

Summary of Projects Recommended for Access & Habitat Funding

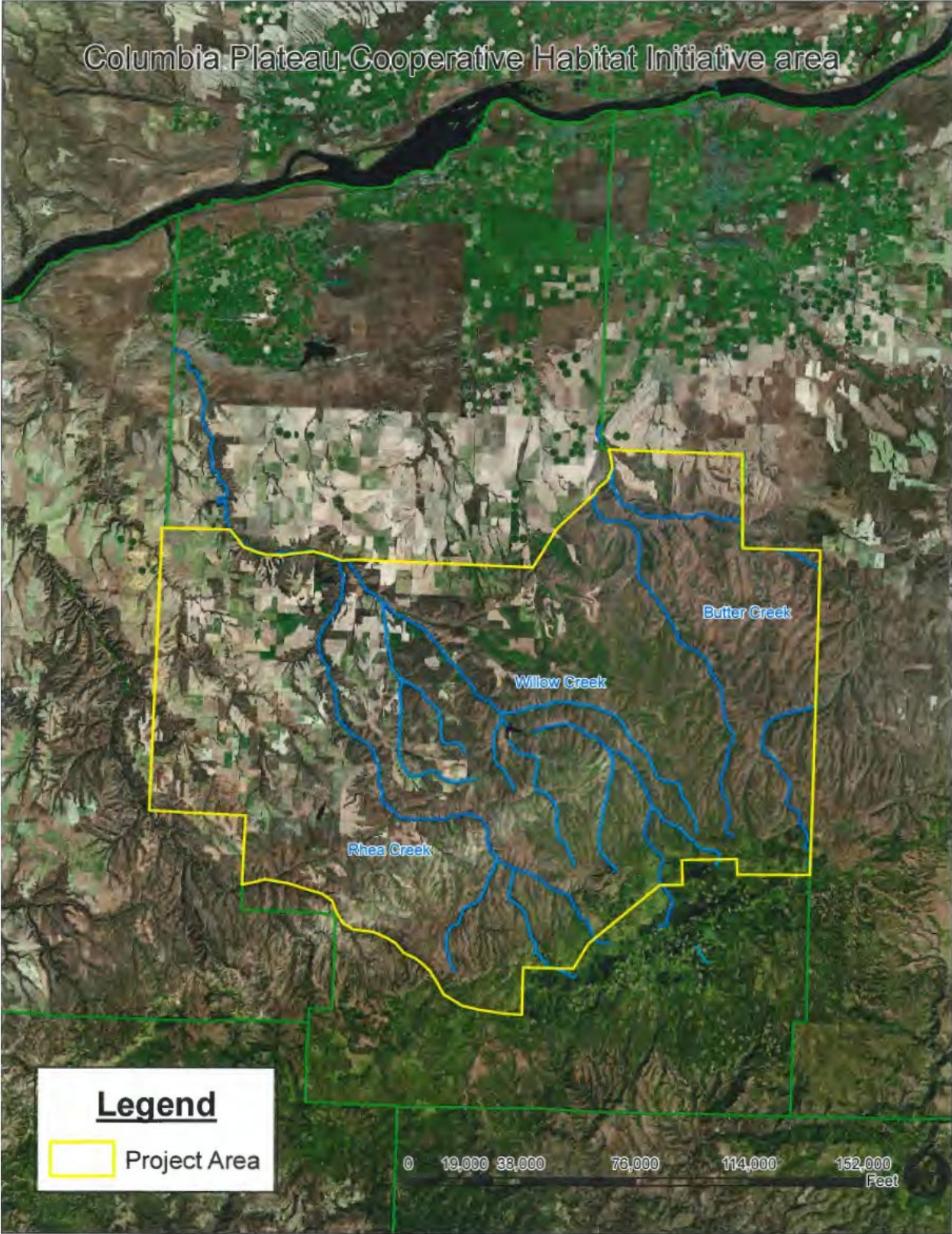
The Access and Habitat (A&H) Board met January 24, 2023 in Salem to review projects recommended for funding by A&H Regional Councils (Councils). A project must receive at least four supporting votes from the Board to be recommended for funding through the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. A brief description of the funding requested, access and habitat benefits provided, as well as Council and Board votes follows. The A&H Board recommends funding the following three projects:

2023-01 Columbia Plateau Habitat Initiative

- A&H Funds: \$110,000
- Cost per Acre: \$22.00 per acre
- Total Project Cost: \$772,405
- Applicant: Trent Gianella for Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District
- Location: Heppner and Columbia Basin WMUs
- Habitat Acres: 5,000 acres
- Project Duration: May 2023-April 2026
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

This project focuses on improving grassland structure and forb diversity, protecting riparian vegetation, and enhancing Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) habitat quality primarily for upland game birds and mule deer. The ODFW/SWCD cooperatively funded Habitat Technician position conducts mid-management work in CRP enrolled acreage. Funding will help supply the Habitat Technician with materials to implement habitat improvement projects on lands enrolled in ODFW public access programs; A&H, Open Fields and the Oregon upland game bird stamp funded Upland Cooperative Access Program (UCAP). Habitat improvement projects will consist of planting seasonal food plots, shrub plantings, improving CRP stands through inter-seedings, mowing, light disking, chemical treatments, and prescribed burning. Habitat work is only provided for those landowners who allow public hunting access. This incentivizes landowners to enroll their land in a public hunting access program. The project ensures that acreage enrolled for mid-management work will focus on benefits to wildlife.

USDA's Farm Service Agency, NRCS, Morrow SWCD and the local ODFW district wildlife staff strongly support the project.



2023-02 Foster Ranch Access & Habitat Enhancement

- Open Fields Funds: \$228,280
- A&H Funds: \$86,560
- Cost Per Acre: \$169.36 per habitat acre
- Total Project Cost: \$331,840
- Applicant: Don, Vicki & Jessica Foster
- Location: Sumpter WMU
- Access Acres: 7,337
- Habitat Acres: 1,859
- Access Duration: April 2023 - January 2026
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

This project will remove 1,030 acres of encroaching western juniper (targeting mature junipers from previous treatments. and seedling junipers using hand loppers to minimize resprouting). The juniper work will be funded by Open Fields funds as the work will be done prior to September of 2024. Additionally, the project will treat approximately 375 acres of noxious weeds, reseed 450 acres with a seed mix approved by ODFW, and build exclusion fencing to provide browse relief to roughly four acres of aspen.

The project will provide "By-Permission" hunting opportunities during all applicable hunting seasons, including the long season damage elk hunt. Additionally, the project will assist in alleviating elk damage to surrounding landowners by encouraging elk to calve and summer higher on Wallowa-Whitman National Forest due to the removal of juniper. The increased hunting pressure should help keep elk higher in the fall. Lastly, the improved forage conditions should keep elk on the property over winter and out of the lower Baker Valley.

