

## APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDS

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

I/We, Rex Nelson of Baker City, Oregon, hereby make application for financial assistance under the terms and conditions of the Access and Habitat program in the amount \$70,870. The total cost of the project is \$165,370.

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: Rex Nelson

Date: November 1, 2025

Position: Landowner

# ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

## Application for Grant Funds

1. Project Title: Virtue Flat Access Area
2. Applicant: Rex Nelson Phone: (541)523-6017  
Grantee: Rex Nelson (As will appear on contract/payments)  
*If private nonprofit, attach IRS letter of 501(c) (3) status*  
Address: 28509 Ritter Loop Road  
City/State/Zip: Baker City / Oregon / 97814 Phone: (541)523-6017  
  
Email: rlsnrnch@dishmail.net
3. Location: ODFW Region East Region  
Watershed District / Wildlife Management Unit: Grande Ronde Watershed District / Lookout Mountain Wildlife Management Unit  
County: Baker County Township/Range/Section: T9S, R41E, multiple sections / T10S, R41E, multiple sections (Please See Attached Map)
4. Type of Project:  
Habitat Improvement    Access    Damage
5. Number of acres of habitat to be improved: N/A
6. Number of acres of access to be provided: 7,087 acres  
Welcome to Hunt    By Permission    Other \_\_\_\_\_
7. Proposed Start Date: 08/01/2026
8. Proposed End Date: 01/31/2031
9. Estimated Cost of Project: \$165,370
10. Access and Habitat Fund Request: \$70,870
11. Briefly explain what the project proposes to do:  
This project proposes to continue to pay Rex Nelson \$2.00/acre for "Welcome to Hunt" access on 7,087 acres of private land in the Lookout Mountain Wildlife Management Unit for a period of 5 years to hunt big game (i.e. mule deer, pronghorn antelope, Rocky Mountain elk, bear, cougar, coyote) and upland game birds (i.e. Hungarian partridge, chukar and California quail). The project also improves/enhances access to adjacent Access and Habitat program lands (Troy Ranches) and 10, 848 acres of BLM lands.
12. Habitat and Landscape: Describe the habitat and landscape of the project area.  
The Virtue Flat Access Area is primarily rolling sagebrush steppe habitat.

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 project area is in the Lookout Mountain Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) in Baker County, Oregon. The Lookout Mountain WMU offers a variety of different hunting opportunities, including Rocky Mountain elk, trophy mule deer, pronghorn antelope and excellent upland bird hunting. The unit can be characterized by lower and mid elevation sagebrush steppe, riparian habitats and high elevation conifer and aspen forests. Land ownership in the unit is comprised of 62% private lands and 38% public lands. Despite the constant efforts by ODFW personnel, a large percentage of private lands in the unit remain inaccessible to the public. Of the public land that is available in the Lookout Mountain WMU, at least 5,000 acres is completely "land-locked" by private lands and is not available to public hunters.

The Virtue Flat Access Area provides "Welcome to Hunt" public access to 7,087 acres of rolling sagebrush-steppe habitat in the Lookout Mountain WMU. The Lookout Mountain WMU is the highest priority area for the ODFW Baker District to maintain or open private land public hunting access. Until recently, elk tag numbers in this unit have remained constant. However, thanks to the partnership between several private landowners and the Access and Habitat program (A&H), ODFW (the Department) has added a late season cow hunt structure that helps address big game distribution and damage concerns throughout the unit. The continued partnership between the Department and private landowners enrolled in the A&H program is necessary to help alleviate the overcrowding of hunters on limited public lands. Attachment A shows a map of all the A&H lands currently enrolled in the program and where those lands lay on the landscape. The bottom line- there is still a tremendous amount of private lands closed to the public and access is extremely limited unit wide.

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.

Past A&H projects include the original Virtue Flat Access Area project 2016-06 and renewal project 2021-19, both of which were 5-year contracts. Through its inception, the area has provided "Welcome to Hunt" access for big game, small game, upland game birds and predators. Over the past 10 years, both the Department and Mr. Nelson have been satisfied with the level(s) of hunter use on the area.

In addition to the A&H hunt program, Mr. Nelson has been working cooperatively with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Tri County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) and ODFW to conduct habitat improvements for sage-grouse on his property. Those improvements include the installation of wildlife friendly fencing, noxious weed control, completion of numerous water developments, and grazing management supporting forage retention and enhancement. These improvements have directly benefited mule deer populations and other upland game bird populations.

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.

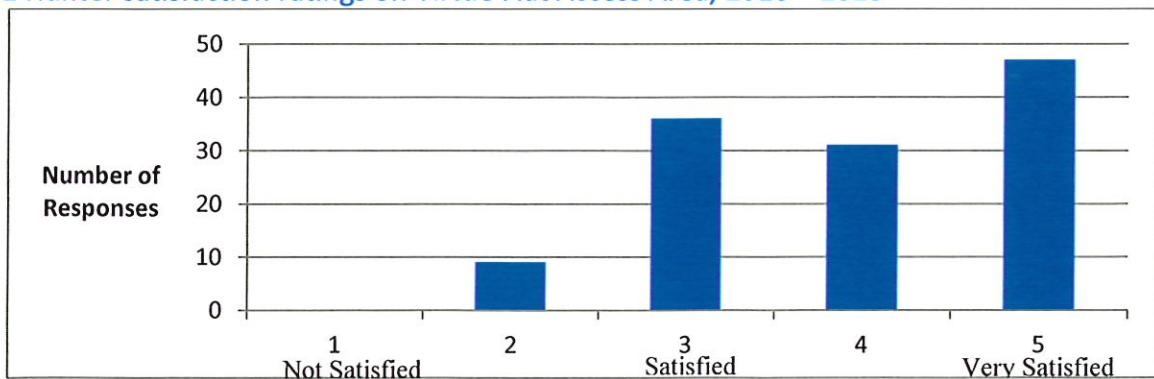
Since 2016, hunter use data has been collected through “voluntary” check-in / check-out stations. The results for 2016-2026 are discussed in further detail below.

