

2017 Access & Habitat Priorities Department Biologists Survey Responses

As part of the effort to identify funding priorities for Access & Habitat (A&H), the Department sent an online survey to wildlife staff in the summer of 2017. The nine question survey asked each respondent to provide input on habitat and access issues by A&H Regions; North Willamette, South Willamette, Southwest, Deschutes/Klamath, Malheur, and Northeast.

The nine questions in the survey are as follows:

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Q2 Please list your job title

Q3 In the text box provided, please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region. For example; the lack of early successional forbs and shrubs at the mid and upper elevations is preventing our deer populations from thriving. A&H should focus habitat efforts on working with landowners to improve shrubs and forbs component when conducting land management.

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed. Example; treating Cheatgrass on private lands adjoining the Bob's Pass Wildlife Area. Or habitat work on USFS land adjacent to the Jones Ranch to attract and hold animals longer.

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important. Example; The High Pass Access Area provided important access to highly productive ranch lands as well as over 1000 acres of public property.

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

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Of the 15 surveys completed; 6 were for the Deschutes/Klamath Region, 4 for the South Willamette, 2 Southwest, and one each from Northeast, Malheur and North Willamette. Survey responses are aggregated for Regions with multiple responses. For the Northeast, Malheur and North Willamette Regions the complete survey is used. Complete surveys including the position title are included at the end of the document (Pages 11-27).

Combined Responses-Deschutes/Klamath Region

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Juniper eradication

Working with private timberland owners seeding, thinning, road closures

Habitat connectivity

Oak understory and Grassland habitats limit productive winter range and habitat for ground birds

Thinning, Overstory Removal, Road Closures

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

MDI units

Whitefish Cascade. Water developments, seeding, travel management.

District priorities are in the Oregon White Oak habitat, and adjacent to LDMA and WRWA

Cascade Whitefish and Ponderosa Land and Cattle ownerships. Actions identified in #3 above.

Warner WMU - continue juniper and invasive weed treatment, all USFS lands - successional setback projects and pre-commercial thinning in mixed conifer and lodge pole pine stands

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

Dixie Meadow, Aspen Valley

Whitefish Cascade-start, Ponderosa land and cattle-start.

I'm not familiar with the A&H habitat projects in my area

We have none, money is always absent when we have an idea....

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**Timbers/Spring Butte TMA posting/enforcement
Cabin Creek TMA**

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important

Aspen Valley and Dixie Meadow provide very high quality, limited entry hunting opportunities. Youth and new hunters particularly benefit from the safe, controlled environment. Excellent program.

Develop relationship with Whitefish Cascade. Hunting access, wintering habitat.

Not familiar with them

We have none. Zero.

None

Diamond TMA - provides access to over 640,000 acres in southern Oregon, Keno WMU nearly impossible to hunt for deer, elk, or turkey successfully without access to these lands, enormous community support and education component in a county with the second largest city in eastern Oregon

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

It would be great to get access onto the north side of the upper Crooked River, such as the Horse Heaven drainage including properties such as TNC, Aspen Valley, and Bonneview Ranch due to the high number of elk, adjacent land ownership with USFS, and chronic damage issues.

We need to focus on areas without good public access

None

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

The upper Crooked River Valley, Antone Ranch, GI Ranch. If landowners need help, we could set up an access program. As of now, Landowners seem to have all the help they need.

Metolius Unit-Lynn Miller place. Offsite habitat improvement.

Targeted habitat enhancement in winter range, landowner encouragement for public hunting

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Fort Rock Valley, Christmas Valley, Metolius, Dodd's Road - Fencing, seed, fertilizer.

Ft. Rock Valley elk, A&H may be able to assist with hunter access issues

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

We continue to work with OHA on juniper/conifer removal in the Maury Mountains through MDI. They would probably do more if we gave them more \$\$.

We are limited on these types of opportunities in the Deschutes district that are on private lands that would benefit hunter access and are also limited on habitat improvement projects because of the way private and public lands are laid out.

Too many to list. Both LDMA and WRWA use large numbers of sport group volunteers

Fencing projects

Combined Responses-South Willamette Region

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Lack of early successional habitat. What habitat there is managed for industrial timber, so it is sprayed heavily with herbicides and planted to quickly grow Douglas firs? There is a lack of early successional habitat on USFS and State lands.

