

Oregon's Access & Habitat Board News

Winter 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 emergency seeding grants help restore wildlife habitat damaged by fire

Although wildfire is often beneficial, there are times when it can destroy wildlife habitat and open the door for erosion and the invasion of non-native, noxious plants. To help minimize wildfire-caused damage and promote faster habitat recovery, the A&H Program has been providing emergency grants to private landowners whose lands have been burned during the current fire season. Those funds, which have been made available since 2002, are used to reseed burned areas to combat erosion and restore wildlife forage and cover.

For 2006, the A&H Program awarded a total of \$258,966 to eight landowners to reseed and restore wildlife habitat on 7,885 acres that were burned by wildfires. This includes \$71,490 to reseed 1,000 acres in Grant County; \$82,319 to reseed 2,480 acres in Baker County; \$57,982 to reseed 2,705 acres in Harney County; and \$47,175 to reseed 1,700 acres in Malheur County.

"Weed and erosion control are two major concerns after a wildfire," said Jon Paustian, Northeast Region A&H Program coordinator. "We also lost a lot of deer and elk habitat to those fires that needs to be restored."

When wildfire burns too hot, often caused by an excessive buildup of fuel combined with dry conditions, it can incinerate virtually all the vegetation on a site, leaving nothing but bare ground. Devoid of plants and the roots that help anchor the soil, the area becomes susceptible to significant levels of erosion. In addition, the bare soil invites colonization of non-native plants that often out-compete native plants while being of little food value to wildlife and livestock.

A mix of native and introduced grasses and legumes were planted on the burned areas last fall, which will allow the seeds to take advantage of winter snowfall as a protective blanket and to utilize the moisture from snowmelt in the spring to grow. Some areas were planted by hand while more rugged terrain required helicopter reseeding.

"It's very important to go in and reseed wildfire-burned areas as soon as possible," Paustian said. "If you wait too long, habitat damage may occur that can be much more difficult and expensive to fix."

The new growth will help keep undesirable weeds from taking over the burned areas and provide food for big game and other wildlife species, while roots will hold the soil to minimize erosion. Wildlife will initially eat the faster-growing introduced plants in the seed mix, giving the native plants more time to become established.



Before and after photographs of private land north of La Grande burned and then planted with seeds provided by an A&H Program emergency seeding grant shows the dramatic effect immediate action can have on restoring wildlife habitat after a wildfire. The top photo was taken in 2005 just after the fire. The bottom photo was taken the following year. ODFW Photos.



2007 Raffle Hunt Tickets on Sale

Raffle tickets are now on sale that offer hunters the chance to win big game tags permitting extended hunting seasons in virtually anywhere in Oregon where hunting is allowed.

A total of 13 tags will be offered and raffled off at the Oregon Hunters Association State Convention on May 19 in Bend. The deadline to purchase tickets at license agents and ODFW offices is May 7. Additional raffle tickets will be sold from 5-6:30 p.m. at the convention.

Raffle tickets offered include statewide elk and deer tags along with hard-to-get tags for bighorn sheep, Rocky mountain goat, and pronghorn. Proceeds from the elk and deer raffle will be used by the A&H Program to fund habitat restoration projects and increased hunting access on private lands. Proceeds raised from raffle sales for the Rocky mountain goat, bighorn sheep and pronghorn hunts will directly benefit the management and research of those species.

To order raffle tickets, visit ODFW headquarters or mail or fax an order form to 3406 Cherry Ave. NE, Salem, OR 97303, fax (503) 947-6117 or (503) 947-6113. Tickets must be completed and mailed back to ODFW, postmarked no later than May 12 and sent to: ODFW-Raffles, P.O. Box 7760, Salem, OR 97303. Completed raffle tickets may also be hand-delivered to ODFW Headquarters in Salem by May 17 at 5 p.m. or to the Oregon Hunters Association Convention in Bend on May 19 by 7 p.m.

For more information see page 27 of the 2007 Oregon Big Game Regulations.

Calendar of Events

January 30

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

March 16*

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

March 23

A&H Grant Application Deadline
503-947-6087

April 24

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

June 8*

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

June 22

A&H Grant Application Deadline
503-947-6087

July 24

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

September 6-7*

Oregon Fish and Wildlife
Commission Meeting, Klamath Falls
503-947-6044

September 14

A&H Grant Application Deadline
503-947-6087

October 15-16

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

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

BIG GAME RAFFLE TICKET MAIL/FAX ORDER FORM

BIGHORN SHEEP

1 ticket pkg. @ \$11/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
6 ticket pkg. @ \$51/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
13 ticket pkg. @ \$101/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

1 ticket pkg. @ \$11/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
6 ticket pkg. @ \$51/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
13 ticket pkg. @ \$101/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___

