

## Summary of Projects Recommended for Funding

The Access and Habitat (A&H) Board met in Salem on January 19, 2012 to review 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 brief description of the project, funding requested, access and habitat benefits provided, and Board and Council votes are listed below. If major issues were raised they are discussed below.

The Board recommends funding the following project:

### #2012-01 Kareol Woodlands Habitat Enhancement

- A&H Funds: \$25,200
- Cooperator Funds: \$8,600
- Total Project Cost: \$33,800
- Applicant: John Peel
- Location: Sled Springs WMU (21% public lands)
- Habitat Acres: 284
- Access Acres: 284 (By-Permission; youth only)
- Access Duration: 5 years: April 1 – December 31; 2012 - 2016
- Cooperators: Landowner, ODFW Grande Ronde Watershed District
- Council Vote: Yes: 5; No: 1
- Board Vote: Yes: 6; No: 1

The proposed project would restore two ponds and install off-site watering troughs to provide year-round clean drinking water for wildlife. Large rocks and woody debris would be placed in the ponds to improve amphibian habitat and pond embankments would be planted with native grasses and rushes. Each pond would be fenced to exclude cattle and improve wildlife habitat. The landowner would provide project funding and fencing materials and ODFW Grande Ronde Watershed District would assist with seeding and pond rehabilitation efforts.

Public hunting access would be provided to youth hunters on a By-Permission basis, and would be administered by the ODFW Northeast Region Habitat Biologist in La Grande. The original proposal included two years of hunting access, but the landowner agreed to allow five years at the Board's request. Hunting opportunities include mule deer, white-tailed deer, predators, and upland birds.

This project had one dissenting vote on both the Regional Advisory Council and the A&H Board. Some Council members felt that the originally-proposed access duration of two years was insufficient. The dissenting Board member cited concerns with the cost of the project.