Elk and deer habitat within the national forest should be improved; forest thinning, prescribed fires. There are very few areas in the national forest these days that provide this habitat and from our collared animals we are able to see how important these landscapes are for deer and elk throughout the winter. A&H should focus their efforts to work with national forest staff to improve these habitats with in turn can provide a more suitable habitat to deer and elk and also better hunting experiences. As large timber companies make it more difficult to hunt their lands more people will try and hunt within the national forests of Oregon.

Lack of early successional forbs and shrubs at the mid and upper elevations is preventing deer, elk, and migratory bird populations from thriving.

Currently, access has become our most important issue. Because Weyerhaeuser Company has gone to fee access and leases, the average hunter is finding it difficult to locate places to hunt that don't charge fees. Big game habitat on the

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national forest lands are in very poor condition. Most hunters abandoned hunting on national forest lands about 6-7 years ago.

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Creating larger gaps when USFS does thinning. Maintain meadows that are mowed by USFS. Finding meadows or old homestead sites and rehabbing them to create early successional habitat.

Work should continue in those areas where we have already invested time and money to thin parts of the national forest. The bigger these areas can become the more productive they should be in the future. This would be continued prescribed burning and forest thinning off the 21 road between the 2129 Rd and 2143 Rd in Willamette National Forest.

Improving big game habitat conditions across the Willamette National Forest would be our highest priority.

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

The Green Forage program used to provide more money to provide landowners for fertilizer. I am not sure if this went through the A&H program but believe it probably helped with landowner relations and reduced the number of damage tags requested.

We have worked with local OHA on forest thinning projects in the national forest. Also Wendling TMA, although Weyerhaeuser is going fee access a lot of the hunters in the area utilize this and will be affected with it ending next year. A&H should try and pull together more land owners to establish a new TMA, preferably in areas close to where we get reports of lots of damage.

Willamette Private Lands

The Wendling TMA was an outstanding project. Unfortunately, Weyerhaeuser will be withdrawing from the MOU and converting the area into fee access. Weyco is the majority private landowner in this area and almost all their lands will be in fee access or lease in 2018. The opportunity exists to work with the other smaller private industrial timber landowners to continue to provide free access. The Springfield staff will likely come to you with a proposal in the near future.

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Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

The Stott/North Alsea TMA, Lincoln County Forest Protection, and Willamette Valley Private Lands all provide important access to the Alsea and Stott WMUs. Without access to the timberlands in the Stott there would be little hunting opportunity for the public.

Although the Wendling TMA will be going away next year, I think there should be some effort to establish something similar in the same relative area. We get a lot of complaints about deer and elk damage and this can be a way to provide access and reduce damage complaints. Enhanced enforcement can always be used in our district due to easily accessible tracts of land within timber holdings.

The Willamette Private Lands project provides access to over one million acres of land, and thousands of acres of federal land that are check boarded within this area.

The Willamette Valley private lands agreement will be important to maintain.

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

We currently have access to the areas, but are at risk of losing them when Weyerhaeuser and possibly Hancock go to a lease/permit system.

A&H should work to provide enhanced patrols and access permissions from timber companies and other large land owners who haven't moved to a fee access system. Much of the easily accessible and good habitat for hunting now requires an entry permit from those companies which in turn makes the cost of hunting more than some people may want to pay. There are other areas around the district that still good spots but we should do our best to pull those landowners together to provide hunters access if possible. This in turn could reduce the damage that we see on those lands. Even if we just funded more officers to patrol these no-permit areas that will remain open we may get more cooperation with landowners because it would work to scare people from dumping litter or other harmful practices that turn landowners away from allowing access to the general public.

Hancock lands in the North Alsea, Stott unit- current threat for leasing. Weyco land near Monument Peak, future risk of leasing.

Important areas are scattered across our geographic location. These areas are made up of smaller industrial timber companies. See the answer to question 5.

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Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Most of the areas that have damage are small ranches and farms, about 40-100 acre properties. Encouraging hunters to live with these animals by providing them compensation in the form of fertilizer, grass seed, fences, etc. may help address damage or ease tensions.

Improving forage on adjacent USFS could also help move animals off of private lands.

Allot of the grass and fruit farms around Eugene in the Coburg hills area and then along the Willamette River see a lot of damage from elk and deer. These areas are not hunted that hard and would be good spots to try and pull together agreements with landowners for access to help reduce damage to their crops.

None come to mind that A&H could be of benefit.

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Local OHA and RMEF groups are willing to work with us on habitat projects. The hard part is finding willing landowners or agencies that will either provide access to the public or do the restoration work that we want. We are also limited by the amount of time we have to search out and then implement these projects.

Our district has worked successfully with OHA and rocky mountain elk foundation on projects

Assist with determining what fraction of folks that access an area are hunters.

We have worked with OHA and RMEF in the past and would like to continue to do so in the future.

Combined Responses-Southwest Region

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region

Creation of early succession habitat with limited herbicide use.

Your example is spot on. Lack of early seral habitat for black-tailed deer and elk. Our largest landowners are federal lands and they are severely limited in what they can do with their lands. The private timber ground is where deer numbers are found several years after clearcutting and prior to dense reprod filling in the unit and eventual canopy closure. Further downslope is the private land within the valley floor where oak woodlands/savannahs are being converted to

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agricultural crops. It's hard for wildlife management to compete with the potential profits that a landowner derives from converting his place into a vineyard.

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Creating early succession habitat on the Elliott State Forest and BLM lands in the Tioga Unit.

Increasing summer forage for deer and elk in the Cascades by creating/improving openings (logging/mechanically/fire). The timber industry has their formula for success and wildlife are able to utilize those lands for a part of that time. Federal lands have good potential but, many hurdles to achieve success. Conducting any habitat manipulations requires a willing federal partner to push forward the NEPA documentation. Best chances are in lands designated as matrix allocation although thinning in Late Successional Reserves can benefit big game as well. Meadow restoration is a good project that benefits a multitude of wildlife (conservation strategy spp). There are many meadows being encroached upon by conifers that could be opened up. Increasing summer forage is directly tied to higher survival rates for elk calves.

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

Tioga TMA

I only have one A&H hunt. Territorial Youth Hunt on Giustina Resources land in the Siuslaw Unit. There is no habitat work being financed, it is simply an access payment with 2 OHA chapters partnering with ODFW to help cost share. There are deer here for a reason, logging creates openings and it's behind a locked gate. This is a great youth hunt with a lot of positive feedback from participants each year.

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

Tioga TMA. This TMA is in the heart of a unit that traditionally had the highest number of hunters during bull elk seasons hunting it on the southern Oregon coast. Recently much of the previously open private land is now under new ownership and fee access programs are being employed.

Same as above (second answer to Q5 above)

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Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

Tioga Unit should be focused on. This unit has a history of heavy use by the hunting public. Recently access to private timber company land free of charge is being lost. Much of this acreage is no managed under fee-for-access programs.

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Private lands in the Sixes Unit between the Coquille River and the Sixes River have a history of significant damage from elk. Access to lands there is difficult for hunters to get and so population control of the elk population is difficult using hunter harvest.

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Oregon Hunters Association, Tioga Chapter would be a good organization to partner with.

We currently utilize OHA to help with habitat projects in the Umpqua NF (planting, fence removals, etc.)

Northeast Region

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Juniper removal and invasive weed control

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Winter range habitats - this is a poor question

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

The Columbia Plateau habitat technician

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important

Heppner RHA

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Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

Private lands in the Columbia Basin

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Winter elk damage in northeastern Heppner unit - Not viable landowners don't want public hunting

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

Malheur Region

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Focus on reducing the abundance of non-native annual grasses and restoring brush in big game winter range

Q4 Respondent skipped this question

Q5 Respondent skipped this question

Q6 Respondent skipped this question

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

Ag ground in the treasure valley for pheasant and quail hunting

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Coordinate with BLM on spring developments i.e. fence and pipe water to trough or aspen enclosures

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North Willamette Region

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Early seral habitat. Sprayed clear cuts limit much if not all of that production

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Private industrial timber land and small private landowners. Partnerships with Federal landowners to at least thin more ground or do some strategic experimental forest clearings would be helpful as well.

Q5 Respondent skipped this question

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

NCTMA

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

All private industrial timber land

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Pretty much all coastal agricultural lands. Fence some areas for access to others? Not sure.

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

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Complete Surveys

Following are the complete survey responses for each respondent. The questions are listed (example section removed for brevity) with the response in **bold**. The surveys are listed below in order of the number received for each Region, with Deschutes/Klamath responses first, followed by the South Willamette next and so on.

