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25 Spokane Subbasin Inventory of Existing Programs – Terrestrial

25.1 Current Management Directions

The states of Washington, Idaho, and the Native Tribal governments each have planning and management functions for fish and wildlife resources in the Spokane Subbasin. State and federal agencies with management authority over wildlife resources in the subbasin include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). The Spokane Tribe of Indians (STOI) and the Coeur d'Alene Tribe are the primary Tribal entities with fish and wildlife management authority in the subbasin. Other state and federal agencies, including, but not limited to, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) and Washington Department of Ecology (WDOE) are involved in programs that affect the land or water that provide habitat for fish and wildlife. A complete list of state, federal, and Tribal entities that are involved in management of fish and wildlife or their habitats is included in section 2.4.1, along with a description of each agency's management direction.

The Spokane Tribe of Indians manages wildlife resources on the Spokane Reservation. The Wildlife Program is directly responsible for the management of over 6,000 acres of wildlife lands that were acquired through BPA and Avista Utilities mitigation projects in the Spokane Subbasin.

The Coeur d' Alene Tribe's Natural Resources Department is dedicated to the management of all natural resources within the historical and cultural territories of the Tribe. A small portion of the Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation is located within the Spokane Subbasin, in the Hangman Creek drainage. Other areas in the subbasin were traditionally used by the Tribe. The Tribal fish and wildlife programs operate under a mission to restore, protect, expand, and re-establish native fish and wildlife populations to sustainable levels to provide harvest opportunities.

25.1.1 Local Government

25.1.1.1 Washington: Lincoln County Conservation District (LCCD)

The LCCD's current management strategies can be summarized from excerpts of the District's updated Long Range Plan. The goals and objectives include:

Water Quality

- Address water quality concerns in streams and lakes in Lincoln County
- Address groundwater issues in Lincoln County
- Implement restoration projects that would improve water quality
- Work with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USFW, WDOE and Lincoln County to address water quality complaints

Wildlife

- Establish wildlife habitat and enhance forest/wetland resources through NRCS programs that include: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

Education/Information/Communication

- Increase public awareness of District activities
- Provide educational conservation information to the public through newsletters, public meetings, newspaper articles, etc.

District Operations and Management

- Maintain an active and effective LCCD board
- Promote district programs and activities
- Insure adequate funding for LCCD operations

In the last five years, LCCD has been involved in a minimal number of projects in Spokane and Columbia Upper subbasins. Many landowners in these subbasins have taken advantage of NRCS programs that include CRP, EQIP, and WHIP. Currently, funding sources are focused on finding solutions to improve water quality in the Upper Crab/Wilson Creek Watershed WRIA #43.

25.1.1.2 Washington: Spokane County Conservation District (SCCD)

In Washington State, the SCCD has taken the lead role in facilitation and implementation of watershed management activities within the Hangman Creek and Little Spokane River watersheds, and to a lesser extent the Spokane River watershed. A large number of research, planning, and implementation projects have been conducted over the last decade. The SCCD has developed working relationships with many of the local landowners, governmental entities, and interest groups to improve the long-term conditions within the watersheds. The SCCD is the lead facilitator of watershed planning for the Hangman Creek watershed and is currently working with the Pend Oreille Conservation District on a water quality management plan for the Little Spokane River. Under ESHB 2514, the work focuses on water quantity issues in the basin, but does address other issues such as water quality, habitat, and instream flow.

25.1.1.3 Washington: Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD)

The POCD sponsored a WDOE grant on the Little Spokane Watershed in 1998. Information was collected in partnership with SCCD. Data was collected for quantity, field and laboratory water quality parameters. Currently POCD is working with SCCD on a water quality management plan for the Little Spokane River.

25.1.1.4 Idaho: Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District

The current management strategies of Kootenai-Shoshone Soil and Water Conservation District (KSSWCD) can be summarized from excerpts of the District's current five-year

plan. The goals and objectives include:

Water Quality

Goal: Improve water quality in streams and lakes that do not meet state water quality standards.

Objective: Administer programs and projects that accelerate Best Management Practice (BMP) implementation.

Objective: Represent private land interests on local committees and groups.

Information and Education

Goal: Increase public awareness of KSSWCD activities.