#### “Voluntary” Check-in / Check-out Station

The Virtue Flat Access Area has two “voluntary” check-in / check-out stations established on access area to help collect hunter use information (see Attachment B). Due to the nature of the “voluntary” check-in / check-out system, hunter compliance has been minimal. On several occasions, Mr. Nelson, ODFW and Oregon State Police staff have visited the property only to find numerous vehicles and individuals recreating on the area and no permits filed. Staff have done their best to educate users on the importance of this data and the necessity behind collecting hunter use information. Attachment C summarizes the 2016-2025 voluntary check-in / check-out data.

During the 2016-2025 seasons, a total of 166 permits were collected from the check-in / check-out stations at the Virtue Flat Access Area, with 123 permits being filled out completely. A permit is considered to be “complete” when both parts A and B have been filled out completely, and the necessary sections have been returned to one of the two access area check-in / check-out stations. Incomplete permits typically lack the return of section B or the individual user did not fill out all pertinent information in section B. ODFW staff feel that there is a large percentage of the permit data set that is missing. Unfortunately, during the 2018 and 2020 seasons, the kiosks on the access area were vandalized (see Attachment D) and a substantial portion of the submitted permits were not recovered. It is also important to note that data collected during the 2025 season is incomplete as big game and upland game bird seasons were still occurring at the time this application was submitted. One of the most useful pieces of information that is collected via the permitting process is the “Overall Satisfaction” rating. “Overall Satisfaction” ratings provide an opportunity for users to give valuable feedback concerning the property and their experience(s). Figure 1 below shows that most hunters gave the property a satisfied to very satisfied rating. The average rating from 2016-2025 was 3.81 on a scale of 1-5, with 5 indicating most satisfied.

Figure 1 Hunter satisfaction ratings on Virtue Flat Access Area, 2016 – 2025



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

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

Continue to provide “Welcome to Hunt” public hunting access on 7,087 acres of private land in the Lookout Mountain Wildlife Management Unit for 5 consecutive years beginning in August 2026 and ending in January 2031.

(b) How will the project benefit wildlife habitat?

N/A

(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?

The project will provide “Welcome to Hunt” public hunting access to 7,087 acres of private land in a Wildlife Management Unit (Lookout Mountain 62% Private Land) that suffers from minimal public hunting access opportunities. Access to adjacent public lands and other A&H properties (i.e. Troy Ranches Access Area) will also be enhanced by continuing A&H participation on Mr. Nelson’s lands (See Attachment A).

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

Big Game

Upland Bird

Migratory Game Bird

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deer      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chukar         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ducks                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elk       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Quail            | <input type="checkbox"/> Geese                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bear      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Valley Quail   | <input type="checkbox"/> American Coot                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cougar    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pheasants                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilsons Snipe                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pronghorn | <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Grouse             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mourning Dove         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bighorn Sheep        | <input type="checkbox"/> Turkey                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Band Tailed Pigeon               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mountain Goat        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gray Partridge |   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sage Grouse               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>Other</u> : Coyote |

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

The project will help ODFW Baker Wildlife District in dealing with elk damage that is currently occurring on surrounding private lands by providing public hunting access to private land in an area where access is otherwise very limited. ODFW is using hunters to help address these damage complaints. A hunt structure that allows hunters to pursue elk from early October through the end of January is currently in place. Continuing to provide greater access to private lands can increase hunter success and assist ODFW in addressing private lands damage complaints and elk distribution issues.

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

The project area is located approximately 4.5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon. Take Highway 86 east out of Baker City and turn right onto Ruckles Creek Road. Stay on Ruckles Creek Road for approximately 2.5 miles until you reach the intersection of White Swan Road. At White Swan Road, turn right and travel for another mile until you enter the property. Please see the attached A&H map.

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

“Welcome to Hunt” Access Area

Open public hunting access will be allowed August 1 – January 31 annually, beginning August 1, 2026 and ending January 31, 2031. This time period encompasses all big game hunts and upland game bird seasons. A color map will be produced by ODFW and available to public hunters. The landowner will be provided with the 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 Mr. Nelson with the posting of signs on his property. Access will be restricted to foot traffic only and no ATV’s or motorized vehicles will be allowed to access any part of the lands off the main access roads. ODFW East Region Staff will continue to monitor hunter use via the “voluntary” check-in/check-out stations (See Attachment B).

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.

There are no permits necessary for this project.

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: 8/1/2026  
Access Agreement End Date: 1/31/2031
- c. List major project activities and time schedule for each:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Time (month/year)</u>
1. <u>"Welcome to Hunt" Access</u>	<u>August 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027</u>
2. <u>"Welcome to Hunt" Access</u>	<u>August 1, 2027 – January 31, 2028</u>
3. <u>"Welcome to Hunt" Access</u>	<u>August 1, 2028 – January 31, 2029</u>
4. <u>"Welcome to Hunt" Access</u>	<u>August 1, 2029 – January 31, 2030</u>
5. <u>"Welcome to Hunt" Access</u>	<u>August 1, 2030 – January 31, 2031</u>
6. <u>Maintain kiosk &amp; Check-in / Check-out Stations (See Attachment B)</u>	<u>August – January each year</u>
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. <u>Rex Nelson</u>	<u>Hunting Administration &amp; Habitat Project Administration</u>	<u>\$2,500 (500/year) (In-kind)</u>
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

\$2,500

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?

