
PART I - ADMINISTRATIVE

Section 1. General administrative information

Title of project

Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Operation And Maintenance Project

BPA project number: 9204800

Contract renewal date (mm/yyyy): 10/2000 **Multiple actions?**

Business name of agency, institution or organization requesting funding

Colville Confederated Tribes, Fish & Wildlife Department

Business acronym (if appropriate) CCT-FWD

Proposal contact person or principal investigator:

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NPPC Program Measure Number(s) which this project addresses

Section 11

FWS/NMFS Biological Opinion Number(s) which this project addresses

N/A

Other planning document references

N/A

Short description

To protect, enhance and evaluate wildlife habitats and species for partial mitigation for losses to wildlife resulting from Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams.

Target species

Mule deer, sharp-tailed and blue grouse, mourning dove, Lewis and downy woodpecker, yellow warbler, bobcat, mink, bald eagle, and spotted sandpiper.

Section 2. Sorting and evaluation

Subbasin
Upper Columbia

Evaluation Process Sort

| CBFWA caucus | Special evaluation process | ISRP project type |
|--|--|--|
| Mark one or more caucus | If your project fits either of these processes, mark one or both | Mark one or more categories |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anadromous fish <input type="checkbox"/> Resident fish <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multi-year (milestone-based evaluation) <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed project evaluation | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed councils/model watersheds <input type="checkbox"/> Information dissemination <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operation & maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> New construction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research & monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Implementation & management <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife habitat acquisitions |

Section 3. Relationships to other Bonneville projects

Umbrella / sub-proposal relationships. List umbrella project first.

| Project # | Project title/description |
|------------------|---|
| 20509 | Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Umbrella Project |
| 9204800 | Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Operation and Maintenance Project |
| 9506700 | CCT Performance Contract for Continuing Acquisition Project |
| | |

Other dependent or critically-related projects

| Project # | Project title/description | Nature of relationship |
|------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | N/A | |
| | | |
| | | |

Section 4. Objectives, tasks and schedules

Past accomplishments

| Year | Accomplishment | Met biological objectives? |
|-------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1993 | Acquired and conducted HEP on 4814 ac. | Yes |
| 1994 | 113 ac. treated for noxious weeds | Yes |
| 1994 | 10 miles of boundary fence repaired | Yes |
| 1995 | Acquired and conducted HEP on 4800 | Yes |

| | | |
|------|---|--------------|
| | ac. | |
| 1995 | 100 ac. treated for noxious weeds | Yes |
| 1995 | Acquired and conducted HEP on 6300 ac. | Yes |
| 1996 | 200 ac. treated for noxious weeds | Yes |
| 1996 | 2 miles of new boundary fence constructed | Yes |
| 1996 | 10 miles of existing fences repaired | Yes |
| 1997 | Acquired and conducted HEP on 798 ac. | Yes |
| 1997 | 257 ac. treated for noxious weeds | Yes |
| 1997 | 2 miles of new boundary fence | Yes |
| 1997 | 10 miles of existing fences repaired | Yes |
| 1998 | Acquired 1,800 ac. | Yes |
| 1999 | Conduct baseline HEP on new acquisition | Yes, partial |
| 1999 | Maintain boundary fences | Yes, partial |
| 1999 | Implemented M&E on all acquisitions (1993-1999) | Yes, partial |

