasing difficulty local farmers are having in making a profit from agricultural commodities such as potatoes, wheat, onions, sugar beets and other crops. Increased pressure to clear more land for growing crops leaves fewer roadside ditches, hedgerows and brushy corners for winter upland bird cover.

"Once we get someone to go out and work with landowners, the local agricultural community will see there is help and funds available to improve wildlife habitat," said VanDyke.

Candidates for the habitat specialist position are now being interviewed. The project is expected to begin early next year.



The Upland Habitat Initiative provides better quality pheasant hunting opportunities through improved upland game bird habitat. Photo by Jim Yuskavitch

Chuck Smith Honored for 8 Years Service on A&H Board

A&H Board members, ODFW staff and others gathered at Rudy's restaurant in Salem in late October to honor departing board member and chair Chuck Smith. Smith, of Medford, will finish his second four-year term on the A&H Board at the end of this year. Board members are limited by law to no more than two four-year terms.

ODFW Director Lindsay Ball expressed his appreciation for Smith's contribution to the program, which he regarded as considerable.

A long-time ODFW supporter and volunteer, Smith intends to continue to be involved with Oregon wildlife and hunting issues.



Tally Patton Appointed to A&H Board Chair

A&H Program board member Tally Patton has been named by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to replace departing board member Chuck Smith as chair and public-at-large representative.

A resident of Eugene, Patton is a forester for Weyerhaeuser Company and was, before her appointment as chair, a landowner representative on the board.

She begins her duties as chair in January 2006.



A&H Auction Hunt Sponsors Selected for 2006

Each year the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission provides the Access and Habitat Board 10 elk tags and 10 deer tags to be used for fundraising purposes. The A&H Board raffles five deer tags and five elk tags, and offers the remaining tags for auction at banquets held by various hunting conservation organizations. The sponsoring organizations keep 10 percent of auction proceeds and the rest goes back to the A&H Program to be used to fund hunting access and wildlife habitat projects throughout the state.

Raffle and auction winners are allowed an extended season that runs from Sept. 1 to Nov. 30 across multiple management units. The auction hunt program is an important source of funds for the Access and Habitat Program. The 2005 auction hunts garnered nearly \$200,000 for the program.

People may bid on tags in person at the event or by telephone with advance arrangement with event sponsors. Below is the schedule and contacts for the 2006 Access and Habitat Auction Hunt Program.

February 4 — STATEWIDE ELK

Tillamook Chapter

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Elks Lodge, Tillamook

Contact: Dave Stephens 503-368-5337

Mike Waud 503-842-7557

February 24 — STATEWIDE ELK

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Reno-Sparks Convention Ctr, Reno, NV

Contact: Kristy Bosworth 406-523-0242

March 4 — STATEWIDE DEER

Rogue Gobblers

National Wild Turkey Federation

Red Lion Hotel, Medford

Contact: Jeff Heil 541-779-8926

John Theibes 541-941-1089

March 11 — STATEWIDE DEER

Portland Chapter

Oregon Hunters Association

Embassy Suites, Tigard

Contact: Don Schaller 503-646-4733

March 25 — STATEWIDE ELK

Oregon Bow Hunters

Seven Feathers Casino, Canyonville

Contact: Ty Stubblefield 541-672-6805

Karen Demaris 541-536-2252

April 1 — STATEWIDE ELK

High Desert Chapter

Safari Club International

Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond

Contact: Jeff Aldrich 541-383-0402

April 29 — STATEWIDE DEER

Oregon Chapter

Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

Eagle Crest Resort, Redmond

Contact: Dave Geelan 971-563-0619

Larry Jacobs 503-590-4767

May 6 — STATEWIDE DEER

Mid-Columbia Chapter

Mule Deer Foundation

St. Peters Parish Center, The Dalles

Contact: Frank Davido 541-296-6492

May 20 — GOVERNOR'S STATEWIDE ELK AND DEER COMBO

Oregon Hunters Association

Chinook Winds Casino, Lincoln City

Contact: Duane Dungannon 541-772-7313

Regional A&H Program Coordinators

Northwest Region

Rick Boatner, Portland 503-621-3488

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

Visit the A&H Web Site at:

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

Calendar of Events

December 31, 2005

A&H Grant Application Deadline

503-947-6087

December 2, 2005*

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

February 1, 2006

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

March 17, 2006*

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

April 25, 2006

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

* Listed Commission meetings are those where A&H Project applications will be reviewed for final approval.

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 _____



5 New A&H Project Grants Approved

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission awards \$262,550 for new projects

1 Upland Habitat Initiative

A \$60,000 grant will allow Pheasants Forever to hire a habitat specialist to develop an Upland Habitat Initiative in northern Malheur County, working in close cooperation with ODFW.