ODFW and the landowner will work cooperatively to post signs on the property and resolve any issues that may arise from the use of the property.

ODFW and the Oregon State Police will include the property in the areas that are being patrolled during the hunting and access seasons.

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

Hunter use, satisfaction, and harvest information will be monitored annually by ODFW East Region Staff. Entry point kiosks and “voluntary” check-in / check-out stations will be monitored monthly during the hunting and access seasons to collect and resupply A&H Access Area Daily Permits and area maps.

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

It is anticipated that Mr. Nelson will contribute at a minimum of \$500 annually of in-kind services in the form of hunting and project administration. These in-kind services could be in the form of posting of signs, patrol efforts, litter removal and hunter contacts.

**Project Budget**  
(provide as much detail as possible)

<u>Category</u>	<u>A&amp;H Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<u>Administration &amp; Technical Support</u> Rex Nelson (\$500/year In-kind)	_____	<u>\$2,500</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
Total	_____	<u>\$2,500</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
<u>Contract Services</u> NRCS- CREP	_____	<u>\$92,000</u>	_____
<u>Access Payment</u> \$14,174/year for 5 years	<u>\$70,870</u>	_____	<u>\$70,870</u>
<u>Habitat Improvement</u>	_____	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL COSTS</b>	<b><u>\$70,870</u></b>	<b><u>\$94,500</u></b>	<b><u>\$165,370</u></b>

<sup>1</sup> List detail in funding (section 18).

<sup>2</sup> Provide amounts and cost per unit.

<sup>3</sup> Attach subcontractor estimates.

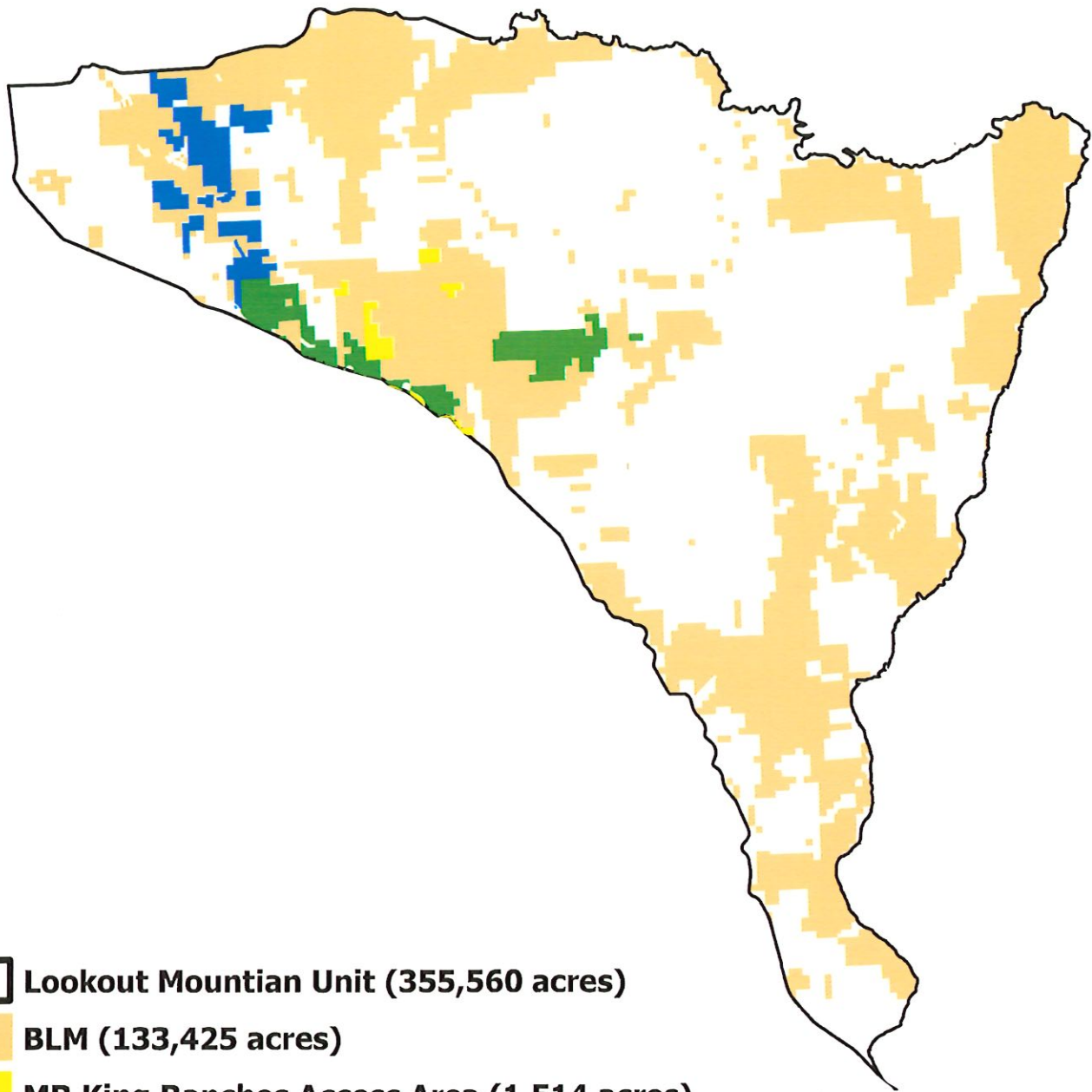
<sup>4</sup> Individual pieces of equipment costing over \$100.00.







