



MEMORANDUM

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

INTER DEPARTMENTAL

DATE: May 29, 2007

TO: Rose Owens

FROM: Keith Kohl

SUBJECT: History of Deer Collaring Project with UPC

Jim Torland, former District Biologist, and I met with Keith Avery and Dan Albano of UPC in September 2002 to discuss a wind power project on Government Flat and Seven Mile Hill areas west of The Dalles. We discussed the uniqueness of a wind power project in oak habitats and that area is important winter range for both deer and elk. Besides the one antelope collaring project in Wyoming, there were no known projects on big game that look at the effects of wind power on big game species.

The collaring project was initiated to possibly answer a couple of questions:

1. Did the construction of the wind power project move the deer off of their wintering ground and cause damage to the neighboring agricultural crops and/or cause other problems?
2. If the project did cause movement, then some sort of mitigation would be conducted.
3. If it was found that the collared deer did not move off of the project area during construction or while the project was in operation, then we might be able to conclude that the wind power project did not adversely affect the winter deer population on the project area.

In a September 17, 2003 email from Dan Albano to me, UPC agreed to cooperate on a deer telemetry project with ODFW on the winter deer that occupy the project area and adjoining area. The email stated:

- “1. ODFW will order 15 collars, a receiver and antenna kit with the billing to UPC.
2. UPC will independently contract a seasonal to build traps and check traps and provide a 4X4 for the seasonal.
3. Karen Kronner and her staff will incorporate the radio-tracking of collared animals into their weekly/bi-weekly visits to the project area for the ongoing wildlife/avian baseline study. At

some point this fall we will discuss overall protocol and outline on a map the area that you feel makes the most sense to include in our radio-tracking coverage.

4. In addition to our radio-tracking on the ground, your staff will monitor all collar frequencies from the air during your regular flights in that area. We will then combine all observations and I will write up the results and submit a report to your office. This report, or some variation of it, will also be used as part of our overall wildlife/avian baseline study.”

The project was designed to give information on the possible effects of the wind power project on the wintering deer population. The plan was to have equal collars on deer outside (15 collars) and within (15 collars) the wind power project area and monitor them prior to construction, during construction and post construction. ODFW provided 15 collars, worked up the deer after they were caught in panel traps and monitored their movements with emphasis on migration routes and summer use.

Prior to working with UPC, ODFW placed four collars on deer on the Fulton property in the winter of 2002/03. In the winter of 2003/04, 11 deer were captured and collars attached. The winter of 2004/05, 18 collars were placed on deer with the last eight collars placed using a helicopter net gun on February 25, 2005 which was funded by UPC. This made for 28 active collars at that time. Currently in May, 2007, twelve collars are still active.

In an April 6, 2006 Informational Memorandum from Krista Kisch she states “ In consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, UPC has funded a deer collaring and monitoring study intended to establish a baseline on migrating deer activity pre- and post-construction. To date, UPC has collared approximately 20 deer and has collected 3 years of data. Spring 2006 data collection will end in May, as recommended by ODFW.”

As of this memo, the only information that I have received is copies of some forms that I gave to the consultants for the visual or general radio observations of deer during April and May of 2004.