

# Willamette Basin Mitigation Program

## Annual Report 1999 - 2000



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# **Willamette Basin Mitigation Program**

Annual Report  
September 1, 1999-December 31, 2000

Willamette Basin Mitigation Program  
Project No. 92-68

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Prepared for  
Bonneville Power Administration

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Submitted on January 31, 2001

## **Summary of Significant Results and Activities**

- Hired HEP/NEPA Technician**
- Produced Sorenson and South Pasture cover type maps**
- Attended HEP training and field classes**
- Draft South Pasture management plan**
- Completed hydro-geomorphic index report**
- Planted 700 trees on Sorenson property**
- Mowed competing and non-native vegetation on Sorenson property**
- Planted Sorenson agricultural field**
- Completed farming agreement for Sorenson property**
- Completed NEPA surveys at Big Island site**
- Completed NEPA checklist for Big Island site**
- Developed baseline HU estimates for Big Island site**
- Completed and signed Option to Purchase Agreement for Big Island site**
- Completed Conservation Easement negotiations and agreement for Big Island site**
- Completed property boundary survey and maps of Big Island site**
- Completed real estate appraisal for Big Island site**
- Attained ODFW Commission approval of Big Island acquisition**
- Completed real estate appraisal of 30 acre Coast Fork property**
- COMPLETED AND SIGNED WILLAMETTE BASIN MOA WITH BPA**
- Reviewed and corrected mitigation ledgers for the Willamette Basin**
- Completed spreadsheets documenting mitigation species and habitats by dam in Willamette basin**
- Completed Willamette Valley pre-settlement vegetation mapping contract**
- Completed current Willamette Basin vegetation map**

## **Objective 1**

Using the Alternative Team Recommendations, acquire, enter into easements, and/or enhance properties that will deliver habitat credits to BPA within the Confluence focus area.

## **Pre-acquisition Activities**

**Task 1.1:** Determine baseline HEP values on public lands to be enhanced using Confluence area HEP report and data. These areas include the South Pasture, SUB well fields, GP parcel, Sorenson parcel, and confluence project areas.

- This task was approved for re-scheduling to the period of October 11, 2000-November 30, 2000.**

- The research and calculation of baseline HEP values for the Confluence area was to be done by the HEP/NEPA Technician position within the Program. This position was not filled until the summer of 2000 due to the budgetary and position review process the ODFW undertook agency-wide.
- Review of the HEP procedures and documented HUs for the Sorenson property occurred. The numbers were reviewed with and passed on to BPA.
- The South Pasture and Sorenson project area maps were produced identifying the current cover types and linkage between the HEP cover types. (Appendix A). This work included developing a cross-walk between cover types identified during actual HEP field sampling and the loss assessment documents.

**Task 1.2:** Arrange for the NEPA compliance surveys to be conducted on the public lands and lands to be acquired in the Confluence focus area.

- This task has been approved for re-scheduling to the period of October 11, 2000-November 30, 2000.
- Attempts were made with BPA to schedule surveys for the McKenzie River site with the intent that surveyors could visit the South Pasture site also.
- A site visit was scheduled and cultural resource surveys were conducted on the Big Island project area. Unfortunately, arrangements were not made for the survey crews to visit the South Pasture area. It was suggested that future NEPA activities, such as checklists and surveys, be completed for multiple project areas, simultaneously. This would reduce duplication. And for project areas which are proximally close travel costs would be reduced. BPA requested to continue to do work only on a site-by-site basis.
- The Supplemental Analysis of the Sorenson property still appears to be incomplete. Inquiries with BPA about the status of revisions to the report occurred periodically.

**Task 1.3:** Develop baseline HEP estimates for lands to be acquired.

- The HEP training course, sponsored by the CBFWA Wildlife Caucus, was attended at the Tualatin National Wildlife Refuge project area.
- The HEP training course and field sampling at the Logan Valley project area was attended. This provided an opportunity for Willamette Basin Mitigation staff to integrate and work with HEP staff from Washington and Oregon. Assistance with the development of habitat type maps and post-survey data analysis led to a

greater understanding of HEP methodology and application. Some of these activities were paid for by the Columbia Basin Mitigation Program.

- See report for Task 3.5 for further information about attempts to standardize baseline HEP estimation. Once the methodology for determining baseline HEP is established then estimates will be determined.

