



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

Created in 1993 by the Oregon Legislative Assembly, the seven-member Access & Habitat (A&H) Board (Board) reviews project proposals that improve wildlife habitat and/or enhance public hunting access in Oregon. Project applications, submitted by landowners, corporations, organizations, and agencies, are initially reviewed by Board-appointed Regional Councils established in five geographic regions of the state. Regional Councils forward proposals to the Board with recommendations to approve or deny projects. The Board provides the next level of project review and then forwards proposals to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) for final consideration and approval to expend A&H Program funds.

Funding for the A&H Program, approximately \$3.4 million per biennium, is from three primary sources:

- \$4 from each hunting and combination license sold (approximately \$1.5 million per biennium)
- Proceeds from the annual Big Game Auction and Raffle tags (approximately \$2 million per biennium)
- Biennial allocation of approximately \$91,000 from the Green Forage and Deer Enhancement and Restoration programs

The A&H Program dedicated account balance was \$4,024,990 at the end of February 2026. A&H Program funds deposited in the dedicated account can only be expended for program activities. As of May 1, contracted A&H projects provide hunters with access to over 2.2 million acres of private land and have improved over 22,084 acres of habitat for wildlife during this biennium.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A&H provides an opportunity for public involvement at Regional Council and Board meetings, which are advertised by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (department) news releases and on the department webpage. Meeting materials are posted on the department website and members of the public may review documents and submit comments. Interested parties may attend in person or virtually to provide public comment during these meetings. The Board most recently met in The Dalles on April 7, 2026.

ISSUE 1

A&H project funding approval

ANALYSIS

A summary of the five projects recommended for funding by the A&H Board is presented in the staff project summary (Attachment 2).

OPTIONS

Option 1. Approve A&H Board recommendations.

Option 2. Reject project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Option 1. Approve the projects recommended by the A&H Board.

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to approve the five projects recommended for funding by the Access & Habitat Board.

Effective Date: June 26, 2026

ISSUE 2

Appointment to the Chair position of the Access and Habitat Board.

BACKGROUND

After eight years of service the current Chair of the Access and Habitat Board Amy Patrick completed her second term on the Board January 31, 2026 creating a vacancy. From an open advertisement for interest, one current Board member, one Regional Council member and one individual new to the A&H program submitted applications for the Chair. Brief descriptions of the candidates are listed below (complete applications are included in (Attachment 3). A list of current A&H Board members terms is presented in A&H Board Terms (Attachment 4)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Applications for the Chair vacancy were accepted from February 3 through April 3, 2026. The Department recruited candidates for the vacancy by advertising on the agency website and issuing a news release to canvas Oregon for talented candidates. We received applications from three individuals interested in the position. Two additional individuals expressed interest in the position but did not apply by the deadline.

ANALYSIS

Chair applicants were asked to provide information about their experience and background relative to the following criteria:

- Breadth of experience and knowledge of hunting and/or agricultural or forestry industries
- Involvement in sportsman/hunter/conservation organizations
- Leadership in sportsman/hunter/conservation and/or agricultural or forest industry organizations
- Leadership and experience on or with councils/boards/commissions and legislature
- Experience working with and/or representing the public
- Ability/interest in working collaboratively with others
- Participation in the A&H Program
- Ability to foster positive relations between landowners, hunters, and the department

The department received three applications by the deadline (Attachment 3). The applicants are listed below in alphabetical order of the last name.

Name: **Nicholas Callero**
Location: Milwaukie
Occupation: Pew Charitable Trusts

Nic is a lifelong Oregonian with more than three decades of hunting and fishing experience, giving him a deep understanding of the access, habitat, and management challenges that span public and private lands. Over the past five years, he has served on the Access and Habitat Board as a Hunter Representative, building relationships with landowners and partners while gaining valuable insight into effective public-private collaboration. His professional work as a Senior Officer with The Pew Charitable Trusts complements this background, as he develops policy initiatives across the West focused on habitat connectivity, restoration, and wildlife conservation while working closely with state wildlife agencies and diverse stakeholders. Across the region, he has authored and advanced numerous pieces of legislation, led coalition-driven campaigns, and partnered with agency leadership to secure durable conservation outcomes. Central to his approach is a commitment to listening to members, engaging grassroots support, and strengthening the relationships that make on-the-ground success possible.

Name: **Tim Campbell**
Occupation: Materials Manager, Interpath Laboratory
Location: Pendleton

Tim is a lifelong Oregon resident whose deep personal connection to hunting, fishing, and the outdoors has shaped his role as both a consumer and steward of the state’s natural resources. Tim has long been committed to mentoring youth and staying informed about issues affecting hunting opportunity. A life member of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and active member of the Oregon Hunters Association, he has extensive leadership experience, including a decade as Chair of the Pendleton RMEF Chapter, where he helped surpass \$1 million in funds raised and organized major youth events, community engagement, and on-the-ground volunteer projects. He continues to serve on the Oregon RMEF State Leadership Team, coordinating large-scale habitat and restoration efforts with ODFW and the Umatilla National Forest. As Chair of the A&H Northeast Council, he brings hands-on experience with A&H properties, volunteer coordination, landowner relationships, and public outreach, while his professional career further strengthens his collaborative, team-building, and consensus-driven approach.

Name: Jim Cloer
Occupation: Engineer
Location: McMinnville

Jim is a lifelong hunter in Oregon, rooted in a childhood spent on a family farm and shaped by a lifetime pursuing big game, upland game birds and occasionally waterfowl across both public and private lands. His background blends a knowledge of hunting with firsthand experience in agriculture, forestry, and habitat management, including active stewardship of his own small woodland property. Jim is an engaged member of multiple conservation and sporting organizations and has volunteered for habitat projects. In his hunting community, he naturally steps into leadership—organizing events, mentoring new hunters, and advocating for public lands and responsible access. Jim’s professional work as an engineer further strengthens his collaborative skills, as he routinely works across teams and engages through product design and feedback. As an appreciative end user of the Access and Habitat program, he has hunted numerous A&H properties and actively promotes the program to others. Grounded in respect for both landowners and wildlife, he is committed to strengthening relationships between the public, landowners, and ODFW and is eager to bring his experience and passion to continued service.

DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDATION

Department staff, in consultation with the Director, recommend that the Commission appoint Nic Callero as Chair of the Access and Habitat Board. Nic’s professional work significantly strengthens his leadership on the board. His role involves frequent collaboration with state agencies, landowners, and conservation organizations to develop practical solutions to habitat and access challenges. He also leads legislative efforts for the Pew Charitable Trust, supporting habitat conservation and wildlife policy across the West. In addition to his board service, Nic contributes to Oregon’s outdoor community through his position on the board of the Oregon Chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. Nic is currently serving his second term as a Hunter Representative on the A&H Board and a board member can only serve two consecutive four-year terms. Therefore, if the Commission appoints Nic as Chair, he would serve as Chair through March 2029.

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to appoint Nic Callero to serve his second four-year term as Chair on the Access and Habitat Board.

Effective Date: June 26, 2026