



Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

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March 2, 2011



William C. Maslen
Director, Fish and Wildlife Program
KEW-4
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

Dear Mr. Maslen:

It gives me great pleasure to recommend the following five projects for FY 2011 funding under the Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). All five projects are also within Conservation Opportunity Areas (COA) as identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS). The projects are listed in order of priority for FY 2011 funding.

The recommended projects are summarized below:

1) Blue Ruin Island (48-acre fee title acquisition)

Blue Ruin Island is a Willamette River floodplain island located at RM 166 in Lane County. This project is sponsored by the McKenzie River Trust. The estimated total cost of this project is \$120,000 with the BPA contribution being the full amount. The cost per acre is \$2,500. The three parcels under consideration total 48 acres, and abut extensive ownership of OPRD lands.

The properties are not farmed and would allow off channel habitat protection and enhancement. There is a unique large slough and alcove area at the north end (downstream end) of Blue Ruin Island and a cold water slough along the west shore that is relatively large in size and 20 feet deep. Fish monitoring has shown that this slough is used by trout in the summer when main-stem water temperatures approach lethal. There are a scattering of cold sloughs in the reach from Peoria to the McKenzie confluence, but very few have the size and depth like the one at Blue Ruin Island. The post-acquisition conservation focus will be on invasive plant removal and some planting of native riparian species.

The project is located in the Willamette River Floodplain COA (WV-03) as identified in the OCS. This property provides priority riparian, floodplain, off-channel cold water functions, and flood refugia habitat for ESA-listed Chinook salmon and many other aquatic and terrestrial species identified in the OCS.

2) Harkens Lake: Horning-Adams Properties (300-acre conservation easement acquisition and a 47-acre fee title acquisition)

Harkens Lake is a large Willamette River flood plain river bend that lies between River Mile (RM) 153.5 and 154.5 in Benton County. This project is sponsored by the Greenbelt Land Trust. The estimated total cost of this project is \$1.74 million (M) with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) contribution being \$520,500. The estimated cost per acre is \$1,500. The landowners are a local farming family that wishes to sell in fee the forested portion adjacent to the river (47 acres) to Benton County to be managed consistent to its adjoining county park parcel. The remainder of the property is proposed to be entered into a conservation easement.



The primary conservation opportunities at Harkens Lake are to conserve and restore riparian forests on private lands, and restore floodplain forest function and connectivity on adjoining conservation parcels. Restoring hydrologic function may include reconnecting floodplain depressions and the oxbow (Harkens Lake) to the main river channel by breaching the barriers created by road embankments and revetments. These actions would allow more floodwater to be stored and gradually released during a flood, reducing the severity of downstream flooding. This increased exposure to regular flooding at Harkens Lake would help address impaired flood disturbance regimes and benefit habitat restoration of the priority native floodplain habitats.

The project is located in the Willamette River Floodplain COA (WV-03) as identified in the OCS. This property provides priority riparian floodplain function and flood refugia habitats for ESA-listed Chinook salmon and many other aquatic and terrestrial species identified in the OCS.

3) Horseshoe Lake: Waggle-Stellmacher Properties (204-acre conservation easement acquisition)

Horseshoe Lake is an oxbow slough-lake located along the Willamette River at approximately RM 125 in Benton County. The project includes approximately 204 acres. This project is sponsored by the Greenbelt Land Trust. The total estimated cost of this project is \$840,000 with the BPA contribution being \$252,000. The estimated cost per acre is \$1,235. Currently the landowners farm the inside of the horseshoe (approximately 100 acres). The access is via bridge and is difficult to farm because of the relatively frequent inundation. The landowners would like to maintain ownership of the property and allow restoration to occur on the interior of the horseshoe. A conservation easement would encompass approximately 204 acres. The project is located in the Willamette River Floodplain COA (WV-03) as identified in the OCS. This property provides priority riparian floodplain function and flood refugia habitats for ESA-listed Chinook salmon and many other aquatic and terrestrial species identified in the OCS.

4) Meisen Property - South Eugene Hills (193-acre Oak Savanna and Mixed Oak Woodland Upland Habitat)

This 193 acre property is located in the South Eugene (Coburg) Hills in Lane County. The total estimated cost of this project is \$2.7 million dollars with the BPA contribution being \$1,075,000. The estimated cost per acre is \$5,570. The project sponsors are The Nature Conservancy and the City of Eugene. The property supports ongoing regional efforts in watershed protection, wildlife habitat protection, open space preservation, and recreation to conserve portions of the largest remaining undeveloped oak woodland and oak savanna habitat in the Willamette Valley.

The City of Eugene will acquire fee simple ownership of property that will conserve rare native plant communities and populations (including the federally listed Kincaid's lupine), protect headwater streams, and provide key recreational and habitat connections between Eugene's 1,400-acre Ridgeline Park System and the 3,000 acre nationally acclaimed West Eugene Wetlands. The property is anticipated to become an integral part of the Ridgeline Park System.

The project is located in the West Eugene COA (WV-23) as identified in the OCS. In addition to providing intact priority Oak woodlands and native prairie habitats, this parcel may be suitable for future habitat restoration for Fender's blue butterfly and Kincaid's lupine. Existing habitat structure provides function for many other priority species and habitats identified in the OCS.

5) Ash Island (137-acre fee title acquisition)

Ash Island is a Willamette River mainstem island located between RM 51 and RM 52 in Yamhill County. This project is sponsored by the Western Rivers Conservancy. The total estimated cost of this project is \$2 M with

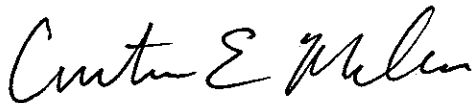
the BPA contribution being \$500,000. The cost per acre is \$3,649. The island is approximately 137 acres in size and is currently farmed. Most of Ash Island is covered in sandy fields and the southern end is forested. The elevation of the island ranges from around 50 feet at shoreline to the island's highest point, a "peak" around 80 feet. There is a wooden pile wing wall located at the south end of the channel on the left side of the island. The island is accessible by boat year-round from any nearby Willamette River landing. Acquisition of the property would provide opportunities to benefit both fish and wildlife resources.

Restoration of riparian forest can provide significant nesting and roosting benefits. The proposal is to acquire the island in full fee acquisition and revegetate the lower portion with Oregon ash and other site appropriate tree and shrub species. The OPRD would hold title and manage the property for boat in camping and other passive uses.

The project is located in the Willamette River Floodplain COA (WV-03) as identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS). This property provides priority riparian, floodplain function, and flood refugia habitat for ESA-listed Chinook salmon, ESA-listed steelhead, and many other aquatic and terrestrial species identified in the OCS

I hope that you are as pleased as we are at the quality, diversity, and cost effectiveness of these proposed FY 2011 funding recommendations under the MOA. We look forward to recommending similar opportunities in the future. Please do not hesitate to contact myself or Art Martin, Conservation Program Manager, to discuss these projects further.

Sincerely,



Curtis E. Melcher, Deputy Director
Fish and Wildlife Programs

c: Phillip Key, BPA
Dorie Welch, BPA
Art Martin, ODFW
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