Objectives and tasks

| Obj 1,2,3 | Objective | Task a,b,c | Task |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| 1 | Protect wildlife species & habitats | a | Procure necessary manpower for Project |
| | | b | Maintain Project Equipment & Supplies |
| | | c | Maintain leases and/or lands under agreements |
| | | d | Post signs, close roads and/or gates |
| | | e | Remove trespass livestock |
| | | f | Maintain boundary fences and/or construct new |
| | | g | Establish permanent transects with photo points |
| | | h | Manage units using HEP data and/or site plans |
| | | i | Protect wildlife species and habitats on Project lands |
| | | j | Prepare site specific management plans |
| 2 | Noxious Weed Control | a | Control Noxious Weeds as required |
| | | b | Produce annual weed control report |
| 3 | Maintain Project Lands | a | Secure property |
| | | b | Maintain all physical improvements |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|---|---|
| | | c | Provide fire protection |
| | | d | Clean up hazardous and/or other materials added after acquisition |
| 4 | Monitor and Evaluate | a | Collect data |
| | | b | Analyze data |
| | | c | Relate findings to objectives |
| | | d | Use adaptive management when appropriate to meet objectives |
| 5 | Coordination | a | Coordinate with Tribal Departments |
| | | b | Coordinate with federal, state and other agencies on mitigation |
| | | c | Maintain education and/or training for current licenses |
| | | d | Manage species and habitats using best scientific info. and/or systems |
| 6 | Communication | a | Maintain communication between all involved parties and agencies |
| | | b | Continue informational updates to all involved parties |
| | | c | Hold and/or attend meetings on Project issues |
| 7 | Submit Reports | a | Prepare and submit necessary reports |
| | | b | Prepare and submit monthly and annual progress reports |
| | | c | Prepare and submit for BPA publication Project studies |
| 8 | Enhancements | a | Clear ground disturbing activities with Tribal History/Archeology |
| | | b | Identify selected habitat sites from site specific management plan |
| | | c | Implement small scale enhancement and restoration activities |
| | | d | Enhance and maintain lands enrolled in cost share programs (CRP & WHIP) |

Objective schedules and costs

| Obj # | Start date mm/yyyy | End date mm/yyyy | Measureable biological objective(s) | Milestone | FY2000 Cost % |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--------------|-------|
| | | | | Total | 0.00% |
|--|--|--|--|--------------|-------|

Schedule constraints

None

Completion date

2094 or later, ongoing in perpetuity.

Section 5. Budget

FY99 project budget (BPA obligated):

FY2000 budget by line item

| Item | Note | % of total | FY2000 |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Personnel | | %35 | 135,258 |
| Fringe benefits | | %9 | 35,797 |
| Supplies, materials, non-expendable property | | %3 | 10,500 |
| Operations & maintenance | Secure property | %19 | 72,649 |
| Capital acquisitions or improvements (e.g. land, buildings, major equip.) | Equipment | %2 | 8,000 |
| NEPA costs | | %0 | |
| Construction-related support | | %0 | |
| PIT tags | # of tags: | %0 | |
| Travel | | %1 | 3,000 |
| Indirect costs | @ 39.2% of direct salaries | %14 | 53,021 |
| Subcontractor | | %17 | 65,000 |
| Other | | %0 | |
| TOTAL BPA FY2000 BUDGET REQUEST | | | \$383,225 |

Cost sharing

| Organization | Item or service provided | % total project cost (incl. BPA) | Amount (\$) |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| NRCS | Habitat Enhancement Cost Sharing | %-3 | -10,000 |
| USDA | Conservation Reserve Program | %-7 | -23,225 |
| | | %0 | |
| | | %0 | |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Total project cost (including BPA portion) | \$350,000 |
|---|-----------|

Outyear costs

| | FY2001 | FY02 | FY03 | FY04 |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Total budget | \$350,000 | \$350,000 | \$500,000 | \$500,000 |

Section 6. References

| Watershed? | Reference |
|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ashley, P. and M. Berger, 1997. Columbia River Wildlife mitigation Habitat Evaluation Evaluation Procedures Report, January 1997. DOE/BP-95-AI39607. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Berger, M., 1993. Hellsgate Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project Long Term Management Plan. Draft Report 1993. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Berger, M., 1995. Hellsgate Winter Range Mitigation Project Proposed Mitigation Lands Assessment and HEP Analysis. Draft Report, 1995. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Berger, M., 1997. Hellsgate Winter Range Mitigation Project HEP Report for New Acquisitions, 1997. Draft Report, 1997. Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Berger, M., 1998. Hellsgate Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project Site Specific Management Plan. Draft in progress. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BPA, 1995. Hellsgate Winter Range: Wildlife Mitigation Project, Final Environmental Assessment, DOE/EA-0940, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | BPA, 1997. Wildlife Mitigation Program, Final Environmental Impact Statement, DOE/EIS-0246, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Creveling, J. and B. Renfrow, 1986. Wildlife Protection, Mitigation and Enhancement Planning for Grand Coulee Dam, Final Report, DOE/BP, Bonneville Power Administration, Portland, Oregon Hays, R.L., C. Summers, and W. Seitz, 1981. Estimating Wildlife H |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Kuehn, D. and M. Berger, 1992. Wildlife Habitat Assessment Chief Joseph Dam Project, Washington Project Report, 1992, DOE/BP-91BP14775, Bonneville Power administration, Portland, Oregon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | U.S. Department of Interior, 1976. Habitat Evaluation Procedures: For use by the Division of Ecological Services in evaluating water and related land resource development projects. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | USFWS, 1980. Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP). 102 ESM. Division of Ecological Services. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | |

PART II - NARRATIVE

Section 7. Abstract

The Hellsgate Operation and Maintenance Project falls within the Tribes umbrella project, Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Mitigation Project. We are mitigating for wildlife losses suffered from Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dam Projects. HEP studies were conducted, or are scheduled for new acquisitions, to determine habitat quality and quantity baseline data and future projections. Target species used in the HEP studies are sharp-tailed grouse, mule deer, mink, spotted sandpiper, bobcat, blue grouse, mourning dove, Lewis and downy woodpeckers, yellow warbler and Canada goose. Limited life values or Habitat Suitability Index's for each target species was determined for existing habitats on project lands based on field data collection. From this data long-term management plans were developed. In addition, these plans contain proposed management actions, habitat enhancements, and tools that will be used to protect, restore and enhance habitats on project lands to desired conditions for wildlife species. This project proposal identifies the means needed to protect project lands from further ecological degradation by boundary fencing, weed control and the removal of trespass livestock (ongoing Project O&M). Permanent transects and photo points were established in various cover types to monitor and evaluate those habitats over time. Funding for this project is provided by BPA through annual contracts and through cost sharing activities with other federal agencies.

Section 8. Project description

a. Technical and/or scientific background

Over 24,000 acres of critical, low elevation wildlife habitat was lost on the Colville Reservation due to the construction, and inundation impact, of the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph hydro-projects (Creveling, J. and B. Renfrow, 1986, and Kuehn, D. and M. Berger, 1992). This Hellsgate O&M Project will help with the mitigation of some of those losses. Key personnel on this project have planned, acquired and are currently managing over 18,500 acres of mitigation lands under the FWP. Management and enhancement activities based on sound ecosystem concepts and adaptive management principals will lead to wildlife habitat improvement and maintenance. The chief constraint will be the amount and timing of funding to carryout planned program activities. Long term protection, management, and enhancement of project lands will provide increased bio-diversity, improve soil, water, and vegetation quality and quantity. Project lands lie within the boundaries of the Colville Indian Reservation both upstream and downstream of Grand Coulee Dam. At present the project manages a total of 18,512 acres made up of the former W. Kuehne ranch (4,814 acres), H. Kuehne ranch (4,800 acres), the Berg ranch (6,300 acres), the Hinman property (770 acres), the Redford Canyon parcel (221 acres), the Nespelam Bend property (517 acres), the Friedlander parcel (60 acres), and 1,030 acres west of the Hellsgate road in the Sand Hills area of the Hellsgate

