

factsheet

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Yamhill Oaks conservation easement protects habitat in Willamette Valley

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a 272-acre conservation easement for wildlife mitigation in Oregon's central Willamette Valley (see map).

Located west of McMinnville in rural Yamhill County, the property includes native upland prairie, oak woodland and Douglas fir habitats, which are increasingly imperiled across the Willamette Valley. This parcel also has 1.5 miles of stream habitats important to fish and wildlife in the headwaters of Deer Creek, a tributary to the Yamhill River.

Healthy populations of two federally protected species — the Fender's blue butterfly and Kincaid's lupine — are found in this area. Additionally, this easement would benefit 24 focal species that the official Oregon Conservation Strategy has identified as being at risk.

Acquiring this easement would provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of wildlife habitat losses due to the construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities on the Willamette River.

Land to get management plan

After the easement is finalized, which is expected in fall 2008, the Nature Conservancy (a national nonprofit land conservation organization), would hold the easement. The conservancy would provide long-term stewardship of the property, working in cooperation with the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is also providing funds for a conservation easement on this property.



Example of oak habitat that would be protected by the Yamhill Oaks conservation easement. Photo courtesy of The Nature Conservancy © Rick McEwan.

A management plan would be developed by the Nature Conservancy, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and BPA to address fish and wildlife needs, forestry practices, watershed health and public access issues. Once the plan is approved, any activities that could damage habitat would be prohibited on this land.

For more information

If you have questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Dorie Welch, Bonneville Power Administration, at (503) 230-5479 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or e-mail dwwelch@bpa.gov. You may also contact Stephen Anderson from the Nature Conservancy at (503) 802-8100 or e-mail standerson@tnc.org.



Yamhill Oaks Conservation Easements

Yamhill County, Oregon

