

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: June 21, 1999

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KECN-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-06)

TO: Phil Havens – KEWN
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

Proposed Action: Steigerwald Lake Property Acquisition, Project No. 99-46

Budget No: F5330

Location: Clark County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA and USFWS are proposing to purchase 34.95 acres of wildlife habitat as an addition to the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) as partial mitigation for the Bonneville Dam in the Columbia Gorge. The property (Tract 16) is located in Clark County, Washington, to the north and south of Washington SR 14. The tract is bordered by residences and wooded areas to the north; a wooded hillside, brush, and pasture to the east; pasture, wetlands, and a portion of the remnants of Steigerwald Lake to the south; and a wooded hillside, brush, and pasture to the west. A Burlington Northern rail line runs diagonally to the northwest through the middle of the tract. Washington SR 14 parallels the rail lines and is located in the northern portion of the tract.

The purpose of the refuge is for the protection and enhancement of wetlands and associated habitat for migratory birds. The wetland habitat will further be enhanced by the refuge, and the areas lying between the rail line and SR 14 have upland hardwood habitat that is important for neotropical and other migratory bird species. It will also provide and maintain a migration corridor for deer, elk and amphibian species, and serve as a buffer between the Refuge and SR 14.

Analysis: An Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Proposed Acquisition of Steigerwald Lake Property and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was prepared and signed by the Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, Portland, Oregon in 1987.

A Section 7 consultation was conducted in May 1999, by USFWS, and it was determined that the proposed acquisition will have no effect on salmonid or anadromous fish species. Additionally, the project will have no effect on the bald eagle or the peregrine falcon.

Consultation with the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation indicates that no archaeological surveys have taken place within the project boundaries. At this time, there are no known properties listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or the National Register of Historic Landmarks within the area proposed for acquisition.

On June 12, 1996, USFWS, Division of Environmental Contaminants conducted a Level I Pre-acquisition Contaminant Survey for Tract 16, Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge. The survey was conducted in accordance with Department of the Interior policy and guidance provided in the Departmental Manual, Part 602 DM2, Public Lands, Land Acquisition, Exchange and Disposal, Real Property Pre-acquisition Environmental Site Assessments: Transaction Screen Process (E1528-93). Based upon examination of the site and a review of historical uses, the proposed addition of Tract 16 to the Steigerwald Lake NWR does not presently appear to pose a threat to fish and wildlife resources using the area. No potential sources of contamination were identified on Tract 16. As described and documented in the survey, there is a dump site and miscellaneous debris located in the Burlington Northern railroad right-of-way, which will remain under the control of Burlington Northern. Although the dumpsite and debris are an eyesore, these materials do not appear to pose any threats to fish and wildlife resources.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 11.2d.1 of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Wildlife Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-2965) and ROD, and; 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

Leslie H. Kelleher
KECN Project Lead
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

Concur: _____ DATE: _____
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachments:
USFWS Environmental Assessment
No Effect Concurrence Letter from USFWS
Level I Pre-acquisition Contaminant Survey for Tract 16