

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

Section 1. General administrative information

**Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Habitat Units Acquisition**

Bonneville project number, if an ongoing project 9609400
and
9106100

(Note: for tracking purposes project is listed under 9609400)

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Business acronym (if appropriate) WDFW

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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Subcontractors. List one subcontractor per row; to add more rows, press Alt-Insert from within this table

Organization	Mailing Address	City, ST Zip	Contact Name
N/A			

NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses.
11.3D.6 and 11.3E

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

N/A

Other planning document references.

If the project type is “Watershed” (see Section 2), reference any demonstrable support from affected agencies, tribes, local watershed groups, and public and/or private landowners, and cite available documentation.

Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Scotch Creek Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Sunnyside Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Draft Vancouver Lowlands Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Draft Wenas Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Draft Columbia Basin Wetlands Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan

Subbasin.

Lower Columbia Mainstem, Upper Columbia Mainstem, Lower Mid-Columbia Mainstem, Okanogan River, Yakima River

Short description.

Restore and enhance over 100,000 acres of wildlife habitat in Washington to mitigate for losses associated with the construction of Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, McNary, Chief Joseph, and Grand Coulee Dams. By funding this project, BPA will receive an estimated minimum 32,940 Habitat Unit credits.

Section 2. Key words

Mark	Programmatic Categories	Mark	Activities	Mark	Project Types
	Anadromous fish		Construction		Watershed
	Resident fish	*	O & M		Biodiversity/genetics
X	Wildlife		Production		Population dynamics
	Oceans/estuaries		Research		Ecosystems
	Climate	*	Monitoring/eval.		Flow/survival
	Other	X	Resource mgmt		Fish disease
		*	Planning/admin.		Supplementation
			Enforcement	X	Wildlife habitat enhancement/restoration
		*	Acquisitions		

Other keywords.

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Project #	Project title/description	Nature of relationship
91-061	Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area	All enhancement activities have been completed and now the project is funded for on-going operation and maintenance.

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Objectives and tasks

Obj 1,2,3	Objective	Task a,b,c	Task
1	Administration	a	plan development, monitoring and evaluation, cultural resource surveys, agricultural specialist, reporting
2	Swanson Lakes	a	operation and maintenance
		b	additional enhancement
3	Scotch Creek	a	enhancement
		b	operation and maintenance
4	Sagebrush Flat	a	enhancement
		b	operation and maintenance
5	Sunnyside	a	enhancement
		b	operation and maintenance
6	Vancouver Lowlands	a	enhancement, acquisition
		b	operation and maintenance
7	Wenas	a	enhancement
		b	operation and maintenance
8	Columbia Basin Wetlands	a	enhancement
		b	operation and maintenance
9	Sage Grouse/shrub-steppe	a	acquisition
		b	enhancement
		c	operation and maintenance

Objective schedules and costs

Objective #	Start Date mm/yyyy	End Date mm/yyyy	Cost %
1	1990	2003	9.9
2	1993	enhancements- 1997; O&M on-going	23.6
3	1/1997	enhancements 9/2001; O&M on-going	10.4
4	1992	enhancements 9/2002; O&M on-going	3.5
5	1998	enhancements 9/2001;	6.3

		O&M on-going	
6	1998	enhancements 9/2001; O&M on-going	26.8
7	1998	enhancements 9/2002; O&M on-going	6.4
8	1999	enhancements 9/2002; O&M on-going	6.5
9	1998	acquisition 2000; enhancements 9/2002; O&M on-going	6.6
			100

Schedule constraints.

Weather can cause delays in implementing enhancement measures.

Completion date.

WDFW is required by the contract (MOA) with BPA to complete all enhancement measures by 9/30/2003. Operation and maintenance funding necessary to maintain habitat benefits will be on-going.

Section 5. Budget

FY99 budget by line item

Item	Note	FY99
Personnel		415,964
Fringe benefits		105,221
Supplies, materials, non-expendable property		
Operations & maintenance		242,650
Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.)	Acquisition - Sage Grouse/shrub-steppe	350,000
PIT tags	# of tags:	
Travel		22,210
Indirect costs	19%	560,000
Subcontracts		
Other	Enhancement Activities	1,629,555
TOTAL		3,325,600

Outyear costs

Outyear costs	FY2000	FY01	FY02	FY03
Total budget	2,380,820	2,663,700	2,670,000	2,670,000
O&M as % of total	57%	84%	75%	75%

Section 6. Abstract

The BPA and other entities, including WDFW, have entered into a Washington Wildlife Mitigation Agreement which obligates BPA to make available to WDFW \$21,840,000. WDFW uses its share for protection, mitigation, and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat that has been adversely affected by the construction of Federal hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River or its tributaries. The Agreement was extended until October 1, 2000 for WDFW to assist BPA in partially meeting its responsibilities under the Power Act. Under the Agreement WDFW will use funds provided by BPA to achieve an estimated minimum 32,940 habitat units.

Section 7. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background.

Development of the hydropower system on the Columbia River and its tributaries has had far-reaching effects on wildlife and wildlife habitat. Many floodplains and riparian habitats important to wildlife were inundated when reservoirs filled behind dams. The BPA is responsible for mitigating the loss of wildlife habitat caused by development of the Federal Columbia River Power System.

The BPA and other entities, including WDFW, have entered into a Washington Wildlife Mitigation Agreement which obligates BPA to make available to WDFW \$21,840,000. WDFW uses its share for protection, mitigation, and enhancement of wildlife and wildlife habitat that has been adversely affected by the construction of Federal hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River or its tributaries. The Agreement was extended until October 1, 2000 for WDFW to assist BPA in partially meeting its responsibilities under the Power Act. Under the Agreement WDFW will use funds provided by BPA to achieve an estimated minimum 32,940 habitat units.

BPA's mitigation debt is measured in Habitat Units. Habitat Units as measured by the Habitat Evaluation Procedure are the currency used in the Columbia River Wildlife Mitigation Program throughout the Columbia Basin.

Wildlife loss assessments have been done for the construction impacts associated with Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, McNary, Chief Joseph, and Grand Coulee dams. Loss assessments identify the number of Habitat Units lost by indicator species by dam. These

assessments, the Northwest Power Planning Council's Program and agreements with BPA establish the framework for WDFW's mitigation objectives.

b. Proposal objectives.

WDFW's mitigation objective is to restore and enhance habitat lost by the construction of Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, McNary, Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee dams. BPA receives credit for the number of Habitat Units WDFW produces. Pursuant to the Agreement with BPA, WDFW is required to prepare a mitigation plan identifying the number of Habitat Units currently existing on the site(s) and the minimum number of Habitat Units anticipated to be produced once enhancement activities are completed. Pursuant to the Agreement with BPA, BPA will receive an estimated minimum 32,940 Habitat Units.

Habitat restoration and acquisition of key parcels will occur on over 100,000 acres of land in Washington (98,999 acres currently owned/managed by WDFW and 17,155 acres acquired/or identified for acquisition).

<u>Project</u>	<u>Ownership</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Scotch Creek	WDFW acquisition	13,591 500
Swanson Lakes	WDFW acquisition	4,905 13,253
Sagebrush Flat	WDFW acquisition	3,740 320
Sunnyside	WDFW	9,530
Wenas	WDFW	64,435*
Sage Grouse/ Shrub-steppe	acquisition	1,670
Col. Basin Wetlands	WDFW acquisition	980 160
Vancouver Lowlands	WDFW acquisition	1,818 1,252
TOTAL	WDFW acquisition	98,999 17,155

* Inclusion of the Department of Natural Resources leases is anticipated to increase the acreage of the Wenas project by over 30,000 acres.

c. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs.