Reserve. These lands were purchased with BPA funding over a six-year period. The funds were provided by BPA through the Washington Wildlife Coalition Agreement. The Tribes are listed as having two wildlife projects, Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project # 9204800 and the Colville Confederated Tribes Performance Contract # 9506700. The Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project is the parent or umbrella project. The performance contract project was set up to transfer funds and provides crediting to BPA. Future land acquisitions are being and will be proposed as part of the parent project, Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Wildlife mitigation Project. The Hellsgate Winter Range Mitigation Project Programmatic Management Plan, 1993 described the former W. Kuehne land purchase. The Hellsgate Winter Range Mitigation Project Proposed Mitigation Lands Assessment and HEP Analysis, 1995 described the former H. Kuehne land acquisition. The Berg acquisition was described in the combined HEP report with WDFW titled, Columbia River Wildlife Mitigation Habitat Evaluation procedures Report, January 1997. The Redford Canyon and Nespelem Bend acquisitions are discussed in the draft Hellsgate Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project HEP Report for New Acquisitions, 1997. The Friedlander parcel, Hinman property, and the Sand Hills property are new acquisitions and a draft HEP report will be available in FY2000. Present Hellsgate Project lands are divided into 12 management units by location and/or similar habitat types. Most of the management units are adjacent to Tribal lands or the Columbia River. Management of project lands follows the Scope of Work (SOW) established in the BPA Contract for the Hellsgate Project. The SOW is developed annually and approved by BPA and the Tribes before implementation. Materials are purchased on an as needed basis. Major purchases of equipment and/or supplies are requested in draft budget for each fiscal year and when approved are sent out for bids prior to purchase. Monitoring of habitats will involve HEP which was developed by the USFWS to document the non-monetary value of fish and wildlife resources (USDI, 1976). HEP provides information describing the relative value of different areas at the same point in time and can make assumptions about these areas at future points in time (USFWS, 1980). By combining the information, the impact of proposed or anticipated land and water use changes on wildlife can be quantified. HEP is based on ecological principals and the assumption that habitat for selected wildlife species can be described as a numerical value known as a Habitat Suitability Index (HIS). This value is derived from an evaluation of the ability of certain habitat components to supply life requirements of selected species. Evaluation involves using the same components to compare existing habitat conditions with optimum conditions for a selected species (Hays, R.L., C. Summers, and W. Seitz, 1981). Selection of evaluation species was based on loss assessments for Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams (Creveling, J. and B. Renfrow, 1986 and Kuehn, D. and M. Berger, 1992). HEP models were developed for each selected species using different habitat types (Berger, M., 1995 and Ashley, P. and M. Berger, 1997). A HEP study will be conducted every 5-10 years to compare baseline habitat values with current habitat points for each habitat type to note vegetation changes over time with management. Wildlife population trend data will be collected annually and compared with habitat changes on each management unit.

b. Rationale and significance to Regional Programs

This project is a segment of the Tribes Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Umbrella Project. It is designed to meet the overall goals of this project. Passive restoration will be emphasized wherever feasible. However, enhancement activities will be necessary on some sites to return them to properly functioning habitat. These activities will be closely scrutinized prior to implementation to help insure success while maintaining cost effectiveness. Passive restoration, “letting nature heal itself,” will be emphasized wherever feasible. This project is not directly linked to projects being carried out by other entities in the basin. However, it is indirectly linked to other similar projects in the region.

c. Relationships to other projects

This is a segment of the Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Umbrella Project no. 00. This project carries out the O&M, M&E functions of project lands that are acquired under our Colville Tribes Performance Contract for Continuing Acquisitions no. 9506700.

d. Project history (for ongoing projects)

The Hellsgate Big Game Winter Range Project began in 1993 with an operating budget of \$127,616 to protect 4,814 acres of wildlife habitat on the former W. Kuehne ranch purchase for wildlife mitigation. In 1994, \$2,602,579 was received to protect and manage the existing mitigation lands and to acquire additional lands. Options were acquired on an additional 11,000 acres of wildlife habitat. In 1995, \$146,858 was obligated to continue funding the Hellsgate Project. In 1996, and 1997, the Hellsgate Project was funded from the Colville Confederated Tribes Performance Contract # 9506700, which provided for the protection and maintenance of the Hellsgate Project. \$250,000 was allocated for 1998. For FY 99 the Projects were combined and allocated \$350,00. Management activities on the Hellsgate Project follow the “Scope Of Work” (SOW) outlined in the BPA Contracts. Monthly progress reports and an annual Project report are submitted to BPA for each year as per contract. The Hellsgate Project currently has acquired and provides protection to 18,512 acres of habitat for wildlife.

e. Proposal objectives

At present the Hellsgate Project protects 18,512 acres of habitat for wildlife. The new acquisitions (1,860 acres) have not been assessed for baseline conditions and cover types. This will occur during FY99. The goals and objectives are detailed in the draft site specific management plan for project lands. The assessed Habitats within this land base are described as specific vegetative habitat types as follows:

Shrub-steppe, a total of 6,264 acres are protected and will be enhanced for shrub-steppe obligate species with sharp-tailed grouse and mule deer the main management species for this cover type. Grasslands, a total of 3,108 acres are protected and will be enhanced for wildlife species using this cover type such as sharp-tailed grouse.

