

# ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

## Application for Grant Funds

1. **Project Title:** Open Fields Access Projects Extension
2. **Applicant:** Travis Schultz, ODFW  
**Grantee:** Varies by access project (As will appear on contract/payments)  
**Address:** 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
**City/State/Zip:** Salem, OR. 97302 **Phone** (541) 947-6087  
**Email:** Travis.r.schultz@odfw.oregon.gov
3. **Location:** ODFW Region Both East and West  
Watershed District / Wildlife Management Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: Multiple Township/Range/Section: \_\_\_\_\_
4. **Type of Project:**  
 Habitat Improvement       Access       Damage
5. **Number of acres of habitat to be improved:** \_\_\_\_\_
6. **Number of acres of access to be provided:** ~238,000  
 Welcome to Hunt       By Permission       Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Proposed Start Date:** 12/01/2023
8. **Proposed End Date:** 6/30/2024
9. **Estimated Cost of Project:** \$208,777.60
10. **Access and Habitat Fund Request:** \$88,891.24, Open Fields \$119,886.36
11. **Briefly explain what the project proposes to do:**  
This project will extend the ten Open Fields access projects that are ending prior to the 2024-25 hunting season for one year. The projects are the Fort Rock Access, four Willamette Valley Access (Calvin, Kropf, Tenbush, and Manning), three Columbia Basin Access (Bunker Hill, Four Mile, Social Ridge), Manulife Westside Access, and Weyerhaeuser Westside Access. Manulife Northeast and GDRC Northeast are funded through the 2024-25 hunting season.
12. **Habitat and Landscape:** Describe the habitat and landscape of the project area.  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. **Background:** Describe the project area and explain the wildlife habitat and/or access challenge or opportunity this project will address. Address how current management actions benefit public access and/or wildlife and their habitat needs.

The projects were originally approved from 2020 through 2021 using Oregon Open Fields funds. Open Fields is funded via the NRCS through the Voluntary Public Access-Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP), a provision of the 2018 Farm Bill. The program was granted a no-cost extension

to September 01, 2024. No additional funds will be available prior passage of the 2023 Farm Bill. It is increasingly likely that the Farm Bill's passage will not occur in 2023. This project is a stop-gap to continue to provide access while providing time for the federal farm bill to be passed and the A&H program to apply for grant funds. If the federal funding becomes available these projects will revert to federal funding.

14. **Past A&H History:** Describe any past Access & Habitat project, especially if the proposed project deals with continuation or amendment to a past project.

The projects were approved in 2020 and 2021 were approved under the assumption that all VPA-HIP grant funds would need to be spent by September 1, 2023 and therefore that was the final season for them. The end dates for the projects start in January 31, 2024 for Columbia Basin projects, March 10, 2024 for Willamette Valley, and June 30, 2024 for Westside access projects. If approved the contracts for the projects will be amended to extend the projects for one year and add an additional year of payment.

15. **Hunter Use Data:** New Projects: Must give estimates of expected usage and how usage will be assessed. Old Projects: Use Access Area Permit data, vehicle or pedestrian counts, hunter interviews, etc.
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16. **Project Objective(s):**

- (a) What is the objective of the proposed project?

To extend the Open Fields access projects for one year to continue access to the properties and provide time to renew our VPA HIP grant to fund the projects on a longer term.

- (b) How will the project benefit wildlife habitat?
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(c) Select species that will benefit from **habitat** improvements:

Big Game

- Deer
- Elk
- Bear
- Cougar
- Pronghorn
- Bighorn Sheep
- Mountain Goat

Upland Bird

- Chukar
- Mountain Quail
- Valley Quail
- Pheasants
- Forest Grouse
- Turkey
- Gray Partridge
- Sage Grouse

Migratory Game Bird

- Ducks
- Geese
- American Coot
- Wilsons Snipe
- Mourning Dove
- Band Tailed Pigeon

(d) Length of time benefits provided  <3yr  3-6yr  >6yr

Examples of Project Benefit Duration

Noxious weed.....2yrs	Forage planting.....5yrs	Aspen fencing.....10yrs
Range fertilization...2yrs	Forest thinning.....5yrs	Aspen plant/fence.....10yrs
Rx Fire-grassland.....2yrs	Aspen (conifer removal)....5yrs	Road closure.....10yrs
Rx Fire-forested.....3yrs	Juniper removal.....7yrs	Road decommission....10yrs
Fence Removal.....10yrs	Water Dev/Enhancement.10yrs	

*(Source: Blue Mountains Elk Initiative Project Evaluation Criteria)*

(e) How will the project benefit public access? If limited access, how many hunters will be permitted?

