

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Through HB 2538, the 1993 Oregon Legislative Assembly created the seven-member Access and Habitat (A&H) Board to review proposals to improve wildlife habitat and public hunting access in Oregon. The 2009 Oregon Legislative Assembly reauthorized program funding through December 2019. The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) appoints three board members to represent the broad spectrum of hunters, three to represent the broad spectrum of landowners, and one to represent the public and serve as Board Chair. The A&H Board subsequently appoints representatives to six Regional Advisory Councils, which provide the first level of project review. 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.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Landowner Representative and Hunter Representative vacancies were advertised to the public through news releases, internet postings, and direct communication with landowner and hunter organizations. A&H Board meetings are advertised in advance, notices are placed on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website, and agendas are mailed to interested citizens. Meeting documents are posted on the A&H website for public review and comment. There is also an opportunity for interested parties to provide public comment during the Board meeting.

ISSUE 1

Project Funding Recommendation

ANALYSIS

The Access and Habitat (A&H) Board met in Salem on January 14, 2014 to review projects requesting funding from the A&H Program. A project must receive at least four supporting votes to be recommended for funding; four Board members attended the meeting.

The Board recommends funding for project #2014-01, New River Aleutian Goose Project. A brief description of the project, funding requested, access and habitat benefits provided, and Board and Council votes are listed below.

- Project Name: New River Aleutian Goose Project
- A&H Funds: \$24,750
- Cooperator Funds: \$57,950
- Total Project Cost: \$82,700
- Applicant: Mike Knapp, Jim Kamph, Rick McKenzie, Alan Haga
- Location: Sixes (29% public lands)
- Access Acres: 4,780
- Access Duration: 1 Year: October 2014 – March 2015
- Cooperators: Landowners, ODFW Rogue Watershed
- Council Vote: Yes: 4; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 4; No: 0

The New River Aleutian Goose Project would provide 45 tons of fertilizer to help landowners maintain pastures in the New River area that experience chronic damage from a large population of Aleutian Canada geese that stage on their property during migration to and from the Aleutian Islands in Alaska. Landowners would purchase 100 tons of fertilizer and fertilize fields in spring 2015.

In return for the fertilizer, the landowners would continue to allow public hunting access during all waterfowl (duck and goose) hunting seasons. The hunting pressure also helps disperse foraging geese. During the 2012-13 hunting season, these properties provided 361 hunter use days.

The original proposal requested two years of project funding. The A&H Board approved only one year of funding and requested ODFW staff seek additional funding sources for future years, reducing the A&H annual cost by 50% in subsequent grant requests.

OPTIONS

- Option 1. Approve A&H Board recommendation.
- Option 2. Modify project proposal.
- Option 3. Reject project proposal.

**STAFF
RECOMMENDATION**

- Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION I move to approve the recommendation of the Access and Habitat Board for project funding.

EFFECTIVE DATE: March 7, 2014

ANALYSIS

The A&H Board has one Landowner Representative vacancy. ODFW received a total of seven applications from the Department of Forestry and the Department of Agriculture. Applications were reviewed by an internal review committee and scored according to the following criteria:

- Breadth of experience in the agriculture or forest industries
- Experience with fish and wildlife resource management issues
- Involvement in agriculture or forest industry organizations
- Leadership and experience on or with councils/boards/commissions/legislature
- Experience working with and/or representing the public
- Ability/interest in working collaboratively with others
- Participation in the A&H Program
- Ability to foster positive relations between landowners, hunters, and ODFW

The five top-ranking candidates are listed below in alphabetical order.

Candidate A

- Name: William Bronson
- Location: Eugene
- Occupation: Retired (forester)

William retired after working 41 years as a forester on industrial timberland in western Oregon. He grew up on a family farm/forest that he continues to manage and hunt today. William also has extensive experience hunting in Northeast Oregon.

William has served as a forest landowner representative for the Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) Animal Damage Committee, the Animal Damage Co-op, and the Alsea/Siuslaw Watershed Council, and has participated in annual meetings with ODFW staff regarding hunter access and animal damage. He is the current Chair of the Goshen Rural Fire Protection District and Landowner Representative on the Western Lane Forest Protective Association.

Candidate B

- Name: Craig Ely
- Location: La Grande
- Occupation: Retired (ODFW NE Regional Supervisor)

Craig retired from his position as the Northeast Regional Supervisor after 36 years of service with ODFW. His experience includes active membership on the Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Forest Service NEPA ID Teams, the Wolf Advisory Committee, and the Budget Advisory Committee. Craig helped establish the first Northeast Regional A&H Advisory Council, and is currently serving as Council Chair.

Craig owns a 166 acre farm on critical winter range that experiences big game damage. He is intimately familiar with the LOP program from both personal and work experience. He has been an avid hunter and fisherman from an early age, and is currently serving his third year as a Board member of the Union/Wallowa Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) Chapter.

Candidate C

- Name: David Peterson
- Location: Roseburg
- Occupation: Retired (wildlife biologist)

David has worked as a wildlife biologist for the state of Utah, the Army Corp of Engineers in Arizona, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in Texas, Washington, and Oregon. Through his career he worked with private landowners and timber operators to develop habitat conservation plans. He was the biologist responsible for writing documents to delist the Columbia white-tailed deer. Before his career as a biologist, David served five years as a Sergeant Infantry Weapons Expert for the US Marine Corps.

David owned small ranches and operated shooting preserves in both Missouri and Utah, and was a licensed guide and outfitter in Utah. He currently runs a small horse farm, leases several acres, and breeds and trains retriever and pointing dogs in Douglas County.

