

factsheet

January 2008

Lone Star conservation easement protects habitat in Willamette Valley

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a 199-acre conservation easement on the Lone Star Ranch in Oregon's Willamette Valley for wildlife mitigation (see map).

Acquiring this easement would provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of wildlife habitat losses due to construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities on the Willamette River. To date, BPA has helped set aside almost 5,000 acres for wildlife mitigation in the Willamette Valley, providing long-lasting benefits that protect wildlife and their habitats as well as water quality in the area.

The Lone Star Ranch is located within a matrix of other key protected lands in Benton County, including Cardwell Hills, Lupine Meadows, Bald Hill and Fitton Green Natural Area. This area has been identified as a key site in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's draft recovery plan for upland and wetland prairies in the Willamette Valley. Additionally, the long-range conservation plan for the Willamette Subbasin identifies the current need to focus mitigation funding on oak savanna and prairie habitat.

What happens next

After the easement is finalized, which is expected in winter 2008, the Greenbelt Land Trust will hold the easement and provide long-term stewardship of the property. Since the land will stay in private ownership, the landowners will continue to pay property taxes. The Greenbelt Land Trust, a nonprofit organization that works to enhance and protect habitat in the mid-Willamette Valley, will develop a management

plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property. The public will be given an opportunity to provide input on the management plan.

Pending BPA's approval of the management plan, any activities that could damage habitat would be prohibited on this land. Under the terms of the easement, the family can rebuild barns or construct homes or buildings on a 13.3-acre portion of the property. The family is also permitted to do some harvesting of firewood and cattle grazing as long as that activity does not harm conservation values.

For more information

If you have any questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Michelle O'Malley with the Bonneville Power Administration at (503) 230-5138 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or mmomalley@bpa.gov.

For information on the Greenbelt Land Trust's land acquisition or management program, contact Karlene McCabe, GLT, at (541) 752-9609 or karlene@greenbeltlandtrust.org.



Lone Star Conservation Easement

Benton County, Oregon

