

**Bonneville Power Administration
Fish and Wildlife Program FY99 Proposal Form**

Section 1. General administrative information

**Purchase Conservation Easement from Plum
Creek Timber Company in Thompson and Fisher
Rivers**

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 9124

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Business acronym (if appropriate) MFWP

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

Name Brian Marotz, Scott Snelson
Mailing Address 490 N. Meridian Rd.

City, ST Zip Kalispell, MT 59901
Phone (406) 751-4546
Fax (406) 257-0349
Email address marotz@digisys.net

Subcontractors.

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name
MFWP Wildlife Mitigation Program	490 N. Meridian Rd.	Kalispell, MT 59901	Alan Wood

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.

10.1B, 10.1C, 10.2B, 10.3B, 10.3.B.11

NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses.

Kootenai River White Sturgeon Biological Opinion (59 FR 45989);

Bull Trout Proposed Listing (62 FR 32268)

Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Interior Redband Trout Recovery Actions

Other planning document references.

1. Fisheries Mitigation and Implementation Plan for Losses Attributable to the Construction and Operation of Libby Dam (MFWP, CSKT, and Kootenai Tribes of Idaho, 1997) pps 42,49,50;
2. Montana Bull Trout Restoration Plan (Montana Bull Trout Restoration Team 1997);
3. Montana Westslope Cutthroat Trout Restoration Plan (Montana Westslope Cutthroat Restoration Team, In Prep.)
4. Hungry Horse Dam Fisheries Mitigation Implementation Plan (MFWP & CSKT 1993); 5. Kerr Mitigation Repts
6. Stream Protection Act of 1963.

Supported by Montana's Wildlife Mitigation Program and Wildlife Mitigation Advisory Committee (reviewed and supported 1997 Sept. Meeting); Preliminary approval by MFWP Commission, Sept. 9-10, 1997; Letters of support from both FWP Director Pat Graham to Plum Creek Timber Company (PCTC) Vice President Charles Grenier dated 6/2/97; letter to Vice President Charles Grenier from Governor Racicot dated 12/10/96/

County Commissioners for Lincoln and Sanders Counties expressed verbal support during fall 1997 (Lincoln) and January 1998 (Sanders).

Additional coordination and/or potential financial partners may include: Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT); Conservation Districts of Lincoln, Sanders and Flathead Counties; Flathead/Lincoln and Sanders County Commissions; Natural Resources and Conservation Service, Kootenai and Lolo National Forests ; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS); Montana Dep. Natural Resources (DNR); Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Trout Unlimited; Washington Water Power; Montana Power; local and statewide sport and conservation organizations; foundations.

Subbasin.

Fisher River and Thompson River subbasins (Fig. 1)

Short description.

Purchase perpetual conservation easement or similar agreement on thousands of acres of Plum Creek Timber Company (PCTC) lands in Thompson and Fisher River basins which precludes subdivision/commercial developments; conserves/enhances fish habitat; maintains public recreational opportunities; insures timber production.

Section 2. Key words

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
	Anadromous fish		Construction	X	Watershed
X	Resident fish		O & M	*	Biodiversity/genetics
*	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research	*	Ecosystems

<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitoring/eval.	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow/survival
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Resource mgmt	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish disease
	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning/admin.	<input type="checkbox"/> Supplementation
	<input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Wildlife habitat en-
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Acquisitions	hancement/restoration

Other keywords.

Habitat conservation; integrated fish and wildlife mitigation programs; Thompson River; Fisher River; native fish species habitat conservation; stream/river restoration; big game wildlife habitat conservation; interior red-band rainbow trout; westslope cutthroat trout, bull trout; burbot or ling; riparian/wetland habitat conservation; corporate timber lands.

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
9608720	Focus Watershed Coordination-Kootenai River Watershed	Partner in guiding the delineation of critical stream corridors and developing recovery plans for native fish species recovery.
	Wildlife Mitigation For Hungry Horse and Libby Dams	Co-sponsor of proposed project
8346700	Kootenai IFIM/Libby Mitigation	Focus Watershed Coordinator provides public involvement in the Kootenai watershed to help develop and guide mitigation projects.
9404900	Kootenai River Ecosystem Improvements Study (KTOI)(IDFG)	Enhancement projects help assess techniques for watershed improvement
9401000	Excessive Drawdown Mitigation Program (EDDM) Libby Reservoir	Drawdown mitigation funds personnel and operations for many on-the-ground habitat improvement projects identified by the Focus Watershed Coordinator
9101903	Hungry Horse Reservoir Mitigation	Mitigation project on Flathead system - exchange information and techniques
9648701	Montana Focus Watershed-Flathead System (FWD-FR)	Sister project - share information and techniques for public involvement and restoration;

