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**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Important Idaho habitat now protected through purchase

Portland, Ore. – It's a great day for wildlife in Southern Idaho.

The Boise River Wildlife Management Area just got bigger thanks to the \$4.2 million purchase of Hammer Flat. The City of Boise, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the Bonneville Power Administration worked together to protect the nearly 705 acre Hammer Flat parcel. The property is important to big game.

"This is one of the last pieces of winter range left on the Boise Front. We've wanted to preserve the parcel for years. Now, we have found a way. This will help us keep big game herds healthy and growing for years to come," Director of IDFG Virgil Moore said.

Today, IDFG purchased the property, with BPA funds, from the City of Boise. IDFG will continue to protect it for fish and wildlife habitat as agreed upon with BPA in a 1997 Memorandum of Agreement. The City of Boise purchased the property in 2010 to protect it as open space. Now, the city will use these funds to further protect other wildlife areas in and around Boise for current and future generations.

"This agreement allows us to purchase additional open space in other parts of the valley and continue the positive impact of the Foothills Serial Levy," said Boise Mayor David Bieter.

IDFG will manage the property consistent with the terms and conditions of their 1997 Memorandum of Agreement with BPA. Under this agreement, the property will be managed by IDFG in perpetuity for the benefit of wildlife.

"With this step today, we move closer to fully mitigating for the historical impacts of the federal dams on wildlife. Working with our partners we are conserving this terrain for the use and enjoyment of the people of Idaho, their children and grandchildren, and generations to come," said Lorri Bodi, vice president of BPA Environment Fish and Wildlife.

BPA is a nonprofit federal agency that markets renewable hydropower from federal Columbia River dams, operates three-quarters of high-voltage transmission lines in the Northwest and funds one of the largest wildlife protection and restoration programs in the world. BPA and its partners have also saved enough electricity through energy efficiency projects to power four large American cities. For more information, contact us at 503-230-5131 or visit our website at www.bpa.gov.

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