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 (Commission) projects designed to improve wildlife habitat and public hunting access in Oregon. The 2009 Oregon Legislative Assembly reauthorized program funding through December 2019. Project proposals are typically submitted by landowners, corporations, organizations, and agencies. Applications are initially reviewed by A&H Board-appointed Regional Advisory Councils established in six geographic regions of the state. Regional Councils forward proposals to the state 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 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 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website, and agendas are mailed to interested citizens. There is an opportunity for interested parties to provide public comment during these meetings. Project proposals are also posted on the A&H website; members of the public may review the documents and provide comments at any time. The A&H Board most recently met on October 21, 2014 in Burns, Oregon.

ISSUE 1	PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ANALYSIS   A summary of the project recommended for funding by the A&H Board is presented in the staff summary (Attachment 2).

OPTIONS   Option 1. Approve A&H Board recommendation.

Option 2. Modify project proposal.

Option 3. Reject project proposal.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION   Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to approve the recommendation of the Access and Habitat Board for project funding.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	December 5, 2014