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Objectives and tasks

Obj	Task

1,2,3	Objective	a,b,c	Task
1.	Obtain appropriate authorities and permissions to proceed	a.	Obtain MFWP Commission preliminary approval to proceed, granted Sept. 1997
		b.	Confirmation from PCTC indicating desire to proceed, received Sept. 1997
2.	Complete Project Scoping and Preliminary Planning	a.	MFWP/PCTC meet to outline general process, timetables, and generally agreed upon goals.
		b.	Meet with County Commissioners, key organizations, federal & state agencies, citizen organizations, and others to describe proposed project and solicit issues
		c.	Agree to appraisal method, funding, and time-frame
3.	Develop Proposed Action and Alternatives	a.	Compile list of issues/publics from scoping process
		b.	Address issues by developing proposed action and alternatives
4.	Complete all NEPA/MEPA requirements	a.	Select staff/subcontractor to Draft EA or EIS per NEPA/MEPA requirements
		b.	Complete draft management and monitoring plans and send out to all publics for review
		c.	Hold public meetings/open houses to explain project and obtain input
		d.	Incorporate comments and release Final EA/EIS and Draft Decision Notice
		e.	Draft legal documents for review by all signing parties
5.	Obtain necessary funding and final authorities to complete proposed project	a.	Secure funding commitments from all cooperators (e.g. BPA, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Trout Unlimited, others)
		b.	Submit final proposed project to MFWP Commission, PCTC Board

			of Directors and Montana Land Board for approvals
		c.	Finalize legal documents
		d.	Sign and record final agreement
		e.	Complete baseline inventories and reports
6.	Monitor Compliance and Effectiveness of final agreement	a.	MFWP responsible according to agreed upon Management Plan

Objective schedules and costs

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	7/1997	12/1997	0
2	9/1997	3/1998	0
3	4/1998	7/1998	0
4	8/1998	6/1999	\$0
5	8/1998	9/1999	\$2,000,000 (331/3 %)
	10/1999	9/2000	\$2,000,000 (331/3 %)
	10/1/2001	9/2001	\$2,000,000 (331/3 %)

Schedule constraints. This proposal recognizes that both MFWP and PCTC could terminate discussion and negotiation of this proposed project at any time. MFWP believes this project has a moderate to high chance of successful completion.

This proposal also recognizes that the cost of this project is high and could fail for lack of sufficient funds. MFWP has allocated up to \$6 million from the Wildlife Mitigation Trust Fund to use as seed money to leverage additional funds. If BPA Fisheries Mitigation Program matches this amount, then the project has an increased probability of success. Total costs are unknown at this time but could range from \$12 to \$30 million depending on project size and terms.

We have the opportunity to reduce the size of this project to match available funds. Other funding sources including: private foundations and other organizations or other public funds such as Habitat Montana (MFWP=s wildlife habitat conservation fund) federal or stateside Land and Water Conservation Funds, Montana coal tax fund, etc.

This proposal asks for no additional administrative or operations/maintenance funds from BPA. Administrative needs will be met by the Fisheries Mitigation Program Administrator (Brian Marotz) and by the Focus Watershed Coordinator for the Kootenai River (Scott Snelson). These individuals, along with review and input from BPA=s fisheries contracting officer, will provide critical input into the development and implementation of this project.

MFWP and PCTC would like to complete this conservation easement by the end of FY 1999. If negotiations break down or if any party withdraws from the process, there would be no need for these funds. If negotiations take longer than expected or the project is divided into phases of implementation, the same amount of funds might be needed over a longer period of time perhaps out to 2005.

Completion date. Enter the last year that project is expected to require funding. 2001

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel		0
Fringe benefits		0
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		0
Operations & maintenance		0
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)	Contribution to purchase of conservation easement on PCTC lands in Fisher and Thompson River drainages	\$2,000,000
PIT tags	# of tags:	0
Travel		0
Indirect costs		0
Subcontracts		0
Other		0
TOTAL		\$2,000,000

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY2000	FY01	FY02	FY03
Total budget	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	0	0
O&M as % of total	0	0	0	0

Section 6. Abstract

The project seeks \$6 million in capital funding to combine with Montana's Wildlife Mitigation Program to provide seed money to leverage additional funds from other public and private sources to undertake one of the largest conservation projects in Montana. Project costs may range between \$12 and \$30 million depending on project size and terms. Planning costs for this agreement will be covered by existing MFWP budgets.