#### **Acquisition Activities**

**Task 1.4:** Develop a budget reflecting costs of acquisition and or easements for each parcel as it becomes available for purchase/easement.

- Preliminary discussions were held with the owner of a 1700 acre holding. The indications are that purchase or easement of this land is not likely in the near future.
- Discussions were held with ODFW and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department Realty staff on the transfer of the Sorenson property to OPRD and the necessary agreements to ensure long-term protection of the site. Initial determination was that one agreement for all future state park mitigation areas would be developed. However, following further meetings it was determined that a single agreement for each project area would be developed first. If it is determined that a global agreement is necessary it will be developed after individual agreements are completed.
- Discussions were held with ODFW Realty staff and ODOJ regarding the need and process for developing Conservation Easements on publicly owned land. The procedure for doing this has not been resolved entirely.
- Four alternatives were developed for acquisition or easement of the Pritchard North parcel which is adjacent to the county park, state park greenway, ODOT, and Sorenson properties. This property was first identified in 1995 as a potential acquisition but listing prices have been unreasonably high. Current estimates for acquisition or easement may be approaching real market value. The private sale of the property, which would have facilitated one of the four scenarios, fell through. This prevents a public acquisition of the property at this time. Future acquisition activities will be dependent upon the disposition of further private land actions.
- Negotiations took place regarding the Daniels property adjacent to the Sorenson property this period. The nature of these discussions led to an understanding that the Daniels are not presently interested in selling the property. Rather, a trade of a portion of the Daniels property in return for part of the Sorenson property is a preferred alternative. Emphasis is currently being placed on

**other acquisition opportunities since no additional HEP values are likely to accompany this trade**

**Task 1.5:** Develop IGC to transfer funds to accomplish 1.4.

- **This task was not applicable since now new lands in this project area were purchased.**

### **Management Plan Activities**

**Task 1.6:** Develop specific habitat management plans and budgets for each acquired parcel or for each parcel to be improved.

- **A first draft of the South Pasture habitat management plan was developed. Goals and objectives with site specific implementation activities were drafted and mapped.**
- **Multiple meetings were held with Lane County Parks to discuss the draft management plan, potential mitigation partnerships with the county road department, and irrigation cost sharing for the tree plantings.**
- **Work continued on the draft of the South Pasture habitat management plan which was sent to BPA during the previous quarter for informational purposes.**
- **A final draft of the South Pasture Management plan was developed. Refinement of this report will include compilations of aerial photographs and maps prior to the close of the current contract.**

### **Management Plan Implementation Activities**

**Task 1.7** Develop IGC to transfer funds to accomplish 1.6.

- **The development of the final draft South Pasture management plan was funded with existing contracted funds so it was unnecessary to develop a new IGC for this activity.**

**Task 1.8:** Contract with selected hydrologic engineering and construction firms for implementation of some aspects of wetland and vegetation enhancement and manipulation.

- **A final report was produced by the consulting hydrologist. Important features and physical processes were identified, labeled, and characterized within the focus area watersheds. This information will play a critical role in determining**

site potential and estimating restoration and enhancement success on specific project areas.

- Topographic survey preparatory work was conducted January 21<sup>st</sup> at the South Pasture site.
- Discussions were held with Lane County Parks and Road Department and attempts were made at securing in-kind services for the topographic surveys at the South Pasture project area. The road department conducted a reconnaissance survey to determine whether the project area met their mitigation requirements prior to committing to complete the topographic surveys. They determined that the site only had some of the elements necessary and declined to offer the topographic surveys. A cost-share aerial topographic survey was pursued with the Friends of Buford Park and county parks related to the City of Springfield survey. Initially the proposal was to use BPA funds for the entire survey. However, at a cost of \$10,000 it was determined that high quality survey equipment could be purchased and used at all current and future sites for the same cost. Thus, a re-negotiation to a lower cost and the cost-share were explored.

