

factsheet

September 2009

Buena Vista conservation easement preserves Willamette Valley habitats

The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund a 120-acre conservation easement on a former grass seed farm in Oregon's Willamette Valley to preserve and protect habitat for wildlife.

The farm is in Polk County near Luckiamute State Natural Area, near the confluence of the Luckiamute and Santiam Rivers on the Willamette River. If acquired, the easement will restore oak savanna and prairie habitat. It would also protect existing wetlands habitat, which could serve as home to Western pond turtles, waterfowl and songbirds.



Wetlands on the Buena Vista property.

To date, BPA has helped protect almost 5,000 acres in the Willamette Valley, providing long-lasting benefits that protect water quality, wildlife and habitat in the area. BPA proposes to acquire this easement as partial mitigation for 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 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) 230-5497, (800) 282-3713 or dwwelch@bpa.gov. You may also contact Karlene McCabe of Greenbelt Land Trust at (541) 752-9609 or karlene@greenbeltlandtrust.org.



Buena Vista conservation easement

Polk County, Oregon

