SECURING WILDLIFE MITIGATION SITES -- OREGON 9705900

SHORT DESCRIPTION:
The purpose of this project is to draw on the conclusions and analyses conducted for the Assessing Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project Priorities Using GAP analysis, Project No. 95-65 and the Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project. The former project is evaluating and prioritizing a list of potential mitigation projects identified through the Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project through 1): determining prioritization criteria; 2) incorporating datasets for the potential mitigation areas as well as other regional and state-wide information into a geographic information system (GIS); 3) assessing the proposed mitigation areas in context with a state-wide coarse filter approach. A short-list will be produced indicating which of the mitigation sites would provide the most benefit to wildlife habitat needs. The proposed project would take this short-list to the local level through in-

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GOALS

NPPC PROGRAM MEASURE:
no response

BACKGROUND

HISTORY:
In 1993, the Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project was initiated to develop a draft list of potential mitigation sites for the construction of the Willamette and Columbia river's mainstem hyrdoelecteric facilities. A subsequent on-going project, mentioned above, will analyze each of the sites individually and in aggregate to determine the suitability of each meeting wildlife habitat mitigation units in the context of regional and statewide biodiversity planning. From this effort a short-list will be produced which indicates the "superior" sites. The funding for this project totals $69,484. What is lacking is on-the-ground work to lay a path towards securing these areas for wildlife. This is the role of the proposed project. The major non-biological products include quarterly and final reports as well as agreements associated with securing the mitigation sites. Prelimiry HEP estimates of habitat gained through each parcel will be tallied and reported also.

BIOLOGICAL RESULTS ACHIEVED:
These will be accomplished through the proposed project which will move the current planning to the implementation phase.

PROJECT REPORTS AND PAPERS:
Quarterly reports and one final report will be produced for each year of the project.

ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:
The information gained from this project will help move from the planning stage to the implementation stage. It will be necessary to have local involvement and data collection to become informed about the specifics of the properties. This will include gathering wildlife and habitat data from local experts as well as economic and other information from a myriad of sources. This data will be crucial to the implementation of various alternatives for securing the areas for wildlife. Adaptive management is a principle that will be used for the monitoring and evaluation of sites and the subsequent projects, to ensure appropriate species and their habitat respond.

PURPOSE AND METHODS

SPECIFIC MEASUREABLE OBJECTIVES:
Develop outlines and framework for the implementation of securing some portion of the potential mitigation sites through the most feasible alternative developed.

CRITICAL UNCERTAINTIES:
Adequate funding for wildlife mitigation in the Columbia River Basin.

BIOLOGICAL NEED:
The Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act includes provisions for the protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of hydroelectric facilities of the Columbia River Basin. The development of the region's hydropower system has affected many species of wildlife. Some floodplain and riparian habitats important to wildlife were inundated when reservoirs were filled. Fluctuating water levels caused by dam operations have created barren vegetation zones, which exposed various species to threats such as increase in predation and loss of suitable habitats. The impacts of dam construction and reservoir inundation have been documented and the wildlife losses are included in the NPPC's program. The proposed project is necessary to facilitate reaching the mitigation implementation phase to address the above mentioned losses. The project would take the information generated and compiled through the previous projects and develop frame-works, work-plans, and work-items for securing the mitigation areas for wildlife.

METHODS:
Experimental design and analysis will involve the use of the GIS which was developed during the previously funded and on-going project. The emphasis will shift to larger scale (small area or local) analysis with respect to individual parcels. Local experts of wildlife and habitat, real estate, county government and procedures, and others will be consulted in a cooperative fashion to gather critical data. Data gathered through this task will include aspects of the properties such as land ownership and land owner disposition, historic use of the site, present and potential land uses, zoning and legal limitations, boundary issues, wildlife and habitat surveys, detailed mapping of geophysical features, water rights, and others. These data will be used to develop a feasibility rating of alternatives for securing the potential mitigation sites through the means of conservation easements, acquisition, enhancements, and cooperative management plans. A group of recommendations will be put together for each of the parcels explored. This process will describe appropriate steps to take with the local groups to secure the land to satisfy the need for wildlife habitat mitigation. Future phases of the project will include three things: 1) Facilitate solidification of the necessary contracts, agreements, titles or deeds for sites which will have been examined through the above mentioned process; 2) Begin HEP analysis procedures on secured sites; and 3) Take the subsequent group of sites, identified through the Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project, through the local scale review (mentioned above).

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

SCHEDULE:

PROJECT COMPLETION DATE:
2001

OUTCOMES, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

SUMMARY OF EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Expected performance of target population or quality change in land area affected:
Currently, there is an need to mitigate for an estimated 165,000 habitat units in the Willamette and Columbia river basins in Oregon. This project would attempt to reach a significant portion of this total through each year's efforts. The emphasis throughout the project is one of securing habitat for wildlife in a timely and effective manner. It will be necessary to receive adequate funding in order to accomplish this task.

MONITORING APPROACH

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RELATIONSHIPS

RELATED BPA PROJECT	RELATIONSHIP
9506500 Assessing Oregon Trust Agreement Planning Project Priorities Using GAP Analysis	

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION:

Opportunities for cooperation are abundant and imperative to the success of this project. Major cooperators identified to date include the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation, Burns Paiute Tribe, and the Oregon Natural Heritage Program. Others will be important in future years of the project; especially those when the on-the-ground scoping and securing of individual sites and enhancement occurs. Important dependencies include finding willing sellers and adequate funding to address the losses of wildlife habitat.

COSTS AND FTE

1997 Planned: $275,000

FUTURE FUNDING NEEDS:

FY	$ NEED	% PLAN	% IMPLEMENT	% O AND M
1998	$500,000			
1999	$4,000,000			
2000	$5,000,000			
2001	$6,000,000			

PAST OBLIGATIONS (incl. 1997 if done):

1997 OVERHEAD PERCENT: 22%

HOW DOES PERCENTAGE APPLY TO DIRECT COSTS:

[Overhead % not provided so BPA appended older data.]