

# Colville Confederated Tribes' Performance Project Wildlife Mitigation Acquisitions

Annual Report 2006

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Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, OR 97208

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**COLVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES' PERFORMANCE PROJECT  
WILDLIFE MITIGATION ACQUISITIONS**

**PROJECT NUMBER: 1995-067-00**

**CONTRACT NUMBER: 25791**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2006**



Prepared By:  
Colville Confederated Tribes  
Fish and Wildlife Department

Richard P. Whitney  
Wildlife Biologist

Matthew T. Berger  
Wildlife Biologist

Patrick Tonasket  
Wildlife Biologist

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## **ABSTRACT**

The Colville Confederated Tribes' Wildlife Mitigation Project is protecting lands as partial mitigation for hydropower's share of the wildlife losses resulting from Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. The Mitigation Project protects and manages 54,606 acres for the biological requirements of managed wildlife species that are important to the Colville Tribes. With the inclusion of 2006 acquisitions, the Colville Tribes have acquired approximately 32,018 habitat units (HUs) towards a total 35,819 HUs lost from original inundation due to hydropower development.

This annual report for 2006 briefly describes that four priority land acquisitions that were considered for enrollment into the Colville Tribes' Mitigation Project during the 2006 contract period.

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## **Introduction**

The Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project (Project Number: 1992-048-00) was proposed by the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) as partial mitigation for hydropower's share of the wildlife losses resulting from construction of and inundation by Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. Currently the CCT have not been fully mitigated for terrestrial wildlife losses from Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Hydropower projects in the Columbia Basin. The Land Acquisition Project is administered within the CCT Fish and Wildlife Department by the Wildlife Mitigation Project in cooperation with Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC), and others to address those wildlife losses. With the inclusion of 2006 acquisitions, the Hellsgate Project protects and manages 54,606 acres for the biological requirements of wildlife; most are located on or near the Columbia River (Rufus Woods Lake and Lake Roosevelt) and surrounded by Tribal land ranging from shrub-steppe to coniferous forests. These management units contain a wide diversity of vegetative types and habitats for a variety of wildlife. In addition, the CCT have set aside special management areas (Hellsgate Reserve, Tribal lands, and Agency Butte) surrounding certain Hellsgate Project management units/land parcels to conserve and protect big game winter range and sharp-tailed grouse habitat.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), through the Hellsgate Project, began mitigation for wildlife losses in 1992 by purchasing land with BPA funds. An accounting system had to be devised to calculate losses/gains for mitigation. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) developed a protocol known as Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP). Habitat Evaluation Procedures document the non-monetary value of fish and wildlife resources. (U.S. DOE. 1980) (U.S. Department of the Interior 1980) This methodology was used to assess the losses from all Federal Hydropower Projects. Habitat Evaluation Procedures are based on ecological principals and the assumption that habitat for selected wildlife species can be described as a numerical value known as a Habitat Suitability Index (HSI). This value is derived from an evaluation of the ability of key habitat components to supply the life requisites for selected species of fish and wildlife. Evaluation and monitoring involves repeating HEP for the target species at specified time intervals and comparing changes. Habitat Evaluation Procedure studies are carried out on each new acquisition (baseline data) and repeated over time to document (monitoring) results for mitigation crediting issues.

The Land Acquisition Project is designed to work toward full mitigation of the Colville Tribes' and the corresponding wildlife and habitat losses resulting to the Columbia River Hydropower System within our associated sub-basins.

## **Work Element A: Produce Environmental Compliance Documentation Summary**

The Colville Tribes have conducted and submitted all necessary environmental compliance documentation as required by law.

## **Work Element B: Conduct Pre-Acquisition Activities Summary**

Four sites were selected through an internal prioritization process as possible acquisitions for partial mitigation of losses that occurred due to the Columbia Hydropower System. Each site was thoroughly reviewed and analyzed using a BPA template/checklist as to the ownership status and possible encumbrances that may exist on the property. HAZMAT issues were addressed by the Tribes or BPA to resolve the issue.



