

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 2009 Oregon Legislative Assembly reauthorized program funding through December 2019.

Project proposals are typically submitted by landowners, corporations, organizations, and agencies. Applications are initially reviewed by A&H Board-appointed Regional Advisory Councils established in six geographic regions of the state. 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. The 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.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The A&H Program provides for public involvement through the Regional Advisory Councils and A&H Board meetings. The A&H Board meetings are advertised in advance, notices are published on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website, and agendas are mailed to interested citizens. There is an opportunity for interested parties to provide public comment during these meetings. Project proposals are also posted on the A&H website; members of the public may review the documents and provide comments at any time. The A&H Board most recently met on January 13, 2015 in Salem, Oregon. The Landowner Representative vacancy was advertised to the public through news releases, internet postings, and direct communication with landowner organizations.

ISSUE 1

PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ANALYSIS

A summary of the 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. Modify individual project proposals.
- Option 3. Reject individual project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1.

DRAFT MOTION

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

EFFECTIVE DATE:

March 6, 2015

ANALYSIS

The A&H Board has one Landowner Representative vacancy. ODFW received a total of five applications from the Department of Forestry and the Department of Agriculture. Applicants provided information about their experience and background relative to the following criteria:

- Knowledge and 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, 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 candidates are listed below in alphabetical order.

Candidate A

- Name: John Breese
- Location: Prineville
- Occupation: Rancher/Forester

John owns and manages over 7,000 acres of range and forest lands that have been in the family for over 100 years and is a Certified Tree Farm. He is a Master Woodland Manager; his management focuses on forest and rangeland health, sustainability, and profitability. He has done significant habitat improvements to benefit wildlife through grants from RMEF and A&H. John is an avid hunter and opened his property to ODFW's Open Fields "by permission" hunting.

John is a board member and past president of the East Oregon Forest Protective Association, past president of the Pacific Northwest Section of the Society for Range Management and past president of a local chapter of the Oregon Small Woodland Association. He is currently representing timber interests on the Crooked River Watershed Council and Central Oregon Department of Forestry Budget Committee, and was previously on the Agriculture Research Service (Burns, OR) Advisory Committee, Central Oregon Community College Forestry Advisory Committee, and ODF Forest Resource Trust Committee. He has testified twice on forestry issues at the Oregon State Legislature.

Candidate B

- 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 C

- Name: Carma Mornarich
- Location: Roseburg
- Occupation: Foundation Director

Carma grew up on a Century Farm and has degrees in Agricultural Communications and Agricultural Education. She has been a teacher and owns an auction company. Carma is the Foundation Director for the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians and a member of the Southern Willamette Valley Leadership Council for the Oregon Community Foundation.

Carma is a founding member and on the board of the Oregon Chapter-Foundation for North American Wild Sheep and active in the Umpqua Chapter of Oregon Hunters Association

Candidate D

- Name: Spencer Noonan
- Location: Toledo
- Occupation: Senior Forest Engineer

Spencer has worked for Plum Creek Timber Company for three years and is a member of the Council of Forest Engineering. He has worked on forestry access issues and enjoys hunting and fishing.

Candidate E

- Name: Riley Stephenson
- Location: Philomath
- Occupation: Forester

Riley has been an operations forester with Starker Forests for two years and has worked with the public to educate them about forestry. He is an avid outdoorsman.

DRAFT MOTION

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

EFFECTIVE DATE:

March 6, 2015