



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), and
- Biennial allocation of approximately \$90,000 from the Green Forage and Deer Enhancement and Restoration programs.

The A&H Program dedicated account balance was \$2,200,679 at the end of September 2022. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can be expended only for Program activities. As of October 20, 2022, contracted A&H projects provide hunters with access to over three million acres of private land and have improved over 18,000 acres of habitat for wildlife during the 2021-2023 biennium.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A&H Program provides for public involvement at Regional Council and Board meetings, which are advertised on the department's webpage and by news release. Meeting materials are also posted on the department's webpage. Members of the public may review documents and provide comments. Interested parties may attend in person or virtually to provide public comment during these meetings. The Board most recently met on October 18, 2022 in Prineville.

ISSUE

A&H Project Funding Recommendations

ANALYSIS

A summary of the three 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 some or all project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to approve the three projects recommended for funding by the Access & Habitat Board and described in Attachment 2.

Effective Date: December 16, 2022