ACCESS PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Access Year	Payment	Request for Funds Submitted:
August 1, 2026 – January 31, 2027	\$14,174	No earlier than August 1, 2026
August 1, 2027 – January 31, 2028	\$14,174	No earlier than August 1, 2027
August 1, 2028 – January 31, 2029	\$14,174	No earlier than August 1, 2028
August 1, 2029 – January 31, 2030	\$14,174	No earlier than August 1, 2029
August 1, 2030 – January 31, 2031	\$7,087	No earlier than August 1, 2030
(10% withheld until receipt of completion report)		
Final Payment	\$7,087	No earlier than February 1, 2031

# Attachment A

## Lookout Mountain Access Areas



-  Lookout Mountain Unit (355,560 acres)
-  BLM (133,425 acres)
-  MR King Ranches Access Area (1,514 acres)
-  Virtue Flat Access Area (7,087 acres)
-  Iron Mountain Access Area (3,342 acres)
-  Troy Ranches Access Area (5,696 acres)



Attachment B



17193

**A** **A&H Access Area Daily Permit**  
 1) Complete Part A, detach, and leave in box.  
 2) Complete Part B and deposit in box when leaving area.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Vehicle Lic #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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17193

**B** **A&H Access Area Daily Permit**  
 Please remember to deposit when leaving area  
 Principle Purpose of Visit:

Waterfowl hunting       Upland hunting  
 Big Game hunting       Predators/Small Game hunting  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What did you harvest?: \_\_\_\_\_

Overall Satisfaction: 1 2 3 4 5  
 (circle number)      Not Satisfied      Satisfied      Very Satisfied

Attachment C Virtue Flat Access Area Permit Collection 2016-2025

DATE	PERMIT NUMER	PURPOSE OF HUNTING	HARVEST RESULTS	SATISFACTION RATING
9/4/2016	29757	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	5
10/5/2016	29761	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	2
9/8/2016	*29801	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	*29755	N/A	0	5
N/A	*29782	PREDATOR/SMALL GAME`	N/A	2
9/10/2016	*29758	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/3/2016	*29802	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/1/2016	*29803	RECREATING	N/A	N/A
11/3/2016	*29804	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/13/2016	29805	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>			

4/9/2017	29788	RECREATING	0	3
7/15/2017	29791	RECREATING	0	5
8/6/2017	29792	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	5
10/14/2017	29796	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	4
11/4/2017	29797	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 COYOTE	5
10/16/2017	29799	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	4
10/16/2017	29800	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	4
4/24/2017	29819	RECREATING	0	5
5/1/2018	29826	RECREATING	0	5
11/4/2017	34951	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 COYOTE	3
1/7/2018	34955	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	4
2/3/2018	34956	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 VOLE	5
N/A	34958	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 SQUIRREL	5
5/1/2018	34959	RECREATING	0	5
4/24/2018	34975	RECREATING	0	5
N/A	34957	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 VOLE	5
11/6/2017	*29812	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/9/2017	*34952	N/A	N/A	N/A
8/4/2017	*29794	N/A	N/A	N/A
7/25/2017	29810	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>			

5/8/2018	29827	RECREATING	0	5
5/8/2018	34961	RECREATING	0	5
6/23/2018	34962	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	3
6/24/2018	34963	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	3
10/12/2018	34972	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 JACK RABBIT	3

8/13/2018	*34967	N/A	N/A	N/A
9/21/2018	*34968	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/24/2018	*34970	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/19/2018	*34974	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>9</b>			

8/15/2019	*34973	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	*34977	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/14/2019	34978	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	5
10/14/2019	34979	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	3
10/21/2019	*34982	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/21/2019	*34981	N/A	N/A	N/A
12/11/2019	*34989	N/A	N/A	N/A
8/15/2019	*34991	N/A	N/A	N/A
8/15/2019	*34992	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/27/2019	34986	SCOUTING	0	3
8/5/2019	34990	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	3
9/6/2019	34993	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	2
11/6/2019	34996	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	2 RABBIT	4
5/21/2020	34997	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 RABBIT	3
4/3/2020	*34998	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 JACK RABBIT	N/A
5/30/2019	35451	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	3
5/4/2020	35452	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	3
8/11/2020	35453	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	3
N/A	35478	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 JACK RABBIT	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>19</b>			

9/9/2020	52301	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	4
10/7/2020	52302	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	3
9/24/2020	52305	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	3
8/21/2020	52306	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 RABBIT	3
9/28/2020	52307	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	1 JACK RABBIT	3
9/29/2020	52308	PREDATORS/SMALL GAME	0	3
5/1/2020	51885	RECREATING	0	5
11/9/2020	51866	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 CHUCKAR/2 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	4
11/7/2020	51873	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	4
N/A	*51860	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/28/2020	*51859	N/A	N/A	N/A

11/21/2020	*51875	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12</b>			

11/8/2021	35454	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	2
11/24/2021	*35455	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/28/2021	35456	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	3 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
12/2/2021	*35457	N/A	N/A	N/A
12/4/2021	*35458	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/29/2021	35459	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
12/1/2021	35460	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
12/3/2021	35461	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 CHUCKAR	5
12/4/2021	35462	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
12/16/2021	*35465	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/29/2022	35466	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	5
12/18/2021	35467	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
1/16/2022	35468	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 CHUKAR	5
1/22/2022	35469	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	5
12/24/2021	35470	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
1/27/2022	35472	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
1/26/2022	35473	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	3 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
1/30/2022	35474	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	5
1/31/2022	35475	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
5/21/2023	*35477	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/15/2021	*51874	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/19/2021	*52330	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>22</b>			

