



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Created in 1993 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the seven-member Access & Habitat (A&H) Board (Board) reviews project proposals that improve wildlife habitat and/or enhance public hunting access in Oregon. Project applications, submitted by landowners, corporations, organizations, and agencies, are initially reviewed by Board-appointed Regional Councils established in five 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 (Commission) for final consideration and approval to expend 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 \$1,005,011 at the end of February 2020. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can be expended only for Program activities. As of March 27, A&H project contracts provide hunters with access to over 3 million acres of private land and improved over 17,000 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 on January 14, 2020 and via teleconference on April 7, 2020.

ISSUE 1

A&H PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

ANALYSIS

A summary of the five projects recommended for funding by the A&H Board is presented Attachment 2.

OPTIONS

Option 1. Approve A&H Board recommendations for project funding.

Option 2. Reject project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1. Approve the five projects recommended by the A&H Board.

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to approve the five projects recommended for funding by the Access & Habitat Board.

Effective Date: June 12, 2020

ISSUE 2

APPOINTMENT OF HUNTER REPRESENTATIVES TO THE ACCESS & HABITAT BOARD

BACKGROUND

Created in 1993 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the seven-member A&H Board reviews project proposals that improve wildlife habitat and/or enhance public hunting access in Oregon.

The seven members of the Board are appointed by the Commission to a term of four years. The Commission may reappoint a Board member to a second term. A Board member may serve only two terms. A list of current A&H Board member terms is presented in Attachment 3.

The Board has a Hunter Representative vacancy created when Nathan Bailey resigned from the A&H Board. Additionally, A&H Hunter Representative Candis Yow's first term expires at the end of June. The Board would like to fill these two Hunter Representative positions prior to the July A&H Board meeting.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The Department accepted applications for the vacancies from March 30 through April 24, 2020. The Department posted the opening on the website, news release was provided to the media and directly emailed to Oregon sports groups to canvas Oregon for talented candidates.

ANALYSIS

Applicants for the Hunter Representative were asked to provide information about their experience and background relative to the following criteria:

- Breadth of 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/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 the Department

The Department received seven applications and formed an internal review committee to rank them using the criteria above. A summary of the individual Hunter Representative applicants is provided in Attachment 4. Each of the seven applications is included for reference (Attachment 5).

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to appoint Candice Yow to serve a second term and _____ to serve initial four-year term as Hunter Representatives on the Access and Habitat Board.

Effective Date: June 12, 2020