

Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Project

Annual Report
2002



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Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation

Annual Report

January 2002 – December 2002

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Table of Contents

Table of Contents	i
List of Tables	ii
List of Figures	ii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
BACKGROUND.....	2
LAND ACQUISITION	5
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	5
Kalispel Tribe	5
Coeur d’Alene Tribe	7
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	7
LAND MANAGEMENT	8
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	8
<i>Boundary Creek WMA</i>	8
Water Level Management	8
Native Tree and Shrub Re-establishment.....	8
Weed Control	8
Development of Public Use Facilities	8
Public Information and Education	9
<i>Pend Oreille WMA</i>	9
Water Management.....	9
Vegetation Management	10
Weed Control	10
Public Use Facilities	10
Kalispel Tribe	10
Coeur d’Alene Tribe	11
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	11
MONITORING AND EVALUATION.....	13
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	13
<i>Boundary Creek WMA</i>	13
Wildlife	13
Vegetation	13
Wetland Macrophytes	14
<i>Pend Oreille WMA</i>	14
Wildlife	14
Vegetation	16
Kalispel Tribe	16
Coeur d’Alene Tribe	16
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	17
PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION	18
Idaho Department of Fish and Game	18
Kalispel Tribe	18
Coeur d’Alene Tribe	18
Kootenai Tribe of Idaho	18
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	19

FUTURE ACTIVITIES.....20

List of Tables

Table 1. Total Work Group Acquisitions.4

List of Figures

Figure 1. Albeni Falls Work Group land acquisitions.....3
Figure 2. Carey Creek.....6
Figure 3. Beaver and Gamlin.....6
Figure 4. Maps and aerial photography of recently protected and managed lands under the
Albeni Falls Project by the Kalispel Tribe.....7
Figure 5. Boundary Creek WMA (looking north)9

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Albeni Falls Interagency Work Group continued to actively engage in implementing wildlife mitigation actions in 2002. Regular Work Group meetings were held to discuss budget concerns affecting the Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Program, to present potential acquisition projects, and to discuss and evaluate other issues affecting the Work Group and Project. Work Group members protected 1,386.29 acres of wildlife habitat in 2002. To date, the Albeni Falls project has protected approximately 5,914.31 acres of wildlife habitat. About 21% of the total wildlife habitat lost has been mitigated.

Administrative activities have increased as more properties are purchased and continue to center on restoration, operation and maintenance, and monitoring. In 2001, Work Group members focused on development of a monitoring and evaluation program as well as completion of site-specific management plans. This year the Work Group began implementation of the monitoring and evaluation program performing population and plant surveys, data evaluation and storage, and map development as well as developing management plans.

Assuming that the current BPA budget restrictions will be lifted in the near future, the Work Group expects to increase mitigation properties this coming year with several potential projects.

BACKGROUND

Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) formed the Albeni Falls Interagency Work Group (Work Group) in 1985 to evaluate and mitigate wildlife impacts associated with the construction and inundation of the Albeni Falls Dam hydroelectric project. The Work Group formally adopted a set of Operating Guidelines in 1998, to establish a local decision-making process and to address mitigation implementation issues. Work Group members include IDFG, the Kalispel Tribe (KT), the Coeur d'Alene Tribe (CDAT), the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Other non-profit organizations such as the Inland Northwest Land Trust (INLT), Ducks Unlimited (DU), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have attended meetings and share information, but are not voting members. The Work Group maintains an active program and has evolved to keep pace with the changes occurring in the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program (Program).

Wildlife mitigation activities associated with Albeni Falls Dam began in earnest in 1995-1996. At that time, Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funding was primarily directed toward IDFG and the KT. Since then, the program has matured and all members of the Work Group have been supported by BPA (Figure 1). Projects thus far have provided protection for approximately 5,986.95 acres of wildlife habitat and approximately 15% (approximately 4,329.29 Habitat Units (HUs)) of the total wildlife habitat lost has been mitigated (Table 1).

