

## APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS

**Access & Habitat Program  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, OR 97302**

I/We, Weyerhaeuser Timberlands Holdings, Inc. of Lebanon, Oregon, hereby make application for financial assistance under the terms and conditions of the Access and Habitat program in the amount

\$52,787.25/year.

The total cost of the project is \$158,361.75

I/We understand that if this project is approved for funding by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, before we receive project funds we will be required to:

- Sign a Grant Agreement containing the terms and conditions upon which funds will be released including submission of necessary permits;
- Obtain landowner and maintenance agreements if needed;
- Sign a certification to comply with state, federal and local regulations if needed;
- Submit a completion report to the Board on project performance.

I/We understand that if this application results in an access grant, ODFW will publicize my/our property via printed documents and internet for the purpose of helping hunters locate private lands that may be open to hunting. I/We will cooperate with ODFW to post signs indicating public hunting access at the project location.

I certify that either:

I am the sole landowner of the Property where the Access and Habitat Project will occur.

I am an authorized representative of the landowner of the property where the Access and Habitat project will occur.

I am leasing the property from the landowner and the lease allows me to enter into this agreement.

I have the legal authority to enter into a grant agreement for this Access and habitat project because: \_\_\_\_\_

(Fill in details – for example: “The project is on three parcels; one is owned by me, one is owned by my wife, and one is owned by our family farm business”).

Grantee Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_  
BD799751DFA149D...

Date: 11/20/2025

Position: NW Recreation Access Manager

## APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS

**Access & Habitat Program  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr SE  
Salem, OR 97302**

I/We, Avery Family Forest of Scio, Oregon, hereby make application for financial assistance under the terms and conditions of the Access and Habitat program in the amount \$18,754.17.

The total cost of the project is \$56,262.51

I/We understand that if this project is approved for funding by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, before we receive project funds we will be required to:

- Sign a Grant Agreement containing the terms and conditions upon which funds will be released including submission of necessary permits;
- Obtain landowner and maintenance agreements if needed;
- Sign a certification to comply with state, federal and local regulations if needed;
- Submit a completion report to the Board on project performance.

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(Fill in details – for example: “The project is on three parcels; one is owned by me, one is owned by my wife, and one is owned by our family farm business”).

Signed by:   
Grantee Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
A33B2E409AD7484...

Date: 11/20/2025

Position: Senior Forester/Agent for Avery Owners \_\_\_\_\_

# ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

## Application for Grant Funds

1. **Project Title:** Avery & Weyerhaeuser Thomas Creek Public Access Area Cooperative
2. **Applicant:** Trevor Cassidy for Weyerhaeuser Phone: 360-414-3610  
**Grantee:** Weyerhaeuser Timber Holdings, Inc. (As will appear on contract/payments)  
*If private nonprofit, attach IRS letter of 501(c) (3) status*  
**Address:** 34905 Brewster Rd  
**City/State/Zip:** Lebanon, OR, 97355 **Phone:** 360-414-3610  
**Email:** trevor.cassidy@weyerhaeuser.com

**Applicant:** Edith Knight for Avery Family Forest Phone: 585-307-7519

**Grantee:** Avery/MBG Special Account (As will appear on contract/payments)  
*If private nonprofit, attach IRS letter of 501(c) (3) status*  
**Address:** 42960 Highway 226  
**City/State/Zip:** Scio, OR 97374 **Phone:** 503-859-2701  
**Email:** eknight@masonbruce.com

3. **Location:** ODFW Region  
Watershed District / Wildlife Management Unit: WMU 16- Santiam  
County: Linn Township/Range/Section: Multiple- Map Attached
4. **Type of Project:**  
 Habitat Improvement     Access     Damage
5. **Number of acres of habitat to be improved:** 0
6. **Number of acres of access to be provided:** 47,694.28  
 Welcome to Hunt     By Permission     Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. **Proposed Start Date:** 07 / 01 / 2026
8. **Proposed End Date:** 06 / 30 / 2029
9. **Estimated Cost of Project:** \$ 71,541.42 Annually
10. **Access and Habitat Fund Request:** \$ 71,541.42 Annually
11. **Briefly explain what the project proposes to do:**