#### **Task 1.9 Implement habitat improvement measures.**

- Maintenance activities occurred on the Sorenson property by-way-of the Cooperative Farming agreement with a lessee. Replanting of a portion of the property occurred, by the lessee, while leaving the next designated “strip” of planting area for native tree restoration. Some removal of non-native vegetation and provision of mulch material also occurred.
- Planning and Planting of 700 native deciduous trees occurred on the Sorenson property. Youth crews, volunteers, and ODFW staff participated.
- Monitoring of the trees planted last year continued. Good survival was documented into the winter months. However, rodent girdling increased significantly during the winter with the result of some mortality to the trees. Once live trees are cataloged they will be protected by tubing and wrap methods. Monitoring of trees at the South Pasture revealed very little mortality due to rodent girdling. Significantly fewer rodent burrows were found on South Pasture in comparison to Sorenson. It is hypothesized that the annual ryegrass field of Sorenson has a much higher rodent population than the perennial fescue field of South Pasture. Additional monitoring and research will occur to resolve this difficulty.
- All new trees planted at Sorenson were protected using methods described above. In addition, raptor perches and two barn owl boxes have been placed on site to encourage increased predation on the rodents.



- **Coordination between BPA and the lessee occurred to finalize a new farming lease.**
- **As referenced above, monitoring of the trees planted at the Sorenson property continued to capture the “leaf-out” period. This monitoring revealed that there was heavy mortality in some of the planting areas caused primarily by rodent girdling of the stems. The younger trees and especially the Oregon ash plantings were particularly susceptible. An adaptive management strategy was developed which included protection of all remaining live trees planted last year and all trees planted this year using “tree wrap” to protect from rodent damage. Numbers are being generated to quantify the cost effectiveness of planting the larger trees vs. smaller trees. This was the original intent of planting multiple age classes and tree species over a range of conditions on the site. The information is being analyzed and results will be available for use on all future restoration sites to make the most cost effective and successful investment possible.**
- **The annual harvest of the remaining ryegrass field occurred by the lessee of the Sorenson property.**
- **The annual mowing of the vegetation which competes with the planted trees occurred. Additionally, the non-native vegetation along the riparian forest edge was mowed. Two invasive species in particular , Canada thistle and teasel, were also mowed as a temporary means to prevent reproduction this year. It is speculated that these species expanded their range on the site due to the mild winter last year and relatively dry spring/ summer this year. This stop-gap measure was taken in the short term while research is conducted into the appropriate herbicide to use and a licensed applicator can be contracted with.**
- **Watering of the planted trees occurred on one occasion this year with the assistance of the Oregon Department of Forestry, a youth corps, and volunteers. This was done once the trees began to exhibit stress from the warm dry weather during the summer.**

## **Objective 2**

Acquire, enter into easements, and/or enhance properties that will deliver habitat credits to BPA within the current Willamette Basin focus areas. These include the Upper Middle Fork Willamette, lower McKenzie River, Coast Fork Willamette, Mary’s River and Muddy Creek confluence, North Santiam, and South Santiam focus areas.

## **Pre-acquisition Activities**

**Task 2.1:** Arrange for the NEPA compliance surveys to be conducted on the public lands and lands to be acquired in the focus areas.

- A site visit, requested by BPA, was conducted on January 14<sup>th</sup> to the Big Island project area in preparation of completing the NEPA surveys.
- Cultural resource surveys were scheduled and completed for the Big Island site March 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>. The crew traveled from Eastern Washington State University.
- BPA staff conducted hazardous materials research for the Big Island project area.
- The latest NEPA checklist and examples were reviewed for the Big Island and South Pasture sites in a meeting with BPA March 14<sup>th</sup> in Corvallis.
- The checklist for the McKenzie River Big Island project was completed and sent to BPA.

**Task 2.2:** Develop baseline HEP estimates for lands to be acquired

- Baseline HEP estimates based on the actual data gathered during the Big Island HEP activities were compiled and sent to BPA. Negotiations between BPA and the NWPPC lead to a delay in the final acceptance of the baseline estimate for the Big Island project site. An agreement was reached in January between BPA and ODFW on the estimated baseline 170 HUs .
- Baseline HEP estimates will be formulated for the Walken, Crocker, and Mollala River State Park once the current Big Island acquisition is complete and the results from Task 2.4 are available.

**Task 2.3:** Conduct background work, coordination, and real estate transaction processes such as appraisals, comparable sales, title searches, options, easements, and management agreements and purchases of key parcels within the focus areas.