Conifer forest, a total of 2,565 acres are protected and enhanced for wildlife species using this cover type such as downy woodpecker and blue grouse.

Agricultural lands, a total of 2,360 acres will be converted back to habitat types occurring before human disturbance based on soil types. These areas will then be managed for the benefit of wildlife. This includes land enrolled into CRP.

Conifer woodland/Ponderosa pine savanna, a total of 1,365 acres are protected and will be enhanced for mule deer, Lewis woodpecker, and other wildlife species using this cover type.

Riparian, a total of 336 acres will be protected and enhanced for obligate species such as mink and beaver using this cover type.

Rock/shrub-steppe, a total of 220 acres will be protected and enhanced for species such as bobcat using this cover type.

Mixed forest, a total of 208 acres will be protected and enhanced for wildlife species using this cover type.

Deciduous woodland, a total of 75 acres will be protected and enhanced for species using this cover type especially neo-tropical migrant birds.

Shoreline areas, a total of 60 acres will be protected and enhanced for waterfowl species and wading birds using this cover type.

Management actions to protect and enhance these cover types include:

- Maintaining boundary fences to prevent livestock trespass.
- Removing trespass livestock.
- Control and/or eliminate noxious weeds.
- Maintain and enhance the desired vegetation for each cover type.
- Enhance community composition by planting and/or seeding.
- Monitor and evaluate habitat responses using HEP, permanent transect and photo point data.

f. Methods

The Hellsgate Site Specific Management Plan (in draft) describes the methodology for the protection, maintenance, and enhancement for project lands. The plan covers the management activities for each management unit and associated cover types. Monitoring will involve the use of periodic HEP analysis comparisons to baseline data as well as information obtained from permanent transects and photo points. By comparing this data over time management activities can be evaluated against project goals and objectives. Activities proposed and methods used to achieve them will follow those outlined in Hellsgate Winter Range Wildlife Mitigation Project, Final Environmental Assessment, 1995 and Wildlife Mitigation Program, Final EIS, DOE/EIS-0246, 1997. Management will follow the SOW outlined in the yearly in the BPA contract summarized below:

To manage, protect, and enhance wildlife habitats and associated wildlife species using adaptive management based on sound ecosystem techniques and principals. To continue Operation and Maintenance activities on Project lands. To monitor and evaluate over the long term so that Project objectives are being met. To coordinate with BPA and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT) when Project activities takes place.

Management of Project Lands:

- a. Protect wildlife species and habitats on project lands:
- b. Conduct baseline HEP analysis on project lands.
- c. Develop site specific management plan for project lands.
- d. Set up permanent transects with photo points in representative cover types.
- e. Remove trespass livestock from mitigation lands.
- f. Maintain and/or construct boundary fences to exclude domestic livestock. The Hellsgate Project has 120 miles of perimeter boundary of which only 50 miles is fenced.
- g. Close roads and/or gates to protect wildlife species and habitats as necessary.
- h. Maintain lease agreements to protect species and habitats not within project boundaries.
- i. Protect and enhance Tribal lands under agreement for mitigation purposes.
- j. Procure the necessary manpower, tools and equipment, materials and supplies to complete job tasks.

Control Noxious Weeds:

- a. Use acceptable technology and/or methods for noxious weed control.
- b. Procure the necessary training and/or licenses to apply chemicals on project lands. Since 1993, a total of 770 acres have been treated to prevent the spread of noxious weeds. These treated areas were then seeded with desired grasses and forbs to prevent and/or slow the re-infestation of noxious weeds.

Maintain existing physical improvements, provide fire protection, identify and clean up hazardous and/or other material.

Monitor and Evaluation:

- a. Continue survey and data collection on species of concern.
- b. Establish permanent transects with photo points to monitor and evaluate habitats and species.
- c. Conduct periodic HEP studies to evaluate management actions on habitats.
- d. Conduct population census and trend data collection activities (surveys, counts, trapping, banding, radio collaring, etc.) to assist in monitoring habitat effectiveness on project lands.