This project is a partnership and cooperation between Avery and Weyerhaeuser; located where both companies share adjacent timberlands and roads. This unique opportunity connects Avery, Weyerhaeuser, State, BLM and USFS ownership. This project will provide public access

for approximately 47,694 acres of privately owned commercial timberlands for a period of 3 years. Access would be a combination of drive-in and walk-in use with 15 designated drive-in gates. Motorized access during IFPL 1 or lower from September 1st - December 15th. Walk-in access IFPL 2 and 3. Closed access to all during IFPL 4. Avery and Weyerhaeuser would like to partner with the Access and Habitat program to create large areas of recreational opportunities on our landscape for the public in lieu of creating our fee recreation permit or lease areas. Additionally, partnering to participate in this program will extend the period that Avery will be open to motorized use in September and October. Committing to this grant together will also synchronize our access policy for clearer communication with the public, Linn County Sheriff and Oregon State Police.

12. **Habitat and Landscape:** Describe the habitat and landscape of the project area.

The proposed project is located in Linn County within the Santiam WMU on Avery and Weyerhaeuser managed commercial timberlands. The proposed area supports multiple species of wildlife. The habitat consists primarily of conifer forests, riparian buffers within the Thomas Creek watershed, clearcuts and young timber stands. This habitat and landscape with varied topography, drainages, and maintained gravel roads provides excellent hunting and public access opportunities. The paring of Weyerhaeuser and Avery lands provides exceptional variety of habitat as Weyerhaeuser offers more early seral forage habitat while Avery provides older thermal cover habitat.

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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.

Our proposal is for Avery and Weyerhaeuser to create a cooperative Access and Habitat project and add 47,694.68 acres to the Access and Habitat Program. These acres are combined between Avery (**12,502.78 acres**) and Weyerhaeuser (**35,191.50 acres**). The project area would include the Thomas Creek Drainage. By partnering with this program, Weyerhaeuser and Avery will be able to offer uninterrupted public access into these areas.

With the addition of Weyerhaeuser and Avery lands, the public will have increased motorized access onto adjacent public lands connecting the Salem metropolitan area through public land to the Santiam State Forest, Forest Service land around Detroit Reservoir, and a large block of BLM land around Crabtree lake and mountain, Yellowbottom Camp Ground and the headwaters of Quartzville Creek

Weyerhaeuser and Avery maintain approximately 500 miles of roads in this area. Each year we spend approximately \$18,000 on road maintenance for public access and \$20,000 for security and administration.

Weyerhaeuser and Avery comply with the Oregon Forest Practice Laws and Rules.

Weyerhaeuser lands are independently certified compliant with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Standard.  
Avery lands are certified sustainably managed through the American Tree Farm System.

100 % of the proposal area is located in the Santiam Wildlife Management Unit (SW Santiam).

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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.

Weyerhaeuser has 6 years of experience managing two Access and Habitat projects (2021-23 & 2019-09) in their Willamette Valley region within the Mid Coast and Alsea tree farms in Lincoln, Polk, Benton, Yamhill and Lane Counties. Both projects were completed on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and were 5-year projects. Weyerhaeuser has since been approved for a new combined project (2021-23) and re-enrolled 171,075 acres. That project will expire on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

The current and past projects were for access and allowing public motorized and non-motorized recreational access on Weyerhaeuser property. Funding was used for road maintenance, gate maintenance, signs, security and administrative costs.

The Avery Family Forest has not participated in the Access and Habitat grant program in the past, but it has previously signed on to the MOU for Access and Habitat board administered Willamette Private Lands Law Enforcement Project.

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.

We are anticipating a high increase in visitors specifically during hunting season. Based on Weyerhaeuser's current and past projects, Weyerhaeuser saw a significant increase in the use enrolled in Access and Habitat. Weyerhaeuser has information regarding Access and Habitat on their website and responds to several Access and Habitat inquiries (phone calls and emails) from the public during hunting season.