- Negotiations, title searches, options to purchase and an appraisal were conducted on the Owens and Winter Creek properties. Unfortunately, negotiations were broken off by the landowners once the appraisal processes determined land values were far less than anticipated.
- Preliminary investigation of several sites within the lower McKenzie River focus area included the review of maps, deeds and county records.
- Multiple meetings were held with SUB and MRT to review draft MOU, purchase and conservation easement agreements for the Big Island site. ODFW

reviewed and provided comments on two drafts of the MOU and purchase agreements.

- Big Island site visits were conducted to determine surveyed boundaries of final property configuration.
- Discussions were held with an appraiser in preparation of developing a contract to conduct an appraisal of Big Island.
- The Division of State Lands was contacted to determine the disposition of a state-owned waterway on the Big Island site.
- Three meetings and multiple discussions were held with SUB and MRT to review and amend draft option to purchase and conservation easement agreements for the Big Island site.
- Discussions continued with a BPA approved appraiser in preparation for the contracting of the final appraisal at the Big Island site.
- Multiple discussions were held with MRT and SUB in negotiation of the conservation easement agreement for the Big Island site.
- The conservation easement language was sent to the ODOJ for legal sufficiency review.
- The Option to Purchase document was completed and signed for the Big Island project area.
- Final maps of the property boundaries were produced following consultation with the Division of State Lands and SUB's surveying consultant.
- An estimate was provided by the potential appraiser of the Big Island project area. The contract was developed and signed for the appraisal of the property.
- Multiple discussions were held with MRT and SUB in negotiation of the conservation easement agreement for the Big Island site.
- Facilitated the final meeting between ODFW, ODOJ, MRT, SUB and attorneys regarding the Big Island conservation easement.
- The final conservation easement language was drafted and approved by all parties.

- **An appraisal was completed for the Big Island project area. The appraisal was reviewed and approved by the BPA Realty Division.**
- **Prepared and presented a presentation on the Big Island conservation easement project in a public hearing in Lane County November 14, 2000.**
- **Facilitated several meetings in preparation for the December ODFW Commission Meeting regarding the acquisition of the Big Island conservation easement.**
- **Prepared and presented presentation to the ODFW Commission on the Big Island acquisition. The Commission approved the acquisition.**
- **Initial discussions were held with two landowners, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and multiple county agencies for the Coast Fork focus area.**
- **Discussions continued with the Coast Fork landowner and Lane County agencies regarding a 265 acre site.**
- **A meeting was held with multiple Lane County agencies and representatives to develop a procedure for determining the interest in and process for joint acquisition of the 265 acre Coast Fork property. The plan entailed the county evaluating the site for potential mitigation purposes and property valuation. The preliminary valuation determined the property is likely priced somewhere in the neighborhood of real market value.**
- **Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and ODFW met with another Coast Fork landowner and conducted a site visit of the 30 acre site.**
- **Coordination with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department occurred to facilitate the negotiation and appraisal process with the landowner on the 30 acre Coast Fork property.**
- **Coordination with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department occurred to secure an appraisal of the 30 acre Coast Fork property. The potential appraiser toured the site with the landowner and developed a proposal and budget to conduct the appraisal. A draft of the contract was developed.**
- **An appraisal was completed for the Coast Fork 30 acre parcel. This project is an in-holding between two state park parcels. OPRD will take the lead in negotiating with the landowner.**

- **Negotiations between the landowner and OPRD led to the determination that an amendment or second appraisal may need to be ordered. OPRD will pay for this activity.**
- **Discussions with the Trust for Public Land occurred regarding a potential multi-agency cooperative project along the Willamette River.**
- **A meeting was held with the Trust for Public Land regarding the Muddy Creek project area and two potential future projects on March 31<sup>st</sup>.**
- **Coordination occurred with the Trust for Public Land to get an update on the current projects they are working on. The Muddy Creek project area is in the negotiation phase. Other partners are being located and work on a local bond measure continues. The Mollala State Park project area is under option to purchase and OPRD is secured as a financial cooperator. City of Canby, Clackamas County, and other likely partners are contacted on a regular basis.**
- **A meeting was held with OPRD to discuss the agreements which will be necessary once joint acquisition and enhancement projects are developed further. Updated information was shared on the Mollala and Crocker projects.**
- **Attended the ODFW Commission meeting during which the Ladd Marsh acquisition proposals were presented.**
- **A field tour to the Canby Landing project area was attended with the myriad cooperators.**
- **Discussions were held with Marion County agencies regarding two project areas.**
- **Coordination with the NWPPC, ODOJ, and BPA occurred in attempt to complete the Columbia and Willamette MOAs.**
- **The final Columbia Basin and Willamette Basin MOA documents were developed and finally signed!**
- **Participated in a joint BPA and ODFW coordination meeting regarding renewal of the Columbia Basin contract and new budgetary and contractual procedures on September 14, 2000.**
- **Coordinated and facilitated a site visit to all active project areas on November 3, 2000, and a field tour to project areas for the new BPA contract officer on November 15, 2000.**

