

Summary of Projects Recommended for Access & Habitat Funding

The Access and Habitat (A&H) Board met July 16, 2019 in Salem, Oregon to review projects recommended for funding by A&H Regional Councils (Councils). A project must receive at least four supporting votes from the Board to be recommended for funding. All projects received letters of support from the local District Wildlife Biologist. A brief description of the funding requested, access and habitat benefits provided, as well as Council and Board votes follows. The A&H Board recommends funding the following two projects:

Glass Hill Access Area – Rice

The Rice Access Project would provide continued public hunting access to 911 acres of private land within the Glass Hill Access Area. Access would be provided on a “By Permission” basis during the access period of April 1 – January 31, for three years. “By Permission” for this project requires an advance reservation through local Department staff to access the property. The landowner would be paid \$1.80 per acre (\$1,640) for each year of enrollment. The cooperator contribution to the project will primarily be maintaining gates, posting signs and removing litter.

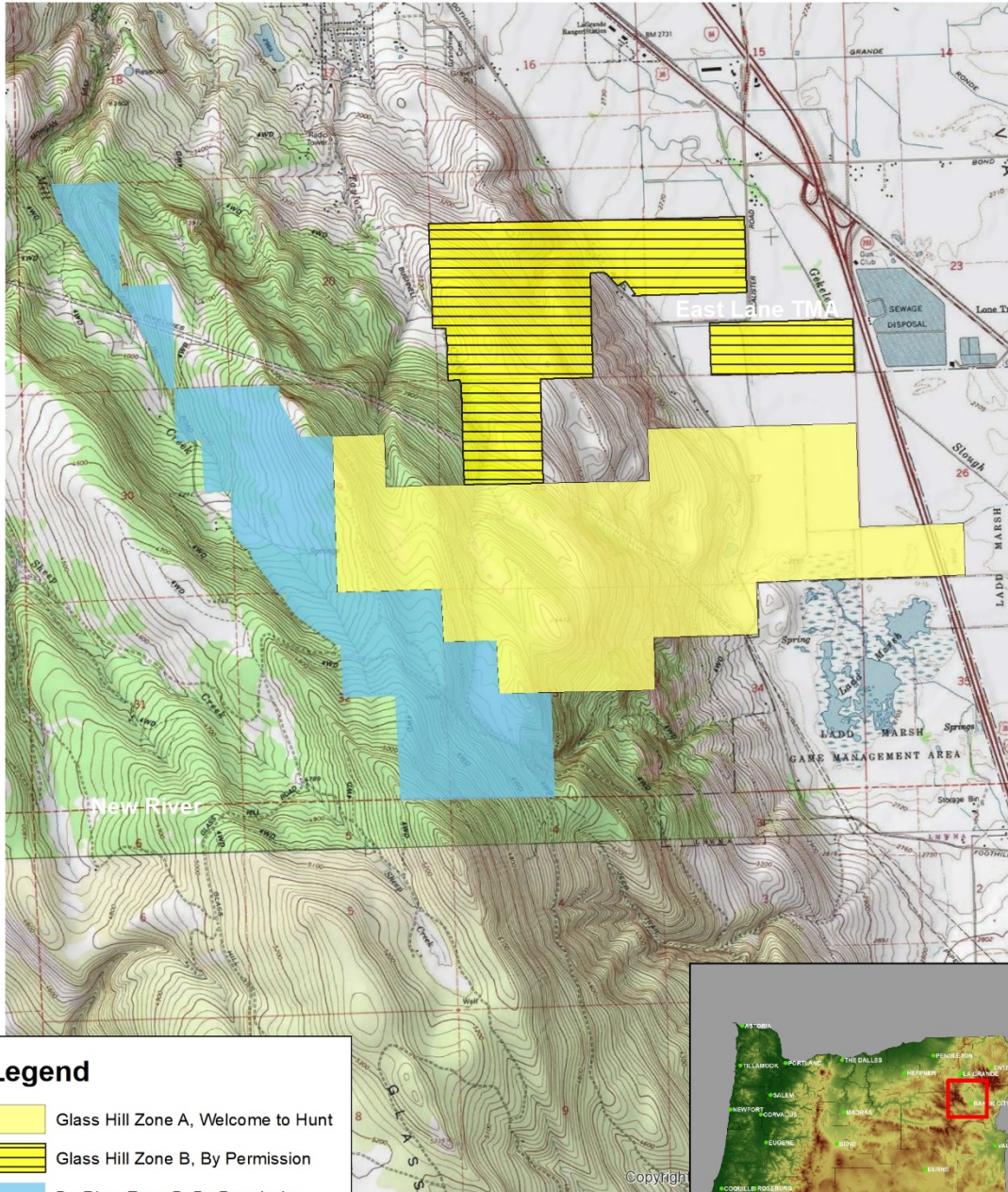
Dr. Rice’s property- known as the Glass Hill Conservancy- provides important year-round wildlife habitat for upland game birds and big game species. The Glass Hill Access Area was formally created in 2008. Three private landowners - Dr. Joel Rice, Irwin Smutz, and Lawrence “Spark” Smutz - along with the Department’s Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area collectively make up the 4,200-acre access area.