The goal is to complete a conservation agreement with PCTC on approximately 70,000-150,000 acres of their lands within the Thompson River and Fisher River drainages (Fig. 1) before PCTC initiates efforts to sell these lands for other uses.

The objectives are to (in perpetuity): restrict subdivision/commercial development; ensure long-term maintenance/enhancement of native fish species habitats; allow for the restoration of streambank/hydrology; allow for continued management of timber resources consistent with these objectives; and provide associated recreational opportunities.

The 1994 Fish and Wildlife Program Plan and amendments emphasize coordination of Fisheries and Wildlife Mitigation Programs as well as restoration and enhancement of native resident fish species habitats. The Montana Wildlife Mitigation Program also emphasizes the role of partnerships to facilitate biologically sound and cost-effective partnerships in completing wildlife mitigation goals (Bissell 1996, Wood 1997).

MFWP would negotiate terms, complete the NEPA/MEPA processes, coordinate with groups, and ultimately hold and monitor the agreement. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has agreed to facilitate this acquisition process.

The project officially began with FWP Commission's preliminary approval to proceed, in September 1997. Coordination, appraisals, negotiations, and public review processes are expected to continue into 1999. Authorities to complete the project should be obtained by 9/30/99.

MFWP would accept all monitoring responsibility. A joint monitoring plan between the Wildlife and Fisheries divisions would be developed over the next year.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

The Fisher and Thompson River basins primarily consist of PCTC, National Forest, and state School Trust lands and contain few human developments (Fig.1). The upper Pleasant Valley Fisher consists of several ranching operations which have dramatically altered riparian/wetlands in these areas. However, much of these lands still support functional intact big game and other wildlife habitats as well as weak but recoverable remnant populations of native trout (distribution, abundance, and genetic information recently published in: Bull Trout Recovery Plan...; Westslope Cutthroat Trout, In Prep. See also MFWP Interagency Fisheries data bases and maps for current data on inland red-band rainbow trout in Fisher River drainage).

In 1996, PCTC completed a Land Use Plan for their lands in western Montana. This plan identified those properties, primarily lands along lakes and rivers which PCTC planned to immediately offer for sale. The plan also identified those lands

proposed for further study. Since completion of that plan, PCTC has begun to market and sell their water-based recreational lands. Sale of these lands generate a greater economic return to the company as development lands than derived from timber management.

PCTC initially identified the entire Thompson and lower Fisher River corridors as areas for future study. Recently, PCTC has determined that they must complete their analysis of the Thompson and Fisher River corridors before the year 2000 at which time they may decide to sell.

The Thompson and Fisher River basins have long been noted for their abundant wildlife, particularly big game, and for quality recreational opportunities. The steep, warm slopes and low elevations of the Fisher River/Wolf Creek areas consistently winter some of the highest densities of white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk and moose in northwest Montana (Brown, pers. comm). This area draws animals from a large area including Libby Creek/Cabinet Mountains, Pleasant Valley and Silver Butte Fisher River drainages and other drainages just to the north. This subbasin comprises an entire hunting district (HD 103) which provided 28,733 deer hunter days and 14,454 elk hunter days during Montana's 5 week general hunting season in 1996. It also supports abundant populations of mountain grouse, aquatic and terrestrial furbearers, and nongame wildlife.

Similarly, the Thompson River basin also provides critical year-round and seasonal habitat for large numbers of white-tailed deer, mule deer, elk, moose, and black bear (Sterling, pers. comm). The Thompson River basin, comprising HD 122, provided 19,638 deer hunter days and 13,451 elk hunter days in 1996 (Montana Harvest Surveys in prep). The Thompson River bottoms include high quality riparian/wetland habitats supporting waterfowl, aquatic furbearers, and a host of nongame species as well.

Fisheries habitats in the Fisher River have been severely degraded since the 1960's due to a number of reasons: construction of Libby Dam and the re-routing of the Burlington Railroad up the Fisher and Wolf Creek drainages; the introduction of nonnative fish species; recent wildfires, escalating management of timber resources which have impacted spawning habitats; and impacts of ditching and diking of agricultural lands in the upper Pleasant Valley Fisher River. The Fisher River basin once supported an historic bull trout population and inland redband rainbow trout but these species are now considered rare in most of the system. MFWP has identified use of the Fisher River by juvenile burbot, a species that is being considered for petition under ESA in the middle and lower Kootenai. Parts of this subbasin also supported important populations of westslope cutthroat trout. Pure westslope trout can still be found primarily in the Silver Butte Fisher and other small tributaries. Extremely important genetically pure populations of inland redband rainbow trout have been identified in the upper

Wolf Creek/Little Wolf drainages and in a few Pleasant Valley Fisher tributaries (MFWP Information Services Unit, 1997).

