

Oregon's Access & Habitat Board News

Spring 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 decade of northwest Oregon private land - public hunting partnerships

High quality hunting opportunities and good wildlife management go hand in hand across a sprawling swath of northwest Oregon timberlands where the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State Police and private landowners are cooperating to keep about 2.75 million acres open to public access.

The story goes back to 1994 when private timber companies in 13 northwest Oregon counties noted a sharp increase in garbage dumping, littering, vandalism and other illegal activities. While many timber companies traditionally allowed public access, the situation was serious enough that many closed off their lands to the public, limiting hunting opportunities.

ODFW staff met with the timber companies to address the situation.

The solution they came up with was to approach the A&H Program for a grant to fund two Oregon State Police cadets and a county "woods deputy" who would patrol 700,000 acres of private timberlands in Lincoln County, western Benton County and western Polk County.

That project, which became the Alsea-Stott Mountain Private Lands Law Enforcement Project, received funding from the A&H Program. It was immediately successful, significantly reducing illegal activities and encouraging the timber companies to keep their lands open to the hunting public.

Because of that success, the A&H Program provided a five-year \$465,000 grant in 1995 to fund an expanded effort, called the Northwest Region Private Lands Law Enforcement Project, encompassing 1.23 million acres in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Polk and Yamhill counties. This project eventually became the 1.25-million-acre Willamette Lands Law Enforcement and Stott Mountain-North Alsea Cooperative Travel Management Area.

In the late 1990s, the North Coast Travel Management Area was formed. This travel management area covers 1.5 million acres in Clatsop, Columbia, Washington, Tillamook and Yamhill counties. Both areas receive law enforcement patrols by

retired Oregon State Police troopers and selective road closures to protect big game populations.

This year, the Access and Habitat Program provided \$1,274,986 to fund both areas for the next five years.

The presence of law enforcement officers has been crucial to the travel management areas' success. But working in remote areas is risky business. It is so risky that it was eventually decided to replace the OSP cadets with experienced retired troopers.

"We're dealing with armed people all the time," said Steve Lane, Oregon State Police Northwest Region Fish and Wildlife Lieutenant. "Hunters are great people, but you never know who you are going to run into out there."

Typical misdeeds troopers encounter include fish and wildlife violations, trash dumping and ignoring road closures.

Road closures are an important aspect of these travel management areas to prevent entry into unauthorized areas and for wildlife management purposes.

For example, protecting elk and increasing the bull-to-cow ratio is one of ODFW's priorities on the Stott Mountain-North Alsea section of the Willamette travel management area.

"The idea," said assistant district wildlife biologist Tami Wagner, "is to close roads to allow the elk to have some refuge areas."

Most roads, however, remain open, and those that are seasonally closed are opened in time for cow elk damage hunts. Hunters like the road closures because it allows them to get away from traffic, while enough roads remain open for those who aren't able to walk long distances.

"It's a win-win partnership between A&H, ODFW, OSP and the timber companies," said Lane. "The hunters get more law enforcement, which is something they are always asking for, and we get these private lands opened up to hunting."



Providing better hunting opportunities and higher quality animals are major goals of the Northwest Oregon travel management areas. Photo by Jim Yuskavitch



F&W Commission approves 9 new A&H Program grants

Nine new projects were awarded nearly \$2 million in A&H Program grants at the March 18 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting.

1 Pole Creek Road and Westfall Ranches Access Project

This extensive project received a \$542,338 grant to open 26,000 acres of private land in Malheur County to public hunting, along with another 140,000 acres of adjacent federal lands that have been difficult for the public to reach because of steep terrain. Grant recipients are Westfall Ranches owner Jim Alves and Malheur County.

The project involves re-routing 3.5 miles of Pole Creek County Road from Westfall Ranches property onto BLM lands. This road, which crosses back and forth between federal and private lands, has been a source of controversy. The previous owner of the Westfall property periodically closed public access, even though the county has a legal right-of-way. Although the current owner has never closed the road, re-routing it will provide improved access to nearby public lands and reduce litter, trespass and other illegal activities.

In return for re-routing the road, the landowner has agreed to a 10-year commitment to allow year-round public access to the ranch. He will receive a payment of \$50,000 per year for 10 years for open public access to 14,000 acres and for access to another 12,000 acres on a by-permission basis.

The ranch contains a variety of game animals including mule deer, chukar, quail, pheasant, sage grouse and predators.

2 Alvord Ranch and Kueny Ranch Access Project

A \$50,500 grant will provide five years of by-permission public hunting access to 10,500 acres of private land along the east base of Steens Mountain, along with access to another 28,200 acres of BLM lands. Because entry into this area has been difficult due to the presence of private lands, ODFW had placed a high priority on increasing public access.

The area provides hunting opportunities for mule deer, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, chukar, California quail, cougar, coyote and small game. Landowner Ed Davis will receive the funds in return for providing access.

Continued on next page

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 _____

A&H Program web page upgraded

The A&H Program's Web site has recently been updated, making it easier to find out more information about the program and how you can become involved.

The site offers information on the auction and raffle programs, contacts, grant application forms, newsletters, places to hunt, and more.

Check it out at:

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

Calendar of Events

June 10*

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

June 24

A&H Grant Application Deadline
503-947-6087

July 26

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

September 8-9*

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

September 23

A&H Grant Application Deadline
503-947-6087

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



Continued from previous page

3 Bentz Access Project

Malheur County landowners Mike and Linda Bentz will receive a \$25,000 grant to provide five years of open public access on their 400 acres along with access to about 10,000 acres of limited public access BLM lands near Juntura.

4 Opie Access Project

Waterfowl hunters will have open access to 2,400 acres of private lands near Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, as well as improved access to several thousand acres of refuge lands, in return for a \$60,000 grant to landowner Donald Opie.

Hunting opportunities on this property include waterfowl, pheasant, mule deer, pronghorn, and coyote. The project also helps ODFW address damage to the landowner's agricultural crops caused by pronghorn.

5 Tamiyasu Orchard Deer/Elk Fence Project

A \$1,628 grant to Tamiyasu Orchards, in Hood River County, will be used to build a fence to prevent deer and elk from entering the orchard and damaging crops.

In return for the grant, the landowner will provide by-permission public hunting access to 50 acres of the property for 10 years. This agreement also provides access across the property to adjacent county lands.

6 Price Creek Hunter Access Project

This project will open hunter access on weekends during the buck deer and bull elk seasons to 5,6000 acres of timberlands owned by Rosboro Lumber Company. The property is located in Benton County.

The \$16,240 grant provides for paid personnel to open and close gates, educate hunters and monitor hunter activity and success rates.

7 North Coast Travel Management Area Project

This ongoing project keeps approximately 1.5 million acres of timberlands owned by the Oregon Department of Forestry, Hampton Tree Farm, Longview Fibre Corporation, Hancock Resource Management, Stimson Lumber Company and Weyerhaeuser, Inc. open to public hunt-

ing access in Clatsop, Columbia, Washington, Tillamook and Yamhill counties.

The grant of \$577,680 funds five retired OSP troopers to be hired to patrol the area during hunting seasons over the next five years.

8 Willamette Private Lands Law Enforcement and Stott Mt./North Alsea Travel Management Area Project

This project, funded by a five-year, \$697,306 grant, will continue a long-term program that keeps 1.23 million acres of private timberlands in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Polk and Yamhill counties open to public hunting access.