Objective: Provide conservation information to youth and adults.

Urban

Goal: Maintain agricultural base within District.

Objective: Protect farmland from urban encroachment.

Woodland

Goal: Insure healthy, productive woodlands within the district

Objective: Assist producers with woodland planning and implementation of forestland BMPs, including forest road remediation.

Objective: Strengthen partnerships with other agencies and groups working on forestland issues.

Objective: Stimulate reforestation with private landowners on large- and small-scales by providing low-cost tree stock through the District's tree sales program.

District Operations

Goal: Maintain an active and effective KSSWCD board.

Objective: Seek training for KSSWCD members and staff.

Objective: Insure adequate funding for KSSWCD operations.

Although not specifically addressed with goals and objectives within the five-year plan, other important resource concerns are mentioned in the introduction. These concerns include riparian, recreation, rangeland, and fish and wildlife.

25.2 Existing and Imminent Protections

Refer to Section 2.4 for a description of the natural resources management agencies and organizations and their primary authorities at the federal, state, and regional levels. Many State and Federal laws and regulations protect natural resources within the IMP. Tribal governments and local governments also have regulations that protect specific areas or locations within the IMP. The following section summarizes the existing and imminent protections for federal and state threatened and endangered wildlife species known or potentially occurring in the Spokane Subbasin. Refer to the Spokane Subbasin Terrestrial

Resources Assessment, Section 24, for detailed description of the occurrence and status of federal and state threatened and endangered species in the subbasin.

25.2.1 Endangered Species Act

Bald Eagle

Bald eagles are currently listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). This provides protection from “take” (i.e., harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect...). Bald eagles were proposed for removal from the endangered species list in 1999. That action has not been taken, in part because one prerequisite for delisting, a nationwide monitoring plan, has not yet been met. If a development project occurs on federal land or involves federal funding (i.e., nexus), an endangered species consultation may be required by the USFWS.

Bald eagles are classified as threatened in Washington and endangered in Idaho.

In 1984, Chapter 77.12.655 RCW was adopted by the Washington State Legislature, requiring the establishment of rules defining buffer zones around bald eagle nests and roost sites. The law states that the rules shall take into account the need for variation of the extent of the buffer zone on a case by case basis.

In 1986, the Bald Eagle Protection Rules (WAC 232-12-292) were adopted by the Washington Wildlife Commission. The rules require permitting agencies (i.e., Department of Natural Resources, counties, cities) to review the database of bald eagle nest and communal roost locations prior to issuing permits for timber harvest, clearing land, residential development, etc. If the activity is within $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of an eagle nest, the permitting agency notifies WDFW, who works with the applicant to develop a Bald Eagle Management Plan (see WAC 232-12-292 (4.4)).

Deliberate harassment of eagles is prohibited by state and federal law (Chapter 77.15.130 RCW; Bald Eagle Protection Act; Endangered Species Act; and, Migratory Bird Treaty Act).

Canada Lynx

The lynx was listed as a state threatened species in Washington in 1993 and was listed as a federally threatened species under ESA in April 2000. Lynx is not given special management status in Idaho.

Legal take of lynx in Washington ceased in 1991 and consequent designation as a threatened species presently provides complete protection from hunting or trapping at both the state (Chapter 77.16.120 RCW) and federal level.

The Spokane Subbasin is outside of the designated Management Zones (LMZ) in Washington and does not provide quality lynx habitat. Few lynx sightings have been recorded in recent years in the Washington portion of the Subbasin, and none are recorded in the Idaho portion.

Fisher

The fisher is will become a candidate for federal listing under the ESA in the near future (USFWS 2004). Fisher is a state endangered species in Washington; it is not given special management designation in Idaho.

In Washington, fisher is managed based on the findings of the WDFW status report (Lewis and Stinson 1998). Protection of fisher in Washington from hunting, possession, or control is provided under Chapter 77.16.120 RCW. Washington further charges those convicted of illegal take of state endangered species with a \$2,000 reimbursement for each animal taken or possessed (Chapter 77.21.070 RCW).

Gray Wolf

The gray wolf is listed as a federally threatened species under the ESA and classified as endangered in Washington. In Idaho, gray wolf is classified as endangered in Kootenai, Shoshone, Bonner, and Boundary counties; elsewhere in the state, the species is considered an experimental non-essential population.