Two relatively large land conservation and wetland restoration projects may be approved by NRCS under the Wetland Reserve Program over the next few years. If successful, these projects could result in significant restoration of riparian/wetland habitats in the upper Pleasant Valley Fisher basin. Montana Power Company presently owns 7,800 acres (Lost Trail Ranch). A significant portion of the bottomland on this ranch will be turned over to the USFWS as mitigation for Kerr Dam. The USFWS is pursuing cooperative funding with NRCS and others to obtain either conservation easements or fee-title to the balance of this ranch and allow for restoration of the Pleasant Valley Fisher River and its tributaries on this ranch. Additionally, another private landowner (a grazing association) has also considered the Wetland Reserve Program for much of their acreage in the valley bottom. Historically, these ranches grazed cattle on more than 20,000 acres of PCTC lands. If these conservation agreements get implemented, improvements on both uplands and riparian/wetlands over thousands of acres can be expected. This would be a major step in improving fisheries habitat throughout the rest of the basin and greatly enhance the proposed conservation easement on PCTC lands.

The Thompson River basin is also one of the last strongholds for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout in the Clark Fork basin. The Thompson River mainstem serves as spawning/rearing area for bull trout migrating from the Clark Fork mainstem. Many of the Thompson River tributaries support populations of pure westslope cutthroat trout (Montana Information Services Unit, 1997). The fishery of the Thompson is important locally and statewide; it is one of the few high quality, easily accessible, fishable Montana rivers which supports few human developments. The Thompson is also one of northwest Montana=s most popular camping areas for both fish and wildlife recreationists.

PCTC and the USFWS are proposing to develop Habitat Conservation Plans for all PCTC lands in Montana (Bull Trout and Aquatic Species Conservation Plan, PCTC 1997). The proposed conservation easement would be designed to complement, rather than substitute, for conditions or terms agreed to by PCTC in any negotiated Habitat Conservation Plans made with the USFWS for native fish species. It is too early to determine the exact nature of these plans and how they may affect the proposed conservation easement terms.

The NPPC=s 1994 Columbia River Basin=s Fish and Wildlife Program amendments indicate projects which benefit both **resident fish and wildlife** are of high priority (10.1B). These amendments clearly support maintaining and enhancing weak but recoverable populations of native fish as a means to mitigate for habitat losses associated with Libby and Hungry Horse Reservoirs (10.1B). Recently drafted Fisheries Mitigation Guidelines for the Kootenai basin (p. 42 in

Fisheries Mitigation and Implementation Plan (Draft) for Losses Attributable to the Construction; MFWP, CSKT, and Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, 1997) provides relevant direction for this proposed project. These guidelines include the following:

- * protect, mitigate, and enhance biological production in affected waters;
- * emphasize natural fish production and habitat where ever possible;
- * emphasize mitigation for designated endangered (white sturgeon) and species of special concern (westslope cutthroat, bull trout, and interior redband rainbow trout) where appropriate;

MFWP=s proposal to BPA for continued support of the Focus Watershed Coordinator position in the Kootenai (pg 9 of BPA 1999 proposal for project 9608720) highlights the need to work with PCTC in the Kootenai basin:

AKey subbasins within the Kootenai drainage, which are critical to native species restoration, are experiencing a rapidly progressing change in land ownership and management patterns. Subdivision and subsequent residential development of much of the agricultural and timber lands adjacent to waterways in the drainage likely poses one of the greatest threats to weak but recoverable stocks of trout species. PCTC, a major landholder in the Kootenai system is currently divesting itself of large tracks of its lakeshore and streamside holdings basin-wide.≡

The proposed conservation easement would comprise **in-kind** fish and wildlife mitigation.

b. Proposal objectives.

The major outcomes expected by the proposed project are: the perpetual maintenance and/or enhancement of wildlife and fish habitats on PCTC lands throughout these basins; insurance that the landowner can continue to manage the lands for timber production; assurance that the public will have the right to recreate upon these lands.

