

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Through HB 2538, the 1993 Oregon Legislative Assembly created the seven member Access and Habitat (A&H) Board. This legislation authorized the A&H Board to review and recommend, to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, projects designed to improve wildlife habitat and public hunting access to private and public lands in Oregon. The 2003 Oregon Legislative Assembly reauthorized the program through December 2009. Project proposals are typically submitted by landowners, corporations, organizations, and agencies. Applications are initially reviewed by board-appointed regional advisory councils established in six geographic regions of the state. The councils forward proposals to the A&H Board with recommendations to approve or deny projects. The A&H Board provides the next level of project review, and then forwards proposals to the Fish and Wildlife Commission for final consideration and approval to expend A&H Program funds.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The A&H Program provides for public involvement through the regional advisory councils and A&H Board meetings. The meetings are advertised in advance, notices are published on the Department's website, agendas are mailed to interested citizens, and notices are published in the program's quarterly newsletter. There is an opportunity for interested citizens to provide public comment during these meetings. The A&H Board met on January 30, 2007 in Salem, Oregon.

ISSUE 1	Project Funding Approval
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Project 1	#2007-03 Carman Pasture Conversion and Weed Treatment
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ANALYSIS

- A&H Funds: \$39,280
- Cooperator Funds: \$23,300
- Total Project Cost: \$62,580
- Applicant: Carman Ranch, LLC
- Location: Grande Ronde Watershed District (Wallowa Co.)
- Project Duration: April 1, 2007 – April 1, 2012
- Habitat Acres: 1,000
- Cooperators: Landowner (\$23,300)
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

The project proposal is for \$39,280 in A&H funds to conduct habitat work on 1,000 acres of land owned by Carman Ranch, LLC in Wallowa County. This project will also provide "By-Permission Hunting Access" to 2,000 acres of private land for 5 years.

The Northeast Regional Advisory Council and A&H Board both voted unanimously to recommend this project for approval.

Project 2	#2007-04 Sheep Mountain Habitat and Access Project
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ANALYSIS

- A&H Funds: \$12,854.29
- Cooperator Funds: \$13,445
- Total Project Cost: \$26,299.29
- Applicant: Linda Mallery-McClean
- Location: Grande Ronde Watershed District (Baker Co.)
- Access Duration: April 1, 2007 – April 1, 2012
- Access Acres: 2,400
- Cooperators: NRCS (\$10,000), Linda Mallery-McClean (\$195), RMEF/OHA (\$3,000), ODFW (\$250)
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

The proposal is for \$12,854.29 in A&H funds to build an approximate 1-mile of cross-fence that will allow for the implementation of a cattle grazing management plan to improve habitats for upland game birds and wintering populations of mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep; develop two springs; and provide regulated hunting access for five years.

The Northeast Regional Advisory Council and the A&H Board voted unanimously to recommend this project for funding.

Project 3	#2007-05 Crop Damage Restoration Project
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ANALYSIS

- A&H Funds: \$30,000
- Cooperator Funds: \$68,230
- Total Project Cost: \$98,230
- Applicant: LeeRoy Horton
- Location: Deschutes Watershed District (Lake Co.)
- Cooperators: LeeRoy Horton (landowner): \$68,230
- Council Vote: Yes: 4; No: 2
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

The proposal is for \$30,000 in A&H funds to revitalize the Timothy crops with fertilizer to replace the lost forage from large herds of deer (800-1000) and elk (200-300) that graze daily throughout the winter months.

The Deschutes-Klamath Regional Advisory Council voted 4-2 to approve the project while the A&H Board voted unanimously to recommend this project for funding.

Project 4**#2007-06 Abiqua Basin Hunter Access Project****ANALYSIS**

- A&H Funds: \$5,201
- Cooperator Funds: \$11,288.16
- Total Project Cost: \$16,489.16
- Applicant: Capitol Chapter - Oregon Hunters Assoc.
- Location: North Willamette Watershed District (Marion County)
- Access Duration: August 2007 – December 1, 2008
- Access Acres: 25,600
- Cooperators: Oregon Hunters Association, (\$7,288.16), Longview Fibre (\$4,000)
- Council Vote: Yes: 7 ; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 6 ; No: 0

The proposal is for \$5,201 in A&H funds to provide 2 years of open hunting access to approximately 40 square miles (25,600 acres) of Longview Fibre property during the 2007 and 2008 Western Oregon Deer and Cascade Elk seasons.

The North Willamette Regional Advisory Council and the A&H Board voted unanimously to recommend this project for funding.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to approve the recommendations of the Access and Habitat Board for project funding.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

March 16, 2007

ISSUE 2**Access and Habitat Board Appointments****ANALYSIS**

The A&H Board has one hunter representative opening due to a vacancy created by Bob Lund since he relocated to a permanent residency in Idaho.

Department staff advertised the position through statewide news releases, the Department web page, statewide landowner and hunter organizations, and word of mouth. As outlined by OAR 635-090-0035, hunter applications were mailed to the Department.

Sixteen candidates submitted applications for the one hunter representative position. The Department formed an internal review committee and ranked the candidates using the following criteria:

- Knowledge and breadth of experience in hunting
- Experience with fish and wildlife management issues
- Involvement in hunting organizations
- Leadership and experience on or with councils/boards/commissions/legislature
- Experience working with and/or representing the public
- Ability/interest in working collaboratively with others

- Participation in the A&H Program
- Ability to foster positive relations between landowners, hunters, and ODFW
- Letters of recommendation/references
- Provides representation in “under-represented” part of the state

Hunter Candidates

Using the evaluation criteria above, the five most suitable candidates (listed in alphabetical order) selected by the committee were:

Todd Bastian – Albany
Keith Garoutte – Wallowa
Steve McClelland – Cove
Jim Morrell – Sisters
Greg Winans – Baker City

OPTIONS

Option 1: Appoint one hunter representative from the list of most suitable candidates to the Access and Habitat Board for a four-year term.

Option 2: Do not appoint one hunter representative from the list of most suitable candidates to the Access and Habitat Board for a four-year term.

STAFF RECOMENDATION

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to appoint _____ to a four year term as hunter representative to the Access and Habitat Board.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	March 16, 2007