In Washington, protection of gray wolf from hunting, possession, or control is provided under Chapter 77.16.120 RCW. Washington further charges those convicted of illegal take of state endangered species with a \$2,000 reimbursement for each animal taken or possessed (Chapter 77.21.070 RCW).

No federally designated wolf recovery areas are located within the Spokane Subbasin, and few sightings are recorded (WDFW 2003b).

Grizzly Bear

The grizzly bear listed as a threatened species under ESA, as a threatened species in the state of Idaho, and as an endangered species in the state of Washington.

Protection of grizzly bear in Washington from hunting, possession, or control is provided under Chapter 77.16.120 RCW. Washington further charges those convicted of illegal take of state endangered species with a \$2,000 reimbursement for each animal taken or possessed (Chapter 77.21.070 RCW).

The Spokane Subbasin is outside of the seven federal grizzly bear Recovery Plan zones, although the Selkirk Zone is located in the Pend Oreille Subbasin to the north. The Washington portion of the subbasin has a single confirmed grizzly sighting in 1996 from the Dragoon Creek drainage (WDFW 2003b).

American White Pelican

The American white pelican is listed as an endangered species in Washington; it is not given special management status in Idaho. Protection of American white pelican in Washington from hunting, possession, or control is provided under Chapter 77.16.120 RCW. Washington further charges those convicted of illegal take of an American white

pelican with a \$2,000 reimbursement for each animal taken or possessed (Chapter 77.21.070 RCW).

Northern Leopard Frog

The northern leopard frog is classified as an endangered species in Washington; it is not provided special management status in Idaho. Protection of northern leopard frog in Washington from hunting, possession, or control is provided under Chapter 77.16.120 RCW. Washington further charges those convicted of illegal take of northern leopard frog with a \$2,000 reimbursement for each animal taken or possessed (Chapter 77.21.070 RCW).

Peregrine Falcon

Peregrine falcon is classified as an endangered species in Idaho.

The Washington portion of the subbasin contains one eyrie and another hack site only a few miles apart in the Hangman Creek drainage (WDFW 2003b). The Idaho portion of the Subbasin has no record of peregrine sightings (IDFG 2003).

Upland Sandpiper

The upland sandpiper is classified as an endangered species in Washington (WAC 232-12-014); it is not given special management status in Idaho. Protection of upland sandpiper in Washington from hunting, possession, or control is provided under Chapter 77.16.120 RCW. Washington further charges those convicted of illegal take of upland sandpiper with a \$2,000 reimbursement for each animal taken or possessed (Chapter 77.21.070 RCW).

Sage Grouse

The sage grouse is classified as a threatened species in Washington; it is not given special management status in Idaho. Protection of sage grouse in Washington from hunting, possession, or control is provided under Chapter 77.16.120 RCW. Washington further charges those convicted of illegal take of sage grouse with a \$2,000 reimbursement for each animal taken or possessed (Chapter 77.21.070 RCW).

Sharp-tailed Grouse

The sharp-tailed grouse is classified as a threatened species in Washington; it is not given special management status in Idaho. Protection of sharp-tailed grouse in Washington from hunting, possession, or control is provided under Chapter 77.16.120 RCW. Washington further charges those convicted of illegal take of sharp-tailed grouse with a \$2,000 reimbursement for each animal taken or possessed (Chapter 77.21.070 RCW).

The Spokane Tribe is nearing the completion of a Sharp-Tailed Grouse Reintroduction Feasibility Study for the Spokane Indian Reservation (Spokane Subbasin). If the study indicates that sufficient habitat (quality and quantity) exists or would exist with the proper habitat enhancement activities, the Spokane Tribe will then work with other

management agencies within the western U.S. to identify populations of Columbian sharp-tailed grouse that may be used for the reintroduction effort.