For the 2025 Western Cascades Bull Elk Season, Gregory Reed with ODFW deployed car counters on two main access points to the project area: Thomas Creek and Camp Morrison Drive. This will give us pre-A&H grant vehicles counts during this season. We will deploy the counters for the same period next year, and if we get the grant, we will be able to see if usage increased.

16. **Project Objective(s):**

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

Provide "Welcome to Hunt" public access on 47,694 acres of Avery & Weyerhaeuser Company timberlands for 3 consecutive years beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2029. If funded, this program would create a clearer and consistent message to the public

(b) How will the project benefit wildlife habitat?

This proposal is for public access only. However, Weyerhaeuser and Avery have participated in habitat projects and will continue to contribute to stream and habitat projects. Active forest management will create diverse timber age classes. Areas will be set aside for non-motorized access only to enhance bow hunting opportunities and minimize human impact on wildlife.

Some recent restoration projects in the proposed area include:

- Recent Stream Restoration project within the proposed area (Thomas Creek) as part of a Stewardship Showcase on Avery. This 280 acre block that is accessible off a county road will be managed as a “mini regulated forest” so that a stand is clearcut every 10 years to show all stages of silviculture on a 80-year rotation at once. This mean that a variety of habitat will always be present in this block. Additionally, within the stream restoration footprint, we planted 18 species of native trees and shrubs which will benefit game species.
- 100’s of Fish Passage improvements – culvert/bridge replacement (entire area)
- Oregon’s wild salmon populations and their habitat – Along with state agencies, local watershed councils and other landowners Weyerhaeuser and Avery have continued to cooperate with access needs for continuing the comprehensive, long-term monitoring of Oregon’s wild salmon populations and their habitat. We routinely spray invasive species such as Himalayan blackberry and Scotch brooms to restore native shrub and forb communities. On the Avery, we are beginning a program of planting diverse native flowering species into our burn pile scars for pollinator habit, which big game will likely forage as well.

(c) Select species that will benefit from **habitat** improvements:

<u>Big Game</u>	<u>Upland Bird</u>	<u>Migratory Game Bird</u>
X Deer	<input type="checkbox"/> Chukar	<input type="checkbox"/> Ducks
X Elk	X Mountain Quail	<input type="checkbox"/> Geese
X Bear	X Valley Quail	<input type="checkbox"/> American Coot
X Cougar	<input type="checkbox"/> Pheasants	<input type="checkbox"/> Wilsons Snipe
<input type="checkbox"/> Pronghorn	X Forest Grouse	<input type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove
<input type="checkbox"/> Bighorn Sheep	X Turkey	<input type="checkbox"/> Band Tailed Pigeon
<input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Goat	<input type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sage Grouse	

(d) Length of time benefits provided  <3yr X 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?

The proposal will increase public access to Avery & Weyerhaeuser lands by extending the duration of motorized access in addition to greater access to public lands, some of which are difficult to reach.

During extreme fire conditions, periodic closures (IFPL 4) will take place to protect forest resources and wildlife.

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

Big Game

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

Upland Bird

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

Migratory Game Bird

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

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

Not applicable

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

Please see the attached map for the property locations.

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

Year-round recreational use will begin July 1, 2026 and end June 30, 2029. A color map(s) will be produced by ODF&W and available to public hunters. The landowners will be provided with standard A&H signs such as: "Welcome to Hunt", "Safety Zone", "Closed to Motorized Vehicles", "Opportunity provided in Cooperation with the A&H Program", etc. ODFW staff will assist Weyerhaeuser and Avery with the posting of signs on Weyerhaeuser lands. Specific access area rules that apply to Weyerhaeuser and Avery lands are listed below:

- No Camping or campfires at any time.
- Access is permitted 1.5 hours before sunrise and 1.5 hours after sunset.
- No ATV's, UTV's, Motorcycles or E-Bikes.
- No trapping
- No Hound Hunting
- No public access in active harvest, road building or reforestation areas.
- Travel restricted to rocked roads.
- Do not block gates when parking.

Public Use restrictions may occur during "Fire Season": on Weyerhaeuser & Avery owned lands when fire season is implemented by the Oregon Department of Forestry. These restrictions are:

Fire Season Declared/Regulated Use:

No campfires, stove fires, charcoal briquettes or other open burning.