Once these issues were cleared and the land owner(s) (Shorts, Redthunders, and the Colville Tribes (Rattlesnake Canyon and Staehly Mountain)) confirmed their willingness to sell, the lands were then assessed as to the value of the wildlife habitat that was present using Habitat Suitability Indices. Baseline HEP studies were designed using ARCMAP and aerial photos along with ground verification of the areas according to the habitat types. Once habitat types were selected, Indicator Species with their corresponding Habitat Suitability Index models were selected for the study. The Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA) "HEP Team" assisted in collecting and processing the HEP data, as well as final submittal of a HEP Report to BPA.

At the same time the Habitat Suitability Models were being applied, the Colville Tribes informed Bonneville Power Administration of the Tribes' intent to purchase these four management areas for the purpose of wildlife mitigation. A Federal appraisal was requested by the Colville Tribes for each of the proposed management areas. These appraisals were requested at different dates, and consequently they were produced at differing dates, which slowed the process.

#### **Work Element C: Produce Pisces Status Reports Summary**

This project submitted three Quarterly Pisces Reports as required by contract with BPA

#### **Work Element D: Produce Annual Report Summary**

This project submitted a Pisces Status Report at the contract's end as required by contract. This report is also in fulfillment of this work element.

#### **Work Element E: Manage and Administer Project Summary**

Quarterly Accrual reporting and budget tracking milestones were completed by Project staff and the Colville Tribes' Accounting Department. The 2007 Scope of Work and Funding Package were submitted to BPA before the end of the 2006 contract period.

Duties associated with this work element included ordering supplies, presenting on Project Proposals to the Colville Business Council and other concerned parties, supervising staff, contract and budget tracking, coordination with other Colville Tribal Departments, and other administrative duties.

#### **Summary**

Four Proposed Wildlife Management Areas were assessed for enrollment into the Colville Tribal Wildlife Mitigation Project. The HEP Study and the Federal Appraisal for the Rattlesnake Canyon Management Area were approved by BPA and the Colville Tribes in late September 2006. A 99-year Conservation Easement was signed and approved on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of September, 2006 by the Colville Tribes and BPA, respectively. This Conservation Easement enrolled approximately 10,293 acres of critical winter range for White-tailed and Mule Deer in an area that the Colville Tribes have set aside as a Wildlife Reserve. According to the CBFWA HEP Team's calculations, there are 7,421 Habitat Units within this Management Area (Appendix A.) The Colville Tribes were compensated for 80% (approximately \$5.6 million) of the appraised value of the land and timber resources.

The Redthunder Allotments Land Package was not completed by the September deadline, so it is being considered for 2007 funding. The HEP Study is complete as well as the Federal Appraisal. A final Land Owner agreement needs to be approved before this acquisition can go forward.

The Shorts' Property Land Package is complete as far as the HEP Study and a Federal Appraisal, yet the Shorts' do not agree with the appraisal. There are a few things that were not considered in the Federal appraisal completed by BPA that may affect the total appraised value. Once these considerations are assessed and a possible new appraised value is agreed upon, negotiations with the Short Family will recommence. If an agreement on a monetary value is reached between the Shorts, the Colville Tribes, and BPA, this acquisition will be enrolled into the Wildlife Mitigation Project to partially mitigate for the Columbia River Hydropower System's impacts from construction and inundation losses to wildlife habitat.

The fourth property (Staehly Mountain) is a complete package but has since been lowered on the priority scale for acquisitions. Other influences and management directions may limit this property from enrollment into the Mitigation Project. The Highest Priorities for the 2007 contract period are the Shorts' Property and the Redthunder Allotments. These two are adjoining properties with remarkable wildlife potential if managed jointly.



Appendix A. Results from the Rattlesnake Canyon HEP Study that was conducted in 2006.