Another outcome of the proposed conservation agreement is a mutually agreed upon management plan between MFWP and PCTC. The development of this plan should open the way to improving fish and wildlife habitat conditions in sensitive and critical areas. Achieving these outcomes on a landscape scale could meet all of Montana=s Wildlife Mitigation objectives for Libby Dam and a substantial part of our Wildlife Mitigation objectives for Hungry Horse dam.

Specific objectives of the proposed Thompson-Fisher River conservation easement project are to:

1. restrict future subdivision and commercial development within these basins;

2. insure the existence of a viable timber base in the future to support local and regional economies over time;
3. allow for the restoration and management of stream hydrology or streamside/river habitats;
4. provide for public access to these lands and waters;
5. provide the basis to work cooperatively with the landowner for the long-term maintenance and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitats through time.
6. Maintain or increase fish and wildlife populations associated with these watersheds. Current conditions would be established in the baseline reports.

The major benefit of the proposed project is to prevent the gradual, incremental negative impacts which usually occur with land splits and increased human development. Another benefit will be the ability of the landowner, whether PCTC or another timber company, to manage their resources over a large scale. This allows flexibility in harvest schedules, road closures, timing of harvest and other factors which, if managed in balance, will allow for maintenance of very important fish and wildlife populations and habitats.

This project has the potential to affect the future of fish and wildlife resources at a landscape scale. There is no question that if these lands were to be sold into other ownerships or subdivided into smaller lots for cabins and commercial developments that the overall quality and management flexibility for these fish and wildlife resources would be severely impaired.

The goal of the project can be stated as at least maintaining the status quo (which includes Habitat Conservation Plans addressing native fish habitats) in perpetuity. Part of the conservation purchase requires that MFWP and PCTC sign a management plan for the entire project area. The management plan can be changed through mutual agreement between the parties to help insure the sustained production of fish and wildlife resources, timber and recreational outcomes.

Project success will be measured by monitoring various elements described in the management plan on an annual and periodic basis. At a minimum, MFWP would be continue to monitor fish and wildlife populations and/or habitat quality using current methods: e.g. stream inventories; annual flight/vehicle reconnaissances; creel surveys; harvest surveys, and check stations. MFWP would also monitor compliance with the terms of the agreement. In developing the management plan, MFWP may determine additional survey and inventory work would be required to measure outcomes and insure the intent of the conservation agreement is met.

The Thompson and Fisher River basins have traditionally provided an almost unlimited recreational value to the public. As evidenced in other parts of the country, recreationists

often must pay for the right to access corporate lands or to cross corporate lands to reach public lands. Additionally, in some areas, corporate lands are leased out for the exclusive use by those who can afford the lease payments. This proposed conservation agreement would insure that the public would retain the right to access to these lands and waters and the public fish and wildlife resources in perpetuity.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

Montana is faced with a unique, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work with the largest single private landowner in northwest Montana to achieve a substantial amount of fish and wildlife mitigation by preventing the future subdivision and development of lands along two major rivers and associated tributaries and by obtaining rights of stream restoration for fish and wildlife habitat. Additionally, the project insures the existence of PCTC=s timber base and recreational opportunities for the public over the long-term. The project also provides a unique opportunity for both fish and wildlife mitigation programs to work cooperatively and synergistically with private and public sectors to achieve a landmark, large-scale, beneficial impact to northwest Montana=s natural resource environment. In the long-term, perpetual maintenance of these important fish and wildlife habitats will help to replace fish and wildlife and their habitats lost along the Kootenai and South Fork of the Flathead Rivers.

If the project is not completed, Montana could loose some of the last remaining undeveloped river valleys to homes, cabins, and eventually commercialization. In time, habitats could be fragmented and irreversibly impacted, public access would be restricted, and fish, wildlife, timber, and other resource management flexibility would be drastically reduced. The existing economy of the area would most likely shift from dispersed recreation and timber to rural development and commercial enterprises. To date, most local and state governing entities and other state and federal land management agencies as well as PCTC favor the status quo over a shift to other land uses. In sum, this project provides Montana and BPA with the unique opportunity to work with the largest private landowner in northwest Montana to the benefit of all parties. The insurance of manageable habitat, improved fisheries, public recreational opportunities, and timber resources provides some degree of social and economic security at a time when western Montana continues to change due to increasing pressures from human population growth and development.