25.3 Inventory of Restoration and Conservation Projects

Below is a summary of some BPA and non-BPA funded projects identified within the Subbasin. Projects that are relevant to both terrestrial and aquatic resources may be presented in the aquatic inventory section for this Subbasin (see Section 15). Refer to Section 2.4, Inventory of Projects in the IMP, for description of projects involving more than one subbasin. Major Grand Coulee Dam wildlife mitigation projects are located and managed in more than one subbasin. Refer to Appendix H for a more comprehensive list of the BPA and non-BPA funded projects conducted in this Subbasin and the entire IMP.

25.3.1 BPA Funded Projects

Project #200103300 Wildlife Habitat Protection and Restoration on the Coeur d' Alene Indian Reservation: Hangman Watershed

Protect and/or restore riparian, wetland and priority upland wildlife habitats within the Hangman Watershed on the Coeur d' Alene Indian Reservation as part of mitigation efforts in the Spokane River Subbasin.

Associated Monitoring:

Produced a Draft Wildlife Monitoring Plan that defines:

- Protocols to monitor trends of specific wildlife species and assemblages to reflect effectiveness of management on acquired properties.
- Protocols to monitor broad scale vegetation patterns throughout the Hangman Watershed east of the Washington-Idaho border.
- Protocols to monitor changes in vegetative communities that occur as a result of protection/restoration.

Adaptive Management:

Continue adaptive management in project implementation through:

- Annual noxious weed monitoring of project site.
- Evaluations of survival and growth of restoration stock within one year of planting.
- Landscape photography on a five-year cycle.

Accomplishments:

- Developed a GIS database of land ownership and areas currently managed to provide some measure of wildlife habitat protection or restoration.
- Assembled a list of native or desired plants for target restoration sites.
- Prepared a draft Habitat Prioritization Plan that uses landscape and fisheries data to select parcels that offer the greatest potential to improve wildlife and fish habitats.
- Initiated an Instream Flow/Hydrology study that is expected to:
 - Predict available fish habitats for specific flow regimes.

- Produce estimates for changes in stream flow for specific changes in land management.
- Identify areas that are important to establishing and monitoring annual flow patterns in streams that support native species and minimize erosion.

Project # 199106200 Spokane Tribe Wildlife Mitigation: Blue Creek Winter Range

Project Description:

Protect wildlife habitat as partial mitigation for the Grand Coulee Dam construction and inundation wildlife loss assessment through fee title and tribal allotment title acquisition on or adjacent to the Spokane Indian Reservation. The project was initially started as acquiring land within the Blue Creek Winter Range area, but has come to include all wildlife mitigation land acquisitions. The current priority areas include McCoy Lake Watershed, Wellpinit Mt., and the Peaks (shrub-steppe/steppe habitat). The Spokane Tribes wildlife projects can be acquired in both the Spokane and Upper Columbia Subbasins.

Accomplishments:

- Between 1996 and 1999, the Spokane Tribe acquired 1863 acres of wildlife lands of which 1663 acres are located within the Spokane Subbasin.
- The project was approved for a total of \$4.5 million in acquisitions for FY02-03, but no projects were funded due to the BPA financial crisis.
- To date in FY04, the Tribe has acquired 1151 additional acres of mitigation lands all in the Spokane Subbasin.

Project # 199800300 Spokane Tribe Wildlife Mitigation Operation and Maintenance

Project Description:

Operate and Maintain wildlife lands that have been acquired through Project # 199106200. Management activities include fencing, noxious weed control, road maintenance, site clean-up and etc.. The habitat enhancement activities that are occurring on these lands are being conducted with tribal funds. During the 2000 Rolling Review Process the project included the Sharp-tailed Grouse Re-introduction Feasibility Study that has been delayed due to the BPA financial crisis, but should be completed in 2004.

Associated Monitoring:

- Conduct initial HEP analysis on projects within 1 year of acquisition and then every 5 years there after.
- Habitat Monitoring includes tree and shrub survival surveys, native grass/forb restoration establishment surveys and photo point monitoring.
- Wildlife Population Monitoring includes Ruffed Grouse Drum Counts, Bird Point Counts, Small Mammal Trapping, Big Game Counts, Bald Eagle Surveys, and Incidental Wildlife Observations.

Accomplishments:

- Since 2001, over 16,000 riparian trees and shrubs have been planted within the McCoy Lake Watershed (non-BPA funding).
- McCoy Creek Stream Channel Restoration: 1000' of the stream channel was constructed to near original characteristics. Riparian tree and shrub planting will be conducted on the site in 2005 (non-BPA funding).
- Conversion of over 60 acres of old agricultural land to native grass.

