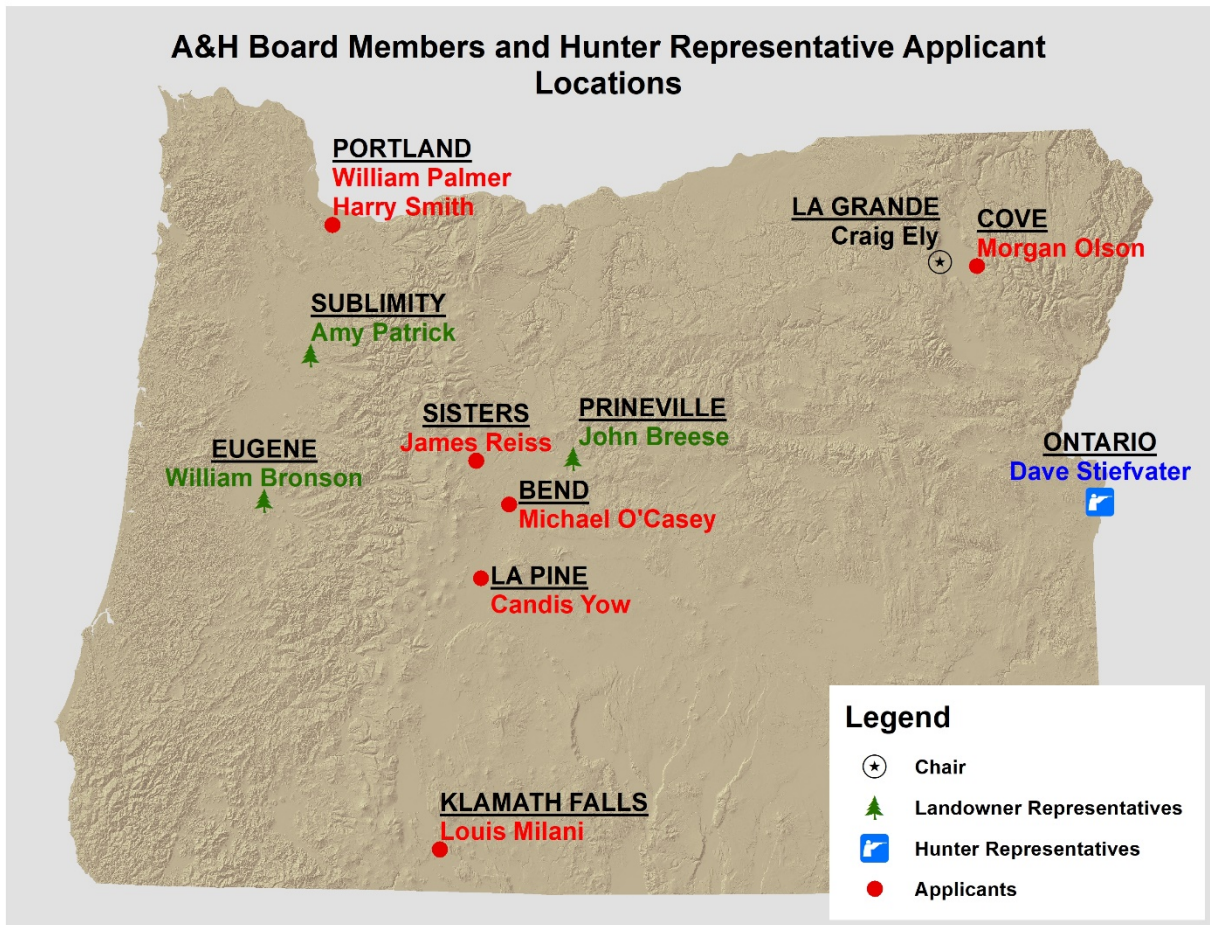


## Summary of Applicants for the Hunter Representative positions on the Access and Habitat State Board

Open recruitments for two Hunter Representative positions on the Access and Habitat (A&H) Board were posted on the A&H section of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) website, a news release was provided to the media and information was directly emailed to Oregon sports groups to canvas Oregon for talented candidates. The Department accepted applications for the vacancies from March 30 through April 24, 2020. Seven applications were received for the two positions. The map below illustrates the geographic location of each of the Hunter Representative candidates (red font).