11/26/2022	51867	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
12/12/2022	51868	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	3 CHUKAR	5
10/26/2022	*51869	N/A	N/A	N/A
12/24/2022	51870	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4

12/25/2022	51871	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
1/24/2023	51872	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
1/30/2023	51877	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
12/5/2022	57364	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 CHUCKAR	5
12/2/2022	57365	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE / 1 CHUKAR	4
N/A	*57357	N/A	N/A	N/A
1/25/2023	57368	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	3
N/A	*57369	N/A	N/A	N/A
11/25/2022	57372	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
2/3/2023	*57374	PREDATOR / SMALL GAME	0	N/A
11/13/2022	57565	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	3 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>15</b>			

9/2/2023	*35000	N/A	N/A	N/A
12/10/2023	51837	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	3
10/15/2023	51883	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
10/19/2023	51884	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	3
10/19/2023	*51885	N/A	N/A	3
10/20/2023	51886	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
10/21/2023	51887	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	3 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE / 5 CHUKAR	5
11/19/2023	51888	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNHARIAN PARTRIDGE	2
10/22/2023	51889	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 CHUKAR	3
12/10/2023	51890	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 CHUKAR	3
10/27/2023	51891	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	3 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
11/9/2023	51892	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
11/20/2023	51893	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 CHUKAR	4
11/24/2023	51894	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 CHUKAR	5
12/7/2023	51895	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 CHUKAR	5
12/8/2023	51896	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 CHUKAR / 1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	4
12/19/2023	51897	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	4

12/17/2023	51898	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	3
12/17/2023	51899	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 CHUKAR / 2 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	3
12/21/2023	*57359	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	N/A	3
12/21/2023	57361	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	3
12/21/2023	57362	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 CHUKAR	3
12/18/2023	57366	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	5
10/20/2023	57375	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	5
10/20/2023	57376	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	5
10/24/2023	57377	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	7 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
10/20/2023	57378	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	5
10/20/2023	57379	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	5
10/20/2024	57380	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
11/30/2024	*57382	N/A	N/A	N/A
12/10/2023	*57383	N/A	N/A	N/A
10/9/2023	*57392	N/A	N/A	N/A
12/15/2023	57394	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
12/18/2023	57395	SMALL GAME	1 COTTONTAIL	4
12/23/2025	57397	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	4 CHUKAR	4
12/25/2023	*57398	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	N/A	N/A
12/25/2023	57400	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	N/A	N/A
N/A	60369	BIG GAME HUNTING	0	5
1/26/2024	60418	PREDATOR	1 COYOTE	3
1/26/2024	60450	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	3
12/20/2023	60451	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 CHUKAR	2
12/20/2023	60452	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	2
12/29/2023	60453	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
1/1/2024	60454	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
1/6/2024	60455	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	4 CHUKARS	5
12/26/23	60456	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	2
12/26/2023	60457	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	2
1/6/2024	60458	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	3
1/2/2024	60459	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5
1/7/2024	60460	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	1 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	5

1/8/2024	60461	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	2 HUNGARIAN PARTRIDGE	3
1/8/2024	60462	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	4 CHUKARS	3
1/11/2024	60463	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
1/18/2024	60464	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
1/26/2024	60465	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	4
1/28/2024	60466	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	3
1/31/2024	60467	UPLAND BIRD HUNTING	0	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>57</b>			

\*Indicates an "Incomplete Permit". Permits are considered incomplete if they are not completely filled out and both sections A and B have not been returned.





# Virtue Flat Access Area



The Virtue Flat Access Area is a cooperative program between a private landowner and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Access and Habitat Program to maintain public hunting access on private lands and to increase access to public lands. The Virtue Flat Access Area, 4.5 miles east of Baker City, OR, provides public hunting opportunities for deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, predators, Hungarian partridge, forest grouse, and quail. All Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Regulations and Seasons Apply.

## Access Allowed: In Effect Year Round

Hunting on Private Land is a privilege, not a right. Private land hunting opportunities will remain in the future only if the property and rights of private landowners are respected! Abuse it and you will lose it!

## Area Regulations:

- Motorized vehicles only on open roads shown in green
- No camping or night-time use of private lands
- No fires, be careful with cigarettes
- No littering, please pick up trash
- Report any unlawful activities
- Respect landowner rights and needs
- Leave all gates as you found them



