



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

Created in 1993 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the seven-member Access & Habitat (A&H) 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 five 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 (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 \$1,424,960 at the end of August 2020. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can be expended only for Program activities. As of August, 2020, A&H project contracts are providing hunters with access to over 3 million acres of private land and improving over 17,000 acres of habitat for wildlife in 2020.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A&H provides for public involvement at Regional Council and Board meetings, which are advertised by Department news release and on the Department webpage. Meeting materials are posted on the Department 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 via teleconference on October 20, 2020.

## **ISSUE 1**

A&H Project Funding Recommendations

## **ANALYSIS**

A summary of both projects recommended for funding by the A&H Board are presented in Attachment 2.

## **OPTIONS**

Option 1. Approve A&H Board recommendations for project funding.

Option 2. Reject project proposals.

## **STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Option 1. Approve the two projects recommended by the A&H Board.

### **DRAFT MOTION:**

I move to approve the two projects recommended for funding by the Access & Habitat Board.

**Effective Date:** November 13, 2020