



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, approximately \$3.3 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 \$1.9 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 \$2,887,297 at the end of May 2023. Most of the dedicated account balance is committed to fund existing projects approved in previous grant cycles with \$110,057 available for new projects and renewals. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can only be expended for program activities. As of July 1, contracted A&H projects have improved over 21,000 acres of habitat for wildlife during the past biennium and provided hunters with access to over 2.4 million acres of private land and.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A&H provides an opportunity for public involvement at Regional Council and Board meetings, which are advertised by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) news releases and on the Department webpage. Meeting materials are posted on the Department website. 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 in Salem on July 18, 2023.

ISSUE

A&H Project Funding Recommendations

ANALYSIS

The A&H Board recommended two projects for funding during this grant cycle. A summary of both projects is presented in the staff project summary (Attachment 2).

OPTIONS

Option 1. Approve A&H Board recommendations.

Option 2. Reject project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

DRAFT MOTION:

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

Effective Date: September 15, 2023