

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Created in 1994 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the seven-member Access & Habitat Board (Board) reviews project proposals that improve wildlife habitat and/or enhance public hunting access in Oregon. Project applications are submitted by landowners, corporations, organizations, and agencies. Applications are initially reviewed by Board-appointed Regional Councils established in six geographic regions of the state. Regional Councils forward proposals to the Board with recommendations to approve or deny projects. The Board provides the next level of project review and then forwards proposals to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for final consideration and approval to expend Access and Habitat (A&H) Program funds.

Funding for the A&H Program, ~ \$2.7 million per biennium, is from three primary sources;

- \$4 from each hunting and combination license sold (approximately \$1.7 million per biennium)
- Proceeds from the annual Big Game Auction and Raffle tags (approximately \$1.0 million per biennium)
- Biennial allocation of approximately \$80,000 from the Green Forage and Deer Enhancement and Restoration programs

The A&H Program dedicated account balance was \$1,768,214 at the end of May 2019. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can be expended only for Program activities. During the 2017-2019 biennium, A&H projects provided hunters access to over 4.5 million acres of private land and improved over 52,000 acres of habitat for wildlife.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A&H provides for public involvement at Regional Council and Board meetings, which are advertised by Department news release and on the Department webpage. Meeting materials are posted on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife website. Members of the public may review documents and provide comments. Interested parties may attend or call in to provide public comment during these meetings. The Board most recently met in Salem, Oregon on July 16, 2019.

Item 1

A&H PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ANALYSIS

A summary of the two 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. Reject project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve the two projects recommended by the A&H Board.

DRAFT MOTION	I move to approve funding for the two projects recommended by the Access & Habitat Board.
EFFECTIVE DATE	September 13, 2019