The Glass Hill Conservancy serves as an important travel corridor for animals migrating between summer range and winter range habitats. The lower portion of the property provides access to the foothills of the Grande Ronde Valley in one of the few locations where conflicts between agricultural producers and wildlife are minimal. Under normal winter conditions, anywhere from 350-500 wintering elk utilize Glass Hill Conservancy lands and adjacent state and private lands. This project provides opportunities to hunt mule deer, white-tailed deer, elk, bear, cougar, coyote, turkey, waterfowl, pheasant, Hungarian partridge, California quail, and blue and ruffed grouse in the Starkey Wildlife Management Unit.

Rice Access Area

- A&H Funds: \$4,920 (\$1,640/year)
- Cooperator Funds: \$1,500 (\$500/year)
- Total project funds: \$6,420
- Applicant: Dr. Joel Rice
- Location: Starkey WMU
- Access Acres : 911 “By Permission”
- Project Period: April 1 to January 31
- Project Duration: 3 years: August 1, 2019 to January 31, 2022
- Council Vote: Yes: 6; No: 0
- Board Vote: Yes: 5; No: 0

Glass Hill Access Area, Dr Rice



#2019-06 Aspen Valley Open Fields Habitat

- A&H Funds: \$31,500
- Total Project Cost: \$31,500
- Applicant: Aspen Valley Ranch
- Location: Maury WMU
- Habitat Acres: 1,000
- Project Duration: September 2019-December 2019
- Board Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0

This controlled burn project on the Aspen Valley Ranch near Post, Oregon is a follow up to two prior habitat projects funded by A&H and Open Fields. This proposal is to spend \$31,500 in A&H funds to perform a prescribed burn on 1,000 acres, at a rate of \$31.50/acre. This A&H habitat project replaces the 3rd year of Open Fields Aspen Valley project #2017-03 prescribed fire funding with A&H funds. The funding change is necessary because Open Fields funded habitat projects need to be completed by September 2019 unless an extension is granted. The Department has requested an extension from the federal funding entity (USDA, NRCS) to the grant expiration date to allow use of Open Fields funds but has not received a response to the request at this time.

The funding shift will allow the possibility of burning this fall. Burn window timing and fire crew availability have been the limiting factors so far and have not allowed a prescribed fire to be conducted. In order to maintain the habitat improvements resulting from the juniper and weed treatments the landowner is committed to implementation of regular controlled burns to retard juniper seedlings from reestablishing.

The project also provides by permission hunting on 8,000 acres for deer, elk, and predators with ODFW administrating the hunting reservation system. Additionally, the landowner coordinates access for youth, disabled and veteran hunts on additional parcels not included within the 8,000 acres of the original Aspen Valley Open Fields project.

Aspen Valley Location Map

