

# memorandum

DATE: May 23, 2002

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-24)

TO: David Sill  
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager

**Proposed Action:** Herbert Conservation Easement

**Project No:** 1992-068-00

**Wildlife Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis  
(See App. A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):** 1.2 Easement Acquisition

**Location:** Benton County, Oregon

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to purchase a conservation easement on approximately 221 acres of the Herbert parcel in Benton County, Oregon for the protection of wetland, riparian, and riverine habitats. The Herbert parcel is located within the Willamette Basin Mitigation Program's Canby Muddy Creek/Mary's River Focus Area southwest of the City of Corvallis. The Herbert site is a cooperative project principally facilitated by BPA, Trust for Public Land, City of Corvallis, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Once the conservation easement is finalized, the participants will develop a management plan for the Herbert parcel. Future management actions will likely involve the restoration and enhancement of riparian forests, wetlands, and riverine habitats. This Supplement Analysis covers the acquisition of the Herbert conservation easement only; all proposed management activities will require additional NEPA analysis prior to implementation.

**Analysis:** The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Greg Sieglitz with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

No plant or animal species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will be affected by the purchase of the Herbert conservation easement. ESA listed species known to exist in the vicinity of this parcel include Oregon chub. Prior to the implementation of any restoration or enhancement activities on the site, an updated ESA species list will be obtained and ESA Section 7 consultation will be conducted by BPA and ODFW as necessary.

The purchase of a conservation easement on the Herbert property will have no effect on cultural resources. To help guide future management actions on the Herbert parcel, a cultural resource

review of the property was completed by Applied Archaeological Research (AAR) in April 2001. AAR conducted background research on the natural and cultural landscape of the Herbert property and its environs, and conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the property. Background research conducted prior to the field survey indicated that no previous archaeological surveys had been conducted in the project area. As a result of the field study, artifacts were found throughout the project area in varying degrees of concentration. Prehistoric artifacts that were observed on the ground surface included lithic debitage, flaked stone tools, tool fragments, fire-cracked rock, and bone fragments. Stylistically diagnostic prehistoric artifacts suggest use of the area during the Late and Middle Archaic periods. A copy of AAR's cultural resource report was forwarded to the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for review.

BPA will consider the resources found on this parcel eligible for the National Historic Register until further studies and surveys are conducted. No ground disturbing activities are scheduled for the property at this time. Prior to any future construction, development, or ground disturbing activities on the Herbert parcel, additional field studies will be conducted as determined necessary. The Oregon SHPO and identified Tribes will be notified of all findings associated with subsequent surveys. The management plan developed for this property will include protection and anti-vandalism measures for identified cultural/historic resources as necessary.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the Herbert parcel was conducted and no recognized environmental concerns or adverse environmental conditions were present on or around the subject property. Fred Walasavage, an Environmental Protection Specialist with BPA, concurred with these findings and conclusions on May 9, 2002.

Public involvement associated with the Herbert conservation easement project has included discussions at public meetings/forums and public notices. Public involvement also took place as part of a local bond measure process. Consultation on this project has occurred with the Oregon Wildlife Coalition, National Marine Fisheries Service, City of Corvallis, Greenbelt Land Trust, and local landowners. Additional public involvement will take place during the development of a comprehensive management plan for the Herbert parcel.

**Findings:** The project is generally consistent with the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program, as well as BPA's Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0246) and ROD. This Supplement Analysis finds that: 1) implementing the proposed action will not result in any substantial changes to the Wildlife Mitigation Program that are relevant to environmental concerns; and 2) there are no significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the Wildlife Mitigation Program or its impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart 5-23-02

Shannon C. Stewart

Environmental Specialist – KEC-4

CONCUR:

/s/ Tom McKinney  
Thomas C. McKinney  
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: 5-23-02

Attachments:  
NEPA Compliance Checklist  
Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Letter, May 9, 2002

cc: (w/o attachments)  
Greg Sieglitz – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife