

Dec23,2008

FOIA

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Mr. Steve Wright  
Administrator, BPA  
Portland, Or. 97208  
RE: BPA ltr. 17 Dec. 2008

Greetings:

Thanks for having V.P. Delwicke respond to our concerns about BPA's administrative role and contract with respect to the Asotin/Blue Mtn. WMA and your responsibility to enter into consultation pertaining to fed. ESA protection. (steelhead, selene Spaldingii etc.)

However several issues of concern are still problematic: First, the issue of damage caused by the Pilot Grazing project continues to dominate. Communications from Dr. Hardesty confirm exactly what I related to deHerra. WDFW/WCA put too many AUMs for too long in violation of good range science principles. Hardesty advocates DRASTIC reductions in AUMs. She also dispels the WDFW/WCA myth that calendar dates be used for turn on dates. She emphatically states that plant phenology must be a determinant. I suggest you consult with a trained Range Scientist before you decide further. (read the WNPS policy on ESA T&E plants. Oct. 2008 Hovanic et al) Sondra NPT notes. deHerra does not seem to grasp the fact that WDFW/WCA have much different criteria for livestock grazing than most credible biologists. The WCA claims they want to get rid of old dead wolfy vegetation? Biologists want to retain "old dead wolfy" vegetation as part of maintaining species diversity. Besides cattle will not use old dead vegetation while new green forage is still avail. Please review the photos showing excessive forage removal by cattle on the Smoothing Iron and Pintler units. (WWP Dr. Johnson) Hardesty reminds the WDFW/WCA that much of the areas being grazed are not flat lands but very steep canyon lands. This results in uneven use of the bench lands and ridge tops as our pictures given to you clearly show. (review her monitoring records)

Another issue is with the ESA species. You state WDFW is taking "appropriate" steps to protect. Please send me all records in the BPA files that will substantiate your assertion. As a matter of record WDFW/WCA ran cattle in and along ESA steelhead streams starting in 2005. We sent pictures of the damages during 2006. BPA made no effort to stop this damage. (Mendel WDFW Dist. Bio) In fact WDFW denied there were fish in Pintler Cr. (Quinn) Next we have continuous grazing in the sites where endangered plants were known to inhabit. 2005-2008. There are no protective or mitigative measures within the 2006-2008. Pilot Grazing plans nor were cattle kept away from these sites. If you have records otherwise please provide them. The NPT provided you with records of these plants. You ignored them.

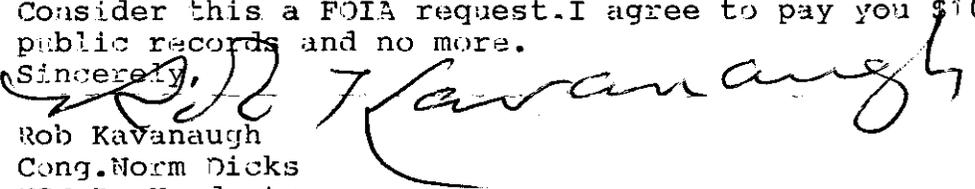
The internal fences erected for cattle by WDFW/WCA are not wanted or needed by the Dist. Tm. bios. They were not erected for wildlife or to facilitate wildlife but to facilitate cattle grazing which was never needed for elk or deer or big horn sheep. The perimeter fences are not needed. WA. law requires that all persons grazing livestock must have a permit on the WMAs. And in fact these perimeter fences are violated each year by cattlemen dropping the gates and running cows down thru the WMA for eventual pickup. (Wooten WMA mgr. 2007) In fact one of the present leases was cited for cattle trespass and required to do \$5,000.00 in habitat restitution. (Roger Holland Asotin WMA mgr.) Another is these internal electric fences prevent big game access to water. (Fowler) Thus barriers are being constructed to wildlife movement along one side of the riparian corridors. (Fowler 08)

You state BPA is undertaking a Sec. 7 consultation with the USFWS? This is what I requested you do earlier. Thanks. Please send me a record of this BPA consultation with the USFWS and WDFW. Thanks. Contact Kerry Cordova, USFWS ESA Spokane, Wa.

You state that BPA is dissatisfied that WDFW conforms with BPAs contract compliance yet earlier you state no audits are being done? We voiced concerns that sharecroppers are not following BPA contract and or state contract bidding rules. Please correct this deficiency. Also I hope that BPA funds were not used to pay the fencing contractor that resulted in the permanent injury of Mr. Perez on the Blue mtn. WMA in Oct? If they were you may face a law suit because the WDFW was remiss to insure safety procedures were followed for this work crew. Stay tuned. He is permanently disabled and can not walk. A similar accident occurred in Feb 08 with a WDFW employee. (Building cattle fences not needed for deer and elk but for cattle!)

Your new interest & involvement is greatly needed and appreciated. We must be very careful in how you spend scarce federal funds to protect, enhance and mitigate for the hydropower projects on the Snake Rv. Make wise use of them by careful mgt! Consider this a FOIA request. I agree to pay you \$10.00 for these public records and no more.

Sincerely,

  
Rob Kavanaugh  
Cong. Norm Dicks  
WSU Dr. Hardesty  
Asotin Weed Board  
WWP Jon Marvel  
NPT Angela Sondna  
WNPS C. Hovanic  
WDFW Comm. Wecker  
Janice Hill

Karen Grey Author Recon of Selene Spaldingii Blue Mtn WMA

