

# HELLSGATE BIG GAME WINTER RANGE

9204800

## SHORT DESCRIPTION:

Protect and enhance approximately 4,900 acres of upland shrub-steppe, forest habitat on the Colville Reservation.

## SPONSOR/CONTRACTOR: CCT

Colville Confederated Tribes  
Steve Judd, Senior Wildlife Biologist  
P.O. Box 150, Nespelem, WA 99155  
509/634-8845 none

## SUB-CONTRACTORS:

N/A

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## GOALS

### GENERAL:

Supports a healthy Columbia basin, Maintains biological diversity, Maintains genetic integrity, Increases run sizes or populations, Provides needed habitat protection

### WILDLIFE:

Habitat

### NPPC PROGRAM MEASURE:

11.3F.5

### RELATION TO MEASURE:

Project conforms to 11.3f.5 as stated in the 1994 program as amended in 1995

### BIOLOGICAL OPINION ID:

Interim Wildlife Agreement

### OTHER PLANNING DOCUMENTS:

N/A

## TARGET STOCK

Eagles  
Blue Grouse  
Spotted Sanpiper  
Mink  
Bobcat  
Mule Deer  
Sharp-tailed Grouse  
Mourning Dove  
Sharp-tailed Grouse  
Mule Deer

## LIFE STAGE

## MGMT CODE (see below)

## AFFECTED STOCK

Amphibians and Reptiles  
Peregrine Falcon  
Neotropical birds

## BENEFIT OR DETRIMENT

Beneficial  
Beneficial  
Beneficial

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## BACKGROUND

### LAND AREA INFORMATION

Subbasin:  
Upper Columbia

**Hydro project mitigated:**  
Grand Coulee, Chief Joseph

**Land ownership:**  
Tribal  
**Acres affected:**  
4950

**HISTORY:**

Proposed in 1992 by the Colville Tribes as partial mitigation for Grand Coulee. To date the Project has protected about 5,000 acres of habitat.

**BIOLOGICAL RESULTS ACHIEVED:**

The Project has permanently protected about 5,000 acres of big game winter range and habitat for a variety of other species.

**PROJECT REPORTS AND PAPERS:**

Hellsgate Winter Range Mitigation Project Long Term Management Plan, 1993. Hellsgate Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Environmental Assessment, 1995.

**ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:**

Baseline HEP analysis of portion of protected properties is providing data for site specific management planning.

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**PURPOSE AND METHODS**

**SPECIFIC MEASUREABLE OBJECTIVES:**

Complete the protection phase of the planned project area.

**CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES:**

Funding quantity and stability.

**BIOLOGICAL NEED:**

Many thousands of acres and their associated habitat units were lost due to inundation. This project will help mitigate some of those losses. It will provide benefits for the regions wildlife and fisheries far into the future.

**HYPOTHESIS TO BE TESTED:**

Long term protection, management, and enhancement of project lands will provide increased biodiversity, improves soil, water and vegetation quality and quantity. Animal populations will benefit because of these actions.

**ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES:**

N/A

**JUSTIFICATION FOR PLANNING:**

N/A

**METHODS:**

We are primarily in the implementation and protection phase. Methods, etc. will be developed during and following the completion of the site specific management plans.

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**PLANNED ACTIVITIES**

**SCHEDULE:**

**Planning Phase**                      **Start** 1994                                      **End** 1996                                      **Subcontractor** No



**Changes assumed or expected for affected environmental attributes:**

Protection will provide improved cover and forage for wildlife populations using project lands. Increase overall biomass and species diversity because of enhancement and other management activities.

**Measure of attribute changes:**

Projected total HUs for protection is 4931. Projected HUs for enhancement may be calculated following completion of site specific management plans.

**Assessment of effects on project outcomes of critical uncertainty:**

If adequate funding is not available then desired levels of management activities will not be achieved. If catastrophic events occur such as wildfire, drought, etc., then achievement of long term goals will be set back or slowed. These things will be assessed through our monitoring program.

**Information products:**

Periodic reports on analysis and evaluations of project conditions.

**Coordination outcomes:**

Developed a comprehensive long-term management plan. Completed the NEPA review. Protected 5,000 acres of critical wildlife habitat.

**MONITORING APPROACH**

We are primarily in the implementation and protection phase. Methods, etc. will be developed during and following the completion of the site specific management plans.

**Provisions to monitor population status or habitat quality:**

HEP is in place to monitor and evaluate habitat responses. Other methods such as: permanent vegetation transects, trends in animal species and abundance surveys are being developed.

**Data analysis and evaluation:**

By using up to date scientific methodologies and techniques available to us.

**Information feed back to management decisions:**

Results of data analysis will be compared to project goals and objectives and management actions will be taken to see that these are being met.

**EVALUATION**

Compare the monitoring results with project goals and objectives. Compare results of current monitoring with baseline HEP data.

**Incorporating new information regarding uncertainties:**

When identified it will be evaluated by project and Department personnel. As with other adaptive management items it will be used to adjust management plans and objectives.

**Increasing public awareness of F&W activities:**

Through signs on project property, press releases when appropriate, word of mouth among user groups, and periodic updates to the project advisory groups.

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**RELATIONSHIPS**

**RELATED BPA PROJECT**

**RELATIONSHIP**

9506700 Adjoining Project Parts

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION:**

Availability of enhancement funds due to BPA market conditions. Otherwise things should go forward fairly well.

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**COSTS AND FTE**

**FUTURE FUNDING NEEDS:**

<u>FY</u>	<u>\$ NEED</u>	<u>% PLAN</u>	<u>% IMPLEMENT</u>	<u>% O AND M</u>
1998	\$250,000			
1999	\$250,000			
2000	\$250,000			
2001	\$350,000			

**PAST OBLIGATIONS (incl. 1997 if done):**

<u>FY</u>	<u>OBLIGATED</u>
1992	\$42,695
1993	\$127,616
1994	\$2,602,579
1995	\$146,858

TOTAL: \$2,919,748

Note: Data are past obligations, or amounts committed by year, not amounts billed. Does not include data for related projects.

<u>FY</u>	<u>OTHER FUNDING SOURCE</u>
1998	Some funds from USDA, rate not established yet for 1998
1999	Same as above
2000	Same as above
2001	Same as above
2002	Same as above

**AMOUNT IN-KIND VALUE**

**OTHER NON-FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS:**

Tribes, BIA, WDFW and NPS

**LONGER TERM COSTS:**

Project is under long-term, 99 years, agreement with BPA. They are committed to reasonable O&M for the life of the project. There are also enhancement cost obligations with BPA which have not been negotiated at this time.

**1997 OVERHEAD PERCENT:** 48.8%

**HOW DOES PERCENTAGE APPLY TO DIRECT COSTS:**

% applies only to salaries

**CONTRACTOR FTE:** One full time year round, three fulltime seasonals, and various temporaries

**SUBCONTRACTOR FTE:** N/A

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**SUPPLEMENTAL WILDLIFE EVALUATION FACTORS:**

Land in this project was formerly a livestock operation. The owner was approaching retirement and the land would have made prime recreational home sites. Development of this property would have serious adverse impacts to wildlife and habitats on surrounding areas. The property lies within an area that the Tribes has designated to receive special management considerations for wildlife. The property is buffered largely by Tribal lands. Much of the project parcel sites have large enough contiguous acreage to buffer themselves fairly well.

