



## 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 \$2.2 million per biennium)
- Biennial allocation of approximately \$91,000 from the Green Forage and Deer Enhancement and Restoration programs (license funds).

The A&H Program dedicated account balance was \$3,456,979 at the end of December 2024. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can only be expended for program activities. As of January 1, 2025, contracted A&H projects provide hunters with access to over 2.6 million acres of private land and have improved over 22,000 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 and members of the public may review documents and submit comments. Interested parties may attend in person or virtually to provide public comment during these meetings. The Board most recently met in Salem on January 13, 2025.

## **ISSUE 1**

### A&H PROJECT FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

## **ANALYSIS**

A summary of the two projects recommended for funding by the A&H Board 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 the 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:** March 14, 2025