Coordination:

- a. Maintain communication/coordination concerning the Hellsgate Project.
- b. Manage species and habitats using the best scientific information and/or systems and provide education and/or training to accomplish this task.
- c. Coordinate with other Tribal, state and federal agencies with the management of species and habitats related to land based activities outside Hellsgate Project lands.
- d. Hold and/or attend meetings concerning the project.
- e. Prepare and submit the necessary reports to BPA.
- f. Clear ground breaking disturbances with Tribal History/archeology Department prior to startup of on the ground activities.

Enhancement and Restoration:

- a. Using the draft Site Plan, select areas for implementing habitat enhancement and/or restoration activities.
- b. Enhance and maintain those lands enrolled into habitat improvement programs. Over 400 acres of project lands are enrolled into CRP and 80 acres are enrolled into WHIP.

g. Facilities and equipment

The major facilities used by project personnel include an office at the Tribal Fish and Wildlife Department building with suitable workspace and computer. The former Berg ranch house is utilized as a field office for the WAM. On the Baulne unit, project equipment was housed until the roof collapsed in the winter of 1997. At present the facilities are adequate to support the project needs, however future acquisitions will require an additional storage/field office located on project property. The project makes use of available surplus equipment from BIA or lease equipment rather than outright purchase. The tractors and equipment are adequate at present, however more habitat acquisition and enhancement efforts may require more equipment to meet project objectives. Work vehicles are leased through GSA or are acquired as surplus and maintained by the Project. The project needs a flatbed trailer to move tractors and farm equipment to the different management units.

h. Budget

Personnel

Supervisory Biologist is the technical contact and provides some overall policy to the Hellsgate Project.

The Wildlife Bio/Manger is a full time employee responsible for developing and implementing comprehensive reports and/or plans, budgets, data collection and analysis, monitoring and management of all project lands.

The Wildlife Area Manager is a full time employee responsible for the day to day operations of the project.

Four Seasonal Laborers are employed to carryout project objectives.

Temporary laborers are hired to assist seasonal laborers on an as needed basis to accomplish project objectives and tasks.

Part-time clerical support covers secretarial costs for administrative duties and/or activities associated with Tribal affairs.

Fringe is set by the Tribe and subject to change annually.

Indirect is 39.2 % set by the BIA for all contracts with the Tribes and subject to change annually. It applies only direct to salaries.

Supplies and Materials covers the cost of necessary items and equipment used on the project to comply with tasks and objectives.

O&M covers the cost of day to day operations on the Hellsgate Project, maintaining and constructing new fences, preventing livestock trespass, weed control, and maintaining project buildings and equipment. This line item also covers the cost of monitoring and evaluating project lands on an annual basis.

Capital acquisitions include the purchase of an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) to carryout day to day maintenance activities on the project and also buying a rail container to store and secure project supplies on site.

Travel covers the expenses for traveling to and from meetings, training courses, workshops, etc., throughout the fiscal year for the project.

Subcontracts Fencing, purchasing and growing trees/shrubs, species monitoring, etc. are contracted as needed by the project to be cost effective.

Other - Outside funding to offset project costs include monies from the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) developed in cooperation with the NRS.

Section 9. Key personnel

Steven L. Judd, Senior Wildlife Biologist

Matthew T. Berger, Project Wildlife Biologist

James V. Smith, Wildlife Area Manager (WAM)

The personnel involved with this project meet the educational and experience requirements of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for these types of positions. The Tribes are the entity charged by law with the responsibility for carrying out these types of activities.

Section 10. Information/technology transfer

Project personnel work in cooperation with other agencies and groups within the region, who contribute to project activities and planning. A citizens advisory group and a technical task team are kept informed of all project activities. Project personnel and other agency personnel have developed HEP models for monitoring and measuring habitats for selected wildlife species. The Project Manager has taught HEP to other agency and Tribal personnel involved with regional wildlife mitigation. Reports, models, methods and plans developed on this Project have been used on other project within the basin to evaluate habitats for mitigation. Project personnel worked with WDFW personnel in developing standards and field methodologies for use on other mitigation projects. This project provides opportunities for information exchanges on species and habitats through management activities with other federal and state agencies. This project participates in cost sharing opportunities with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Congratulations!