ROCKY MOUNTAIN GOAT

1 ticket pkg. @ \$11/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
6 ticket pkg. @ \$51/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
13 ticket pkg. @ \$101/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___

DEER

1 ticket pkg. @ \$4/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
6 ticket pkg. @ \$11/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
15 ticket pkg. @ \$21/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
40* ticket pkg. @ \$51/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
100* ticket pkg. @ \$101/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___

ELK

1 ticket pkg. @ \$6/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
6 ticket pkg. @ \$21/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
15 ticket pkg. @ \$41/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
40 ticket pkg. @ \$101/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___

COMBINATION DEER & ELK

1 ticket pkg. @ \$11/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
6 ticket pkg. @ \$31/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
15 ticket pkg. @ \$61/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___
40* ticket pkg. @ \$151/pkg. x ___ pkg. = ___

TOTAL REMITTANCE \$ _____

*CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED BY MAIL OR FAX THROUGH SALEM HEADQUARTERS

Name _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

✓ MAIL ORDER/FAX TICKET ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED AT ADDRESS
BELOW BY MAY 7, 2007

✓ COMPLETED TICKETS MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN
MAY 12, 2007 OR THEY MAY BE HAND DELIVERED TO THE ODFW
SALEM HEADQUARTERS OFFICE BY 5:00 P.M. MAY 17, 2007, OR
HAND DELIVERED TO THE CONVENTION ON MAY 19, 2007 BY 7:00 P.M.

PAYMENT METHOD (DO NOT SEND CASH)

Check/Money Order to ODFW enclosed

MasterCard Visa Discover

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

(Required for credit card purchases)



ODFW - Raffles

3406 Cherry Ave. NE
Salem, OR 97303-4924
503-947-6100 or
FAX - 503-947-6117 or 6113

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 _____



Eleven big game hunts offered for 2007

Eleven big game tags are being offered by ODFW for auction at the banquets and conventions of select hunter conservation organizations in 2007. These include hunts for elk, deer, pronghorn and bighorn sheep. Proceeds will be dedicated to funding big game management and research programs, wildlife habitat improvement projects and increased hunting access.

The A&H Program will use funds raised by the deer and elk auction tags to fund wildlife habitat improvement and hunter access projects throughout the state. Funds raised by the pronghorn and bighorn sheep tag auctions will be earmarked for the pronghorn and bighorn sheep management and research programs.

The auction tags award winning bidders extended hunting seasons anywhere in Oregon where there is an authorized season for that species. Extended season dates for deer and elk hunts are Sept. 1 – Nov. 30, 2007. Pronghorn hunt dates are Aug. 1 – Sept. 30, 2007 and bighorn sheep hunt dates are Aug. 18 – Nov. 18, 2007. Hunters may bid on tags in person by attending the events or by telephone after contacting event organizers to make advance arrangements.

Detailed information on the auction hunts may be found on page 25 of the 2007 Oregon Big Game Regulations.

Four New A&H Project Grants Approved

F&W Commission awards \$73,593 for new projects

1 Permanent Grass Seedbank Habitat Project

A \$3,390 grant awarded to Pheasants Forever, Inc. will be used to purchase and plant perennial grass in northern Malheur County as part of a cooperative project with ODFW called the Upland Habitat Initiative.

The seeds will be available free of charge to landowners who are willing to improve pheasant and other upland bird habitat on their properties.

2 Copley Ranch Winter Range Improvement

The Copley Ranch, located in Baker County, has received a \$53,300 grant to cut juniper trees on 400 acres of big game winter range. Removing the junipers will improve forage growth in the area. In addition, by thinning cover in which elk can hide, the animals will be encouraged to move off to traditional summering areas instead of calving on the property.

In return for the A&H Program grant, the landowner will allow public hunting access on a by-permission basis to 1,000 acres of private land and access to an additional 400 acres of land-locked public land for five years.

3 Salmon Bench Habitat & Access Project

A \$9,575 grant to the McClaren Ranch in Baker County will fund improvement of 103 acres of hay field to help alleviate damage caused by deer, elk and livestock. Improvement to the hay field will also increase the amount of forage available to deer and elk in the spring and summer.

In return for the grant, the landowner will allow hunting access on 5,000 acres of private land for five years.

4 Rogue Meadows Habitat Project

The ODFW Rogue Watershed District has received a \$7,328 grant to continue an ongoing meadow fertilization project for an additional two years. Seven meadows that are heavily used by elk are fertilized to improve forage conditions and help make up for hay losses to private landowners caused by elk.



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 or restores wildlife habitat, you may be eligible for an A&H Program grant. Contact the Regional A&H Program Coordinator nearest you for advice and assistance on applying.

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/

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 503-947-6087

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