The candidate's applications are summarized below in first name alphabetical order:

**Candidate A**

- Name: Candis M. Yow
- Location: La Pine, OR
- Occupation: Ladies Hunting Camp, Principle Broker Cascade Reality

Candis Yow is a current A&H Board member serving as a Hunter Representative, her term ends June 30, 2020. Candis grew up on large ranches immersed in a heritage of hunting and outdoor activities. She hunts in several western states and is an active member of the National Rifle Association (NRA), Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), Oregon Hunters Association (OHA), and National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), attending many of the local, state and national events. In addition to serving on the A&H Board she has served as the president of the La Pine Rodeo for 4 years and has served on numerous committees for hunting, real estate, and church groups. She has used her public speaking ability to represent the A&H Program at meetings of hunting organizations. She has written articles for various magazines on hunting, ranching and real estate. Seven years ago, she helped start the NW Ladies Hunting Camp to introduce women to hunting, conservation ethics and develop skills and confidence needed to be successful and safe hunters, which has gained national attention.

**Candidate B**

- Name: Harry "Hank" Smith
- Location: Portland, OR
- Occupation: Self Employed, The Mountyn Company

Hank Smith is a graduate of Portland State University, served as an Air Force intelligence officer and as a diplomat with the Department of State. He is a lifelong hunter who grew up hunting with muzzle loading rifles for black-tailed deer. He has utilized the Travel Management Areas (TMA) around the Tillamook State Forest in pursuit of his outdoor recreation in addition to US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) throughout the state. Hank has substantial and diverse experience in negotiation and relations primarily from work with the Air Force, Department of State, and serving as president of a small tech company. The Mountyn Company makes custom, waterproof, topographic maps for use in the outdoors. Hank returned to Oregon after his service primarily due to his love of the great outdoors.

### **Candidate C**

- Name: James T. Reiss
- Location: Sisters, OR
- Occupation: Retired School Teacher

James Reiss is in his last term as a Hunter Representative for the Deschutes/Klamath A&H Regional Council. He is a member of OHA Bend Chapter, as well as previous memberships in RMEF, Trout Unlimited, and NW Steelheaders. James served on the BLM's John Day/Snake River Resource Advisory Council representing Disperse Recreation. In addition, he served on several subcommittees for Deschutes and John Day River interests being an avid whitewater rafter. James Reiss is a master hunter who has bought the Sports Pac since it became available and loves to be in the great outdoors.

### **Candidate D**

- Name: Louis "Lou" Milani
- Location: Klamath Falls, OR
- Occupation: Construction Coordinator

Louis Milani owned a hunting guide service in California. Louis worked closely with farmers, landowners, and the irrigation districts. Lou has experience in land leasing, property management, landowner negotiations, leasing and public relations in hunting ranch procurement and hunting club development. He was the Secretary for the Sacramento chapter of Safari Club International and District Chairman for Ducks Unlimited and Co-Chair of the Calusa Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Lou has been hunting for the last 48 years. He is an avid waterfowl hunting enthusiast, and also enjoys upland and big game hunting and fishing all summer.

### **Candidate E**

- Name: Michael O'Casey
- Location: Bend, OR
- Occupation: Conservation Policy

Michael O'Casey was raised on a small Christmas tree farm outside of Astoria and currently lives in the area between Bend and Redmond. A lifelong hunter, he graduated with a degree in Wildlife Biology from the University of Montana. Michael previously worked as the Stewardship and Restoration Coordinator for the Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA). His current job is for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP) as the Oregon Field Representative. He has attended ODFW Commission meetings, provided written and public testimonies to the Legislature, and written comment letters on a variety of public land management topics as well as hunting and angling access. Michael is a member of RMEF, OHA, Traditional Archers of Oregon, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, and The Wildlife Society. He is a board member of the Oregon Chapter of the Wildlife Society.

## **Candidate F**

- Name: Morgan R. Olson
- Location: Cove, OR
- Occupation: Plant Manager, Woodgrain Particleboard

Morgan Olson is the current Chair for the Northeast Oregon A&H Regional Council. He graduated from Oregon State University with bachelor degrees in Range Management and Crop Science. Morgan has hunted and fished throughout the Western United States and abroad. He is the Oregon Conservation/Habitat Director for Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and Chapter President for the Union/Wallowa Chapter of OHA. Morgan has worked for 21 years at a wood products facility holding various management positions, produced native seed for the BLM and USFS, and worked his crop and range land.

## **Candidate G**

- Name: William R. Palmer
- Location: Portland, OR
- Occupation: Marketing Manager

William Palmer grew up in the rural Willamette Valley and is a lifelong Oregonian. He has hiked, camped and fished all across the state adding hunting as a recent passion. William's introduction to hunting was via upland game birds and waterfowl hunting, and he took advantage of ODFW's clinics and classes to develop skills and find public access to hunt. He now mentors new hunters. He will be developing his big game hunting skills this fall. William has been a member of Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Western Rivers Conservancy, and has had leadership roles in other advocacy groups.