

factsheet

September 2009

Little Willamette conservation easement restores habitat for waterfowl, wildlife

The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund a 198-acre conservation easement on a former grass seed farm in Oregon's Willamette Valley to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat.

The Little Willamette farm is located in Linn County in a region of protected lands along the Willamette River, including Bower's Rock State Park, Riverside Landing and Truax Island. The easement will protect an existing population of western pond turtles and will provide potential habitat for Willamette River steelhead and Chinook salmon, which are threatened species. The easement will also restore waterfowl habitat as well as wetlands, oak savanna and prairie.

This is a priority conservation area for floodplain, wetland and upland habitats in the Oregon Wildlife Conservation Strategy adopted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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 the easement as partial mitigation for wildlife habitat losses due to construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities on the Willamette River.

What happens next

After the easement is finalized, which is expected in fall 2009, the Greenbelt Land Trust will hold the



Little Willamette Stream, habitat for western pond turtles, meanders through the property.

easement and provide long-term stewardship of the property. The property will remain in private ownership. The trust will develop a management plan to guide the habitat protection and enhancement. 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, contact Dorie Welch of BPA at (503) 230-5479, (800) 282-3713 or dwwelch@bpa.gov. You may also contact Karlene McCabe of the Greenbelt Land Trust at (541) 752-9609 or karlene@greenbeltlandtrust.org.



Little Willamette conservation easement

Linn County, Oregon