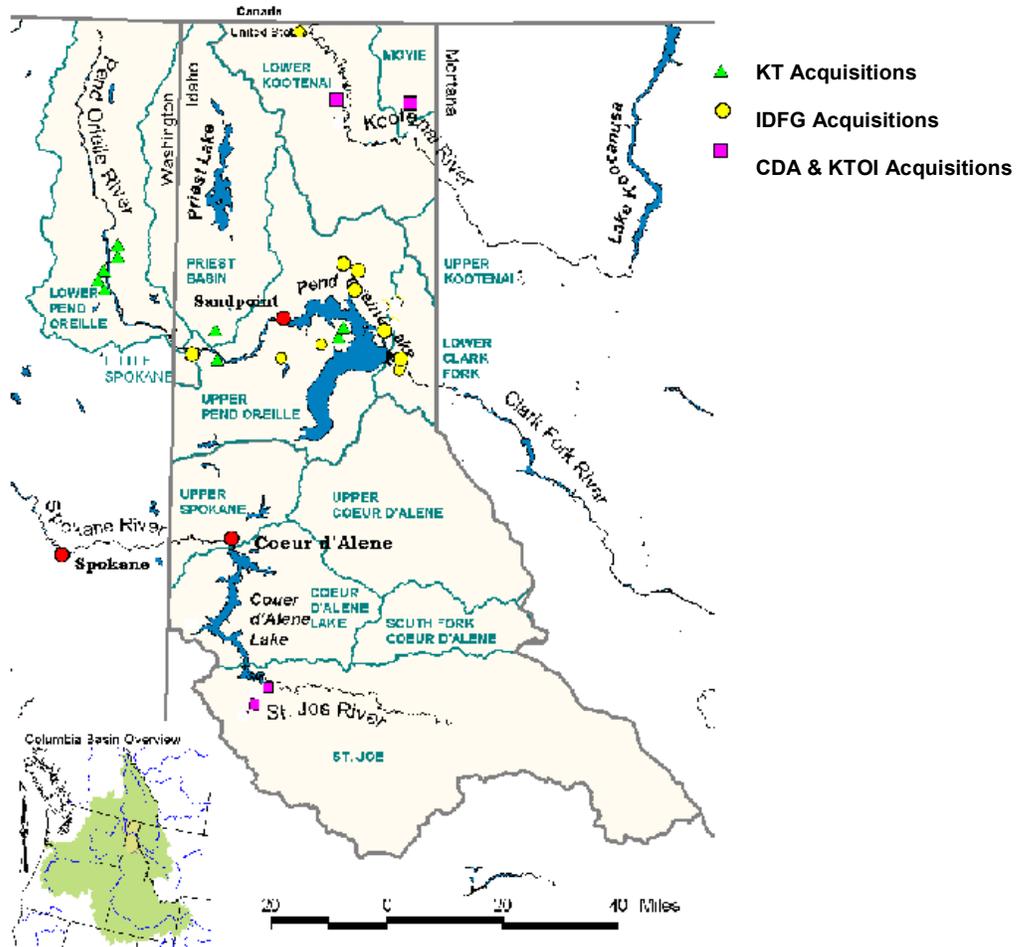


Figure 1. Albeni Falls Work Group land acquisitions

Table 1. Total Work Group Acquisitions.

NAME	LOCATION	YEAR	MEMBER	ACRES	HEP	HUs
Flying Goose I	Usk	1992	KT	436.00	Yes	526.80
Flying Goose II	Usk	1997	KT	164.00	Yes	225.00
Derr Creek	Clark Fork	1997	IDFG	240.00	Yes	373.27
Carter's Island	Clark Fork Delta	1997	IDFG	95.90	Yes	311.82
Denton Slough	Hope	1997	IDFG	16.76	Yes	41.44
Rapid Lightning	Lower Pack River	1998	IDFG	109.95	Yes	187.02
Boundary Creek	Boundary Creek	1999	IDFG	1,405.00	Yes	295.00 ⁺
Trout Creek	Lower Pack River	1999	IDFG	216.00	Yes	315.00
McMahon	Lower Pack River	1999	IDFG	30.00	Yes	84.30
Cocolalla Lake	Cocolalla	1999	IDFG	98.00	Yes	84.90
Albeni Cove	Old Town	1999	IDFG	70.00	Yes	60.08
Westmond Lake	Westmond	1999	IDFG	65.00	Yes	86.85
Nacarotto	Priest River	2000	KT	63.00	No	94.50*
Sivert (Tacoma)	Cusick	2000	KT	437.00	Yes	358.34
Doramus (U-Trimble)	Cusick	2000	KT	303.00	Yes	183.16
Scheibel (L-Trimble)	Cusick	2001	KT	440.00	Yes	528.00
Johnson	St. Maries	2001	CDAT	411.05	Yes	176.93
Goose Haven Lake	St. Maries	2002	CDAT	647.65	Yes	266.88
Carey Creek	Priest River	2002	KT	117.00	Yes**	
Beaver Lake	Bottle Bay	2002	KT	255.00	No	
Gamlin Lake	Bottle Bay	2002	KT	156.00	No	
Perkins Lake	Moyie Springs	2002	KTOI	98.64	Yes**	70.00*
Trout Creek Peninsula	Kootenai River Flood Plain	2002	KTOI	112.00	Yes**	60.00*
TOTAL				5,986.95		4,329.29

+BPA provided 29.8% of the funding; therefore received 29.8% of the HU credits

*Estimate

**HEP report not received as of Annual Report date

LAND ACQUISITION

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

IDFG is currently working to acquire (fee-title) the 1,400-acre O'Brien property on Hoodoo Creek (3 ½ mile section) just west of Kelso Lake. The property contains natural wetlands and converted wetlands. Every spring sheet flooding attracts thousands of waterfowl as well as other avian species to this site. Open water is present year-round in the creek channel, several large beaver impoundments, and one substantial lake. Three additional projects are being reviewed, a 40-acre natural wetland that is adjacent to our McArthur Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA), another 40-acre property on the Pack River and close to one of our previous mitigation properties, and a 25-acre parcel that may be an addition to our Trout Creek property.

