



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

Created in 1993 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the seven-member Access & Habitat (A&H) State 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 for final consideration and approval to expend A&H Program funds.

Funding for the A&H Program, ~ \$3.1 million per biennium, is from three primary sources;

- \$4 from each hunting and combination license sold (approximately \$1.4 million per biennium)
- Proceeds from the annual Big Game Auction and Raffle tags (approximately \$1.5 million per biennium)
- Biennial allocation of approximately \$90,000 from the Green Forage and Deer Enhancement and Restoration programs

The A&H Program dedicated account balance was \$1,138,726 at the end of December 2020. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can be expended only for Program activities. As of February 2, contracted A&H projects provide hunters with access to over 3 million acres of private land and have improved over 26,000 acres of habitat for wildlife.

### PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A&H Program 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 via Zoom on January 19, 2021.

## ISSUE 1

A&H Project Funding Recommendations

## ANALYSIS

A summary of the four 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

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

### **DRAFT MOTION:**

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

**Effective Date:** March 19, 2021

## **ISSUE 2**

Appointment of hunter representative to the Access & Habitat State Board.

## **BACKGROUND**

Created in 1993 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the seven-member Access & Habitat (A&H) State Board (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 Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (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 members terms is presented in A&H Board Terms (Attachment 3)

The Board has a Hunter Representative vacancy created when Dave Steifvater's second term on the A&H Board ended in December. The Board has taken the appropriate steps to fill the Hunter Representative position prior to the April A&H Board meeting.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

The Department accepted applications for the vacancy from December 10, 2020 through January 30, 2021. The Department posted the opening on the website, a 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 10 applications by the deadline, (Attachment 4) and formed an internal review committee to rank them using the experience and background criteria. A summary of the individual Hunter Representative applicants is provided (Attachment 5). The internal review results were discussed with the Director's office.

**DRAFT MOTION:**

I move to appoint \_\_\_\_\_ to serve a four-year term as Hunter Representative on the Access and Habitat State Board.

**Effective Date:** March 19, 2021