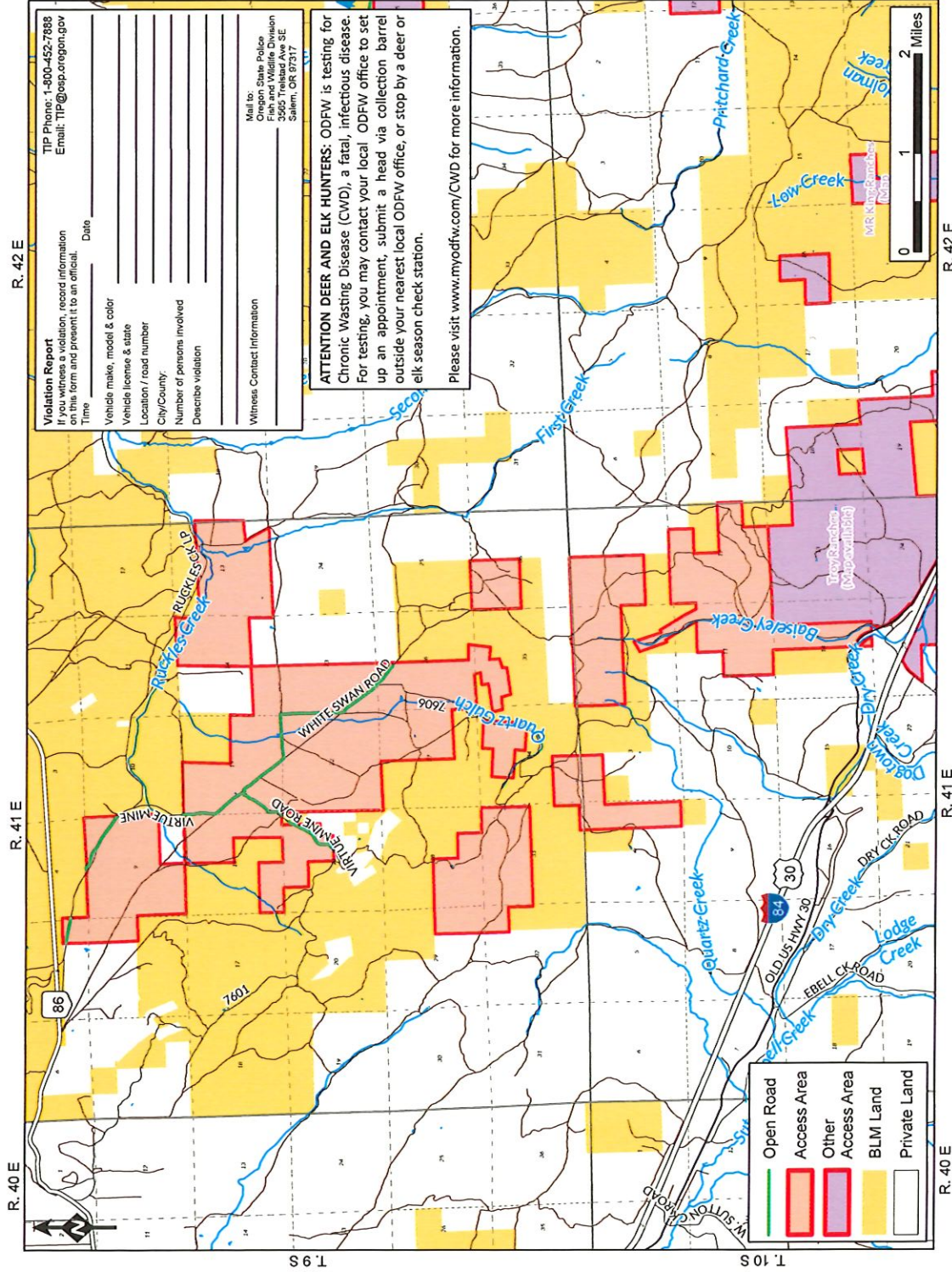
- Access Area Boundary
- Open Access Road
- Other Access Area Boundaries
- US BLM Land
- Other Private Land



Call 1-800-452-7888 or OSP or 477 from a mobile phone

\*This product is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for, legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of the information should review or consult primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.

revised 5/2/2025





# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Baker City Field Office  
2995 Hughes Lane  
Baker City, Oregon, 97814  
(541)523-5832  
Fax (541)523-5874

November 1, 2025

Access & Habitat Board  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302

Dear A&H Board:

I am writing to support the application for renewal of the Virtue Flat Access Area. I recommend that the Board approve the continuation of this important and valuable access area due to the limited public land hunting opportunities that exist in the Lookout Mountain Wildlife Management Unit (WMU).

The Virtue Flat Access Area will continue to provide access to 7,087 acres of private land in the Lookout Mountain WMU. The project allows hunters to hunt from Highway 86 to Interstate 84, effectively creating a contiguous tract of land encompassing over 17,000 acres when supported by adjacent BLM lands. In addition to big game hunting opportunities, this access area has ample opportunities for upland game birds, small game and predator hunting.

In a Wildlife Management Unit that is dominated by private lands, maintaining public access and continuing to foster relationships between hunters, landowners and the Access & Habitat Program is a high priority for the Baker Wildlife District.

If you would like to discuss this project or the importance of increasing access, please feel free to contact me at (541)523-5832.

Sincerely,

Brian Ratliff  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Baker District Wildlife Biologist

## Access and Habitat Program Project Evaluation Form



**Program Objective:** The Access and Habitat Program's motto, "Landowners & Hunters Together for Wildlife," conveys the program's basic mission to foster partnerships between landowners and hunters for the benefit of the wildlife they value. The program also seeks to recognize and encourage the important contributions made by landowners to the state's wildlife resource.

**Project Name:** Virtue Flat Access Area

**Project #:** 2026

	Access Acres	Habitat Acres	Habitat Category:	0	Total Score:	18
"Welcome" Private	7,087		(range: 1-6; see flow chart on page 4. Not applicable to Access-only projects)		Total Possible:	36
By-Permission Private						
Inaccessible Public*						
Accessible Public*	10,848					

**Instructions:**

Project Type	Complete these sections			
	General Criteria	Access Criteria	Habitat	Criteria
Access Only	X	X		
Habitat Only	X		X	
Access & Habitat	X	X	X	

Mark 1 point in the corresponding "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met. Example: for question 2, if partnerships include 4 sports groups, award points for the first 2 criteria. Do not mark more than 1 point per box. Point schedule is designed to weigh access-only and habitat-only projects equally.

