

## Projects Recommended for Funding

The Access and Habitat (A&H) Board met in Medford on April 27, 2010 to review six 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 project, and Board and Council votes are listed below. Major issues raised are identified below, if applicable.

The Board recommends funding the following projects:

### #2010-17 Abiqua Basin Access Project

- A&H Funds: \$5,250
- Cooperator Funds: \$13,797
- Total Project Cost: \$19,047
- Applicant: Capitol Chapter, Oregon Hunters Association (OHA)
- Location: North Willamette Watershed District
- Access Acres: 36,535
- Access Duration: 3 years: October – November, 2010 - 2012
- Cooperators: Capitol Chapter, OHA; Longview Timber Co.
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0

The Abiqua Basin Access Project would reimburse OHA volunteers \$0.50 per mile for travel to the Abiqua Basin Access Area to open and close the main gate at the beginning and end of each day during the 2010 – 2012 deer and elk rifle seasons.

The OHA Capital Chapter has administered this gate-opening access project in cooperation with Longview Timber Co. since 1992. By closing the gates at night, the volunteers help reduce poaching and minimize vandalism and damage to the gates. Longview Timber Co., in turn, agrees to maintain drive-in access to the 36,535-acre Abiqua Basin portion of their Silver Falls Tree Farm during the deer and elk rifle seasons. These industrial timberlands also provide walk-in hunting access outside of this period.

One Board member abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.

### #2010-18 North Coast Travel Management Area

- A&H Funds: \$631,069
- Cooperator Funds: \$75,500
- Total Project Cost: \$706,569
- Applicant: ODFW – North Coast Watershed District
- Location: Trask, Wilson, Saddle Mt., and Scappoose Wildlife Management Units

- Access Acres: 1.5 million
- Access Duration: 5 years: August – December, 2010-2014
- Cooperators: Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State Police, Hancock Timber Resource Group, The Hampton Tree Farm Affiliates, Stimson Lumber Company, Weyerhaeuser Inc., Longview Fibre Corporation, Campbell Group, OSU Forests, SOLV, ODFW – Northwest Region
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0

The North Coast Travel Management Area (TMA) would fund five retired Oregon State Police (OSP) officers to patrol over 1.5 million acres of private land from August through December, 2010-2014. These private lands also provide hunting opportunities outside of the enforcement period, and access to land-locked public land.

This project has existed in various forms since 1997 to address chronic problems with theft, vandalism, garbage dumping, poaching, and other violations on industrial timberlands in the Northwest Region. Participating landowners have agreed to allow public hunting access to their properties in exchange for dedicated law enforcement presence. The TMA offers a mix of motor vehicle and walk-in access that has been very popular with hunters and landowners alike.

One Board member abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest.

#### #2010-19 Willamette Private Lands Law Enforcement

- A&H Funds: \$817,769
- Cooperator Funds: \$861,519
- Total Project Cost: \$1,679,288
- Applicant: Forest Landowners in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Marion, and Yamhill Counties; ODFW – Northwest Region; OSP
- Location: Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Marion, and Yamhill Counties
- Access Acres: Approx. 1.25 million
- Access Duration: 5 years: August – March, 2010-2014
- Cooperators: Forest Landowners in Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Marion, and Yamhill Counties; ODFW – Northwest Region; OSP
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 1
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

The Willamette Private Lands Project would provide funding for six retired OSP officers to patrol approximately 1.25 million acres of private land from August through March, 2010 – 2014. These private lands also provide hunting opportunities outside of the enforcement period, and access to land-locked public land.

This project was initiated as the Northwest Lands Access Project in 1995. Vandalism, garbage dumping, illegal drug activity, and hunter-related problems were forcing timber companies to install and lock gates, preventing hunter access. These landowners have since agreed to maintain public hunting access in exchange for dedicated law enforcement presence. The project area includes Travel Management Areas such as the Stott Mountain / North Alsea TMA that limit motor vehicle access and provide high-quality hunts for walk-in hunters while maintaining adequate bull ratios in wildlife management units that are otherwise susceptible to over-harvest of bulls.

The dissenting Regional Council vote came from a member who was concerned about the current state of finances in Oregon and felt that tax revenue from measures 66 and 67 should be used to fund these projects. He did note, however, that "... I am all for the TMA program and I use the gated-off areas myself".

