

Oregon's Access & Habitat Board News

Fall 2008



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.

New interactive map helps hunters find places to hunt in Oregon

Hunters in Oregon have a valuable new tool to help them plan their hunting trips. The internet-based Oregon Hunting Access Map was developed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and has been viewed by over 300,000 hunters since it was unveiled this August.

This interactive map shows a variety of properties open to public hunting throughout Oregon including state wildlife areas, national wildlife refuges, Access and Habitat properties, Willamette River Greenways, regulated hunt areas, travel management areas, and lands enrolled in the Upland Cooperative Access Program.

Users can click on icons to view information about each hunting area including the name of the property, acreage, game species available, a description of the terrain, and links to additional information including PDF maps, harvest reports, and regional hunting reports. Hunters can zoom in on specific parts of the state and navigate the map using directional arrows.

Green icons indicate open-to-hunt areas while orange icons denote ODFW field offices where information can be obtained on hunting areas that require landowner permission.

Because the application is hosted in Googlemaps™, base-layers such as aerial photos, topography, and road networks are available. Users can also obtain driving directions and distances to the hunt areas.

"This map makes it easy for those just getting started hunting in Oregon to figure

out where to go, said Matthew Keenan, Access and Habitat Program Coordinator. "Experienced hunters can explore their favorite and as-yet-undiscovered hunting locations from one centralized place.

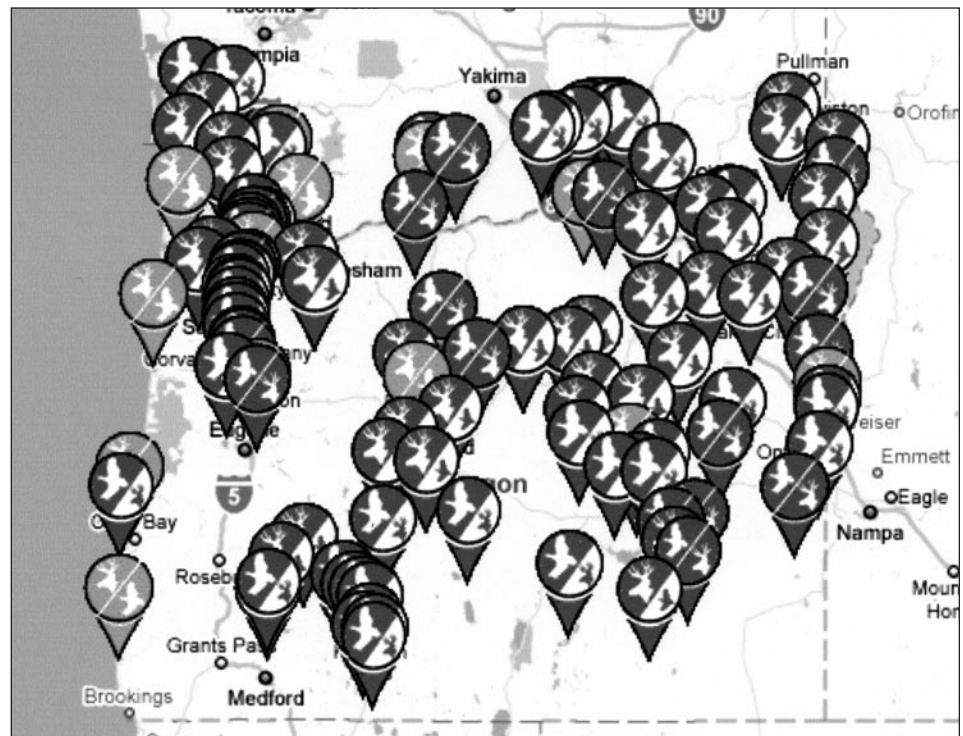
Over time, additional hunting properties and other useful information will be added to the map.

To find the Oregon Hunting Access Map go to:

www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/map

Clicking on the map will open the Googlemaps™ interface where users can select individual icons to find out more about that hunting location.

It is important to note that the Oregon Hunting Access Map should be used for general planning and reference only and hunters are responsible for knowing hunt area boundaries and regulations.



The Oregon Hunting Access Map provides hunters with valuable information on places to hunt. It can be accessed at:

www.dfw.state.or.us/resources/hunting/map



A&H auctions set for 2009

The Access and Habitat Board has selected nine sporting organizations to sponsor the 2009 A&H auction events. Nine elk and/or deer hunts will be auctioned at the various organizations' fundraising banquets and conventions between January and the end of May 2009. Successful bidders can hunt statewide from September 1 to November 30 with the weapon of their choice. Ninety percent of the auction proceeds go to the A&H Program to fund hunter access and wildlife habitat projects, while 10% is retained by the hosting organization.

