Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Implementation

Annual Report 1999

April 2000

DOE/BP-00098580-1

This Document should be cited as follows:

Bottum, Edward, Anders Mikkelsen, "Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Implementation", 1999 Annual Report, Project No. 199505701, 8 electronic pages, (BPA Report DOE/BP-00098580-1)

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208

This report was funded by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), U.S. Department of Energy, as part of BPA's program to protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the development and operation of hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River and its tributaries. The views in this report are the author's and do not necessarily represent the views of BPA.

Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Implementation

**1999 Annual Report for
Project No. 1995-057-01
Contract No. 97BI98580**

Written by

**Edward Bottum
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Boise, Idaho**

**Anders Mikkelsen
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes
Plummer, Idaho**

**For Allyn Meuleman
Bonneville Power Administration
Portland, Oregon**

April 14, 2000

This report is for the Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Implementation project. This project, implemented by IDFG **and** SBT wildlife mitigation staff, is designed to protect, enhance and maintain wildlife habitats to mitigate construction losses for Palisades, Anderson Ranch, Black Canyon and Minidoka hydroelectric projects. Additional project information is available in the quarterly reports.

Project Background

The following table provides an overview of individual wildlife mitigation projects that have been implemented by the Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Project through calendar year 1999.

Project Name	County/Dam	Year	Manager(s)	Acres	HEP	HU
Winterfeld easement	Bonneville/Palidades	1997	IDFG&SBT	422	Yes	383
Kruse easement	Bonneville/Palisades	1997	Teton Regional Land Trust	800	Yes	813
Menan (K1) acquisition	Bonneville/Palisades	1997	IDFG&SBT	140	Yes	317
Noxious Weed Project	Bonneville, Jefferson & Madison/Palidades	1997	IDFG&SBT	Up to 10,000	NA	499
Beaver Dick acquisition (K2)	Madison/Palisades	1997	IDFG&SBT	310	Yes	901
Quarter Circle "O" acquisition	Bonneville/Palisades	1997	IDFG	1/3 of 2135	Yes	1254
Soda Hills acquisition	Caribou/Palisades	1998	SBT&IDFG	2563	Yes	3896
Big Cottonwood WMA habitat enhancement	Cassia	1998	IDFG	230	Yes*	122
Deer Parks	Bonneville/Palisades	1999	IDFG&SBT	2556	Yes*	6918
Krueger	Ada/Black Canyon	1999	IDFG	166	No	57

*Field work completed, data analysis in progress.

HEP Analyses

HEP field data collection has been completed for all projects except the Krueger acquisition. Field work on the Krueger project is scheduled for May 2000. Analysis of the Deer Parks and Big Cottonwood field data is in progress.

Management Activities at Individual Projects

Winterfeld Conservation Easement

This project is a conservation easement on a privately owned farm. The easement is held by IDFG. An IDFG habitat biologist surveyed the property for the presence of suspected sharp-tailed grouse leks but none were located. See Easement Report section.

Kruse Conservation Easement

This project is a conservation easement on a privately owned farm. The easement is held by Teton Regional Land Trust. See Easement Report section.

Menan Acquisition

Perimeter fences were maintained to continue excluding livestock. Weed infestations were treated using chemical and biological methods. Insects were released to help control leafy spurge. A previously unknown infestation of Russian knapweed was located on this property and treated. A 35-acre former crop field was plowed and disked in fall 1999 in preparation for reseeding to permanent cover in 2000. Willows are recovering on another 10 acres because of protection from livestock grazing. A small patch of cottonwood seedlings was documented on gravel deposited by flooding. BLM completed the new access road through the legal easement (the previous access was not through the legal easement). Miscellaneous non-historic junk has been hauled away.

Beaver Dick Acquisition

Perimeter fences were maintained to continue excluding livestock. Infestations of Canada and musk thistle were treated using chemical and biological methods. Insects were released to help control leafy spurge. A previously unknown infestation of purple loosestrife was found on this property and treated. The source of this infestation was identified on a private property across the river. Obsolete power lines were removed by the local electric utility. The poles were left and an osprey nested on one. Volunteers put up four goose nest platforms using donated materials. Miscellaneous non-historic junk has been hauled away.

Quarter Circle Acquisition

Perimeter fences were maintained to control trespass livestock. A legal survey of a portion of the property and associated fence line adjustment was postponed until 2000 because funding was available too late in the year to begin the fieldwork. Weed infestations were located and treated. Erosion prevention terraces were maintained and plans developed to establish permanent cover on former cropland in 2000.

Soda Hills Acquisition

Perimeter fences were maintained and weeds monitored. IDFG conducted aerial big game surveys and monitored OHV use. SBT and IDFG coordinated with BLM to begin development of a long-term management plan.