**Definitions:**

**Inaccessible Public\*:** Access will be provided through private land to public land that is completely landlocked (surrounded) by private land, legally precluding public hunting access. Total area includes only public land within the boundary of private ownership.

**Accessible Public\*:** Access through private land will improve accessibility to public land. Public land may be extremely difficult to access otherwise, but is not legally surrounded by private land. Total area includes only public land that is closer (in linear distance) to the landowner's access point(s) than any other public access point.

**\* Access to public land MUST be provided on a "Welcome to Hunt" basis**

**General Criteria**

(mark a "1" in the "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met)

**1. Habitat Condition**

Score 1 point only if the property contains the resource in sufficient abundance/quality to support target species referenced in questions 11, 15, 16 and 19 (during at least one season of the year). For habitat projects, use the predicted future condition. Justify your score.

Food:	Good browse and forage species...Habitat improvements			
Water:	Several springs, seeps, seasonal creeks and stock ponds			
Cover:	Rolling sagebrush steppe habitat			

Project Score	Access Fee Assessment		
	Private Land	Inacc. Public	Acc. Public
1	1	n/a	1
1	1	n/a	1
1	1	n/a	1

**2. Partnerships**

Partners contributing financial or in-kind support:

1 or more Sports groups.....				
3 or more Sports groups.....				
Educational programs / non-governmental organizations.....				
Other government agencies or ODFW programs (i.e. OWEB, R&E).....				

0			
0	1	n/a	1
0			
1			

		Access Fee Assessment			
		Project Score			
3. Matching Funds	Total matching funds (monetary and in-kind)				
	> 1% matching funds.....	1			
	> 25% matching funds.....	1	1	n/a	1
	> 50% matching funds.....	1			
4. Damage	Project would mitigate current damage to private property:				
	Wildlife damage occurring on private property.....	1			
	Landowner participates in ODFW damage control programs.....	1			
		<b>General Total</b>			
		<i>General Possible</i>			
		9	5	0	5
		12	5	5	5
<b>Access Criteria</b> - Applies to <b>private land</b> access that would be provided under the proposed project. (mark a "1" in the "Project Score" box for EACH criterion that is met)					
5. Public Land	Project located in Wildlife Management Unit with <50% public land.....	1	1	n/a	1
6. Private access	Private land access type:				
	Project would provide access to private land.....	1			
	Private land access would be on a "Welcome to Hunt" basis.....	1			
7. Public access	Access through private lands would:				
	improve access to public land.....	1			
	provide access to otherwise inaccessible public land.....	0			
8. Special Access	Project would provide special youth or disabled hunter access opportunities.....	0	0	n/a	0
9. Species Permitted	Species groups include big game, waterfowl, upland birds, turkey, and predators/varmints.				
	2+ species groups available and permitted.....	1	1	n/a	1
	4+ species groups available and permitted.....	0	0	n/a	0
10. Under-rep. Species*	Project provides access to under-represented species in the watershed.....	1	1	n/a	1
11. Harvest Restriction	Landowner would not restrict sex or species permitted for lawful harvest.....	1	1	n/a	1
12. Season Restriction	Landowner would not restrict access to any hunting season(s).....	1	1	n/a	1
13. Dispersion	Property would provide access to animals pushed off of publicly accessible land during hunting season.....	1	1	n/a	
		<b>Access Total</b>			
		<i>Access Possible</i>			
		9	6	0	5
		12	8	8	7
		<b>Payment Fee Total</b>			
			11	n/a	10

\* lists of under-represented species will be created by A&H state coordinator and approved by A&H Board



## Access and Habitat Project Evaluation - Appendix

### Under-represented Species

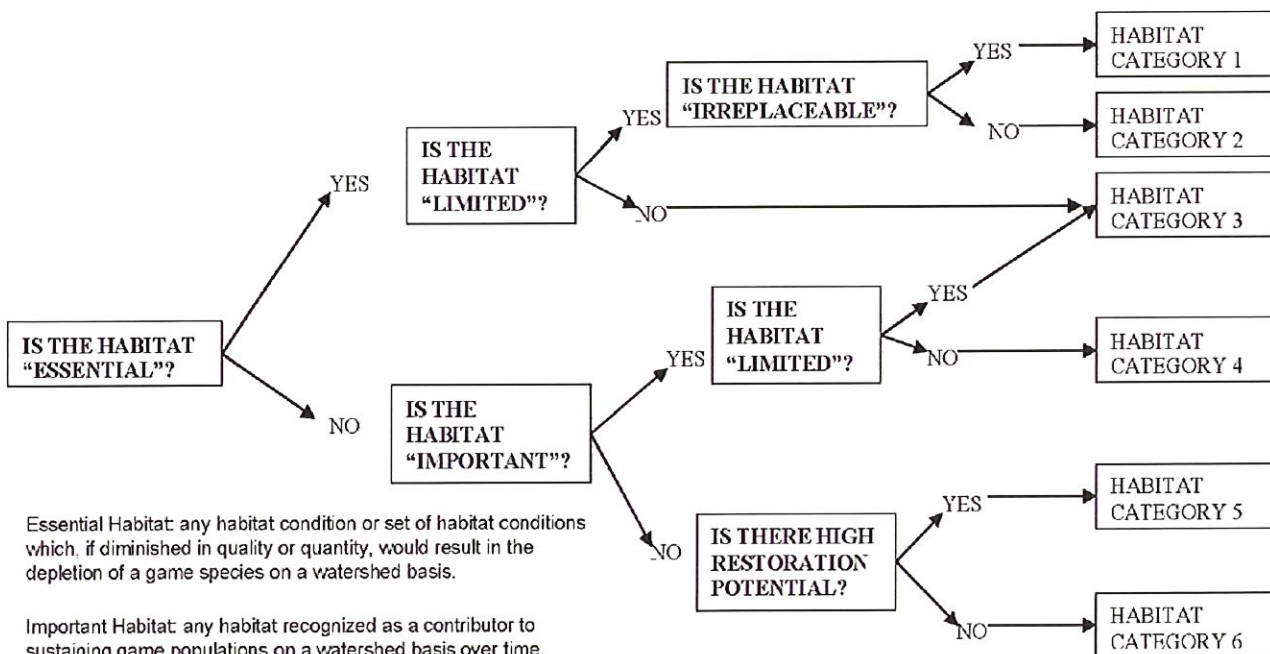
**Definition:** game species that exist in the watershed district in huntable numbers, but that the general public does not have reasonable hunting access to (via public land, current A&H properties, etc.)

