



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, approximately \$3.2 million per biennium, is from three primary sources:

- \$4 from each hunting and combination license sold (approximately \$1.5 million per biennium)
- Proceeds from the annual Big Game Auction and Raffle tags (approximately \$1.7 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 \$2,134,752 at the end of December 2022. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can be expended only for program activities. As of February 1, contracted A&H projects provide hunters with access to almost 3 million acres of private land and have improved over 12,500 acres of habitat for wildlife during this biennium.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A&H provides an opportunity for public involvement at Regional Council and Board meetings, which are advertised by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) news releases and on the department website. Meeting materials are posted on the department website. Members of the public may review documents and provide comments. Interested parties may attend in person or virtually to provide public comment during these meetings. The Board most recently met in Salem on January 24, 2023.

ISSUE 1

A&H PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ANALYSIS

A summary of the three 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 project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

DRAFT MOTION:

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

Effective Date: March 17, 2023

ISSUE 2

APPOINTMENT OF A LANDOWNER REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ACCESS & HABITAT BOARD

BACKGROUND

A list of current A&H Board members terms is presented in A&H Board Terms (Attachment 3)

The Board will have a Landowner Representative vacancy when Willam Bronson's second term ends on March 6, 2023. A&H Board members are only allowed to serve two consecutive terms.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Applications for the Landowner Representative vacancies were accepted from October 24 through December 31, 2022. The department recruited candidates for the vacancies by advertising on the agency website, social media posts, and issuing a news release. Department staff contacted both the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) as well as landowner organizations such as the Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) to canvass Oregon for talented candidates. We received applications from five individuals interested in the position.

ANALYSIS

Landowner Representatives must be chosen from a list of names provided by the State Forester or Director of Agriculture. Applicants for the vacancy submitted applications through ODA and ODF. Applicants were asked to provide information about their experience and background relative to the following criteria:

- Breadth of experience and knowledge of hunting
- Involvement in sportsman/hunter/conservation organizations
- Leadership in sportsman/hunter/conservation organizations
- Leadership and experience on or with councils/boards/commissions and 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

The department received five applications by the deadline (Attachment 3). The applicants are listed below in alphabetical order.

Name: **Ronald Borisch**
Occupation: Timber Contract Administrator
Location: Lyons

Ronald Borisch has worked in the timber industry for 35 years, including providing access to timber company lands for hunting. He has served on numerous boards for timber organizations, including several forest protection associations, OFIC, and watershed councils. He has served in leadership positions for those organizations. Ron is a lifelong hunter, utilizing A&H properties, as well as an Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) member. Ron previously served as a Landowner Representative on the A&H Board, 2007 through 2013. Statute allows for two consecutive four year terms, but individuals can come back after taking some time away from the A&H Board.

Name: **Chase Kinion**
Occupation: Forester
Location: Junction City

Chase Kinion is a lifelong hunter and OSU graduate with 10 plus years working in the forest industry. He is the vice president of the East Lane Forest Protection Association with close ties to Oregon Department of Forestry. Chase routinely works with other landowners, both as part of the forest protection association and for forest management. He routinely hunts A&H lands in western Oregon.

Name: **Eric Kranzush**
Occupation: Forest Manager
Location: Springfield

Eric Kranzush has worked in Oregon's forest industry for 21 years. He has held leadership positions in forest protective associations, multiple positions with OFIC, National Society of American Foresters, Oregon Society of American Foresters, OSU Student Chapter of the Society of American Foresters and guest lectured at OSU College of Forestry. Eric received the EPA's President's Environmental Youth Award while attending Seaside High School. He is hunter and a member of OHA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Duck Unlimited and affiliated with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. He has participated in the A&H access program; Giustina Land & Timber Co. allows public access for enhanced enforcement.

Name: Tally Patton
Occupation: Retired Forester
Location: Eugene

Tally Patton work as a forester for 36 years for several companies and ODF. She has a wide range of experience in forestry, forest practices, wildlife management, damage and working with non-profits. Tally previously served on the A&H Board as a Landowner Representative and Chair. Tally served on numerous boards and committees. She held leadership positions in OFIC and Association of Lincoln County Landowners.

Name: Roberta Valladao
Occupation: Rancher
Location: Terrebonne

Roberta Valladao has operated multiple ranches in two states, including ranches in Oregon near both Bly and Terrebonne. She served on numerous committees for both the California and Oregon Farm Bureau, including leadership positions. She is a current member of the Oregon Farm Bureau’s wildlife committee. She was a member of the Cattlewomen at the county, state, and national level, with leadership positions at the county and state level. Additionally, she served on committees for the Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency.

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to appoint _____ to serve a four-year term as Landowner Representative on the Access and Habitat Board.

Effective Date: March 17, 2023