The Murphy Slough project (~80 acres of forested wetland adjacent to the Pend Oreille River) has been put on hold because the primary owner is uncertain how he would like to proceed. The Westmond Lake easement that would approximately double the acres of wetland habitat around the Westmond Lake acquisition (1999) has also been put on hold due to concerns from some of the landowners that surround the lake and better mitigation options coming available.

Kalispel Tribe

In 2002, the Tribe completed acquisition of Gamlin Lake (156 acres), Beaver Lake (295 acres), and Carey Creek (117 acre) properties bringing lands managed by the Tribe, under the Albeni Falls Project, to 1,780 acres. Unlike the previous converted wetlands purchases, these three properties contain relatively intact wetlands that will require minimal enhancements. With the exception of restoring the natural hydrology of one channelized stream on the Carey Creek property, management activities proposed for these properties will consist of weed and access control. Total funds expended by the Tribe for acquisitions were approximately \$1,542,000.

The Tribe also submitted three additional proposals for projects in the Lake Pend Oreille drainage. All three projects include a combination of wetland and converted wetland requiring varying amounts of enhancement effort. The proposals for fee-title acquisition of two in-holdings are in the Tacoma Creek/Trimble Creek management area. The 135-acre Testol and 60-acre Carstens properties will bring tribal holdings in this area to nearly 1,400 acres. Combined with USFWS and Pend Oreille PUD holdings approximately 2,000 contiguous floodplain acres will be protected under similar management strategies in the Tacoma/Trimble drainage.

In addition to these two properties, the 625-acre Twigg property was also proposed for fee-title acquisition. This property, also in the Cusick Valley floodplain, is approximately 3 miles south of the Tacoma/Trimble complex. Calispel Creek bisects the property and there is tremendous wetland habitat potential on this converted property.

The final proposal is for a conservation easement on the 99-acre Ross property in the Cocolala Slough area. This easement will only be partially implemented under the

Program with the balance protected by the Inland Northwest Land Trust. We will enter into a management agreement with the Land Trust in order to provide O&M for the project.