d. Project history

The proposed Thompson-Fisher conservation easement project is an outgrowth from Montana=s ongoing Wildlife Mitigation Program. The Montana Wildlife Mitigation program was approved and included in the NPPC=s 1987 Fish and Wildlife Program Amendments. This program is now funded by the Montana Wildlife Mitigation Trust Fund which was set up by agreement between BPA and Montana in 1988. The Wildlife Mitigation Trust Fund balance is over \$14 million. The Wildlife Program has committed \$6 million to the proposed conservation easement. According to MFWP=s recently

completed Wildlife Mitigation Program Five Year Operating Plan (Wood 1997), undertaking conservation easements on riparian/wetlands is the number 1 strategy for Hungry Horse and the number 2 strategy for Libby. For mitigating upland forest habitats, undertaking conservation easements is the number 2 strategy for both Libby and Hungry Horse Dams (pps 6-8).

e. Methods.

FWP has agreed to be the lead agency in developing, completing, and holding the proposed conservation agreement. FWP must follow established NEPA and MEPA processes prior to final decisions and complete a detailed mutually agreed upon management and monitoring plan prior to acquiring a conservation agreement. FWP and PCTC are committed to communicating with all interested parties and stakeholders in designing a successful conservation agreement. Identified interests or stakeholders include: CSKT, County Commissioners from affected counties, all land management agencies, local planning offices, private conservation and sporting organizations; legislators; small private landowners; and other interested publics. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has agreed to facilitate completion of this process and to assist in fund-raising.

The following outline describes the overall process:

Objective 1: Obtain approval from proper decision-making authorities to pursue the conservation easement proposal:

Task a. Obtain MFWP Commission preliminary approval to proceed (completed Sept. 1997)

Task b. PCTC agrees to pursue conservation agreement to MFWP (received Sept. 1997)

Objective 2: Project Scoping and Preliminary Planning:

Task a. MFWP/PCTC meet to outline general process, timetable, and general agreed upon broad conservation easement terms (initiated December 1997)

Task b. MFWP/PCTC meet with County Commissioners, representatives of key organizations, federal and state agencies, CSKT=s to brief them on proposed (ongoing)

Task c. MFWP and PCTC agree to appraisal method and timeframe: (March 1998)

Objective 3. Development of Proposed Action and Alternatives:

Task a. Compile list of issues raised during scoping;

Task b. Address issues through development of proposed action and alternatives;

Objective 4. Complete appropriate NEPA/MEPA documents and public review process

Task a. Select staff and/or subcontractor to write Draft EA or EIS.

Task b. Complete Draft EA and send out to all public interests for 60 day review and comment.

Task c. Hold public meetings and open houses to explain proposed project and solicit public comment.

Task d. Incorporate public comment and issue Final EA/EIS and Draft Decision Notice

Task e. Draw up appropriate legal documents for review by funding and approval agencies.

Objective 5. Obtain necessary funding and final authorities from PCTC, MFWP Commission, state land board and other cooperators to complete the project as recommended.

Task a. Secure funding commitments with assistance from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and other facilitators/cooperators.

Task b. Submit completed project proposal to appropriate decision-makers for approvals.

Task c. Finalize legal documents

Task d. Sign and record conservation easement

f. Facilities and equipment.

No special equipment requests are included in this project proposal.

g. References.

Bissell, G. 1996. Hungry Horse and Libby Riparian/Wetland Habitat Conservation Implementation Plan. MFWP, Kalispell, Montana.

Bonneville Power Administration and State of Montana 1988. Wildlife Mitigation Agreement for Libby and Hungry Horse Dams between Bonneville Power Administration and the State of Montana. DE-MS79-89BP92755

Wood, A. 1997. Wildlife Mitigation Program for Hungry Horse and Libby Dams Five Year Operating Plan (Fiscal years 1998-2002). MFWP, Kalispell, Montana.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

This project would be complemented by Kerr Dam mitigation projects and NRCS wetland reserve projects in the Fisher River drainage. Their project could restore approximately 5,000 acres of stream and wetland habitats which historically supported inland red-band rainbow trout.

PCTC is also developing a Habitat Conservation Plan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This project would affect 1,462,000 acres of private land in western Montana and literally hundreds of miles of stream important to all resident fish species.

The proposed project asks BPA to cooperate with Montana=s Wildlife Mitigation Program in funding a large conservation project (approximately 70,000-150,000 acres) which will strongly complement these other projects. The size of the proposed project will result in completion of most of the wildlife mitigation goals for both Libby and Hungry Horse dams.

Because of its scale, the project must also rely on funding from other cooperators, both private and public. The commitment by BPA to match up to \$6 million from the Wildlife Mitigation Program is essential to insure fishery resources are adequately addressed and to enhance the leveraging power for additional funds.