Pursuant to the Washington Wildlife Mitigation Agreement and Memorandum of Agreement between WDFW and BPA, BPA is obligated to fund the portion of the Agreement pertaining to wildlife habitat mitigation activities undertaken by WDFW. This Agreement serves to establish a monetary budget funded by BPA for projects proposed by Washington Wildlife Coalition members and approved by BPA to protect, mitigate, and improve wildlife and/or wildlife habitat within the State of Washington that have been affected by the construction of Federal dams along the Columbia River.

WDFW has prepared (or will be preparing) management plans for individual wildlife areas that address existing habitat types and wildlife species, life history data, and species and habitat specific management objectives. These management plans once approved by BPA will guide habitat improvement activities that WDFW would conduct on its existing lands and as applicable on newly acquired lands. Mitigation project sites (wildlife areas) were selected because habitat types and species found there matched those impacted by the construction of the federal hydropower system.

The Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP), developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service is a method used to document the quality and quantity of available habitat for selected wildlife species. HEP surveys have been conducted (or will be conducted) on all mitigation lands. These surveys serve to document base-line conditions as well as identifying what is needed to develop optimum habitat conditions for the species. The results of the HEP survey are used to develop habitat specific management objectives. HEP will also be used to monitor and evaluate site specific results.

d. Project history

The first WDFW project approved by BPA under the Washington Wildlife Mitigation Agreement was the Tracy Rock Sharp-tailed Grouse project (now called the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area) located in Lincoln County. An Environmental Assessment was conducted for NEPA compliance with a Finding of No Significant Impact in 1992 (DOE/EA - 0791). This project involves 4,905 acres of existing WDFW property and acquisition of 13,253 acres as a result of the Agreement. Habitat enhancement activities began in 1993 and concluded in 1997. As a result of the Agreement, BPA is obligated to provide reasonable operation and maintenance funding deemed necessary to protect wildlife and wildlife habitat benefits. Operation and maintenance funding for this project began in 1998. The second five year management plan was prepared and submitted to BPA in 1997. BPA received 15,986 Habitat Unit credits as a result of this project.

The second WDFW project approved by BPA under the Washington Wildlife Mitigation Agreement was the Douglas County Pygmy Rabbit project (now called the Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area). An Environmental Assessment was conducted for NEPA

compliance with a Finding of No Significant Impact in 1992 (DOE/EA - 0791). This project involves 3,740 acres of existing WDFW property and an acquisition of 320 acres. The Sagebrush Flat project began in 1994. The management plan was updated and submitted to BPA in December 1997 to address project activities through Fiscal Year 2002. BPA received 2,042 Habitat Unit credits as a result of this project.

BPA conducted an Environmental Assessment (DOE/EA - 1096) with a Finding of No Significant Impact in August 1996. This Assessment covered the Scotch Creek, Sunnyside, Wenas, Columbia Basin Wetland Wildlife Areas and proposed acquisitions for Sage Grouse and shrub-steppe habitat.

The management plan for the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area located in Okanogan county, was approved by BPA in 1997 and habitat enhancement activities began. This project involves 13,591 acres of existing WDFW property and a proposed acquisition of an additional 500 acres. Scotch Creek Wildlife Area is managed primarily for sharp-tailed grouse. BPA has received 4,806 Habitat Unit credits so far with this project. Additional credits will accrue when acquisition takes place.

The Sunnyside Wildlife Area management plan was submitted to BPA in December 1997 for approval. This project involves 9,530 acres of existing WDFW property located in Yakima and Benton counties. BPA will receive 4,034 Habitat Unit credits.

The Wenas Wildlife Area covering over 64,435 acres of existing WDFW property is located in Yakima and Kittitas counties. This project has a "checker-block" ownership with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The project proposes to lease these DNR parcels (over 30,000 acres) and include them in the mitigation project. This will significantly increase the estimated Habitat Unit credits BPA will receive as a result of this project. HEP surveys are not yet complete and the management plan is in draft. WDFW anticipates completing the plan and submitting to BPA for approval summer 1998.

Management plan development for the Sage Grouse/Shrub-steppe acquisition and Columbia Basin Wetland projects is anticipated to commence summer 1998. Plan completion is anticipated in Fiscal Year 1999.

