

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Through HB 2538, the 1993 Oregon Legislative Assembly created the seven-member Access and Habitat (A&H) Board. This legislation authorized the A&H Board to review and recommend to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) projects designed to improve wildlife habitat and public hunting access in Oregon. The 2003 Oregon Legislative Assembly reauthorized the program through December 2009. Project proposals are typically submitted by landowners, corporations, organizations, and agencies. Applications are initially reviewed by board-appointed regional advisory councils established in six geographic regions of the state. The councils forward proposals to the A&H Board with recommendations to approve or deny projects. The A&H Board provides the next level of project review and then forwards proposals to the Commission for final consideration and approval to expend A&H Program funds. Because the A&H license surcharge is scheduled to sunset this December, the Board decided at a previous meeting to generally fund access projects for only one year at a time until the fate of the program is known.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The A&H Program provides for public involvement through the regional advisory councils and A&H Board meetings. The meetings are advertised in advance, notices are published on the department's website and in the program's newsletter and agendas are mailed to interested citizens. There is an opportunity for interested parties to provide public comment during these meetings. The A&H Board most recently met on April 29, 2009 in John Day, Oregon.

ISSUE 1

PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ANALYSIS

A summary of all 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 individual projects.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to approve the recommendations of the Access and Habitat Board for project funding.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

June 5, 2009