The purpose of the project is to work with landowners who are interested in improving wildlife habitat on their properties, particularly for the benefit of pheasants.

2 Lawen Lane Access Area

Ten years of public hunting access to 1,646 acres of private land in Harney County will be made available through this project. In return for public hunting access, the landowner will receive a payment of \$41,650 over the 10-year time period.

The property, located adjacent to the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, provides hunting opportunities for waterfowl, upland game birds, mule deer, pronghorn and predators.

3 Crane/Drewsey Attack on Medusahead Project

The Harney County Weed Board will use a \$20,000 grant to help fund an "Attack on Medusahead" project to prevent the spread of medusahead rye on private lands throughout the county. The program will focus on stopping the spread of the weed by human actions and reducing the natural dispersion of seeds.

Limiting the spread of medusahead will help wildlife by reducing competition with valuable native forage plants.

4 Sled Springs Management Demonstration Area

A \$106,900 grant will allow ODFW to hire a technician for 20 months to patrol the Sled Springs Management Demonstration Area and provide wildlife forage seed to plant in the area.

The technician will work to ensure that hunters follow the rules established by the landowner and also will collect

wildlife harvest data.

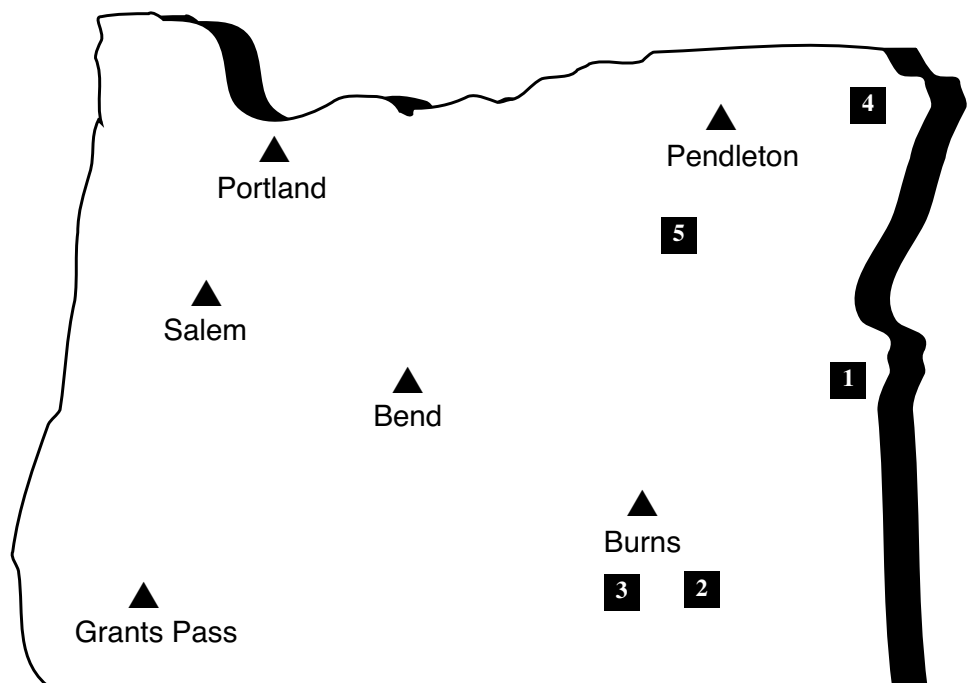
The Sled Springs Management Demonstration Area is made up of about 127,000 acres of Forest Capital Partners timberlands in Wallowa County that is open to public hunting.

5 Timber Gulch Range Improvement

Funding from a \$34,000 grant will be used to remove juniper from 400 acres of private lands on Foster Ranch in Baker County that serves as winter range for deer and elk. This will reduce competition from the junipers and increase the quantity and quality of grasses, forbs and brush species that winter big game herds utilize as food.

In return for this grant and a previous A&H Program grant, the landowner is allowing 15 years of by-permission hunting on 8,000 acres of his land for deer, elk and game birds.

Project Locations



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 Nick Myatt, A&H Program Coordinator, 3406 Cherry Avenue N.E., Salem, OR 97303-4924 503-947-6082

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

Lindsay A. Ball, Director
 Nick Myatt, A&H Program Coordinator
 J. Yuskavitch Resources, Design and Editing

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 Reinard Okeson Hillsboro
 Ward Armstrong Salem
 Theo "Tik" Moore Vale
 Tally Patton Siletz
 Duane Bernard Rainier
 Robert Lund La Grande

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