

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Created in 1994 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the seven-member Access & Habitat Board (Board) reviews project proposals that improve wildlife habitat and/or enhance public hunting access in Oregon. Project applications, submitted by landowners, corporations, organizations, and agencies, are initially reviewed by Board-appointed Regional Councils established in six geographic regions of the state. Regional Councils forward proposals to the Board with recommendations to approve or deny projects. The Board provides the next level of project review and then forwards proposals to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for final consideration and approval to expend A&H Program funds.

Funding for the A&H Program, ~ \$2.7 million per biennium, is from three primary sources;

- \$4 from each hunting and combination license sold (approximately \$1.7 million per biennium)
- Proceeds from the annual Big Game Auction and Raffle tags (approximately \$1.0 million per biennium)
- Biennial allocation of approximately \$80,000 from the Green Forage and Deer Enhancement and Restoration programs

The A&H Program dedicated account balance was \$1,210,945 at the end of December 2018. A&H program funds deposited in the dedicated account can be expended only for program activities. During the 2017-2019 biennium, A&H projects provided hunters access to over 4.5 million acres of private land and improved over 52,000 acres of habitat for wildlife.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A&H provides for public involvement at Regional Council and Board meetings, which are advertised by Department news release and on Department webpage. Meeting materials are posted on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website. Members of the public may review documents and provide comments. Interested parties may attend or call in to provide public comment during these meetings. The Board most recently met in Salem on January 15, 2019.

Item 1

A&H PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ANALYSIS

A summary of the projects 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. Reject project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the two projects recommended by the A&H Board.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to approve the two projects recommended by the Access & Habitat Board.
EFFECTIVE DATE	March 15, 2019

Item 2

APPOINTMENT OF LANDOWNER REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ACCESS & HABITAT BOARD

ANALYSIS

The A&H Board will have a Landowner Representative vacancy at the next meeting. The Department accepted applications for the vacancy January 1 through March 1, 2019. Individuals interested in serving as a landowner representative are required to submit applications to the Oregon Department of Forestry or the Oregon Department of Agriculture. One application was received from the Department of Agriculture (Attachment 3).

Applicants were asked to provide information about their experience and background relative to the following criteria:

- Breadth of experience in the agriculture or forest industries
- Experience with fish and wildlife resource management issues
- Involvement in agriculture or forest industry 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 the Department

William Bronson is a current A&H Board Landowner Representative and his term will end on March 6th. The Department recommendation is to reinstate William Bronson to a second term.

- Name: William Bronson
- Location: Eugene
- Occupation: Retired (forester)

William retired after working 41 years as a forester on industrial timberlands in western Oregon. He grew up on a family farm/forest that he continues to manage and hunt today. William also has extensive experience hunting in Northeast Oregon.

William has served as a forest landowner representative for the Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) Animal Damage Committee, the Animal Damage Co-op, and the Alsea/Siuslaw Watershed Council, and has participated in annual meetings with Department staff regarding hunter access and animal damage. He is the current Chair of the Goshen Rural Fire Protection District and Landowner Representative on the Western Lane Forest Protective Association.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to appoint William Bronson to a second four-year term as a Landowner Representative on the Access & Habitat Board.
EFFECTIVE DATE	March 15, 2019