2009 A&H Auction Schedule

Statewide Elk

January 31, 2009
La Grande Chapter
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
La Grande
Contact: Jason Pennington, (541) 910-1239

Statewide Deer

February 5, 2009
Mule Deer Foundation
Salt Lake City, UT
Contact: Shawna Huckabey, (775) 530-6967

Statewide Elk

February 7, 2009
Santiam River Chapter
Safari Club International
Albany
Contact: Tom Trissel, (503) 394-3759

Statewide Deer

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

Governor's Statewide Elk/Deer Combo

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

Statewide Deer

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

Statewide Elk

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

Statewide Elk

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

Statewide Deer

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

Calendar of Events

December 12, 2008*

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

December 29, 2008

A&H Project Applications Due

January 27, 2009

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

March 20, 2009*

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

April 14, 2009

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

*Listed Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission meetings are those 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

Larry Pecenka, Bend 541-388-6444
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



South coast waterfowl hunting opportunities

A \$24,750 Access and Habitat Program grant is extending public waterfowl access to 4,780 acres of private lands in the New River bottomland area along the coast south of Bandon through the 2008-09 hunting season. This public hunting access program was started in 2006 through an agreement between the A&H Program and three property owners. A fourth landowner joined the program this year.

The four properties are used as staging areas for the entire population of 100,000 to 120,000 Aleutian Canada geese, which spend several weeks in the area from late March into mid-April and feed heavily before departing on their cross-ocean migration flight to the Aleutian Islands to nest. In the process, the birds cause significant damage to the landowners' pastures.



The A&H Program grant will be used to pay for part of the cost to fertilize the pastures damaged by the geese. The landowners will provide all necessary labor and equipment for the project.

In return for the A&H Program grant, the landowners will allow the public to hunt ducks and resident geese on their properties during the regular waterfowl seasons. Two landowners will permit 6 hunters per day on each of their properties on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays throughout the waterfowl season. The other two landowners will permit a total of 16 hunters per day on Saturdays and Sundays. Hunting access is on an advance reservation basis.

All four properties will be open to public hunting daily during the special South Coast goose zone hunt, from Feb. 24 – Mar. 10, 2009 to help reduce damage caused by the Aleutian Canada geese.

"The New River plain is a large wetland and easily provides the best waterfowl hunting opportunities on the south coast," said ODFW assistant district wildlife biologist Clayton Barber.

More than 400 hunters hunted the properties during the 2006-7 waterfowl season, bagging over 250 western Canada geese and about 60 Aleutian Canada geese in addition to a large number of ducks. "The landowners were very satisfied with the hunters' success in limiting damage to their pastures by hazing the geese away," said Barber.

For information on hunt reservations and access regulations, contact the ODFW office in Gold Beach, 29907 Airport Way, (541) 247-7605. Maps of the property are available from the ODFW Gold Beach or Salem Headquarters offices.

Departing A&H Board members honored

Departing A&H Board members Tally Patton and Reinard Okeson were honored for their eight years of service with plaques of appreciation, which were presented at the October 13 Board meeting by Larry Cooper, Deputy Administrator of the ODFW Wildlife Division.

Tally Patton, of Eugene, is a forester with Weyerhaeuser and served on the Board as a landowner representative from 2001 - 2005 and as Board Chair from 2006 - 2008. She has been involved with the A&H Program since the mid-1990s and proposed the woods deputy program in Lincoln County, which was one of the A&H Program's first projects. She was also instrumental in developing the North Alsea/Stott Mountain Travel Management Area, which now provides public hunting access to thousands of acres of private forestland. In addition to A&H, Tally has served on many other committees involved with natural resources management.

Hunter representative Reinard Okeson resides in Hillsboro and has lived, worked, hunted and fished in Oregon for more than 60 years. Now retired, he spent his career with the Bureau of Land Management specializing in land use and environmental impacts associated with various wildlife species. As a Board member, he gave extra scrutiny to project proposals to ensure they were a good value for hunters. In addition to his work on the A&H Board, Reinard also served as regional director for Ducks Unlimited.

Both Tally's and Reinard's terms officially expire on December 31, 2008. The process to recruit their replacements is currently underway.



Tally Patton (r), and Reinard Okeson bid farewell to the A&H Board at the October 13 meeting in Salem.

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

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