

**Projects Recommended for Funding
Access and Habitat Board**

The Access and Habitat (A&H) Board met in Salem on July 21, 2009, to review four projects requesting funding from the A&H Program. A project must receive at least four supporting votes to be recommended for funding; all seven Board members attended the meeting. A summary of each project, funding requested, designation as access and/or habitat funding, and Board and Council votes are listed below. Major issues raised are identified below, if applicable.

The Board recommends funding the following projects:

#2009-18 JWTR Travel Management Area

- A&H Funds: \$200,626
- Cooperator Funds: \$703,800
- Total Project Cost: \$904,426
- Applicant: JWTR LLC and JWTR Holding Company
- Location: Klamath Watershed District
- Access Duration: November 1, 2009 – November 30, 2014
- Access Acres: 608,000
- Cooperators: Oregon Hunters Association, Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, ODFW Klamath District, ODFW R&E Program, Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon State Police.
- Council Vote: Yes: 7; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 7; No: 0

The proposed project would spend \$196,226 of A&H funds to hire a retired Oregon State Police (OSP) trooper to provide dedicated law enforcement on 608,000 acres for five years. The patrol period would include the month of November 2009, then March - November 2010-2014. In addition, \$1,200 would be spent to print maps of the TMA, and \$3,200 would be spent to provide the trooper with a cell phone, for a total five year cost to A&H of \$200,626. Cooperator funds would be used to purchase, install, and maintain signs and gates, and administer and maintain road closures.

JWTR LLC and JWTR Holding Company (JWTR) collectively provide 608,000 acres of public hunting access to industrial timberlands in the Keno, Klamath Falls, Interstate, Sprague, Silver Lake, and Fort Rock Wildlife Management Units (WMUs). JWTR's wildlife-friendly management practices have created superior deer and elk habitat through much of this range. For example, JWTR property provides more than 80% of big game winter range in the Keno Unit. Timber management increases forage and supports higher densities of big game, therefore attracting a disproportional share of hunting pressure than adjacent public lands. In 2007, JWTR lands supported an estimated 18,717 big game and turkey hunter use days. In addition, these properties support approximately 2,000 recreation fishing days annually on several fisheries, including Spencer Creek, the only spawning tributary to the Klamath River in the State

of Oregon and a major producer of redband trout.

Public access to JWTR lands has become increasingly imperiled as the number of recreational users and destructive behavior have increased. Activities such as poaching, OHV abuse, and resource damage directly threaten wildlife and their habitat. In addition, chronic problems such as garbage dumping, theft, and drug manufacture threaten the open-access policy that has presided over this land for decades. The A&H Program has proven that dedicated OSP enforcement presence helps reduce these behaviors and strengthen the relationship between ethical hunters and landowners.

The Deschutes/Klamath Advisory Council and the A&H Board both voted unanimously to approve this project as proposed.

#2009-19 Oblack Farm Fertilization #3

- A&H Funds: \$12,240
- Cooperator Funds: \$21,040
- Total Project Cost: \$33,280
- Applicant: Larry Oblack
- Location: North Coast Watershed District
- Access Duration: September 2009 – June 2012
- Access Acres: 420
- Habitat Acres: 120
- Cooperators: Landowner
- Council Vote: Yes: 3; No: 3 (motion on original request for \$24,480)
- Board Vote: Yes: 5; No: 1; Undecided: 1

The Oblack Farm Fertilization project has been funded by A&H for the past six years. The project proposal, as submitted, would reimburse the landowner \$24,480 for fertilizer applied to 120 acres of livestock/elk pasture over a three year period. The landowner would apply the fertilizer, maintain fences and gates, and allow by-permission hunting access to 420 acres during all authorized big game seasons throughout all three years. The Board felt that it was neither sustainable nor responsible to continue full funding for these chronic damage projects, given the limited hunter use of the property and the current shortage of A&H Program funds. The final motion was to fund 50% of the fertilizer cost for this project as well as for projects outlined below (2009-20 and 2009-21), and to require that the landowner purchase the other 50% of the fertilizer.