Big Cottonwood WMA Habitat Enhancement

Weed infestations were located and treated. The 50-acre shrub-steppe restoration area was treated twice with herbicides to control weeds and later disked and seeded. Initial emergence of

desirable plant species is low. Managers are monitoring the site to determine if more of the planted species will germinate in spring 2000. The 30-acre shrub-steppe restoration area was burned and treated with herbicide (to control cheat grass). This site will be seeded in spring 2000. Managers collected sagebrush seed from nearby sites to use on the shrub-steppe restoration areas. Managers began the first of three phases of the riparian restoration/pasture rehabilitation project.

Deer Parks Acquisition

The previous owners of this property leased back the land for two years as a condition of sale. Project co-managers began management planning and an interim plan was approved by the CBFWA Wildlife Committee. A long-term management plan is being developed by the co-managers and the Palisades Interagency Work Group. Managers began weed monitoring and control on the non-agricultural portions of the project.

Krueger Acquisition

This property is being managed as part of the IDFG Boise River WMA. During 1999 perimeter fences were maintained and weeds were monitored. Management planning is underway and a baseline HEP is scheduled for spring 2000.

Easement Report

Winterfeld Conservation Easement

IDFG personnel visited the site in May and November. The 1999 annual conservation easement inspection report noted all terms of the easement were being observed.

Kruse Conservation Easement

Teton Regional Land Trust personnel visited the site in October. The 1999 annual monitoring report submitted by TRLT indicates satisfactory compliance with the terms of the easement.

Accounting of Fund (January – December 1999)

NOTE: Overhead costs are not included. Because each contract period is different and because the IDFG fiscal year is July-June, inconsistencies in cost-accounting occur. Therefore, the amounts below, particularly personnel expenditures, may be slightly imprecise. We will try to improve reconciling the different fiscal cycles for next year's report.

Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Implementation (Contract #97BI98580)

Item	Note	Amount spent in 1999
Personnel	Approx. 1.75 FTE Wildlife Mitigation Specialists; administrative help; supervisor	\$96,600.66
Operating	Travel	\$7,660.50
	Services	\$3,384.94
	Other (supplies, maps, etc)	\$2,888.32
Capital Outlay	2 computers	\$4,743.94
TOTAL		\$115,278.36

Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation (Contract #98BI64597)

Item	Note	Amount spent in 1999
Land acquisition	Deer Parks, South Fork Snake River (Palisades mitigation)	\$5,200,000
Land acquisition	Krueger property in Boise Foothills (Black Canyon mitigation)	\$339,893.02
TOTAL		\$5,539,893.02

Big Cottonwood Wildlife Enhancement (Contract #99BI1771)

Expenditures

Item	Note	Amount spent in 1999
Personnel	2 part-time, temporary bio-aides	\$3,263.79
Operating	Equipment and materials	\$502.61
	Noxious weed control (herbicide, contracted services)	\$1,421.69
	Equipment service/repair and fuel	\$89.74
	Maps/photos	\$13.00
	Seed/seedbed preparation (including contracted services)	\$600.81
Capital Outlay	Spray rig for ATV	\$500.00
TOTAL		\$6,391.64

Costshare

Item	Note	Estimated Dollar Value
Personnel	IDFG manager, license-dollar funded (approx. 78 hours plus benefits)	\$1,521

Quarter Circle O Wildlife Habitat O&M (Contract #99BI18471)

Expenditures

Item	Note	Amount spent in 1999
Operating	Equipment	\$22.24
	Fuel and oil	\$510.11
	Boundary signs	\$100.00
TOTAL		\$632.35

Revenues

Item	Note	Amount earned in 1999
Sharecropper agreement*	Revenue will be used to buy seed and shrubs and cover administrative costs.	\$4,927.47

* Sharecropper agreement applies to an area greater than the BPA-purchased portion of Quarter Circle O.

Deer Parks Complex Wildlife Habitat O&M (Contract #99BI18612)**Expenditures**

Item	Note	Amount spent in 1999
Personnel	Temporary employees	\$1,413.17
Operating	Equipment	\$626.95
	Travel	\$440.50
	Maps	\$139.85
	Truck rental	\$183.69
	Repairs to pumps, pump motors, and wiring	\$7,049.91
	Other services	\$1,356.36
Capital Outlay	ATV	\$4,790.60
TOTAL		\$11,210.43

Revenues

Item	Note	Amount earned in 1999
Deer Parks lease	Leaseback agreement (March 1999 – February 2000); accumulates @ \$1250/month	\$12,500

Costshare

Item	Note	Estimated Dollar Value
Personnel	Temporary employee	\$1,150
Personnel	IDFG manager, license-dollar funded (approx. 160 hours plus benefits) NOTE: other IDFG manager funded by federal, non-BPA dollars	\$3,760
Operating	Herbicides and related supplies	\$250
	IDFG truck use	\$1,000
TOTAL		\$6,160

Soda Hills Wildlife Mitigation (Contract #99BI18981)

No expenditures in 1999.

Costshare (IDFG, BLM, and Shoshone-Bannock Tribes personnel time) was not quantified.