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Deschutes/Klamath

Q2 Please list your job title

Asst. District Wildlife Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Juniper eradication

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

MDI units

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

Dixie Meadow, Aspen Valley

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important

Aspen Valley and Dixie Meadow provide very high quality, limited entry hunting opportunities. Youth and new hunters particularly benefit from the safe, controlled environment. Excellent program.

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

It would be great to get access onto the north side of the upper Crooked River, such as the Horse Heaven drainage including properties such as TNC, Aspen Valley, and Bonneview Ranch due to the high number of elk, adjacent land ownership with USFS, and chronic damage issues.

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Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

The upper Crooked River Valley, Antone Ranch, GI Ranch. If landowners need help, we could set up an access program. As of now, Landowners seem to have all the help they need.

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

We continue to work with OHA on juniper/conifer removal in the Maury Mountains through MDI. They would probably do more if we gave them more \$\$.

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Deschutes/Klamath

Q2 Please list your job title

Deschutes Assistant district Wildlife Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Working with private timberland owners seeding, thinning, road closures

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed

Whitefish Cascade. Water developments, seeding, travel management.

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

Whitefish Cascade-start, Ponderosa land and cattle-start.

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important

Develop relationship with Whitefish Cascade. Hunting access, wintering habitat.

Q7 Respondent skipped this question

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Metolius Unit-Lynn Miller place. Offsite habitat improvement.

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

We are limited on these types of opportunities in the Deschutes district that are on private lands that would benefit hunter access and are also limited on habitat improvement projects because of the way private and public lands are laid out.

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Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Deschutes/Klamath

Q2 Please list your job title

Wildlife Habitat Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Habitat connectivity

Q4 Respondent skipped this question

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

I'm not familiar with the A&H habitat projects in my area

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

Not familiar with them

Q7 Respondent skipped this question

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Deschutes/Klamath

Q2 Please list your job title

District Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Oak understory and Grassland habitats limit productive winter range and habitat for ground birds

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

District priorities are in the Oregon White Oak habitat, and adjacent to LDMA and WRWA

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Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

We have none, money is always absent when we have an idea....

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

We have none. Zero.

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

We need to focus on areas without good public access

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Targeted habitat enhancement in winter range, landowner encouragement for public hunting

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Too many to list. Both LDMA and WRWA use large numbers of sport group volunteers

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Deschutes/Klamath

Q2 Please list your job title

SFWB [supervising Fish and Wildlife Biologist]

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Thinning, Overstory Removal, Road Closures

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Cascade Whitefish and Ponderosa Land and Cattle ownerships. Actions identified in #3 above.

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

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Timbers/Spring Butte TMA posting/enforcement

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

None

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

None

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Fort Rock Valley, Christmas Valley, Metolius, Dodd's Road - Fencing, seed, fertilizer.

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Fencing projects

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Deschutes/Klamath

Q2 Please list your job title

Supervising Fish and Wildlife Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Western juniper treatment, annual invasive grass treatment, wildland fire exclusion in the shrub-steppe landscapes and reintroduction in the timbered landscapes

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Warner WMU - continue juniper and invasive weed treatment, all USFS lands - successional setback projects and pre-commercial thinning in mixed conifer and lodge pole pine stands

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Cabin Creek TMA

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Green Diamond TMA - provides access to over 640,000 acres in southern Oregon, Keno WMU nearly impossible to hunt for deer, elk, or turkey successfully without access to these lands, enormous community support and education component in a county with the second largest city in eastern Oregon

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

Ft. Rock valley access for addressing elk damage

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Ft. Rock Valley elk, A&H may be able to assist with hunter access issues

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

South Willamette

Q2 Please list your job title

Assistant District Wildlife Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Lack of early successional habitat. What habitat there is managed for industrial timber, so it is sprayed heavily with herbicides and planted to quickly grow Douglas firs? There is a lack of early successional habitat on USFS and State lands.

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Creating larger gaps when USFS does thinning. Maintain meadows that are mowed by USFS. Finding meadows or old homestead sites and rehabbing them to create early successional habitat.

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Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Local OHA and RMEF groups are willing to work with us on habitat projects. The hard part is finding willing landowners or agencies that will either provide access to the public or do the restoration work that we want. We are also limited by the amount of time we have to search out and then implement these projects.

