



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Created in 1993 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the seven-member Access & Habitat (A&H) State 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 for final consideration and approval to expend A&H Program funds.

Funding for the A&H Program, ~ \$3.1 million per biennium, is from three primary sources:

- \$4 from each hunting and combination license sold (approximately \$1.4 million per biennium)
- Proceeds from the annual Big Game Auction and Raffle tags (approximately \$1.5 million per biennium)
- Biennial allocation of approximately \$90,000 from the Green Forage and Deer Enhancement and Restoration programs

The A&H Program dedicated account balance was \$1,550,323 at the end of March 2022. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can be expended only for Program activities. As of May 2, 2022, contracted A&H projects provide hunters with access to over three million acres of private land and have improved over 18,000 acres of habitat for wildlife during the 2021-2023 biennium.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A&H Program provides for public involvement at Regional Council and Board meetings, which are advertised on the department's webpage and by news release. Meeting materials are also posted on webpage. Members of the public may review documents and provide comments. Interested parties may call in to provide public comment during these meetings. The Board most recently met on April 20, 2022 in La Grande.

ISSUE 1

A&H Project Funding Recommendations

ANALYSIS

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

OPTIONS

Option 1. Approve A&H Board recommendations.

Option 2. Reject some or all project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to approve the ten projects recommended for funding by the Access & Habitat Board and described in Attachment 2.

Effective Date: June 17, 2022