

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: August 31, 2004

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-41)

TO: Dorothy Welch  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEW

**Proposed Action:** Willamette Basin Mitigation – Green Island Conservation Easement Acquisition

**Project No:** 1992-068-00

**Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):** 1.2 - Conservation Easement Acquisition.

**Location:** 2 miles west of Coburg, Lane County, OR (at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers).

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and McKenzie River Trust (MRT).

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund a portion of a conservation easement acquisition by MRT. The purpose of the easement is to protect the property's conservation values, including anadromous fish and their habitat, riparian and upland habitats that affect instream habitat, resident fish and wildlife and their habitats, and water quality. The easement consists of 860 acres of primarily lowland and riparian habitat at the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette rivers. BPA is required by law to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River and its tributaries.

The current proposal includes only the acquisition of the conservation easement. If BPA funds further habitat enhancement activities on the property, additional environmental review, including National Environmental Policy Act analysis, may be required.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by George Grier of MRT, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The acquisition of the conservation easement will have no effect on species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Prior to the implementation of any BPA-funded restoration or enhancement activities on the property, ESA Section 7 Consultation may be required.

The Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted, and by response dated January 29, 2003, indicated that no previous cultural surveys had been conducted on the property. The conservation easement acquisition would have no effect on historic properties potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Prior to the implementation of any BPA-funded restoration or enhancement activities on the property, consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act may be required.

Omnicon Environmental Management completed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the property in February 2003. A number of items related to agricultural use of the property were noted in the assessment. In a follow-up inspection in June 2003, Omnicon reported that a number of the items had been removed, and that soil testing on the site provided no evidence of contaminants.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the proposed conservation easement acquisition. This project has been highlighted in MRT's newsletter mailings and several articles in local and regional publications (Eugene Register Guard, Springfield News, Oregonian). The project has also been a focus article of newsletters of the McKenzie Watershed Council and the Wetlands Joint Venture. Over 20 tours of the site have been conducted for students, local organizations (Audubon, Native Plant Society), elected officials, commissions, agency staff, and other interested citizens. A schedule of tours is ongoing. The project is also featured on MRT's website at [www.mckenzie-river.org](http://www.mckenzie-river.org). The single private landowner adjacent to the property has been engaged in ongoing discussions of the project with BPA and MRT, and has indicated no opposition to the proposal.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wildlife Mitigation Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Wildlife Mitigation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Richard Yarde 8-31-04

Richard Yarde  
Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 8-31-04

**Attachments:**

Environmental Checklist  
Letter from Oregon SHPO  
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and Follow-up Letter

cc: (w/ attachments)

Mr. George Grier, McKenzie River Trust, 359 Mill Street, Suite B, Eugene, Oregon 97401