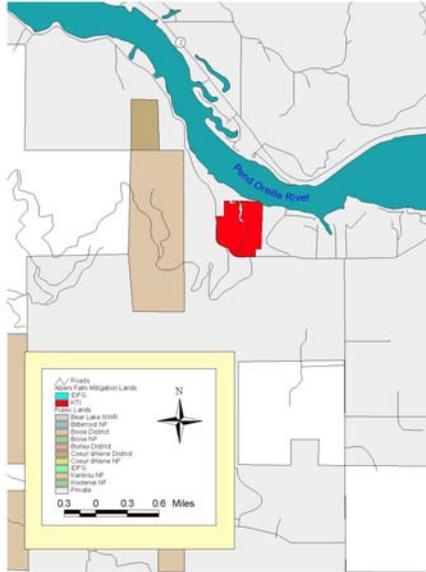


Figure 2. Carey Creek

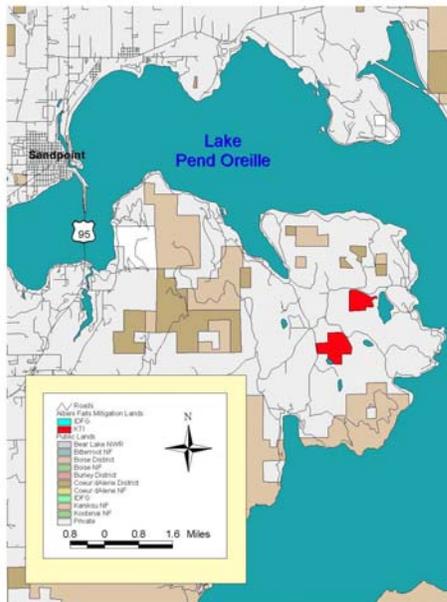


Figure 3. Beaver and Gamlin

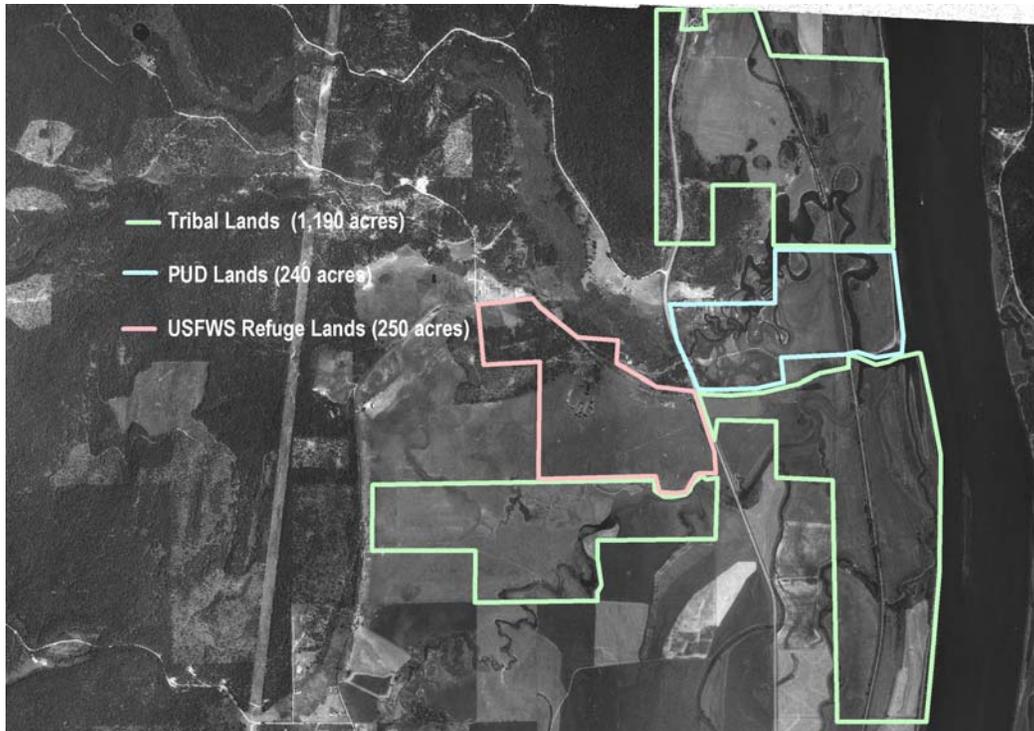


Figure 4. Maps and aerial photography of recently protected and managed lands under the Albeni Falls Project by the Kalispel Tribe.

Coeur d’Alene Tribe

The CDAT is currently approved by a landowner to pursue and develop a Purchase and Sale Agreement for over 1,600 acres of coniferous riparian, and coniferous wetland watershed habitat adjacent to the Johnson property. The CDA Tribe will move forward with Work Group submission of the lands for subsequent approval when land acquisition funding is secured for fiscal year 2002.

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Early in 2002, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho acquired two properties in Boundary County, Idaho. The Trout Creek Peninsula parcel encompasses 112 acres of floodplain/riparian habitats along the Lower Kootenai River. Management activities will include pocket wetland and riparian re-establishment through the restoration of hydrologic functions and wildlife habitats. The Perkins Lake property, acquired from The Nature Conservancy, encompasses 98 acres in the Curley Creek drainage near Moyie Springs, Idaho. Curley Creek has been identified by numerous groups (TNC, IDFG – CDC, etc.) as an important wetland complex with existing populations of endemic, threatened, endangered and sensitive wetland plant communities. This parcel will require some habitat restoration due to a history of grazing within the wetland meadow zone.

Approximately 2,800 acres of wetland and riparian associated lands were considered as potential project areas in 2001 and 2002. However, in order to address the concerns of the surrounding community, continue to develop long-term relationships, and

cooperatively work on a Wetland/Riparian Conservation Strategy with local groups, several properties were tabled in an effort to respond to local community concerns.

LAND MANAGEMENT

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Boundary Creek WMA

Water Level Management

Winter storage of on-site run-off resulted in approximately 250 surface acres in the six-basin wetland complex by March 7, 2002. Beginning on March 15, local run-off was supplemented using a Boundary Creek water right. Wetland basins were filled to maximum design elevations for the first time by mid-June, flooding more than 535 wetland surface acres. High water levels were maintained until August 1, when Boundary Creek flow fell to the planned minimum for diversion (i.e., 50 cfs). Wetland complex water levels naturally receded through late summer and fall until there were approximately 306 surface acres in the wetland complex on December 1, 2002. This natural late summer/fall water level recession concentrated floating plant food items, and invertebrates at the soil/water interface and exposed shoreline mudflats, attracting shorebirds, ducks, and great blue herons.

Native Tree and Shrub Re-establishment

In an ongoing effort to re-establish native trees and shrubs on the Kootenai River floodplain, dormant tree/shrub plantings were conducted in April and November 2002. The April planting included 350, one-gallon containerized plants of western snowberry, woods rose, aspen, chokecherry, and Bebb's willow, as well as 300, 10 cubic inch plants of black cottonwood, and red-osier dogwood. Browse protectors (48" tall X 12" diam. tubes made of 2" X 4" utility wire), and weed control mats were placed on plants.

The fall planting included 800, one-gallon containerized plants of black cottonwood, red-osier dogwood, western snowberry, Bebb's willow, aspen, woods rose, chokecherry, and serviceberry. Browse protectors and weed control mats were placed on plants.

Weed Control

Large infestations of Canada thistle were treated with 2,4-D during late May and June 2002. A new 30-foot boom sprayer with 300-gallon tank was effectively used to kill Canada thistle, and release associated grasses. By June, weeds were difficult to see in robust grass stands at treated sites. More than 200 acres were treated in scattered patches.