- **Drafted response to BPA review and comment on the draft annual implementation work plan for FY 2001 and provided to Northwest Power Planning Council.**

### **Acquisition Activities**

**Task 2.4:** Develop a budget reflecting costs of acquisition and/or easements for each parcel as it becomes available for purchase/easement.

- **Projected acquisition costs were developed for two future projects to be submitted to the OWC and BPA for the FY 01 solicitation process.**
- **Estimates were gathered on the 265 acre Coast Fork property to determine acquisition costs as found above.**
- **Comparable appraisals were reviewed to estimate the acquisition costs of the 30 Coast Fork property.**
- **Projected acquisition costs were developed for the conservation easement of the McKenzie River 20 acre site.**
- **A letter was drafted outlining the current budget estimates for the acquisition and easement projects which are currently being pursued. This was sent to BPA and will be updated periodically as project costs change and estimates are refined.**

**Task 2.5** Develop IGC to transfer funds to accomplish 2.3.

- **The Willamette Basin MOA was finalized with the incorporation of the negotiated transmission line and facilities language. Coordination with ODFW, ODOJ, and BPA staff occurred and final copies of the Willamette and Columbia MOAs were sent to BPA for signature.**
- **The last quarterly report indicated that the Willamette Basin MOA was finalized and sent to BPA. Mitigation staff learned of a new legal sufficiency review started several months after the MOA completion date. A number of phone calls were made expressing concern and surprise of the new and belated process. Several discussions and conference calls were held and it was determined that a few issues did require further discussion between ODOJ, BPA, and ODFW. A letter was developed and draft MOA language was proposed with meeting arrangements to BPA. See Columbia Basin Coordination Contract quarterly report for additional information.**

- Preliminary discussions took place with BPA regarding the preferred method of transferring funds for the Big Island project area. Discussions occurred with the McKenzie River Trust regarding the timing of developing an IGC for closing the Big Island acquisition.
- The new BPA COTR indicated a preferred method of modifying the existing contract to include the Big Island acquisition rather than a new IGC. A letter was sent to BPA documenting baseline HUs and requesting a modification of the contract. BPA indicated the modification would take place during the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Management Plan Activities**

**Task 2.6** Conduct baseline HEP surveys on acquired lands.

- The Big Island HEP report was edited and maps were produced linking the HEP habitat types to the loss assessment habitat types to better assess baseline crediting.

**Task 2.7** Develop specific habitat management plans and budgets for each acquired parcel or for each parcel to be improved.

- As per the BPA/ODFW Willamette Basin Mitigation Program MOA, this task should occur within one year of acquisition of the Big Island project.

### **Management Plan Implementation Activities**

**Task 2.8** Develop IGC to transfer funds to accomplish 2.6.

- This task is not scheduled to occur until a management plan is developed.

**Task 2.9** Implement habitat improvement measures.

- Unnecessary until the management plan is developed for the Big Island project area.

### **Objective 3**

Planning and coordination. Evaluate lands available for acquisition to determine if they fit the needs of BPA.

**Task 3.1:** Use GAP analysis to make determinations of fit of potential project areas and focus areas.

- Analyzed several project areas, identified under task 2.3, to determine their fit with respect to existing protected lands, current focus areas, target habitats and species, and gap filling potential.
- Reviewed current and future projects to determine role in a Willamette Basin mitigation protection and enhancement strategy.
- Facilitated OWC conference call regarding GAP Analysis.
- Prepared maps, materials, and presentation of the BPA GAP Analysis Project at the request of BPA. Presented this information on February 16<sup>th</sup> in Portland.
- Following the recommendations of the OWC conference call and BPA GAP presentation last quarter work began to update the current database and map tracking system. Data was updated for many ODFW Willamette projects. The information of the USFWS project areas was broken out and was sent with maps to get current information which will be incorporated into the database. Inquiries occurred with OWC members to gather current information on their respective projects. As agreed upon by the parties, work conducted on the east-side projects was be billed to the ODFW Columbia basin project.

