

## Agenda Item Summary

### BACKGROUND

In 1993 the Oregon Legislative Assembly created the Access & Habitat (A&H) program to improve habitat and public hunting access in Oregon. The bill created a citizen board to provide recommendations to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) on projects requesting A&H funds. The board is comprised of three landowner representatives, three hunting representatives and the Chair representing the public at large. The Commission appoints members to four-year terms and can reappoint members to a second four-year term. Responsibilities of the A&H Board, in addition to funding recommendations, include appointment of representatives to Regional Advisory Councils (Councils), which provide the first level of review for projects from the six regions. The A&H Board is the statewide level of project review, providing recommendations to the Commission for final consideration and approval.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Landowner Representative position was open to interested members of the public. The Department advertised the vacancy with press releases and on the webpage.

### ISSUE 1

#### **Appointment of Landowner Representative to Access & Habitat Board**

### ANALYSIS

The A&H Board has a Landowner Representative vacancy. Applications for the vacancy were accepted January 15, 2017 through June 15, 2017. Individuals interested in serving as a landowner representative are required to submit applications to the Department of Forestry or Department of Agriculture. The Department received five applications from the Department of Agriculture.

Applicants were asked to provide information about their experience and background relative 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 Department

Listed below in alphabetical order are brief summaries of the five applicants. The full applications are in attachment three.

- **Name:**                 **John Breese**
- **Location:**           **Prineville, OR**
- **Occupation:**       **Rancher/Logger**

John and his wife own and operate a Certified Tree Farm and ranch lands near Prineville that has been in his family for over 100 years. Balancing sustainability and profitability John manages the land to ensure future generations will have the same ranching and forestry opportunities. John has worked with the Department and Access & Habitat on several wildlife projects including; elk collaring, wildlife friendly fencing, spring developments and juniper removal.

John has extensive experience working on boards and committees and representing landowners including; representing timber interests on the Crooked River Watershed Council for over ten years, serving on the Central Oregon Department of Forestry Budget Committee, board member of the East Oregon Forest Protective Association and testifying on forestry issues at the Oregon State Legislature.

- **Name:**                 **Kirk Davies**
- **Location:**           **Burns, OR**
- **Occupation:**       **Rangeland Scientist/Rancher**

A rangeland scientist with a PhD from Oregon State University, Kirk grew up on a cattle ranch in southeast Oregon. Kirk is working with the NRCS to improve wildlife habitat on his ranch property near Burns.

Kirk is familiar with the Access & Habitat program having served two terms on the Malheur Regional Council. A member of Oregon Hunters Association and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Kirk serves on the Harney County ESD Board, National Society of Range Management (SRM) Wildlife Habitat Committee and SRM Awards Committee.

- **Name:** Dionne Decker
- **Location:** Klamath Falls, OR
- **Occupation:** Ranch Bookkeeper

Dionne owns a small hay field in Klamath Falls and has managed hay and cattle operations for over 10 years. A bookkeeper for a ranch in Dairy, OR. Dionne also works summers on a 20,000 acre Montana ranch.

With experience in various occupations including the medical field and currently as an Union Hall office manager Dionne has experience working with the public.

- **Name:** Shella DelCurto
- **Location:** Halfway, OR
- **Occupation:** Rancher/retired school district employee

Shella and her husband Barry own a ranching operation in Halfway providing Shella opportunities to work with the US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry and Access & Habitat program. An avid hunter, Shella and her husband have worked to improve wildlife habitat on their lands.

A retired Pine Eagle School District classified employee, Shella is experienced in working with the public, young and old. Shella has experience with the Access & Habitat program, her husband Barry recently completed his second term as Chair of the A&H Board.

- **Name:** Chester Youngblood
- **Location:** Ontario, OR
- **Occupation:** Game bird producer and preserve operator

Chester owns and operates a game bird preserve near Ontario and is a member of, or donor to, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Oregon Hunters Association.

With an AA in Agricultural Business from Hartnell College in Salinas, California, Chester has experience working on boards and with groups in Monterey County, California

**DRAFT MOTION** I move to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to a four-year term as a Landowner Representative on the Access and Habitat Board.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** August 4, 2017