



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 \$1.5 million per biennium)
- Proceeds from the annual Big Game Auction and Raffle tags (approximately \$1.7 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 \$2,707,944 at the end of March 2024. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can be expended only for program activities. As of April 1, contracted A&H projects provide hunters with access to over 2.6 million acres of private land and have improved over 20,500 acres of habitat for wildlife during this biennium.

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 Bend on April 9, 2024.

The public will also have the opportunity to provide input leading up to and during the June Commission meeting.

ISSUE 1

A&H Project Funding Recommendations

ANALYSIS

A summary of the two projects recommended for funding by the A&H Board is provided in the Attachment 2.

OPTIONS

Option 1. Approve A&H Board recommendations.

Option 2. Reject project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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

DRAFT MOTION:

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

Effective Date: June 14, 2024

ISSUE 2

Appointment of Hunter Representatives to the A&H Board

BACKGROUND

A list of current A&H Board members terms is provided in Attachment 3.

The Board will have two Hunter Representative vacancies when Morgan Olson's first term and Candy Yow's second term ends on June 16, 2024. A&H Board members may only serve two consecutive terms.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Applications for the Hunter Representative vacancies were accepted from February 20 through March 29, 2024. The department recruited candidates for the vacancies by advertising on the agency website, social media posts, issuing a news release, and emails to hunting organizations to canvass Oregon for talented candidates. We received applications from eleven individuals interested in the positions.

ANALYSIS

Hunter Representative applicants 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 eleven applications by the deadline (Attachment 3). The applicants are listed below in alphabetical order of the last name.

Name: William Aney
Occupation: Retired forester and wildlife biologist, columnist, athletics coach
Location: Pendleton

William Aney worked for the U.S. Forest Service for 35 years, in various positions including wildlife biologist, District Ranger, and in fire management. He has served on numerous boards for the Forest Service and the Pendleton area including leadership positions. William is a lifelong hunter, utilizing A&H properties, as well as a current member of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Ducks Unlimited, Pendleton Bird Club, and Eastern Oregon Climate Change Coalition.

Name: Nathan Bailey
Occupation: Guide/Outfitter
Location: Butte Falls

Nathan Bailey is a lifelong hunter and former Hunter Representative on the A&H Board; he had to leave due to lack of time as his commitment to the Oregon Air National Guard kept him very busy. As the current president of Life Outdoorz he oversees the Life Outdoorz Film Festivals (hunting films) and sets up youth hunts for the organization.

Name: Dave Budeau
Occupation: Retired Wildlife Biologist
Location: Turner

Dave Budeau retired from ODFW as the Upland Game Bird Coordinator. He has hunted Oregon for 50 years, both big game and game birds. He is a member of Oregon Hunters Association, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, and The Nature Conservancy. Dave has served on boards, including leadership positions, for conservation organizations and soil and water conservation districts, and represented ODFW on technical committees for species management.

Name: Morgan Olson
Occupation: Production Manager – Woodgrain
Location: Cove

Morgan Olson is a current A&H Board Hunter Representative and is seeking appointment to a second term. 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 Oregon Hunters Association. Morgan has worked for 24 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.

Name: Curt Penrod
Occupation: State Farm Field Sales Enablement Coach
Location: Gearhart

Curt Penrod is a long-time hunter, angler, and outdoor recreationist. He holds a Master Hunter certificate and is a bowhunter education instructor. He is active in Ducks Unlimited, including leadership positions. He has served on numerous committees and boards for city, county and state. Curt worked on farms growing up, picking berries to operating equipment.

Name: Lance Queen
Occupation: Informatics Specialist
Location: Madras

Lance Queen has spent years enjoying fishing, hiking, hunting and other outdoor activities all over Oregon. He has worked as a logger and on a ranch which provides him with an understanding of landowner concerns.

Name: Travis Ray
Occupation: General Sales Manager
Location: Harrisburg

Travis Ray has hunted throughout Oregon, including on A&H access areas. He was active on the Mule Deer Foundation's Linn-Benton chapter banquet committee. Travis has worked with various boards and committees within his community and tries to always work in a collaborative way.

Name: Dalton Romanowski
Occupation: Flyfishing Guide
Location: Bend

Dalton Romanowski is a lifelong hunter and angler with a passion for wildlife conservation. He is a member of Trout Unlimited as well as a board member for the Deschutes chapter. Dalton has worked through public processes and his work provides him with a strong public service ethic to foster conservation.

Name: Truman Stone
Occupation: Attorney
Location: Eugene

Truman Stone is a dedicated hunter for upland game birds, waterfowl, and big game. He is a former Hunter Representative and Chair of the Northwest A&H Regional Council and regularly volunteers with ODFW. Truman is a member of Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership,

The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Hunters Association, Pheasants Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, and Trout Unlimited. He has served on numerous boards for both community involvement and professional organizations. As an attorney, Truman represents local government and their governing boards and advises governance, meeting and public record law.

Name: Jonathan Turkington
Occupation: Business Owner
Location: Aumsville

Jonathan Turkington is an avid archery hunter that grew up in a small town with a lifelong connection to farming. He has volunteered with youth hunting events and hunter education. Jonathan is involved in his community with the chamber of commerce, coaching youth sports and volunteering with the county food share program.

Name: Christopher West
Occupation: Executive, Consultant, Forester, Conservationist
Location: Sherwood

Christopher West is a passionate hunter who pursues big game, upland game birds and waterfowl. He is a member of Boone and Crockett Club, Ducks Unlimited, Oregon Hunters Association, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He has held leadership positions in professional and civic boards, as well as testified before state and federal legislative bodies. Christopher has personal and professional experience of bringing diverse interests together on complex problems.

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to reappoint Morgan Olson to serve a second term and appoint _____ to serve a four-year term as Landowner Representatives on the Access and Habitat Board.

Effective Date: June 14, 2024