Candidate D

- Name: James Sly
- Location: Creswell
- Occupation: Retired (construction manager/farmer)

James runs cattle and cuts hay on several hundred acres along the Coast Fork of the Willamette River. He has a Bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Oregon State University. James served four years in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps and spent 32 years in the heavy construction industry building bridges.

James has served on committees involving education, agriculture, and recycling. He is currently President of the Lane County Livestock Association.

Candidate E

- Name: Michael Tucker
- Location: Eugene
- Occupation: Forester

Michael is a reforestation forester for Giustina Land & Timber Company and has experience with many aspects of the industry, including wildlife damage and hunting access. He currently serves as a representative to the OFIC Animal Damage Committee and the Northwest Animal Damage Cooperative. Michael has been actively involved in the Society of American Foresters, serving several years as the local chapter Chair. He has also served in leadership roles on several other industry committees.

Michael helped establish the A&H Wendling Travel Management Area and has worked directly with the A&H Linn County Forest Deputy project. He is a lifelong hunter and is passionate about balancing recreational and commercial opportunities on Oregon's private lands.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to appoint _____ to serve a four-year term as Landowner Representative on the Access and Habitat Board.
EFFECTIVE DATE:	March 7, 2014

ANALYSIS

The A&H Board has one Hunter Representative vacancy. ODFW received a total of nine applications, which were reviewed by an internal review committee and scored according to the following criteria:

- Experience and knowledge of hunting
- Involvement in sportsman/hunter/conservation organizations
- Leadership in sportsman/hunter/conservation organizations
- Leadership and experience on or with councils, boards, commission, and legislature
- Experience working with and/or representing the public
- Ability/interest in working collaboratively with others
- Participation in the A&H Program
- Ability to foster positive relations between landowners, hunters, and ODFW

The five top-ranking candidates are listed below in alphabetical order.

Candidate A

- Name: Michael Baird
- Location: Lostine
- Occupation: Biology teacher, private forester, river guide

Michael grew up hunting and fishing in Idaho. He attended the University of Idaho where he majored in Forestry and Business education and minored in economics. He has worked for the US Forest Service as a smokejumper and for the Wallowa Memorial Hospital as an EMT. He currently teaches life sciences, economics, and computer applications to high school students and works as a private forestry/natural resources contractor. He also guides hunters and fishermen on the Snake River.

Michael is member of Ducks Unlimited and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) where he has served on several committees over the past 13 years. He has worked with ODFW on several research projects, including spruce grouse and bobolink in Wallowa County and grizzly bear habitat research in Idaho.

Candidate B

- Name: Alan Christensen
- Location: Portland
- Occupation: Wildlife Biologist

Alan has been an avid hunter since age 12, pursuing big game, upland birds, and waterfowl throughout the western United States and Canada. He has published articles in scientific and popular literature regarding upland birds, retriever training, and waterfowl hunting. Alan has diligently served his first four-year term on the Access and Habitat Board and has applied to serve a second term.

Alan became the first field director for RMEF and started several local chapters to raise funds for habitat improvements. Alan started and oversaw the Project Advisory Committee, a project review system very similar to A&H. Alan went on to become Vice President for Lands and Conservation at RMEF. He has also served as President of the Montana state chapter of The Wildlife Society and held positions on numerous other conservation and hunting boards and committees. Alan served several years in leadership positions with the US Forest Service and currently works as a project manager for Western Rivers Conservancy. In carrying out these professional roles, Alan coordinated with various stakeholders on several (often controversial) issues, and represented many of those stakeholders before various legislative bodies.

Candidate C

- Name: Jeremiah Moore
- Location: Medford
- Occupation: Physical Therapist

Jeremiah has been an avid outdoorsman his whole life and started hunting in Washington state at 12 years of age. He is a Master Hunter in Oregon and holds membership in several hunting and conservation organizations including RMEF, Sierra Club, the North American Hunting Club, and National Rifle Association (NRA).

Jeremiah holds a Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Science and a Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy. In addition, he has educated himself in the fields of wildlife science, wilderness medicine, and wilderness survival.

Candidate D

- Name: Richard Pileggi
- Location: Ontario
- Occupation: Retired (Oregon State Police)

Richard started his career with Oregon State Police as a Fish and Wildlife Cadet in western Oregon. He was assigned to several locations throughout the state over the years, and retired from his final post as Area Commander for the Ontario Area Command Office. During his tenure as Commander he served on several Boards and Commissions including the Traffic Safety Committee, Behavioral Health Board, Emergency Management Board, and the Bureau of Land Management Board.

Richard is an avid outdoorsman and has held memberships with the NRA, RMEF, and National Wild Turkey Federation. He is an Oregon Master Hunter and current board member for the Malheur County Chapter of Pheasants Forever. He has been involved with the A&H Ontario City Access Area.

Candidate E

- Name: Stanley Walasavage
- Location: The Dalles
- Occupation: Retired (police officer)

Stanley has been involved with shooting sports since a very young age and started hunting squirrels and pheasants in Massachusetts. He has since hunted a variety of game species in several states throughout the country. Because most of his hunting was on private land, Stanley developed an early appreciation for the relationship between hunters and landowners and the challenges involved.

During his career as a police officer, Stanley worked with several public and private organizations. He engaged with hundreds of teachers and thousands of students while teaching the D.A.R.E. program. He also worked closely with the Massachusetts Environmental Police on local wildlife and hunting issues. Stanley is a member of the NRA, NWTF, RMEF, and serves as president of the Mid-Columbia Chapter of OHA. He has volunteered for numerous ODFW projects and activities including tree planting and invasive species removal projects.

DRAFT MOTION

I move to appoint _____ to serve a four-year term as Hunter Representative on the Access and Habitat Board.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

March 7, 2014