

3Dec.2011

Memo

To:W.C.Madsen,Wildlife Mgr.BPA

Subject:Freedom of Information Act Request(FOIA)

From:Rob Kavanaugh

*AK*

Thanks for your response and letter dated Oct.31.2011 ref the BPA Contrat with WDFW for the Asotin Wildlife Area.BPA funding and support for this contract are essential for the good mgt. of this area.

- ✓ However a review of the records shows large expenditures of federal/BPA funds spent on perimeter fencing in the amount of over \$200,000.00 during the past five years?If true these funds should have been spent on weed control,steelhead habitat protection and big game and ESA protection efforts. We have just obtained records from WDFW fish staff expressing continued concern over Dice allowing cattle in steelhead habitat in the Asotin Cr.subbasin regarding the recent Ledgerwood crossing permit.
- ✓ And,as I informed your earlier,WDFW is not required to fence out trespass catle/horses from State lands.It appears you have and continue to provide BPA funds to support private cattle ranchers on adjacent private lands does it not?In fact Ledgerwood was charged by WDFW with ~~trespass~~ cattle trespass several years ago and payed a fine/restitution fee.(Roger Holland)
- ✓ The solution to these issues is for BPA to get more involved in the enforcement of the provisions of this contract,consult with the NPT,and prevent WDFW continued waste of BPA funds on cattle ranching that violates WDFW Pol.6003.To this end
- ✓ please send me all records of all BPA staff contacts/communications,inspections with the Asotin /WDFW staff and Nez perce Tribe regarding this contract during the past two years.(2010/2011)
- ✓ Please send me the latest BPA audit for these contracts. My concern remains that BPA fails to properly inspect and enforce the provisions of this contract thus allowing ESA species and public funds be put at risk. We are concerned Dice is violating RCW43.19? Earlier I made a FOIA request to BPA via phone call but no response with forthcoming hence the necissity for this more formal FOIA memo.

*cc. NPT.  
WWP  
Cong Dick*

*P.S. I propose a meeting with your staff in the near future to resolve these issues*

*WE  
✓*

RECEIVED BY BPA FOIA OFFICE THIS DATE: 12/6/11
DUE DATE: 1/5/11
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## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

October 31, 2011

In reply refer to: KEW-4

Mr. Rob Kavanaugh  
Ex 6

Dear Mr. Kavanaugh:

I am writing in response to your September 28, 2011 and October 3, 2011 memoranda to Steve Wright, concerning Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) funding of a wildlife mitigation project, Asotin Creek Wildlife Area<sup>1</sup>, that is managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and located in southeast Washington.

In your memoranda, you raise concerns about several aspects of the WDFW's management of the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area and about BPA's role in funding those activities. One of your primary concerns regards the funding of WDFW's Pilot Grazing Project activities and potential habitat degradation impacts on fish and wildlife.

The WDFW conducted a Pilot Grazing Project from 2006 until April 2010 when it terminated the Pilot Grazing Project. WDFW has not continued the project and has no future plans to do so. Field research was conducted at the project site by Washington State University graduate students to determine the long-term effects of moderate livestock grazing on the landscape. The results of that research were submitted as a Master's Thesis in May 2011.<sup>2</sup> As we stated in our April 11, 2008 and December 17, 2008 letters to you, BPA did not fund or carry out the project, and the WDFW project did not require BPA authorization. (1) (2)

BPA has funded limited maintenance and wildlife management activities at the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area since October 2005. The BPA Asotin Creek Wildlife Mitigation contract focuses on noxious weed control, upland habitat development, and fence/facility maintenance. The goal of the project is to protect and enhance shrub-steppe, riparian and wetland habitats for the benefit (3)

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<sup>1</sup>WDFW created the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area in 1962. Through a number of purchases and leases, the managed area has grown to over 26,000 acres in fee ownership and 6,000 acres leased from the Washington Department of Natural Resources. In 2003, BPA and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation funded the purchase of the 8,500 acre Schlee Ranch by WDFW. In 2004, WDFW acquired the 1,600 acre Bickford property with BPA funding. Both acquisitions were incorporated into the Asotin Creek Wildlife Area. (4)

<sup>2</sup> The Effects of Spring Cattle Grazing on the Nutritional Ecology of Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) in Eastern Washington. S.J. Wagoner. Washington State University. May 2011.