Development of Public Use Facilities

Public use facilities developed this year included a public toilet, parking area, and picnic site. Local volunteers, and the IDFG Challenge Grant program contributed much of the cost and labor.

Public Information and Education

Informational presentations regarding the BCWMA were provided to the Native Plant Society, Boundary Soil Conservation District Committee, sportsman's groups, Idaho Partners In Flight, and during a public dedication of the area. A new Boundary Creek WMA sign was unveiled during the dedication ceremony.



Figure 5. Boundary Creek WMA spring 2002 (looking north)

Pend Oreille WMA

Water Management

On the Derr Creek parcel of the Pend Oreille WMA, the existing water control structure was modified by the addition of a flap gate. This modification will provide better capture of springtime high water flows from the Clark Fork River and will reduce water control labor costs.

A new gate and culvert were installed at the irrigation diversion structure on the Trout Creek property allowing for more precise water management and the ability to cut off irrigation related flows out of Trout Creek completely. The old structure had washed

out prior to obtaining the property and the diversion was a largely unregulated (several large rocks were repositioned to alter flows) open ditch prior to this upgrade.

Multiple ditch plugs were installed along the old drainage ditch on the Cocolalla property. This restoration effort will prolong the hydro-period of the wetland and moves toward a more natural, pre-agriculture, hydrology for the site. Insufficient open water habitat was identified as a limiting factor during baseline HEP analysis; therefore, five small shallow ponds were excavated that should improve the juxtaposition of wildlife resources at Cocolalla.

Plans are underway for the restoration of the wetlands at the Albeni Cove parcel. IDFG has contracted with Ducks Unlimited to complete a one-foot contour survey of the property and, based on those results, worked collaboratively to design the restoration project. The preliminary engineering has been completed and we anticipate construction will occur next summer.

Vegetation Management

A grass-forb dense nesting cover mixture was used to seed several acres of soils that were disturbed in conjunction with either wetland restoration projects or facilities maintenance. Prescribed fire was used to maintain 6 acres of goose pasture at the Derr Creek property.

Weed Control

Noxious weed management to control primarily knapweed, tansey, orange hawkweed, and Canada thistle were contracted. Approximately 130 hours of effort was expended on weed management and 150 acres were treated. Weed control efforts are significantly reducing noxious weed populations on the Pend Oreille WMA properties and we have been able to decrease the total number of hours of effort expended on weed control.

Public Use Facilities

A new public parking area, boundary fencing to exclude ATV use, and a 400-foot access road were constructed at the Cocolalla property. The access road will allow more active management of the property and facilitated the construction of the new shallow-water ponds.

The abandoned dairy barn at the Derr Creek property was found to be both unsafe and too expensive to renovate; therefore, this public hazard was removed and the site seeded to dense nesting cover.

Kalispel Tribe

Perimeter fences were built and/or maintained throughout the Tacoma/Trimble complex to exclude cattle from the neighboring pastures. Access gates and walk-through gates were installed to restrict vehicular travel from all properties. Final clean up was completed on the Carey Creek property: the house and outbuildings were removed, as well as, all interior fencing and the cattle corral.

Active enhancement measures began on the Tacoma and Upper Trimble properties. All wetlands on the Tacoma property had been ditched to drain to the Pend

Oreille River in order to create more pasture acres by the previous owners. We began restoring the wetland water retention by plugging all of the interconnected ditching. The former use as pasturelands had also left the cottonwood/aspen stands decadent and transitioning to coniferous stands. In order to promote deciduous regeneration, small conifers were removed from the stands and larger ones were girdled to create snags.

Trimble Creek/Slough bisects the Upper Trimble property. The southern third of the property was inaccessible due to a failed culvert crossing, which was replaced to facilitate enhancement measures for the entire property. Cattle grazing and haying operations had left this property virtually void of all vegetation other than forbs. Therefore, we began planting the riparian area with a mixture of shrub and deciduous potted stock. Upper Trimble was also drained with a series of lateral ditches. These ditches will also be plugged and in some cases enhanced, where soil types, vegetation and aerial photographs indicate previous wetlands. All properties received either an initial weed control application or an additional application on reoccurring sites.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

The CDAT acquired two fee-title acquisitions that were approved by the Work Group. The first parcel encompasses 405 acres of floodplain along the St. Joe River. It is currently used as agricultural land and will require restoration of hydrologic functions and wildlife habitats. An additional 233 acres of upland ponderosa pine habitat is included in the parcel. To date, interim operation and maintenance activities have accomplished the removal of over 3 tons of scrap metal, 10,000 linear feet of interior barbed wire and 3,000 linear feet of electrical wire. Six hundred metal fence posts and an estimated 3 tons of wood fence posts have also been removed. Currently the existing house is being maintained in hopes that it can be utilized for site management and storage. The baseline HEP has been completed.

