

factsheet

September 2009

Baskett Butte conservation easement protects Willamette Valley habitats

The Bonneville Power Administration is working with The Nature Conservancy to acquire and manage a conservation easement on a 152-acre plot of land in Polk County, Oregon, to restore and protect wildlife habitat.

The easement will provide long-lasting benefits as part of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley. The land is on the southwest end of Baskett Butte and lies directly adjacent to the Baskett Slough National Wildlife Refuge. Protecting this parcel will allow wildlife access to native upland prairie, oak woodland and Douglas fir habitats. Many species are found here, including two listed under the Endangered Species Act – Fender’s blue butterfly and Kincaid’s lupine.

Other species likely to use this property include sharptail snake, southern alligator lizard, acorn woodpecker, American kestrel, chipping sparrow, common yellowthroat, horned lark, northern red legged frog, olive-sided flycatcher, pileated woodpecker, purple martin, Vaux’s swift, vesper sparrow, Western wood-pewee, Western meadowlark, white-breasted nuthatch, wood duck, yellow warbler, red tree vole, Townsend’s big-eared bat and Western gray squirrel.

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

Land to get management plan

The easement is expected to be acquired in fall 2009. If acquired, The Nature Conservancy would hold the conservation easement and would develop a management plan to guide the long-term protection and enhancement of 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.

For more information

If you have questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Dorie Welch of BPA at (503) 230-5479, (800) 282-3713 or dwwelch@bpa.gov. You may also contact Stephen Anderson of The Nature Conservancy, at (503) 802-8100 or standerson@tnc.org.



Baskett Butte conservation easement

Polk County, Oregon