No fireworks.

Travel restricted to rocked roads.

No smoking.

No non-industrial welding, cutting or grinding.

No non-industrial chain saw use.

IFPL 1:

Motorized access allowed between September 1-December 15 through eleven designated gates.

Rocked roads with vegetation growing on the road surface are closed to motorized vehicles.

All vehicles must carry ODF required 5lb ABC rated fire extinguisher, Fire Shovel and Pulaski or Axe during fire season.

IFPL 2:

Areas are closed to motorized vehicles.

Non-motorized access is allowed (bicycles, walk, horses, etc.).

IFPL 3 No Changes from IFPL 2

IFPL 4:

All lands are closed to public use and access.

Weyerhaeuser & Avery will monitor Oregon Department of Forestry closure status and communicate public use restrictions using our recreation website, recreation telephone message and/or posting of signage in the woods.

Weyerhaeuser and Avery reserve the right to temporarily close entire area to all access during extreme weather related events (east wind, fires, floods, storms).

Weyerhaeuser & Avery will continue to maintain gates, roads and security. We will also work with ODFW on Travel Management Areas to determine areas closed for driving due to wildlife concerns. Additionally, we will work with other stakeholders to ensure the greatest public access possible while protecting wildlife habitat sensitive areas.

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.

Not Applicable

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

a. Habitat Work Start Date: N/A  
Habitat Work Completion Date: N/A

b. Access Agreement Start Date: 07/01/2026  
Access Agreement End Date: 06/30/2029

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

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time (month/year)</u>
1. Public Access	. <u>July 1, 2026-June 30, 2029</u>
2. Sign and Post Properties	. <u>July 1, 2026- June 30, 2029</u>
3. Gate Maintenance/Security	. <u>July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029</u>
4. Grant Administration	. <u>July 1, 2026- June 30, 2029</u>
5. Road Maintenance	. <u>July 1, 2026- June 30, 2029</u>
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). N/A

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

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

22. **Project Maintenance and Monitoring:**

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

Weyerhaeuser and Avery will each maintain roads/gates/signage.

ODFW, Oregon State Police and Linn County Sherriff will include the properties in their regular patrols.

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

Weyerhaeuser and Avery staff will monitor roads, signs, gates and public usage for the duration of the project term.

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

Weyerhaeuser and Avery anticipate they will contribute annual in-kind funds of:

**Weyerhaeuser:**

Road maintenance: \$11,000

Gate maintenance: \$1,500

Administration: \$2,100

Security: \$8,500

Posting signs: \$1,500

**Total: \$23,750.**

Avery:

Road Maintenance: \$7,000

Gate Maintenance: \$1500

Administration: \$3,000

Security: \$8,500

Posting Signs: \$500

**Total: \$20,500**



# ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

## Regional Advisory Council

### Project Proposal Review

**ODFW Region / A&H Regional Council:** West Region / Northwest Regional Council

**Project Proposal Title:** Thomas Creek Access Area

**Applicants(s):** Weyerhaeuser/Avery Family Forests

**Date of Council Review:** December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Type of Project:** Access  X       Habitat               Other        

**Motion:** Ken made a motion to approve the project, Travis seconded.

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Vote</u>
Scott Marlega	Chairman	Recused
Brad Redding	Landowner Representative	Yea
Joe Moade	Landowner Representative	Yea
Travis Bower	Landowner Representative	Yea
Ken McCall	Hunter Representative	Yea
Adam Stebbins	Hunter Representative	Yea
Roy Elicker	Hunter Representative	Yea

**Disposition of Vote:** Project Approved 6:0

#### **Project Strengths:**

- Nice mix of motorized and non-motorized acres. OHA auction tag holders love hunting on Avery Family Forest property.
- Year-round walk-in recreational access
- Longer access period, more motorized access, more motorized access points - Avery

#### **Project Concerns:**

- Paying same per acre for non-motorized as for motorized acres
- Would like the “motorized” access period to be longer and incorporate late winter hunting seasons rather than end on December 15<sup>th</sup>.