

factsheet

March 2007

Coburg Hills conservation easement provides native habitat for wildlife

The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund a 1,244-acre conservation easement for the acquisition of wildlife mitigation lands in the lower foothills of Oregon's McKenzie watershed (see map). The property proposed for acquisition contains habitat that will provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of wildlife habitat losses due to the construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities on the Willamette River.

This easement will provide long-lasting benefits as part of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley by allowing wildlife access to native upland prairie, oak woodland and Douglas fir habitats. Numerous wildlife species use this habitat, including three listed under the Endangered Species Act – Fender's blue butterfly, Kincaid's lupine and the bald eagle. Adjacent to other protected parcels, the easement will prevent habitat conversion and secure rights to restore and maintain habitat that benefits 26 focal species.

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

Once the easement has been acquired, The Nature Conservancy will perform wildlife enhancements, provide long-term stewardship and monitor and enforce the easement. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also provide funds for the easement through a Section 6 Endangered Species Land Recovery grant, which is geared toward land recovery for listed species. BPA will provide additional funds to assist The Nature Conservancy in the development of a mitigation and management plan.

For more information

If you have questions regarding this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Dorie Welch, Bonneville Power Administration, at (503) 230-5479 or dwwelch@bpa.gov.

You may also contact Stephen Anderson, The Nature Conservancy, at (503) 802-8100 or standerson@tnc.org.