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

South Willamette

Q2 Please list your job title

Acting Assistant Wildlife Biologist

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Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Elk and deer habitat within the national forest should be improved; forest thinning, prescribed fires. There are very few areas in the national forest these days that provide this habitat and from our collared animals we are able to see how important these landscapes are for deer and elk throughout the winter. A&H should focus their efforts to work with national forest staff to improve these habitats with in turn can provide a more suitable habitat to deer and elk and also better hunting experiences. As large timber companies make it more difficult to hunt their lands more people will try and hunt within the national forests of Oregon.

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Work should continue in those areas where we have already invested time and money to thin parts of the national forest. The bigger these areas can become the more productive they should be in the future. This would be continued prescribed burning and forest thinning off the 21 road between the 2129 Rd and 2143 Rd in Willamette National Forest.

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

We have worked with local OHA on forest thinning projects in the national forest. Also Wendling TMA, although Weyerhaeuser is going to fee access a lot of the hunters in the area utilize this and will be affected with it ending next year. A&H should try and pull together more land owners to establish a new TMA, preferably in areas close to where we get reports of lots of damage.

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

Although the Wendling TMA will be going away next year, I think there should be some effort to establish something similar in the same relative area. We get a lot of complaints about deer and elk damage and this can be a way to provide access and reduce damage complaints. Enhanced enforcement can always be used in our district due to easily accessible tracts of land within timber holdings.

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

A&H should work to provide enhanced patrols and access permissions from timber companies and other large land owners who haven't moved to a fee access system. Much of the easily accessible and good habitat for hunting now requires an entry permit from those companies which in turn makes the cost of hunting more than some people may want to pay. There are other areas around

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the district that still good spots but we should do our best to pull those landowners together to provide hunters access if possible. This in turn could reduce the damage that we see on those lands. Even if we just funded more officers to patrol these no-permit areas that will remain open we may get more cooperation with landowners because it would work to scare people from dumping litter or other harmful practices that turn landowners away from allowing access to the general public.

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Allot of the grass and fruit farms around Eugene in the Coburg hills area and then along the Willamette River see a lot of damage from elk and deer. These areas are not hunted that hard and would be good spots to try and pull together agreements with landowners for access to help reduce damage to their crops.

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Our district has worked successfully with OHA and rocky mountain elk foundation on projects

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

South Willamette

Q2 Please list your job title

District Wildlife Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Lack of early successional forbs and shrubs at the mid and upper elevations is preventing deer, elk, and migratory bird populations from thriving.

Q4 Respondent skipped this question

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

Willamette Private Lands

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

The Willamette Private Lands project provides access to over one million acres of land, and thousands of acres of federal land that are check boarded within this area.

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Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

Hancock lands in the North Alsea, Stott unit- current threat for leasing. Weyco land near Monument Peak, future risk of leasing.

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Assist with determining what fraction of folks that access an area are hunters.

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

South Willamette

Q2 Please list your job title

Acting District Wildlife Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Currently, access has become our most important issue. Because Weyerhaeuser Company has gone to fee access and leases, the average hunter is finding it difficult to locate places to hunt that don't charge fees. Big game habitat on the national forest lands are in very poor condition. Most hunters abandoned hunting on national forest lands about 6-7 years ago.

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed

Improving big game habitat conditions across the Willamette National Forest would be our highest priority.

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

The Wendling TMA was an outstanding project. Unfortunately, Weyerhaeuser will be withdrawing from the MOU and converting the area into fee access. Weyco is the majority private landowner in this area and almost all their lands will be in fee access or lease in 2018. The opportunity exists to work with the other smaller private industrial timber landowners to continue to provide free access. The Springfield staff will likely come to you with a proposal in the near future.

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Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

The Willamette Valley private lands agreement will be important to maintain.

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

Important areas are scattered across our geographic location. These areas are made up of smaller industrial timber companies. See the answer to question 5.

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

None come to mind that A&H could be of benefit.

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

We have worked with OHA and RMEF in the past and would like to continue to do so in the future.

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Southwest

Q2 Please list your job title

District Wildlife Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region

Creation of early succession habitat with limited herbicide use.

Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Creating early succession habitat on the Elliott State Forest and BLM lands in the Tioga Unit.

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

Tioga TMA

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Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

Tioga TMA. This TMA is in the heart of a unit that traditionally had the highest number of hunters during bull elk seasons hunting it on the southern Oregon coast. Recently much of the previously open private land is now under new ownership and fee access programs are being employed.

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

Tioga Unit should be focused on. This unit has a history of heavy use by the hunting public. Recently access to private timber company land free of charge is being lost. Much of this acreage is no managed under fee-for-access programs.