The Johnson property was acquired and consists of 411 acres in the central portion of the Benewah Creek watershed and encompasses 25% of the wetlands in that drainage. This parcel will require some habitat restoration and protection as it has a history of grazing use within the riparian zone. To date, the hydrologic assessment, survey of the property boundary, and the baseline HEP have been completed. We are currently waiting for the completion of the wetlands delineation to finish the management plan of the property.

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

Draft wildlife management plans are being developed for the Trout Creek and Perkins Lake properties. The HEP baseline analysis was contracted to the Regional HEP Team in summer of 2002, but no HEP report was received as of the date of the annual report printing.

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho has met with community groups, agencies, governments and local individuals, including but not limited to local farmers, sportsman groups and county officials, in order to address public concerns regarding wetland/riparian mitigation activities. This community-oriented approach (development of a draft Wetland/Riparian Conservation Strategy) has protracted the short-term

mitigation activities of the Tribal mitigation program, but at this measured pace the Tribal mitigation program hopes to accomplish a more stable, long-lived wildlife mitigation strategy and insure the success of local wildlife management activities in the future.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Boundary Creek WMA

We began implementation of the expanded monitoring program on the Boundary Creek WMA this past year. Permanent sample points were established and GPS located. Vegetation sampling was conducted at a portion of the permanent sample points. Data were collected at permanent photo points in both the spring and fall. An initial survey of amphibians was also completed. Map development and land bird surveys will take place this spring.

Wildlife

Waterfowl. Two duck breeding pair counts, and three duck brood counts were conducted on the BCWMA in 2002. The BCWMA hosted 360 breeding pairs from 16 duck species. A total of 68 duck broods were counted. In addition to ducks, counts revealed production from bald eagles, solitary sandpipers, American coots, Pied-billed grebes, red-necked grebes, Canada geese, white-tailed deer, elk, and moose. Many other species were documented during migration and breeding periods. Roughly 2,000 waterfowl were supported throughout spring migration, while fall waterfowl numbers fluctuated from 1,000 to 5,000.

Seven hundred ducks (approx. 600 mallards and 100 wood ducks) were banded on the BCWMA this year in support of state and national efforts to discern the derivation of duck harvest, and migratory pathways.

Twenty-three waterfowl hunters with 98 ducks (i.e., 4.26 ducks per hunter) were checked on the opening day of the duck hunting season. The area was regularly hunted throughout the waterfowl season until mid-December when the area became ice-covered.

Amphibians. Painted turtles, western toads, and unidentified ranid frogs were detected along the shorelines of one of the wetlands. Additional species likely to occur on this parcel are long-toed salamanders, western terrestrial and common garter snakes, rubber boas, northern alligator lizards, and western skinks. This WMA is also within the former range of wood frogs and close to a Canadian population of northern leopard frogs. Future surveys will consist of spring calling surveys to quickly detect the presence of Pacific chorus frogs, time constrained searches for detecting salamanders, and possibly rubber boas. Additional wetland herptile surveys for garter snakes, western toads, Columbia spotted frogs and Pacific chorus frogs should be conducted in mid-June and July. Wood frogs have not been documented in Idaho since the early 1980's. Likewise, northern leopard frogs are believed extirpated from the Idaho Panhandle; however, recent reports of leopard frogs in Creston, B.C. lend hope that extant populations may still be present.

Vegetation

Trees and shrubs planted in fall 2001 were inspected in fall 2002 for survival. Post cuttings (300, approx. six to eight feet long and four feet deep) had mixed survival. Approximately 95% of black cottonwood cuttings survived, while <50% of willow

cuttings, and <10% of red-osier dogwood cuttings survived. Virtually all of the one-gallon containerized plants (350) survived. However, almost all displayed damage by small mammals that could result in future mortality. Browse protectors worked well but require a more secure method of placement.

In October, vegetation surveys were conducted at Boundary Creek WMA. Seventy-one species were documented at 5 of the permanent points: 0 tree; 1 shrub; 44 herb; 24 grass, rush, or sedge; 2 fern or fern ally. Four plant communities were identified; quack grass-oat grass, Reed canary grass, pondweed, and cattail.

Wetland Macrophytes

Cursory inspection revealed that emergent wetland plants became established in scattered locations throughout the six-basin wetland complex. Stands of soft-stem bulrush, cattail, *Sagittaria*, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Eleocharis*, and Chara were observed. Many other species occurred in scattered small groups across the area. Most of the area remained largely un-vegetated as this was the first year of maximum water level elevations.

Pend Oreille WMA

We began implementation of the expanded monitoring program on the Pend Oreille WMA this past year. Permanent sample points were established, GPS located, and marked with permanent T-post markers. Small mammal and vegetation sampling was conducted at a portion of the permanent sample points. Data were collected at permanent photo points in both the spring and fall. An initial survey of amphibians was also completed. Map development and land bird surveys will take place this spring.