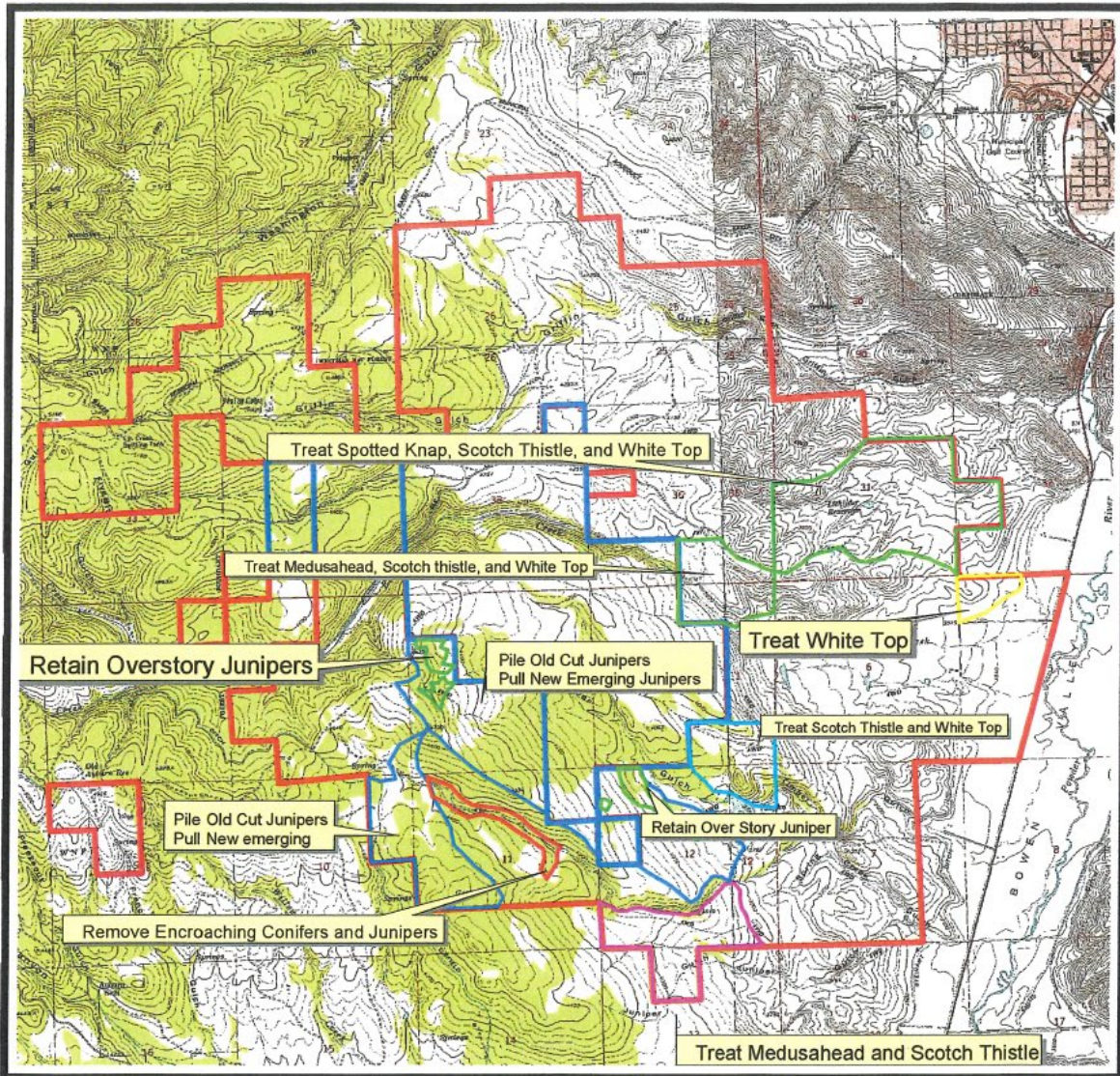
The project will purchase five lockable hunting access gates to facilitate control of motorized hunting access and minimize resource damage on the ranch.

Foster Ranch

Access and Habitat Grant

State : Oregon
County : Baker
Project : Access and Habitat
Owner : Foster
Tract : Elk creek Lane
Foster Ranch

Township : 10s
Range : 39e
Section : Multiple
Date : 6/8/2022
BLM



1:50000

Imagery Information : NAIP & USGS



2023-01 OSP Enforcement 2023-2025

- A&H Funds: \$1,037,189, (\$518,595 per year)
- Cost Per Acre: \$0.37 per acre each year
- Total Project Cost: \$1,539,912 (\$769,956)
- Applicant: Travis Schultz ODFW on behalf of cooperators
- Location: Saddle Mt., Scappoose, Wilson, Trask, Willamette, Santiam, McKenzie, Indigo, Rogue, Keno, Klamath Falls, Sprague, Interstate, Silver Lake, & Fort Rock WMUs
- Access Acres: ~1.4 million acres
- Access Duration: July 2023 - June 2025
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

This project will continue funding for Oregon State Police (OSP) enforcement of five A&H Travel Management Areas and extend the Willamette Private Lands and East Lane TMA projects through June 30, 2025. The enforcement will maintain public access to private and public timberlands during hunting seasons. OSP will use the A&H funds for two trooper positions, however multiple OSP troopers will provide coverage for the enforcement of the A&H access projects. The five A&H projects are North Coast TMA, Willamette Private Lands, East Lane TMA, Green Diamond Resource Company Access, and Coos Mountain Access.

The project's estimated cost of roughly \$1million is a high-end estimate based on OSP's top step in their pay scale and is required as part of the contracting budgeting process for police and fire. The actual cost of the troopers this projects funds will likely be significantly less. The project utilizes about 42% of the A&H budget at the contracted amount but provides roughly 52% of the access provided by the A&H program.