Watershed	Species
Malheur	pheasant, waterfowl, turkey
South Willamette	waterfowl, turkey, valley quail
North Coast	predators, waterfowl
Grande Ronde	upland game birds
Rogue	dove, waterfowl

Watershed	Species
Deschutes	waterfowl, valley quail, chukar, dove
John Day	upland game birds
Umpqua	waterfowl, dove, turkey
Klamath	waterfowl, quail
North Willamette	waterfowl

### A&H Habitat Category Flow Chart

Note: These definitions have been amended from OAR Division 415 to be game-specific and applied on a watershed basis. Habitat Category designations made on this Evaluation Form are for Access & Habitat Program use only, and do not have any legal implications associated with OAR 415.



**Essential Habitat:** any habitat condition or set of habitat conditions which, if diminished in quality or quantity, would result in the depletion of a game species on a watershed basis.

**Important Habitat:** any habitat recognized as a contributor to sustaining game populations on a watershed basis over time.

**Limited Habitat:** an amount of habitat insufficient or barely sufficient to sustain game populations on a watershed basis over time.

**Irreplaceable Habitat:** successful in-kind habitat mitigation to replace lost habitat quantity and/or quality is not feasible within an acceptable period of time or locations, or involves an unacceptable level of risk or uncertainty, depending on the habitat under consideration and the game populations that are affected. "Acceptable", for the purpose of this definition, means in a reasonable time frame to benefit the affected game species.

## Payment Tables

**Table 1: Proposed Per-acre Access Payment**

Total Score:	Private Welcome to Hunt (\$/acre)	Private By- Permission (\$/acre)	Inaccessible public land (\$/acre)	Accessible public land (\$/acre)
	100%	60%	40%	20%
1-3:	\$0.60	\$0.36	\$0.24	\$0.12
4-6:	\$1.20	\$0.72	\$0.48	\$0.24
7-9:	\$1.80	\$1.08	\$0.72	\$0.36
10-11:	\$2.40	\$1.44	\$0.96	\$0.48
12-13:	\$3.00	\$1.80	\$1.20	\$0.60

**Table 2: Proposed Total Access Payment Calculator**

Access Type	Score	\$/Acre	Acres	Payment
Private Welcome	11	\$2.40	7,087	\$17,008.80
Private Permission	11	\$1.44	0	\$0.00
Inaccessible Public	n/a	n/a	0	n/a
Accessible Public	10	\$0.48	10,848	\$5,207.04
<b>Total Payment:</b>				<b>\$22,215.84</b>



# ACCESS & HABITAT PROGRAM

## Regional Advisory Council Project

### Proposal Review

ODFW Region / A&H Regional Council: [East Region / Northeast Council](#)

Project Proposal Title: [Virtue Flat Access Area](#)

Applicants(s): [Rex Nelson](#)

Date of Council Review: [December 10, 2025](#)

Type of Project: Access  Habitat  Other [Damage](#)

**Motion:** Russ Elms made a motion to approve the project as proposed. Doug Hopper seconded the motion.

<u>Council Member</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Vote</u>
<a href="#">Tim Campbell</a>	<a href="#">Chairman</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>
<a href="#">Tim Brown</a>	<a href="#">Landowner Representative</a>	<a href="#">Absent</a>
<a href="#">Doug Hopper</a>	<a href="#">Landowner Representative</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>
<a href="#">Chris Panike</a>	<a href="#">Landowner Representative</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>
<a href="#">Tom Baker</a>	<a href="#">Hunter Representative</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>
<a href="#">Calvin Davis</a>	<a href="#">Hunter Representative</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>
<a href="#">Russ Elms</a>	<a href="#">Hunter Representative</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>

**Disposition of Vote:** Motion passed 6:0

#### Project Strengths:

- Project provides “Welcome to Hunt” access to 7,087 acres of private land for big game, predator and upland game bird hunting.
- In a unit that is 62% private lands, this project provides important access to hunters who would otherwise have a very difficult time finding opportunities to hunt.
- The project boundary adjoins another A&H property (Troy Ranches), collectively creating a 17,000-acre access area.
- This project also improves access to over 10,000 acres of adjacent BLM lands.
- Mr. Nelson is also employing several habitat improvement projects, that in due time will add tremendous wildlife value to the property.

#### Project Concerns:

- None