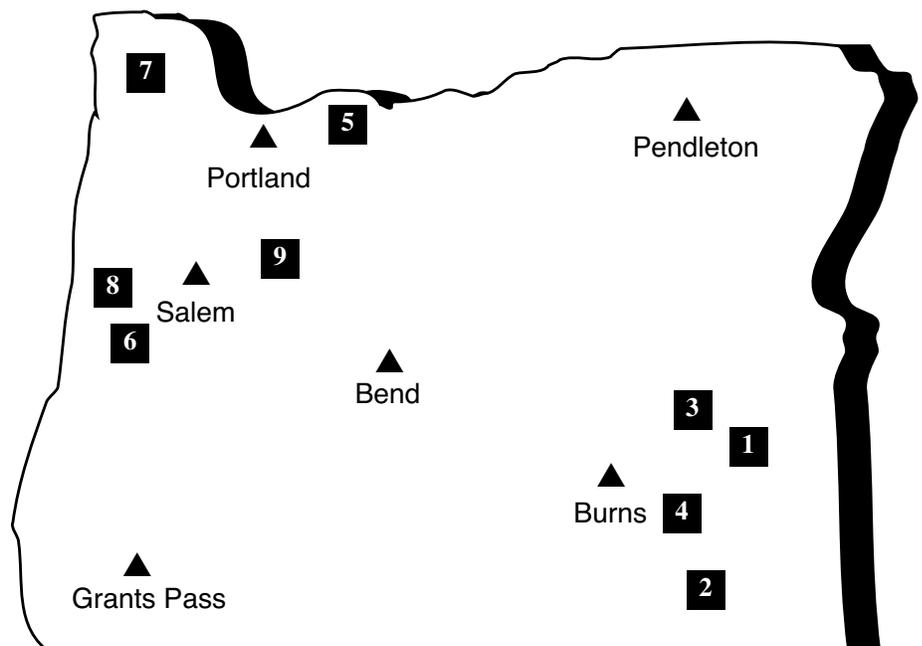
The funds are used to employ six retired Oregon State Police troopers who provide law enforcement patrols during hunting seasons.

9 Abiqua Basin Hunter Access Project

A \$3,635 grant will be used to provide public hunting access during the 2005 and 2006 western Oregon buck deer and Cascade elk hunting seasons to 25,600 acres of forestland owned by Longview Fibre Company in Marion County.

Members of the Capitol Chapter of the Oregon Hunters Association have been volunteering to open and close the gate to the area's main access since 1997. This has resulted in reduced levels of littering, vandalism and other illegal activities on the property.

Grant funds will be used to reimburse volunteers for mileage and to pay for printing informational signs and maps.



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

Oregon's Access and Habitat Board News, Spring 2005, Vol. 10, No. 2
 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

Access and Habitat Board

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

**A&H Advisory Councils
 North Willamette**

Greg Oriet, Chairman Carlton
 Kevin Van Dyke Forest Grove
 Jimmy Franklin Netarts
 Michael Vallery Newberg
 Nicholas Berg Birkenfeld
 Bill Bogh Portland
 Norm McLaren Seaside

South Willamette

Justus Humphreys, Chairman Eugene
 George Dern Sweet Home
 William Lang Albany
 Roderick Johnson Corvallis
 Ken McCall Corvallis
 Sam Flande Albany
 Gary Weaver Crabtree

Southwest

John Moore, Chairman Coos Bay
 Vacant
 Briggs Dunn Winchester
 Mike Kaiser Eagle Point
 Randal Windsor Roseburg
 Gary Grimes Medford
 Bill Leavans Medford

Deschutes/Klamath

James Morrell, Chairman Bend
 Teal Parrington Redmond

Gerald Scanlan Malin
 Eddie Sink Bend
 Vacant
 Greg Concannon Redmond
 Vacant

Malheur

Earl Tiller, Chairma Burns
 Cynthia Coleman Burns
 John Haffner Ontario
 Jerry Rank Burns
 Brian LaFollette Burns
 Carl R. Shaver Ontario
 Chris Payne Ontario

Northeast

Ron Deutz, Chairman Pendleton
 Dean Stone La Grande
 Phil St. Clair Ize
 Keith Garoutte Wallowa
 Mike Rahn Enterprise
 Buck Buckner Baker City
 Daryl Hawes Hereford