**Task 3.2:** Participate in CBFWA meetings including the WWG.

- Attended the following CBFWA meetings or conference calls:  
 Portland ODFW-10/27/99  
 Portland NWPPC-12/3/99  
 Boise-1/26/00  
 Portland-2/24/00  
 Spokane-3/17/00  
 Portland –3/30&31/00  
 Members Meeting Portland-4/12/00  
 Wildlife Committee Portland-4/26-4/27/00  
 Members Meeting Portland 5/3/00  
 Wildlife Committee Portland 5/30/00  
 Wildlife Committee Boise 6/21/00-6/23/00  
 Wildlife Committee Portland-8/10/00  
 Wildlife Committee Portland-9/27/00  
 Conference call-10/30 Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain Province project review  
 Wildlife Committee Meeting Portland-1/08/01  
 Wildlife Committee Meeting Portland-1/22-23/01

**Task 3.3:** Participate in OWC meetings and work sessions.



- **Attended the following OWC meetings or conference calls:**  
**Portland ODFW-10/26/99**  
**Portland NWPPC-11/9/99**  
**Portland ODFW-1/19/00**  
**GAP Conference Call-2/2/00**  
**Warm Springs-3/29/00**  
**Burns Paiute Reservation-4/6/00 & 4/7/00**  
**Boise 6/21/00**  
**Portland-8/28/00**  
**Portland-1/8/01**  
**Portland-1/23/01**

**Task 3.4:** Coordinate with Willamette basin governmental, private, business, and public organizations involved with mitigation and habitat improvement projects. Emphasis will be with those organizations identified as partners in previous phases of the program.

- **Participated in Annual BPA/ODFW contract coordination meeting.**
- **Presented findings of Willamette Basin MOA to Wildlife Division and management staff.**
- **Met with Lane County, Marion County, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and others regarding coordinated land acquisition and enhancement activities.**
- **Participated in several meetings regarding the Willamette Basin Restoration Initiative to coordinate restoration activities.**
- **Coordinated with ODFW Willamette Basin district and regional staff on project specific and programmatic topics in meetings, on the phone, and in-person.**
- **Coordinated with other ODFW district staff on project specific and programmatic topics.**
- **Met with ODFW BPA Mitigation Program staff to coordinate activities and policies on multiple occasions.**
- **Participated in Burlington Bottoms management planning conference call on January 20<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Met with Ducks Unlimited, USFWS, Defenders of Wildlife, Oregon Wetland Joint Venture, USFS, USCOE, and NRCS regarding coordination of Willamette Basin restoration and mitigation activities.**

- Met with Lane County, Marion County, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and others regarding coordinated land acquisition and enhancement activities.
- Attended the Northwest Management Seminar in Portland on March 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Participated in the Annual Wildlife Society-Oregon Chapter meeting February 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>.
- Met with ODFW BPA Mitigation Program staff to coordinate activities and policies during four meetings and during numerous phone calls, and discussions on a weekly to daily basis.
- Participated in the annual ODFW Wildlife Diversity Program meeting. Shared data collection, analysis, and land acquisition techniques.
- Developed schedule and procedures for more effectively communicating with BPA representatives.
- Participated in two coordination meetings with South Willamette District staff including a site visit to an ODFW property in need of restoration.
- Communicated with BPA on a bi-weekly basis.
- Participated in an ODFW coordination meetings with Fish and Wildlife Division staff in review of Columbia Gorge and Inter-Mountain Province project proposals.
- Participated in coordination meeting between the River Network and ODFW to plan for future projects in the Willamette Basin.

**Task 3.5:** Continue to develop standards for determining habitat crediting for projects in the Willamette basin. This will involve coordination and consultation with the BPA, loss assessments, and other documents.

- Tables compiled by BPA documenting Habitat Units and species at each of the hydroelectric facilities in the Willamette Basin were reviewed. It was found that there were some errors and some hydro-electric facilities were left off the tables. Corrections were made to the tables, based on the original loss assessments, and sent back to BPA. The corrected tables were also sent in to CBFWA to be included in the NWPPC Fish and Wildlife Plan Amendments.
- BPA developed a table that depicted the current ledger of habitat credits in the Columbia River Basin. Work was undertaken to review the HU numbers for Willamette Basin projects. Coordination will occur with other wildlife managers to

**determine and recommend consistent methodology of crediting between the Willamette and other projects.**

- **Work began with the Oregon Wildlife Managers to develop standards for applying HEP consistently. Several meetings and field trips occurred to focus on the application of consistent standards for determining baseline estimation and actual baseline HEP values. Future work will focus on the linking of actual HEP values to species without models, in the Willamette Basin, and to habitats lost to the development of the hydro-power system.**
- **Data was compiled from the original loss assessment documents for the wildlife species and habitat values. (Appendix B) This work is conducted as a step towards determining how crediting will be calculated for species which do not have HEP models. Additionally, all of the habitat types lost at each of the dams are organized by wildlife species to facilitate crediting of mitigation projects. Discussions were held with Oregon wildlife managers, NWPPC, and BPA staff to determine the most appropriate method of crediting for species without models.**

#### **Objective 4**

**Conduct preliminary HEP analysis on lands ranked as available in the BPA GAP Analysis database and other potential mitigation sites within the focus areas.**

**Task 4.1:** Develop contract and coordinate with the ONHP to complete the few un-mapped areas of the valley.

- **Available data was acquired and maps were produced. Analysis of historic conditions for current and future project areas was conducted.**
- **A letter of support was written for a project proposing to finalize the mapping of the Lower Columbia River in Oregon.**
- **Completion of the contract occurred, however, there were some technical aspects about the extent of the data that needed resolution That work occurred and now a final product of the pre-settlement vegetation map is available.**

**Task 4.2:** Develop contract to finish the current vegetation mapping in the northern Willamette Valley.

- **Information was assembled on the current vegetation mapping efforts in the Willamette Basin. Quality and extent of the information was determined. Maps were produced using the best data and these will be used in project planning and implementation of enhancements.**

- **Partnerships were developed with the agencies and entities that previously worked on Willamette basin vegetation maps. A “gathering of the experts” occurred at a meeting last spring to develop consensus opinions of which vegetation datasets could be used for different analyses and how to complete the current vegetation for the valley.**
- **A map was compiled using the “expert team” discussed above. This map is a composite of the best and most accurate data sets currently available for the Willamette Basin. Additional work may be conducted to refine the map to link the habitats lost through hydro-power development and existing conditions.**

**Task 4.3:** Determine changes to habitats on mitigation project and focus areas using products from task 4.1 and 4.2.

- **This task is on-going. Results will be reported in future quarterly reports.**

## **Objective 5**

Prepare on-going progress reports and a final report with the findings of the project.

**Task 5.1:** Prepare and submit quarterly reports to BPA.

- **Completed five quarterly reports of the contract period.**

**Task 5.2:** Produce annual report for 1999 and 2000.

- **Completed annual report.**

## **Willamette Basin Mitigation Program**

### **Third Quarterly Report**

The change from a completed MOA waiting for signature to a new legal review and additional negotiation caused a significant disruption in the work schedule and direction

this period. This will also impact activities scheduled next quarter. Current work on acquisition activities is also put at risk from this change in direction.

## **Willamette Basin Mitigation Program**

### **Fourth Quarterly Report**

#### **Limiting Factors During Reporting Period**

The ODFW-BPA Willamette Basin Mitigation Program MOA still has not been signed. This MOA is the context, within which, Intergovernmental Contracts will be completed for the land acquisition and enhancement projects prepared under the terms of the existing contract. The completion of the MOA is necessary prior to the development of the IGCs for land acquisition and other activities.

There was no response from BPA, to the State, on the substance of the State's final comments on the MOA, during the duration of this quarter until it's final week. Due to the excessive amount of time spent on this MOA and other legal agreements, pertaining to land acquisition, it has not been possible to begin and complete some tasks, to date, as scheduled in this contract.

## **Willamette Basin Mitigation Program**

### **Fifth Quarterly Report September 1, 2000-November 30, 2000**

#### **Summary Activities of this Reporting Period**

This quarter's activities primarily consisted of real estate activities, including two appraisals, a public hearing, completion of a conservation easement document, and numerous meetings. The MOA between BPA and ODFW for the Willamette Basin Mitigation Program was also completed and signed during this period