Section 9. Key personnel

Brian Marotz, Fisheries Program Manager, MFWP

Scott Snelson, Focus Watershed Coordinator- Kootenai River, MFWP

Alan Wood, Wildlife Mitigation Coordinator, MFWP

Debra Dils, Land Section Supervisor, MFWP

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

Results of the landmark conservation easement could be obtained through publication of draft and final environmental analysis documents, draft and final decisions, and recorded instruments. Many of these reports could be placed on line through MFWP, BPA=s and other organization=s home pages.

BRIAN MAROTZ

Fisheries Program Officer (0.10 FTE)
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901
Phone (406) 751-4546
Fax (406) 257-0349
E-mail marotz@digisys

Education

Master of Science B Fisheries Management
Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
Estuarine Biology

15 Credits: Gulf Coast Research Institute
Ocean Springs, Mississippi.
Marine Science

Bachelor of Science B Biology (Aquatic Sciences)
University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point, Wisconsin.
Freshwater Biology

16 Credits: S.E.A. Semester at Sea, Boston University
Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Marine Biology

**Professional
experience**

1991-Present Fisheries Program Officer, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Kalispell, Montana
Duties: Supervise Special Projects Office, Hydropower Mitigation and Focus
Watershed Programs.

1989 B 1991 Fisheries Biologist, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Kalispell, Montana
Duties: Hungry Horse Reservoir Research, Develop Hungry Horse Mitigation
Program, Computer Modeling Flathead and Kootenai Drainages, Develop
Integrated Rule Curves (IRCs) for Montana Reservoirs.

1985 B 1989 Fisheries Biologist, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Libby, Montana
Duties: Libby Reservoir Research, Kootenai Instream Flow Project, Computer
Modeling Flathead and Kootenai Drainages, Develop Integrated Rule Curves
(IRCs) for Montana Reservoirs.

1984 B 1985 Research Associate, Louisiana State University - Baton
Rouge, Louisiana
Duties: Estuarine Research to control salt water encroachment to Estuarine
Marsh on the Sabine National Wildlife Refuge. Developed Operating Plan for
Water Control Structures to Allow Migration of Catadromous Fish and
Crustaceans

Publications

Pertinent Publications Listed in this Document

Awards

1994 Governor=s Award for Excellence in Performance as an Employee of the State of Montana

1994 Director=s Award for Excellence as an Employee of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1989 Certified Fisheries Scientist
American Fisheries Society

Scott Snelson

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
475 Fish Hatchery Road
Libby, MT 59923
Phone (406) 293-4713
Fax (406) 293-6338
E-mail ssnelson@libby.org

Education Master of Science - Biology

1992 - 1996 Montana State University Bozeman, Montana
3.8 GPA

Bachelor of Science - Fish and Wildlife Management
Montana State University Bozeman, Montana

Wildland Hydrology-Short Courses Pagosa Springs, Colorado
Applied Fluvial Geomorphology July 1996
River Morphology and Application August 1997

Performance Evaluation Training - Montana Dept. of Administration
Geographic Information Systems Training - MT Chapter Amer. Fish. Soc.
Clean Water Act Training - US Forest Service and MT Dept. of Env. Qual.
PADI certified Advanced SCUBA diver

Profession Experience

1997 - current Focus Watershed Coordination Biologist
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Libby, Montana

Duties: Coordinate formation of local watershed working groups for development of grass-roots watershed plans and facilitate implementation of plans integrating state, federal, tribal, and private resources.

1995-1997 Project Leader - Libby Reservoir Excessive Drawdown Mitigation
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Libby, Montana

Duties: Identify key limiting factors for native fish stocks in Libby Reservoir, develop and implement mitigation actions for the excessive drafting of Libby Reservoir and provide implementable mitigating measures for the construction of Libby Dam to be included in the Libby Dam mitigation plan.

1992-1994 Graduate Research Assistant
Montana State University Bozeman, Montana

Duties: Conducted research on the initial use of a newly accessible spawning stream by adult rainbow and brown trout and examined the use patterns of the stream by their progeny.

1993 Creel Survey Clerk
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Townsend, Montana

Duties: Conducted creel surveys on anglers on Canyon Ferry Reservoir. Surveys included examination of catch for hatchery impregnated pigments, scale, and vertebrae collection for strain evaluation research.