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Private lands in the Sixes Unit between the Coquille River and the Sixes River have a history of significant damage from elk. Access to lands there is difficult for hunters to get and so population control of the elk population is difficult using hunter harvest.

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Oregon Hunters Association, Tioga Chapter would be a good organization to partner with.

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Southwest

Q2 Please list your job title

District Wildlife Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Your example is spot on. Lack of early seral habitat for black-tailed deer and elk. Our largest landowners are federal lands and they are severely limited in what they can do with their lands. The private timber ground is where deer numbers are found several years after clearcutting and prior to dense reprod filling in the unit and eventual canopy closure. Further downslope is the private land within the valley floor where oak woodlands/savannahs are being converted to agricultural crops. It's hard for wildlife management to compete with the potential profits that a landowner derives from converting his place into a vineyard.

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Q4 Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.

Increasing summer forage for deer and elk in the Cascades by creating/improving openings (logging/mechanically/fire). The timber industry has their formula for success and wildlife are able to utilize those lands for a part of that time. Federal lands have good potential but, many hurdles to achieve success. Conducting any habitat manipulations requires a willing federal partner to push forward the NEPA documentation. Best chances are in lands designated as matrix allocation although thinning in Late Successional Reserves can benefit big game as well. Meadow restoration is a good project that benefits a multitude of wildlife (conservation strategy spp). There are many meadows being encroached upon by conifers that could be opened up. Increasing summer forage is directly tied to higher survival rates for elk calves.

Q5 Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.

I only have one A&H hunt. Territorial Youth Hunt on Giustina Resources land in the Siuslaw Unit. There is no habitat work being financed, it is simply an access payment with 2 OHA chapters partnering with ODFW to help cost share. There are deer here for a reason, logging creates openings and it's behind a locked gate. This is a great youth hunt with a lot of positive feedback from participants each year.

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

Same as above

Q7 Respondent skipped this question

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

We currently utilize OHA to help with habitat projects in the Umpqua NF (planting, fence removals, etc.)

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Northeast

Q2 Please list your job title

District Wildlife Biologist

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Q3 *In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.*

Juniper removal and invasive weed control

Q4 *Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.*

Winter range habitats - this is a poor question

Q5 *Please identify any current or past A&H habitat projects that are important to maintain, continue or restart.*

The Columbia Plateau habitat technician

Q6 *Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important*

Heppner RHA

Q7 *List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.*

Private lands in the Columbia Basin

Q8 *Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.*

Winter elk damage in northeastern Heppner unit - Not viable landowners don't want public hunting

Q9 *Respondent skipped this question*

Q1 *Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?*

North Willamette

Q2 *Please list your job title*

Wildlife Assistant

Q3 *In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.*

Early seral habitat. Sprayed clear cuts limit much if not all of that production

Q4 *Please identify areas and/or properties in your selected A&H Region that should be a priority for habitat work. Please be as specific as possible and identify the action needed.*

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Private industrial timber land and small private landowners. Partnerships with Federal landowners to at least thin more ground or do some strategic experimental forest clearings would be helpful as well.

Q5 Respondent skipped this question

Q6 Please identify current A&H Access or Enhanced Patrol projects to maintain or expand and why they are important.

NCTMA

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

All private industrial timber land

Q8 Please identify areas or properties that experience chronic damage from game animals. Please list any ideas on how A&H could help to address the damage.

Pretty much all coastal agricultural lands. Fence some areas for access to others? Not sure.

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

Q1 Which Access & Habitat Region are you providing input on?

Malheur

Q2 Please list your job title

Assistant District Wildlife Biologist

Q3 In the text box provided please identify the most important habitat action(s) needed in your selected A&H Region.

Focus on reducing the abundance of non-native annual grasses and restoring brush in big game winter range

Q4 Respondent skipped this question

Q5 Respondent skipped this question

Q6 Respondent skipped this question

Q7 List areas in the region that A&H should focus on securing access too. If you have specific properties or geographic locations please identify. The reason for access may

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be to improve hunting generally, deal with damage or open up areas that are inaccessible or hard to access.

Ag ground in the treasure valley for pheasant and quail hunting

Q8 Respondent skipped this question

Q9 Please identify opportunities to work with local sporting groups on habitat or access projects

Coordinate with BLM on spring developments i.e. fence and pipe water to trough or aspen enclosures