25.3.2 Non-BPA Funded Projects

Spokane Tribes Little Falls Wildlife Mitigation Agreement (Avista Utilities)

Project Description:

Protect wildlife habitat as mitigation for Little Falls Dam construction and inundation through fee title and tribal allotment title acquisition on or adjacent to the Spokane Indian Reservation. The primary focus was on acquisition of land within the Chimokane Creek Watershed and all projects were acquired in the Spokane Subbasins.

Accomplishments:

- The final land acquisitions took place in 2000 and a total of 3,223 acres of land have been protected.

Channeled Scablands Focus Area Phase I Project

Project Description:

Acquire, restore, and enhance important wetlands and uplands within the Channeled Scablands Focus Area of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan's Intermountain West Joint Venture. This project will acquire, restore, and/or enhance a total of 12,370 acres of wetlands and associated uplands, focusing on emergent marshes occurring in riverine and depressional wetland systems. Wetlands within the project area provide important migratory and breeding habitat for waterfowl, particularly some 1,700 pairs of ducks, including 400 pairs each of mallards and redheads. This project is sponsored by the National Wetland Conservation Act ended in 2003. There were many collaborators on this project.

Accomplishments:

The grant includes money to protect over 12,000 acres of wetland and migratory bird habitat in the channeled scablands of the Inland Northwest. It received nearly \$1 million from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). This grant initiates Phase I of a multi-year effort to acquire, restore, and enhance over 12,000 acres of important wetlands and uplands within the channeled scablands. Conservation partners, such as Ducks Unlimited (DU), USFWS, WDFW, Avista Corporation, Friends of Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, and the Spokane Audubon Society, are contributing over \$5 million. The NAWCA grant will purchase historic wetlands and re-create the lost habitat by plugging the drainage ditches, planting native shrubs and trees, and providing nesting habitat for waterfowl and other water dependent birds such as bald eagles, osprey, terns, and cormorants.

As part of its effort to improve habitat throughout the Pacific Flyway, DU has several important projects underway in the Pacific Northwest. DU is trying to complete construction on several projects in the channeled scablands area of eastern Washington before the winter snows. The Natural Resources Conservation Service is funding restoration activities on two of these projects, the Slavin Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) easement now owned by Spokane County, and the Holmquist WRP easement in Stevens County. On the Slavin WRP easement, DU will be installing an earthen ditch plug and water control structure to restore hydrology to a 100-acre cattail/bulrush marsh. On the Holmquist WRP easement DU has hired a contractor to install several log drop structures that will help restore the high water table in what was once a mountain meadow. Construction will begin shortly as well on the WDFW's Revere Ranch in Whitman County. An earthen ditch plug and water control structure will restore hydrology to a 100-acre marsh. This project is being partially funded by a grant DU received from the NAWCA program, as well as funds generated by the State migratory bird stamp program.

In Oregon, a unique partnership has been initiated to protect and restore a portion of the rare peat wetland in the Willamette Valley. A cooperative agreement recently was signed by Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and Marion County, Oregon. The agreement will result in the purchase of conservation easements on approximately 120 acres within this important wetland area. Under this agreement, DU will complete all of the real estate services required to purchase the easements and Marion County will hold and manage the easements in perpetuity. The easements will be purchased using a combination of Title III funds received by the county and NAWCA funds received by DU in 2001. Also in Oregon, DU met with landowners and NRCS biologists to develop a wetland restoration plan for a ranch on the Sprague River. This ranch applied for WRP with DU to be involved in the project design and delivery. DU is seeking matching funds to increase the project ranking and assist with restoration costs.

Funds were also used to purchase the INLT-DU Preserve [see "It's Great for the Ducks"], restore the James T. Slavin Family conservation area, and purchase 54 acres along Deadman Creek on Peone Prairie that is adjacent to the Feryn Conservation Futures property.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Re-licensing of the Spokane River Hydropower Project

Project Description:

Re-licensing of AVISTA dams on mainstem of Spokane River.