1989-199 Conservation Director
Montana Wildlife Federation Bozeman, Montana

Duties: I administered the legislative lobby efforts of Montana=s largest conservation organization which included bill drafting, legal research, coalition development, opinion poll design grass-roots network development, and coordinating and preparing hearing testimony. Other duties included grant development, education, fundraising, and local chapter establishment.

Awards Received

Wildlife Professional of the Year - Montana Wildlife Federation 1991.

ALAN WOOD
Wildlife Mitigation Coordinator
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
490 North Meridian Road
Kalispell, Montana 59901
Phone (406) 758-5219
Fax (406) 758-5363
E-mail awood/r1_flathead@fs.fed.us

Education Ph.D. Wildlife Management (1987)
Montana State University, Bozeman

M.S. Wildlife & Range Resources (1980)
Brigham Young University, Provo, UT

B.S. Biology (1978)
Utah State University, Logan

Forest habitat types, Missoula, MT 1990
Applying the NEPA process, Missoula, MT 1991
Ecosystem Management, Missoula, MT 1993

Professional Experience

1994-Present: Wildlife Program Officer
Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Kalispell, MT

Duties: Manage a program and budget to mitigate for previous losses of wildlife and wildlife habitats attributed to construction of Hungry Horse and Libby Dams.

1989-1994: Wildlife Program Specialist
Montana Department of State Lands, Missoula, MT
Duties: Work as a fish and wildlife specialist to help develop and implement a statewide management plan for 600,000 acres of state forest lands.

1988-1989: Project Biologist
Wyoming Game & Fish Department, Casper Wyoming
Duties: Design and implement a study to evaluate responses of pronghorn antelope and mule deer to petroleum developments on winter ranges.

1982-1988: Research Assistant/Instructor
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
Duties: Conduct a study on the population dynamics, movements, distribution, habitat use, and interspecific relationships of mule and white-tailed deer populations. Summarize

existing data on white-tailed deer in the northern great plains. Teach general ecology, field ecology, and computer programming labs for graduate-level courses in quantitative biology and population dynamics.

Selected Publications

Graham, D., J. Blaine, G. Joslin, L.J. Lyon, A. Sheldon, A. Wood and H. Zackheim. 1991. Wildlife diversity guidelines: A forest stewardship program for Montana. U.S. Forest Service, Missoula, MT.

Wood, A. K. 1993. Parallels between old-growth forest and wildlife population Management. Wildl. Soc. Bull. 21:91-95.

Wood, A. K., D. Casey, J. Ellis, and G. Watson. 1993. Voluntary wildlife guidelines for the management of wildlife habitats in the streamside management zone. Montana Dept. of State Lands, Missoula, MT. 26pp.

Wood, A. K. et. al. 1995-97. Montana Wildlife Mitigation Program, Annual Reports for Fiscal Years 1995, 1996 and 1997. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Kalispell, MT.

Wood, A. K. 1997. Wildlife Mitigation Program for Hungry Horse and Libby Dams: Five Year Operating Plan for Fiscal Years 1998 through 2002. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Kalispell, MT. 20pp.

Awards

Biologist of the Year from the Montana Chapter of The Wildlife Society 1994.

Certificate of appreciation from the Montana Department of State Lands 1992.

Commendation from Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks for dedication and professionalism in completion of a technical bulletin 1989.

Certified Wildlife Biologist by the Wildlife Society, Inc. 1989.

Elected to National Scientific Honor Society of Sigma Xi 1986.

Elected to Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society 1978

Deborah Dils

Land Section Supervisor, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena MT 59620-0701
406-444-3939; FAX 406-444-3023

Professional Experience:

1993 to present: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Field Services Division Land Section Supervisor
Duties: Responsible for acquisition, disposal of all types of land interests for state agency; including fee title, easements, leases, permits. Supervises retention of land records, property management, budgets, tax payments to counties, and section personnel involved in acquisition activities for department

1985 to 1993 Montana Department of Transportation
Land Section Supervisor, Right of Way Supervisor, Land Agent
Duties: Responsible for acquisition, disposal of land interests for state agency including fee title, easements, leases, permits. Supervised retention of land records, property management of department lands, tax payments to counties, and section personnel

Education: Over 200 hours in appraisal of land interests and negotiation training pertinent to government acquisitions

B.A. - San Diego State University

Accomplishments: Successfully completed 13 conservation easements totaling approximately 34,000 acres since 1994 and many more fee acquisitions on behalf of FWP

Divisions during the same period of time.

Acquired several hundred properties for MDOT

Governor=s and Director=s Awards for accomplishments in 1996