The Vancouver Lowlands project was funded September 1992 through May 1994 (79-92BP50446). The project has had many stop and go starts since then. In March 1996, BPA published a Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement on the Vancouver Lowlands project. The project involves the purchase and management of wildlife mitigation lands in Clark County, Washington. Scoping for the project EIS identified concern that the time taken to prepare the EIS might limit the opportunity to purchase available lands. BPA agreed to discontinue preparation of the Vancouver Lowlands EIS and fund purchase the property, under two conditions:

1. That WDFW keep the property in its status quo, not changing the use of the property or undertaking large-scale management activities until

completion of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS and Record of Decision; and

2. WDFW prepare a project management plan.

The final Environmental Impact Statement was issued in March 1997 for the Wildlife Mitigation Program (DOE/EIS - 0246). A Cultural Resource Survey was completed in 1997 and the management plan is in draft. The plan is estimated to be complete spring 1998.

e. Methods.

This project will restore and enhance over 100,000 acres of wildlife habitat in Washington to replace habitat lost due to the construction of Bonneville, The Dalles, John Day, McNary, Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams. Habitat improvement includes those activities undertaken specifically to expand the area and/or improve the quality of habitat used by the target species intended to benefit from a given improvement project. Improvement generally involves manipulating the existing vegetative cover or aquatic characteristics to result in conditions that will favor the target species. Specific methods are identified in a management plan for each project site. Improvement methods typically include one or more of the following specific activities: weed control, fencing, vegetation management, rangeland rehabilitation, riparian restoration/improvement, wetland restoration, water control, road management, fire control, species-specific habitat improvement, and agriculture.

f. Facilities and equipment.

Facilities and equipment are identified in each management plan for a specific project site. To minimize costs, equipment and in some cases, staff are shared between project sites. Equipment needed for habitat restoration typically includes: vehicles, spray units and trailers, Cats, offset disk, flail mowers, augers, tractors, shop tools and supplies, chain saws, and spreaders. Additionally, office supplies and equipment are needed for each management site.

g. References.

House Bill 1309, Ecosystems Standards for State-Owned Agricultural and Grazing Land, December 1994.

Management Recommendations for Washington Priority Habitats and Species, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, May 1991.

Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1997.

Scotch Creek Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1997.

Status of the Pygmy Rabbit (*Brachylagus idahoensis*) in Washington, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, July 1993.

Sunnyside Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1997.

Swanson Lakes Wildlife Area Mitigation Management Plan, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1997.

Tracy Rock Sharp-tailed Grouse and Douglas County Pygmy Rabbit Projects Environmental Assessment with a Finding of No Significant Impact, DOE/EA - 0791, Bonneville Power Administration, 1992.

Washington State Recovery Plan for the Pygmy Rabbit, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, July 1995.

Washington State Management Plan for Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, July 1995.

Washington State Management Plan for Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasiarellus columbianus*), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, October 1995.

Washington Wildlife Mitigation Projects Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact, DOE/EA-1096, Bonneville Power Administration, August 1996.

Wildlife Mitigation Program Final Environmental Impact Statement, DOE/EIS - 0246, Bonneville Power Administration, March 1997.

Section 8. Relationships to other projects

The Sunnyside and Vancouver Lowlands project sites include wetland restoration funded by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. By providing operation and maintenance funding for the life of the project, BPA will receive Habitat Unit credits. Other project sites have volunteer and non-profit organization involvement. These organizations which include Ducks Unlimited, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, sports groups, and schools provide labor and materials for restoration activities.

Section 9. Key personnel

Project personnel include a Resource Manager 3, Biologist 4, Biologist 3, Wildlife Area Manager, Wildlife Area Assistant Manager, Habitat Tech. All project personnel meet or exceed specific qualifications necessary to implement the site specific projects.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

Information will be in the form of semi-annual reports, scientific reports, mitigation management plans, and public and professional presentations.