Wildlife

Bald Eagles. Four bald eagle nests were monitored on the POWMA this year. Three nests were active and two nests were successful. The successful nests fledged a total of four chicks.

Waterfowl. Waterfowl production monitoring on POWMA revealed use by 46 pairs of Canada geese that produced 15 broods. Duck breeding pair surveys showed that 145 breeding pairs representing 13 different species of ducks used the properties. Additionally, 80 breeding western grebes were counted at Denton Slough.

Amphibians. Denton Slough: This parcel encompasses a portion of the northeastern shoreline of Lake Pend Oreille and includes a small section of forested habitat. Painted turtles were observed along the shoreline. No amphibians were detected. Vegetation consists of tall grasses, scattered alder and cottonwoods, and some conifers. Other species likely to occur on this parcel are Pacific chorus frogs, long-toed salamanders, western terrestrial and common garter snakes, rubber boas, northern

alligator lizards, and possibly western toads during years when the water level is maintained at lower levels during July and August.

Derr Creek: This parcel is located south of Clark Fork, Idaho, and includes early-seral conifer stands (planted), grasslands, and wetland habitats. Western toads, Pacific chorus frogs, and Columbia spotted frogs were detected in a slough adjacent to the large wetland during the timed survey. After the survey, several hundred recently metamorphosed western toads were observed hopping about on matted vegetation floating on the edges of the wetland. Additional species likely to occur on this parcel are long-toed salamanders, western terrestrial and common garter snakes painted turtles, and western skinks.

Albeni Cove: This parcel is located southeast of Oldtown, Idaho. It includes grassland and wetland habitats. One permanent wetland is located on the west side of the parcel, but additional temporary wetlands and moist areas are located throughout the parcel. The permanent wetland contains fish, and it's outflow connects with the Pend Oreille River. There is little vegetation on the north side of this wetland; grasses and sedges comprise the vegetation along the inflow and southern sides. Vegetation is primarily grassland, with shrubs and deciduous trees growing in a fringe along the southern edges of the parcel. Painted turtles, a Pacific chorus frog, several Columbia spotted frogs, and three bullfrogs were detected in the permanent wetland. Bullfrogs are an introduced species in Idaho, and research indicates that they both compete with and prey upon native amphibians. Additional species likely to occur on this parcel are long-toed salamanders, western terrestrial and common garter snakes, rubber boas, northern alligator lizards, and western skinks.

Cocollala Lake: This parcel is located on the south end of Cocolalla Lake. It includes both grassland and forested habitats. Several small pothole wetlands are being created in the grassland area along an existing drainage. Within the forested section there were several temporary wetlands containing skunk cabbage and other shade-tolerant wetland vegetation that had dried up at the time of this survey. No amphibians or reptiles were detected. Species likely to occur on this parcel are Pacific chorus frogs, long-toed salamanders, western terrestrial and common garter snakes, rubber boas, northern alligator lizards, and possibly western toads.

Westmond: This parcel is located east of the town of Westmond, Idaho. It includes grassland habitat and the southern shoreline of a large permanent wetland. The inflow to the wetland is a ditched canal that crosses the parcel. Columbia spotted frogs were observed along the ditch and hundreds of recently metamorphosed western toads were observed along the shoreline of the permanent wetland. A beaver lodge is located at the southern side of the wetland and beavers have created channels along the southern shoreline. Additional species likely to occur on this parcel are painted turtles, western terrestrial and common garter snakes, western skinks, long-toed salamanders, and Pacific chorus frogs.

Small Mammals. All properties on the Pend Oreille WMA were monitored (all points 100 trap nights) for small mammals. Each parcel has at least 1 monitoring point with the exception of Trout Creek and Derr Creek, which have 2 points each. Species recorded include deer mouse, yellow pine chipmunk, red-tailed chipmunk, masked shrew, and vagrant shrew.

Vegetation

Vegetation surveys were conducted on the Trout Creek (July), Rapid Lightening (August), and Westmond (October) parcels of the Pend Oreille WMA this past summer. One hundred and forty species were identified at Trout Creek: 11 tree; 22 shrub; 69 herb; 33 grass, rush, or sedge; 5 fern or fern ally. At Rapid Lightening, 65 species were identified: 5 tree; 13 shrub; 26 herb; 19 grass, rush, or sedge; 2 fern or fern ally. Westmond had a total of 45 species identified: 0 tree; 4 shrub; 29 herb; 10 grass, rush, or sedge; 2 fern or fern ally. Six plant communities were defined at Trout Creek; grand fir, common spikerush, Idaho fescue, black cottonwood-bluejoint, Douglas fir, western red cedar. At Rapid Lightening two communities were identified; quack grass-oat grass and black cottonwood-rose spirea. Westmond had only one plant community identified; black cottonwood-black hawthorn.