The A&H Board voted 5:1 to approve the amended version of this proposal (50% of requested A&H funding). Dissenting and undecided voters on this motion voiced continued concerns over the perpetual costs associated with these projects. The North Willamette Regional Council voted 3:3 to fund the original request for 100% of the fertilizer costs, citing concerns about the project value given the amount of hunting access, the lack of outside cooperators or funding sources, and the sentiment that these damage projects should be funded by other programs such as Green Forage.

#2009-20 Schmidlin Farm Fertilization #3

- A&H Funds: \$6,560
- Cooperator Funds: \$12,770
- Total Project Cost: \$19,330
- Applicant: Leonard Schmidlin
- Location: North Coast Watershed District
- Access Duration: September 2009 – June 2012
- Access Acres: 106
- Habitat Acres: 69
- Cooperators: Landowner
- Council Vote: Yes: 0; No: 6 (motion on original request for \$13,120)
- Board Vote: Yes: 5; No: 1; Undecided: 1

The Schmidlin Farm Fertilization project has been funded by A&H for the past six years. The project proposal, as submitted, would reimburse the landowner \$13,120 for fertilizer applied to 69 acres of livestock/elk pasture over a three year period. The landowner would apply the fertilizer, maintain fences and gates, and allow by-permission hunting access to 106 acres during all authorized big game seasons throughout all three years. The Board felt that it was neither sustainable nor responsible to continue full funding for these chronic damage projects, given the limited hunter use of the property and the current shortage of A&H Program funds. The final motion was to fund 50% of the fertilizer for this project as well as for projects 2009-19 and 2009-21, and to require that the landowner purchase the remaining 50% of the fertilizer.

The A&H Board voted 5:1 to approve the amended version of this proposal (50% of requested A&H funding). Dissenting and undecided voters on this motion voiced continued concerns over the perpetual costs associated with these projects. The North Willamette Regional Council voted unanimously to not fund the original request for 100% of the fertilizer costs, citing concerns about the project value and the lack of outside cooperators or funding sources. The council had particular concerns with this landowner because he had not submitted his annual hunting access report in time for their review meeting (the report was received in time for the A&H Board Meeting).

#2009-21 Ellis Farm Fertilization #3

- A&H Funds: \$14,040
- Cooperator Funds: \$30,300
- Total Project Cost: \$44,340
- Applicant: Stephen Ellis
- Location: North Coast Watershed District
- Access Duration: September 2009 – June 2012
- Access Acres: 260
- Habitat Acres: 90
- Cooperators: Landowner
- Council Vote: Yes: 2; No: 3; Undecided: 1 (motion on original request for \$24,480)
- Board Vote: Yes: 5; No: 1; Undecided: 1

The Ellis Farm Fertilization project has been funded by A&H for the past six years. The project proposal, as submitted, would reimburse the landowner \$28,080 for fertilizer applied to 90 acres of livestock/elk pasture over a three year period. The landowner would apply the fertilizer, maintain fences and gates, and allow by-permission hunting access to 260 acres during all authorized big game seasons throughout all three years. The Board felt that it was neither sustainable nor responsible to continue full funding for these chronic damage projects, given the limited hunter use on the property and the current shortage of A&H Program funds. The final motion was to fund 50% of the fertilizer for this project as well as for projects 2009-19 and 2009-20, and to require that the landowner purchase the remaining 50% of the fertilizer.

The A&H Board voted 5:1 to approve the amended version of this proposal (50% of requested A&H funding). Dissenting and undecided voters on this motion voiced continued concerns over the perpetual costs associated with these projects. The North Willamette Regional Council voted 2:3 to fund the original request for 100% of the fertilizer costs, citing concerns about the project value given the amount of hunting access, the lack of outside cooperators or funding sources, and the sentiment that these damage programs should be funded by other programs such as Green Forage.