Associated Monitoring:

Initial studies using radiotelemetry are intended to track fish to determine seasonal fish distribution, habitat preference, and critical spawning areas for the mainstem Spokane River.

Accomplishments:

This project is just beginning; negotiations are still in progress.

Intermountain Joint Ventures

Project Description:

Joint Ventures' mission is to provide for the long-term conservation of key avian habitats to plan, fund, and develop habitat projects, which benefit all biological components of Intermountain ecosystems. The Joint Venture promotes the restoration and maintenance of migratory bird populations; fosters the protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetlands, riparian habitats, and the widely diverse uplands characteristic of the region; and champions broader understanding of all avian habitat issues, functions, and values. The project is funded by a grant from the North American Conservation Act and is ongoing.

Accomplishments:

More than 241,000 acres of wetlands and associated uplands, which provide secure habitat for a myriad of species were protected, restored, and/or enhanced through the project.

Rocky Mountain Elk – WDFW Monitoring Project

Project Description:

To monitor and track radio-collared elk just north and south of Spokane and around Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge.

Accomplishments:

Have over 250 radio locations to use for determining use and home range. Also, has contributed toward two Eastern Washington University graduate students' theses. One involved the impact of elk upon browse on Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, the other is looking at landowner characteristics of land used by elk bordering Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge.

Spokane County Conservation Futures Program

Project Description:

Spokane County's Conservation Futures Program is intended to protect, preserve, maintain, enhance, restore, and limit the future use of or otherwise conserve selected open space land, farmland, forests, wetlands, wildlife habitats, and other lands having significant recreational, social, scenic, or aesthetic values within the boundaries of Spokane County. Acquired properties will not be developed but kept in an enhanced natural area consistent with RCW 84.34. The project is funded by a tax levy and is ongoing.

Associated Monitoring:

None.

Accomplishments:

During the last nine years, over 6,800 acres have been purchased or donated into the program. Most recently, Spokane County voters supported an additional five-year extension (through 2007) of the Conservation Futures Tax.

Late last year, the County in a cooperative venture with Ducks Unlimited got a \$975,000 grant to restore wetland habitat on parcels previously farmed. This money will be spent locally, providing local jobs, and will leave a lasting legacy of quality habitat for wildlife viewing.

On July 22, 2003 the Commissioners finalized Spokane County's 2003 Conservation Futures Program selections. The program currently has about \$2.5 million to spend on land to preserve open space for natural areas, parks, trails, and river access. The following projects, totaling over 760 acres of land, lakeshore, riverbanks and wetlands, have been included on the potential to buy list:

- Newman Lake – nesting bald eagles on 380 acres of gorgeous woods, wetlands and lakeshore
- Little Spokane River – 3,000 ft of river meandering through 152 acres of wet meadows and forest near Chattaroy
- Palisades/Independent Mortgage – 107 acres of a larger wildlife and recreational corridor that will connect Riverside State Park with Palisades Park
- “Granger Farm” on Lake Spokane – wetlands and forest land bordered by Riverside State Park on the south and 2,000 ft of lakeshore on the north (approximately 65 acres)
- Deadman Creek on Peone Prairie – one of the top three migratory bird stopover points in Spokane County, includes a quarter mile of Deadman Creek, 17 acres of wetlands and rich riparian habitat (50 acres total)
- Spokane River/State Line – 12 acres of sensitive riparian habitat between the southerly bank of the Spokane River and the Centennial Trail near the Washington-Idaho state line
- Drumheller Springs
- Lincoln Heights Wetlands
- Austin Ravine
- Palisades parcel which will, with the Independent Mortgage property and the Gusman property (selected for acquisition in the last CF round), help complete the corridor between Palisades Park and Riverside State Park

Inland Northwest Land Trust

Project Descriptions:

Inland Northwest Land Trust (INLT) has entered into a three-year agreement with Avista Utilities to manage the Avista Revolving Trust Fund (Revolving Fund). This \$60,000 Fund will help protect important lands and wetlands along the Coeur d' Alene Lake/Spokane River corridor. During the 1990s the Revolving Fund was used to

purchase options on three important properties until they could be publicly acquired. These properties include:

- McClellan - 410 wooded acres and 1.5 miles of shoreline on the south bank of Lake Spokane (also known as Long Lake). Spokane County later bought the land through the Conservation Futures Program.
 - Fisk - Over 600 acres and more than a mile of shoreline on the south bank of Lake Spokane toward the west end. This land is now part of Riverside State Park.
 - Blackwell Island - About 32 acres on the northern end of Blackwell Island, five minutes west of downtown Coeur d' Alene. The Bureau of Land Management now owns the land, which provides much needed public lake access.
1. INLT and Avista have teamed up to protect 7,000 feet of stream bank for bull trout habitat in the Lower Clark Fork River/Lake Pend Oreille basin. INLT will continue to collaborate with Avista to protect the lakes and rivers of eastern Washington and northern Idaho.
 2. INLT acquired a 238-acre tract near Cheney, to hold as a wildlife refuge and to begin restoration of its overgrazed, degraded wetlands. The new INLT-DU Preserve adjoins the 100-acre Cheney wetlands and is just two short miles from Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge. Protecting this property helps preserve the integrity of the Cheney wetlands and the uplands that provide vital forage and nesting areas for ducks and other birds. It provides a buffer to Turnbull and extra habitat for the migrating birds that are attracted to the refuge.
 3. Inland Northwest Land Trust donated 48 acres of parkland to Spokane County. Mirabeau Point, formerly the Walk in the Wild zoo, is a quiet place of woodland, meadow, park, springs and open spaces. Located in the heart of the Spokane Valley, it will serve as a public recreational, educational, and cultural center.
 4. Spokane County Parks has plans to utilize state grant funds to develop the "Meadows" portion of the park, at an estimated cost of \$1.2 to \$1.4 million. The 10-acre Meadows will include restroom facilities, parking, and pedestrian paths, as well as improvements to support community events such as "Munch in the Meadows."
 5. In 1993 INLT worked with the owner to protect the 86 acres, negotiating an interim agreement to forestall logging until the Conservation Futures program could purchase the land for the county park system.
 6. "Threads of Hope" is INLT's conservation strategy in Spokane County. "Threads of Hope" was designed to help focus land protection efforts in regions that are ecologically valuable and in threat of being developed. These regions are the vital links, the greenways and wildlife corridors winding across Spokane County. With the help of scientists from WDFW and UW, planners, and neighbors, the land trust mapped these linkages tying together larger protected areas, such as Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge, Mount Spokane State Park, and Riverside State Park. Now

that these parcels and landowners have been identified, the land trust is teaming up with neighborhood groups in each of the “threads” to promote land saving action. These Threads partners are critical to the outreach strategy because they contribute local knowledge about which parcels make their region most unique. This “Threads of Hope” project includes three corridors spanning Spokane County and six partner groups.

Inland Northwest Wildlife Council (INWC)

Project Description:

The mission of the INWC is to act in accordance with what is best for all fish and wildlife species while emphasizing and maintaining responsible sportsmanship; to work for the betterment of fish and wildlife; to create a positive sportsmanlike image; to protect, create and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and the environment, with special attention given to the immediate geographical area.

Associated Monitoring:

Works closely with WDFW Research projects run by Woody Myers. Has helped monitor elk and moose in the Spokane area.

Accomplishments:

1. Winter bird feeders: Build, maintain, and fill 35 winter bird feeders at the cost of \$1,000 annually. 1993 to present.
2. Fund planning of 18-20 acres of food plots on 12-15 different properties in Whitman County. Planning done by WDFW staff at the cost of \$2,000 annually. 1994 to present.
3. Revere area habitat: Planted 30-acre plot to grass and alfalfa, 1,500 shrubs along edge of new field. \$2,500 in 1997. Planted 3,000 shrubs and trees on bluffs above grass/alfalfa field. \$2,400 in 1998. Planted 8,700 shrubs and trees on 1,500 acres. \$3,000 in 2000.
4. Whitman County shrub and tree plantings: Planted 12,875 trees and shrubs on several private properties in Whitman County. \$6,000 in 1999. Planted 12,000 shrubs on 24 acres on three separate private properties. \$6,000 in 2000. Planted 6,700 shrubs and trees on 24 acres on two separate properties at the cost of \$3,000 in 2001.