Kalispel Tribe

The Work Group developed a monitoring and evaluation plan that will be used as the standard for Albeni Falls mitigation projects. This plan has been reviewed by the ISRP panel to ensure that it adequately addresses their concern for sufficient data to gauge the successes or failures of management activities toward achieving stated goals and objectives. The plan is designed to use The HEP analysis combined with additional plot and line transect data that will help determine plant and animal community response to management actions. The Tribe contracted Eastern Washington University to develop assessment design, protocols, methodologies and the initial baseline samples.

A grid system was overlaid on each individual property with a single point centrally located in each hectare. These points are grouped by habitat cover types and a number points per cover type are randomly selected such that 10% of each cover type is sampled every 3 years. This stratified random sample will allow equal consideration of cover types regardless of their proportional composition to the properties as a whole. As a means of comparative analysis, a number of reference sites have been selected to be sampled in the same manner. These reference sites have the cover type characteristics that management actions are intended to produce on the project properties. Monitoring these sites will also give a better understanding of the natural variation within the mature cover types. These data might help to explain some variations in actively managed sites while they are in transitional states.

This season was the first year of data collection using the standardized methodology. Once the randomly selected points were identified, each year's sample points were lumped according to their proximity to one and other. This will reduce the logistics of sampling properties spread out from eastern Washington to the shores of Lake Pend Oreille in Idaho. Two more field seasons will be required for the completion of the reference site assessments and then monitoring and evaluation will consist solely of 1/3 of the enhancement site points annually.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

Currently Bonneville has declined to fund M&E at this time.

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

The Albeni Falls Work Group developed a monitoring and evaluation plan that will be used as the standard for Albeni Falls Dam mitigation projects. The plan is designed to use HEP analysis combined with additional plot and line transect data to determine plant and animal community response to management actions.

The Kootenai Tribe of Idaho will follow the prescribed assessment design, protocols, methodologies and the initial baseline samples for monitoring on Tribe mitigation properties. The proposed stratified random sample technique will allow equal consideration of cover types regardless of the proportional composition to the properties as a whole. For comparative analysis, a number of reference sites have been selected for sampling in the same manner. The reference sites have cover type characteristics that management actions are intended to produce on the project properties. Monitoring these sites will provide a better understanding of the natural variation within mature cover types. These data may offer an explanation for variations in actively managed sites that are in transitional states.

PLANNING AND ADMINISTRATION

Idaho Department of Fish and Game

IDFG has been working closely with our COTR to resolve budget questions and map out a direction for the coming year. At this time we are continuing to work together to prepare a budget that will provide the funding required to maintain the Project. In December, the COTR spent a full day touring potential acquisition properties and our Boundary Creek WMA. This spring another tour day is expected to review the Pend Oreille WMA (all parcels and restoration activities) and to view any other potential acquisition properties.

IDFG participated in all Work Group activities and attended CBFWA meetings. At least three Work Group meetings will be held this next year, more if necessary. Work Group members will be involved in HEP evaluations on Albeni Falls' projects this summer and will assist other projects with HEP evaluations if necessary.

IDFG continues to work with landowners interested in selling their property and the associated contractors and professionals that perform surveys and other required tasks.

Kalispel Tribe

The Kalispel Tribe participated in all workgroup activities including HEP assessments and management plan development and review. The Work Group is responsible for its own internal review of project proposals. This helps to ensure that acquisitions best meeting the set criteria go forward. If any acquisition should fail to be completed, having a ranked list of project proposals allows for the next acquisition to be acted on while the funds are still available.

Coordinating appraisals, land surveys, cultural resource surveys, hazardous waste surveys and negotiations with the land owners were repeated tasks for the three 2002 acquisitions and for the four proposed projects.

Coeur d'Alene Tribe

The CDAT is in the process of hiring a seasonal technician to implement management activities slated for the spring of 2003.

CDAT wildlife staff attended the University of Idaho GIS 8.2 class. This class trained personnel in the newest version of Arcview at the request of our Tribal GIS Department.

The CDAT wildlife staff are currently writing site-specific wildlife management plans for each acquired mitigation parcel. The CDAT is currently fully engaged in the NPPC subbasin planning process.

Kootenai Tribe of Idaho

In fiscal year 2002, the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho participated in all Work Group activities including regional HEP Team assessments, proposal ranking and management plan development and review. The Tribe attended all pertinent CBFWA meetings, local

mitigation related meetings and assisted with Work Group ranking criteria evaluations. Over the course of two years, the Tribal Wildlife Department personnel have developed unprecedented working relationship with local landowners, federal and state agencies, county and city officials, and other conservation organizations regarding wildlife mitigation activities, wetland/riparian conservation and wildlife management.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Corps provided the meeting room and attended Work Group meetings.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Work Group expects that BPA's financial situation will improve in the short-term and we will be able to continue our acquisition program and progress toward full mitigation. Until that time when we can proceed forward with acquisition projects, activities will focus administration, restoration, operation and maintenance, and monitoring and evaluation activities in the coming year. As mentioned above, several potential projects have been identified that will substantially increase our efforts toward full mitigation once we actively resume acquisition activities.