**Rattlesnake Unit Habitat Synopsis**

9/5/2006

<i>Species</i>	<i>Cover Type</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>HS Index</i>	<i>Estimated HU's</i>
Mule deer*	Heavy Conifer Forest	1,210.00	0.24	293.99
<b>Total Habitat Units (HU's)</b>				<b>293.99</b>

<i>Species</i>	<i>Cover Type</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>HS Index</i>	<i>Estimated HU's</i>
Mule deer*	Open Conifer Forest	7,620.00	0.24	1,851.42
Lewis woodpecker	Open Conifer Forest	7,620.00	0.63	4,819.31
<b>Total Habitat Units (HU's)</b>				<b>6,670.73</b>

<i>Species</i>	<i>Cover Type</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>HS Index</i>	<i>Estimated HU's</i>
Mule deer*	Shrub steppe	486.70	0.24	118.25
Sharp-tailed grouse	Shrub steppe	486.70	0.04	17.93
Sage grouse	Shrub steppe	486.70	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Habitat Units (HU's)</b>				<b>136.18</b>

<i>Species</i>	<i>Cover Type</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>HS Index</i>	<i>Estimated HU's</i>
Mule deer*	Rockland	847.30	0.24	205.87
<b>Total Habitat Units (HU's)</b>				<b>205.87</b>

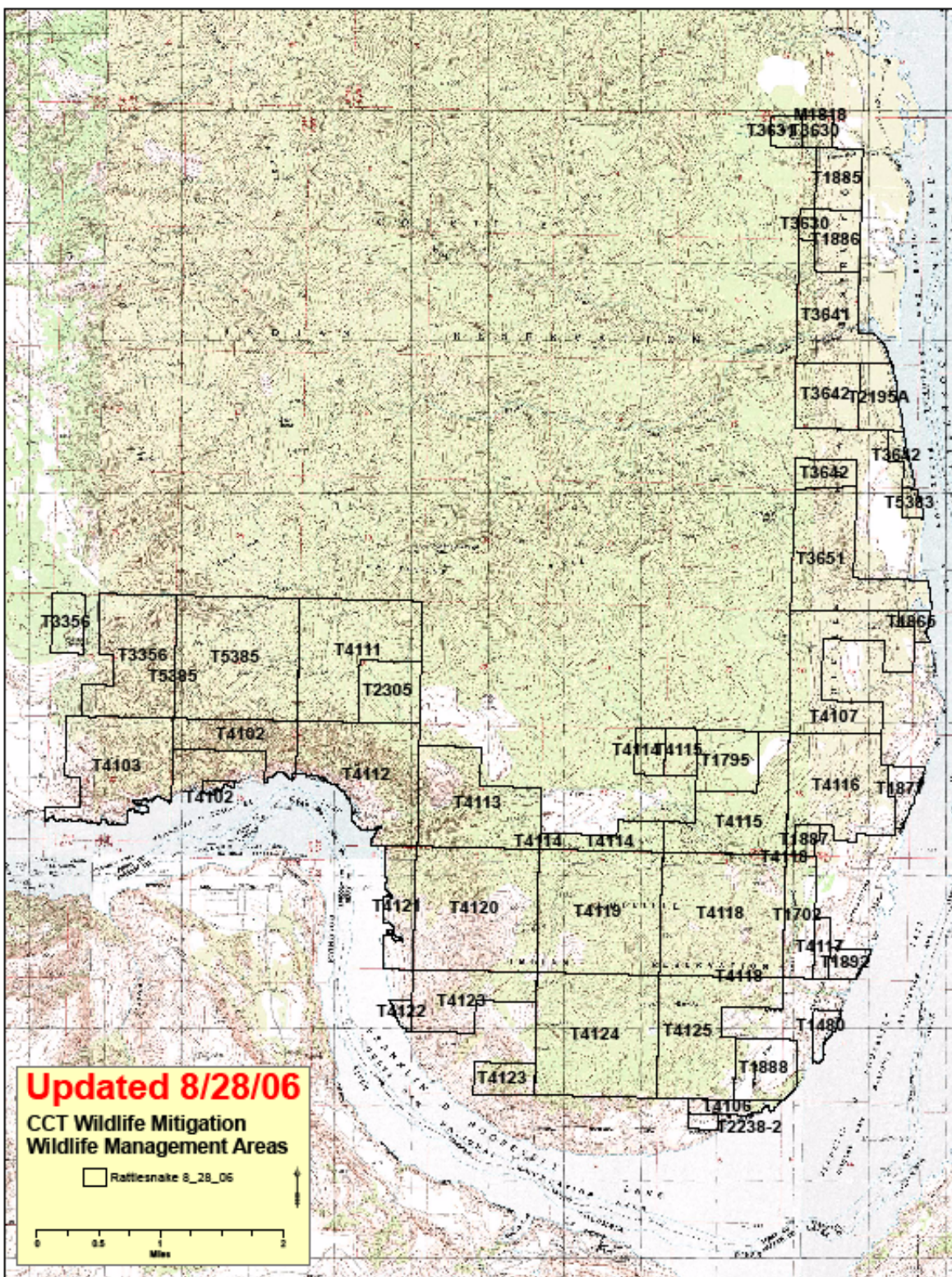
<i>Species</i>	<i>Cover Type</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>HS Index</i>	<i>Estimated HU's</i>
White-tailed deer	Riparian Forest	21.90	0.50	10.95
Sharp-tailed grouse (winter)	Riparian Forest	21.90	0.01	0.15
Downy woodpecker	Riparian Forest	21.90	1.00	21.90
<b>Total Habitat Units (HU's)</b>				<b>33.00</b>

<i>Species</i>	<i>Cover Type</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>HS Index</i>	<i>Estimated HU's</i>
White-tailed deer	Riparian Shrub	107.20	0.30	31.89
Sharp-tailed grouse (winter)	Riparian Shrub	107.20	0.07	7.58
Yellow warbler	Riparian Shrub	107.20	0.39	41.79
<b>Total Habitat Units (HU's)</b>				<b>81.27</b>

\* Mule deer and Lewis woodpecker HSIs were computed on landscape level

		<i>Acres</i>	<i>Habitat Units (HUs)</i>	<i>HUs/acre</i>
<b>TOTALs</b>		<b>10,293</b>	<b>7,421.04</b>	<b>0.72</b>

**Appendix B.** Map of Rattlesnake Canyon Management Area; protected by Conservation Easement, 2006.





**Appendix C: Summary of Expenditures for 2006 BPA Contract # 00025791.**

Colville Confederated Tribes Performance Land Acquisitions					
<u>BPA Project #1995-067-00</u>		<u>CCT # 3192</u>	<u>BPA Contract # 00025791</u>		
BPA Budget Categories	Tribal Budget Categories	Approved Budget	Total Expenditures	Budget Remaining	Used Budget %
<b>1 Personnel</b>		<b>\$93,811</b>	<b>\$90,571</b>	<b>\$3,240</b>	<b>96.5%</b>
	Salaries	\$73,324.00	\$71,844.13	\$1,479.87	97.98%
	Fringe	\$20,487.00	\$18,727.27	\$1,759.73	91.41%
<b>2 Travel</b>		<b>\$3,010</b>	<b>\$2,399</b>	<b>\$612</b>	<b>79.7%</b>
	Travel	\$3,010.00	\$2,398.50	\$611.50	79.68%
<b>3 Supplies/Equipment</b>		<b>\$5,514</b>	<b>\$4,953</b>	<b>\$561</b>	<b>89.8%</b>
	Computer Supplies	\$1,200.00	\$1,199.00	\$1.00	99.92%
	Program Supplies	\$4,314.00	\$3,753.76	\$560.24	87.01%
<b>4 Subcontracts</b>		<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$20,228</b>	<b>(\$228)</b>	<b>101.1%</b>
	Subcontract Costs	\$20,000.00	\$20,227.63	(\$227.63)	101.14%
<b>5 Indirect 37.73% of Salaries Only</b>		<b>\$27,665</b>	<b>\$27,107</b>	<b>\$558</b>	<b>98.0%</b>
	Indirect Costs	\$27,665.00	\$27,106.79	\$558.21	97.98%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$150,000</b>	<b>\$145,257</b>	<b>\$4,743</b>	<b>96.8%</b>