Well Closure in the Hawk Creek Watershed

Project Description:

LCCD and WSU Cooperative Extension collaborated to raise awareness about nitrate contamination through abandoned wells. This project was funded by Washington State University and ended in 1999.

Associated Monitoring:

In 1995 and 1996 LCCD evaluated well water in the Hawk Creek watershed and found areas where nitrate in drinking water exceeded federal standards.

Accomplishments:

LCCD and WSU Cooperative Extension worked together to educate landowners on nitrate contamination in well water. In addition, they were able to work with four landowners to close several abandoned wells within the Hawk Creek watershed.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

Project Description:

These programs help eligible participants implement structural and management practices to address soil, water and related natural resources concerns on their lands. These programs encourage landowners to convert environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as native grasses, wildlife plantings, trees, filterstrips, or riparian buffers. These projects are funded by the USDA and are continuing.

Associated Monitoring:

The implementation projects are periodically inspected to insure the effectiveness of the new conservation practices.

Accomplishments:

CRP, EQIP, and WHIP aid in reducing soil erosion, reduce sedimentation in streams and lakes, improve water quality, establish wildlife habitat, and enhance forest and wetland resources.

Road Surface Treatment

Project Description:

The Lincoln County Public Works has used a magnesium chloride dust suppressant and road base stabilizer in Lincoln County. The dust guards attract moisture and are used for dust and erosion control. This project is funded through a Lincoln County tax assessment and is ongoing.

Associated Monitoring:

None.

Accomplishments:

Applying dust control treatments will help maintain natural surfaces. In addition, it will help prevent wind blown dust and eroded soils from entering any water system.

MAPS Bird Banding Project – WDFW Monitoring Project

Project Description:

Monitoring vital rates (primary demographic parameters such as productivity and survivorship) of a relatively undisturbed riparian avian population. Estimating primary demographic parameters is critical for understanding population dynamics and is directly applicable to population models that can be used to assess land management practices by examining the effects of the landscapes they produce on vital rates. This project is part of Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) International program which is a cooperative effort among public agencies, private organizations, and individual bird

ringers in North and South America to operate a network of over 500 constant-effort mist netting and banding stations during the breeding season (DeSante et al. 1995). MAPS was established in 1989 by The Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) and was patterned to a large extent after the British Constant Effort Sites (CES) scheme operated by the British Trust for Ornithology.

Accomplishments:

To date over 2,500 birds have been captured and almost 1,900 have been banded including 1,500 adults and almost 900 juveniles with over 550 recaptures.

25.4 Strategies Currently Being Implemented Through Existing Projects

25.4.1 Limiting Factors and Strategies

Refer to Figure 23.1 of the Aquatic Inventory section for a graph displaying the percent of all fish and wildlife mitigation projects in the Subbasin that respond to specific limiting factors. Wildlife mitigation projects in the Subbasin respond primarily to the limiting factors of habitat quantity and quality; in addition, the sharp-tail reintroduction and cougar DNA projects addressed lack of information on the species.

Figure 23.2 of the Aquatic Inventory section shows the types of management strategies used in the fish and wildlife mitigation projects in the Subbasin. Wildlife mitigation projects in the Subbasin have used primarily the habitat acquisition and habitat improvement/restoration strategies. Other strategies include watershed planning/recovery planning, RM&E, and education.

25.4.2 Gaps Between Actions Taken and Actions Needed

The primary terrestrial resources mitigation need in the subbasin, with respect to the FCRPS, is completion of the construction loss mitigation for the Grand Coulee Project. The construction loss assessment was completed in 1986 (Creveling and Renfrow 1986). Currently, the mitigation for the construction wildlife losses in terms of Habitat Units (HUs) is about 51 percent complete (refer to Section 24). Acquisition of HUs for the Washington State threatened sage grouse has been completed; future enhancement and monitoring funding will be necessary to improve and maintain habitat values. Acquisition of HUs for the Washington State threatened sharp-tailed grouse is approximately 52 percent complete. Populations of this species are considered at very high risk in the state and continued action to enhance habitats and populations in the province is needed.

Additional funding for habitat acquisitions, enhancement and/or restoration measures, and maintenance funding will be necessary to meet the existing construction loss mitigation obligation.