

Tom Karier  
Chair  
Washington

Frank L. Cassidy Jr.  
"Larry"  
Washington

Jim Kempton  
Idaho

W. Bill Booth  
Idaho



Joan M. Dukes  
Vice-Chair  
Oregon

Melinda S. Eden  
Oregon

Bruce A. Measure  
Montana

Rhonda Whiting  
Montana

May 31, 2007

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Council Members

**FROM:** Patty O'Toole,

**SUBJECT:** Update on Willamette Wildlife Crediting issue

During the discussion in May of Willamette wildlife crediting and the Combined Habitat Assessment Procedure (CHAP), Council asked for further discussion at the June meeting.

Greg Delwiche, will provide an update to Bonneville's perspective regarding Willamette wildlife mitigation.

The following is an excerpt from the May Council packet that may be of some value for background information for the ongoing discussion:

### **Loss Assessments-1986**

The Willamette Basin loss assessments from 8 hydro-facilities on the Middle Fork, McKenzie, and Santiam River drainages accounted for negative impacts on 16 vegetation cover types and 19 wildlife species. The Willamette projects "inundated, extensively altered, or affected 33,407 acres of land and river.." including "17,800 acres, 60 miles of river, and an undetermined number of miles of tributary streams " that were inundated. The primary cover types that were altered or inundated included 5,184 of late successional or old growth conifer forest, 2,850 acres of riparian hardwood stands, 2,180 acres of shrubland, 1,526 acres of sawtimber, 1,290 acres of grass-forb communities, and 1,266 acres of pole-size conifer forest. Twenty-four target wildlife species were used in the loss assessments but not all species were assessed at each hydro-facility. Nineteen species were negatively impacted by alterations or inundations of critical habitats. Approximately 94,306 Habitat Units (HUs) were lost because of construction and operation of the Willamette projects. The primary target wildlife species that were affected included black-tailed deer (-17,254 HU's), Roosevelt elk (-15,295 HU's), ruffed grouse (-11,145 HU's), and pileated woodpeckers (-8,690 HU's).

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