

Gilliam County Riparian Buffers

Annual Report
2002 - 2003



This Document should be cited as follows:

Coiner, Josh, "Gilliam County Riparian Buffers", 2002-2003 Annual Report, Project No. 200203500, 5 electronic pages, (BPA Report DOE/BP-00009483-1)

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This report was funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Department of Energy, as part of BPA's program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River and its tributaries. The views in this report are the author's and do not necessarily represent the views of BPA.

**Gilliam County Riparian Buffers
Intergovernmental Contract No. 9483
Project No. 2002-035-00
Annual Report**

Number of Contacts Made in Contract Year: May 1, 2002 – April 30, 2003

The technician began work on July 29th. From that date the technician has contacted 43 landowners in Gilliam County. Of the 43 contacts 27 of them requested a second meeting. Eighteen of the 27 were visited on-site to discuss the possibilities of enrolling in an USDA riparian program.

Number of Contracts Negotiated in Contract Year:

The number of contracts negotiated in the contract year totaled 6. The information regarding these contracts follows, listed by stream. Miles are calculated on actual stream miles. If project is both sides of the stream, an asterisk will be placed next to the mileage figure.

East Fork of 30-Mile Creek: Projects are all contiguous

Project 1

Total Stream Miles: 1.1 miles*

Acreage: 12.4 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

Project 2

Total Stream Miles: .89 miles*

Acreage: 11.9 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

Project 3 (This project includes a small reach of Lost Valley Creek)

Total Stream Miles: 4.5 miles*

Acreage: 60 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

Rock Creek: Projects 2 and 3 are contiguous (Same Landowner)

Project 1

Total Stream Miles: 2.6 miles*

Acreage: 34.7 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

Project 2

Total Stream Miles: .31 miles

Acreage: 6.3 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: .17 cfs

Project 3

Total Stream Miles: .61 miles*

Acreage: 5.8 acres

Estimated Volume of Water Restored: N/A

List of Endangered Species by Project

East Fork 30-Mile

Project 1- Only species listed is Steelhead-Mid Columbia River Summer Run. Project will have a long-term positive effect on this species.

Project 2- Only species listed is Steelhead-Mid Columbia River Summer Run. Project will have a long-term positive effect on this species.

Project 3- Only species listed is Steelhead-Mid Columbia River Summer Run. Project will have a long-term positive effect on this species.

Rock Creek

Project 1- Steelhead-Mid Columbia River Summer Run and Washington Ground Squirrel. Project will have a long-term positive effect on the fish species. Project likely would have no effect on the terrestrial species that is listed for this project.

Project 2 and 3- Steelhead-Mid Columbia River Summer Run and Washington Ground Squirrel. Project will have a long-term positive effect on the fish species. Project likely would have no effect on the terrestrial species that is listed for this project.

Problems Encountered During Contract Year

There are only two problems that have been encountered during the contract year. The first problem has to do with eligibility. To be eligible for CREP you must own land adjacent to stream that has been delineated an anadromous fish stream. The problem is there are areas in Gilliam County that are designated anadromous fish streams that probably don't deserve that delineation and then there are streams that are not listed that probably do deserve that delineation. This has affected a few proposed projects.

For instance, there is a project area on a stream that is delineated on the eligibility map, but the particular reach we are working with does not show up on the map. ODFW then receives an eligibility sheet from FSA or the SWCD technician. On this particular area it says steelhead distribution is downstream .5 miles. FSA won't consider this area eligible for CREP, thus the landowner must enroll in CCRP, which doesn't quite have the incentives as CREP.

We are working to improve the maps. A meeting has been scheduled to discuss some particular areas and possibly re-draw the eligibility map.

The other problem has to do with the amount of cost share for off-stream watering facilities. Many landowners who wish to install spring developments and other off-stream watering facilities run into a problem with cost-share limits within the CREP guidelines. When a landowner wants to enroll all of his/her stream and exclude livestock from the creek entirely they are having to pay some out of pocket expenses to get enough water to sufficiently support their livestock without using the creek. There has been one landowner who decided not to enroll because of this technicality.

The problems encountered are problems that occur within the parameters of the program. These problems may or may not be changed. Otherwise, interest in the programs has been excellent and will only get better. The number of contracts that were estimated to be negotiated in the three-year term may be a bit excessive. In counties such as Gilliam, most tracts of land are large parcels. If multiple project areas occur in the same tract then you have one contract per tract. This reduces your total number in a lot of cases.

In year 1 there were 6 contracts negotiated and approved in the CREP program. Prior to the contract there were a total of 9. The program started in 1998. The numbers will only increase in year 2.

Outlook for Contract Year 2

Year two should be a drastic improvement over year one. There has already been several projects proposed that may or may not be approved during year 2. There are 367.4 acres of land that has been proposed in either CREP or CCRP, which would include 30.94 miles of stream buffered on both sides.

Summary of Accomplishments

Total number of landowners contacted: 43

Total number of interested landowners with pending plans: 27

Contracts Negotiated in Contract Year: 6

Acreage Enrolled in Contract Year: 131.1 acres

Stream Miles enrolled in Contract Year: 10.01 miles

Estimated Volume of Water Restored in Contract Year: .17 cfs

Attended Session I of NRCS Planning Course

Attended Endangered Species Act Training

Created a PowerPoint Presentation with the Morrow Buffer Specialist

Purchased needed field and office equipment/supplies

Attended monthly SWCD meetings

Provided Technical Assistance to 13 landowners without a program contract