This project will maintain public access to private land for an additional year, roughly 238,000 acres.

(f) Select species for which public **access** will provided:

Big Game

- Deer
- Elk
- Bear
- Cougar
- Pronghorn
- Bighorn Sheep
- Mountain Goat

Upland Bird

- Chukar
- Mountain Quail
- Valley Quail
- Pheasants
- Forest Grouse
- Turkey
- Gray Partridge
- Sage Grouse

Migratory Game Bird

- Ducks
- Geese
- American Coot
- Wilsons Snipe
- Mourning Dove
- Band Tailed Pigeon
- Other: Coyote

(g) If damage related, how will the project alleviate/eliminate the problem?

\_\_\_\_\_

17. **Project Location:** Attach a map and provide description of the location and how to get there from a major highway.

\_\_\_\_\_

18. **Procedure:** Specifically describe how the project will be conducted--use separate page for additional information, drawings, or pictures.

Specific to each project. If approved each contract will be amended with the expiration date moved out a year, and updated payment table for the additional year of access.

19. **Permits:** Have all of the appropriate permits been secured or applied for? Examples: Water Resources Department for water rights, Division of State Lands for fill-removal or wetlands projects.

No permits are necessary

20. **Scheduling:** What is the estimated project schedule?

a. Habitat Work Start Date:   /  /  

Habitat Work Completion Date:   /  /  

b. Access Agreement Start Date:   /  /  

Access Agreement End Date:   /  /  

c. List major project activities and time schedule for each:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time (month/year)</u>
1. <u>Amend the access agreements.</u>	<u>12/2023</u>
2. <u>No other changes from the original projects</u>	_____
3. _____	_____
4. _____	_____
5. _____	_____
6. _____	_____
7. _____	_____

21. **Participation and Funding:** Will other organizations or individuals participate in the project? If so, list and describe participation, and attach letters of commitment or verification of grant awards. Costs listed here must be included in "Other Funds" column of the Project Budget (Section 20).

<u>Participant</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
1. _____	_____	\$ _____
2. _____	_____	\$ _____
3. _____	_____	\$ _____
4. _____	_____	\$ _____
5. _____	_____	\$ _____

Have any conditions been placed on the funds listed above which may affect the completion of the project? If so, identify and explain.       YES       NO

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**22. Project Maintenance and Monitoring:**

(a) Who will maintain the project and fund long-term maintenance and/or operation if needed?

As originally determined on a individual project basis, access only projects do not require any long term monitoring.

(b) What element(s) of the project will be monitored, how often, for how long?

Each project will remain unchanged except for an additional payment and the end of the project will be moved out one year.

**23. Project Budget Narrative:** (Provide details; describe in-kind funding; provide narratives here of non-itemized entries in your worksheet.)

Each of the projects will utilize remaining Open Fields funds for the last payment that will be made in August of 2024 and the final payment will come from A&H funds as it will occur after the Open Fields grant deadline. The A&H program is required in OAR to reserve 10% of the grant total to the end of the grant period to hold until the completion report is delivered.

**24. Project Budget,** (provide as much detail as possible)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Open Fields Funds</u>	<u>A&amp;H Funds</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<u>Cooperators:</u>			
Fort Rock Access	\$6,270.00	\$6,570.00	\$12,840.00
Willamette Valley, Calvin	\$292.10	\$194.90	\$487.00
Willamette Valley, Kropf	\$1,314.50	\$876.50	\$2,191.00
Willamette Valley, Tenbush	\$778.70	\$519.30	\$1,298.00
Willamette Valley, Manning	\$3,077.50	\$2,051.50	\$5,129.00
Columbia Basin, Bunker Hill	\$579.96	\$386.64	\$966.60
Columbia Basin, Four Mile	\$1,084.10	\$722.90	\$1,807.00
Columbia Basin, Social Ridge	\$4,901.90	\$3,268.10	\$8,170.00
Manulife Westside	\$48,213.40	\$38,718.60	\$86,932.00
Weyerhaeuser Westside	\$53,374.20	\$35,582.80	\$88,957.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$119,886.36</b>	<b>\$88,891.24</b>	<b>\$208,777.60</b>