### #2010-20 Linn County Forest Deputy Project

- A&H Funds: \$60,000
- Cooperator Funds: \$754,091
- Total Project Cost: \$814,091
- Applicant: Linn Forest Protective Association Forest Deputy Program Participants
- Location: South Willamette Watershed District
- Access Duration: 5 years: July 2010 – June 2015
- Access Acres: 389,500 (private); 121,300 (public)
- Cooperators: Linn County Forest Protective Association, Linn County Sheriff's Office, Linn Small Woodlands Association
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 1
- Board Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0

The Linn County Forest Deputy Project would help fund one Forest Deputy to patrol almost 400,000 acres of industrial timberland in Linn County throughout the year from July 2010 – June 2015. These private lands also provide access to over 120,000 acres of land-locked public land.

This project has been enrolled in the A&H Program since 1997. Forest landowners in Linn County have been faced with the dilemma of either closing their gates to public hunters in order to control trespass, vandalism, dumping, fire risk, and other illegal activity, or maintaining access in order to control damage from deer and elk. As criminal activity increased, the potential for continued hunter access decreased. To help prevent the exclusion of hunters to these private lands, the A&H Program has funded approximately 8% of the cost for a Forest Deputy to patrol property of participating landowners. These landowners allow hunting access during the deer and elk rifle seasons. The remaining funds are provided by the Linn County Sheriff's office and by participating landowners.

One Board member abstained from voting due to a potential conflict of interest. The dissenting Regional Council vote came from a member who was concerned about the

current state of finances in Oregon and felt that tax revenue from measures 66 and 67 should be used to fund these projects.

### #2010-21 New River Aleutian Goose Project

- A&H Funds: \$49,500
- Cooperator Funds: \$93,700
- Total Project Cost: \$143,200
- Applicant: Mike Knapp, Jim Kamph, Rick McKenzie, Alan Haga
- Location: Rogue Watershed District
- Habitat Acres: 1,800
- Access Acres: 4,780 (private); 500 (public)
- Access Duration: 2 years: September 1 – March 10, 2010–2012
- Cooperators: ODFW Rogue Watershed District; Mike Knapp, Jim Kamph, Rick McKenzie, Alan Haga
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

The proposed project would provide access to 4,780 acres of private land and 500 acres of land-locked public land for waterfowl hunting. The landowners would be compensated with fertilizer for 1,800 acres of pasture fields that provide forage for a large population of Aleutian Canada geese. The combination of increased hunting pressure and fertilizer would help the landowners mitigate the damage that these animals cause annually. The New River Aleutian Goose Project has been enrolled in the A&H Program since 2006.

The project area would be open during the 2010/11 and 2011/12 hunting seasons. Kamph, Knapp, and Haga properties would provide access to 6 hunters per day on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays throughout the waterfowl season. McKenzie lands would provide access to 10 hunters per day on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the waterfowl season. All properties would be open daily for the South Coast goose zone season, late February - March 10. The project has been very popular with hunters, supporting an estimated 473 hunter-days during the 2009/10 season.

### #2010-22 Jackson Access Cooperative Travel Management Area

- A&H Funds: \$90,346
- Cooperator Funds: \$116,000
- Total Project Cost: \$206,346
- Applicant: Ken Cummings – Forest Capital Partners, LLC
- Location: Rogue Watershed Districts
- Access Duration: 4 years: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2014
- Access Acres: 17,070 (private); 36,050 (public)
- Habitat Acres: 2,700
- Cooperators: Forest Capital Partners, Plum Creek Timber, Bureau of Land Management, US Army Corps of Engineers, OSP, The Nature Conservancy, OHA
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0

- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0

The Jackson Access Cooperative TMA would provide funding for one retired OSP officer to patrol over 53,000 acres of private and public timberlands from October through April, 2010 – 2014. In return for this dedicated enforcement, private timberland owners would allow continued public access to their property, and through their property to land-locked public land. Program cooperators would also conduct habitat improvement projects such as forest thinning, weed removal, and seeding.

This project has been enrolled in the A&H Program since 1995. The travel management regulations restrict motor vehicle use on specific roads from mid-October through April 30. These closures protect the landowners' roads from excessive vehicle use and reduce disturbance to deer and elk on critical winter range. Prior to the establishment of this program, the participating landowners had considered closing their lands to public hunters because of the damage to roads. Walk-in access is provided to the entire project area from mainline roads that remain open through the closure period.