Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation North Fork John Day River Basin Anadromous Fish Enhancement Project

Annual Report for April 1, 2003 through March 31, 2004

Prepared for the Bonneville Power Administration
BPA Project Number 2020131
Intergovernmental Agreement #00000119-00001

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Abstract

The CTUIR North Fork John Day River Basin Anadromous Enhancement Project (NFJDAFEP) identified and prioritized stream reaches in The North Fork John Day River basin for habitat improvements during the 2000 project period. Public outreach was emphasized during this first year of the project. During 2001 we concentrated on satisfying landowner needs, providing cost share alternatives, providing joint projects and starting implementation. We presented multiple funding and enhancement options to landowners. We concentrated on natural recovery methods, riparian fencing and off-stream livestock water developments. During 2002-3 and 2003-4 we emphasized working with landowners already interested in our project and implementation on signed easements.

Under this BPA contract five riparian easements have been signed protecting almost 7 miles of tributary streams. There are thirteen offstream water developments associated with these easements.

Some landowners chose to participate in other programs based on Tribal outreach efforts. Some landowners chose NRCS programs for enhancement and others chose OWEB as a funding source. The exact amount of stream protection due to other funding sources probably exceeds that by BPA, however most would not have entered any program without initial Tribal outreach.

Cooperation between the NRCS/FSA/SWCDs and the Tribe to create joint projects and develop alternative funding scenarios for riparian enhancement was a major effort. The Tribe also worked with the North Fork John Day Watershed Council, USFS and ODFW to coordinate projects and support similar projects throughout the John Day Basin.

Acknowledgments

This project was funded by the Bonneville Power Administration. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation wish to thank John Buagher, Nancy Weintraub and other Bonneville Power Administration personnel for their assistance.

We would like to acknowledge cooperating landowners, Dorothy and Richard Allstott, Trini-D Ranches, Steve Berrey and John Standley who supported our efforts by providing their properties for habitat enhancements during this project period.

Thanks also to Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation staff, whose cooperation and contributions are evident in this report. Special thanks to Todd Shaw,

Jed Volkman, Randy Bonifer, and James Dave for on-the-ground expertise. Mike Farrow for guidance on Tribal interests, Marguerite Becenti for computer expertise, Catherine Dickson for cultural resources services, Jim Webster for hydraulic input, Julie Burke and Celeste Reeves for administrative and secretarial services and public relations preparations, Gary James for support and guidance, and Michelle Thompson for administration of this agreement. Delbert Jones the Fisheries Technician on this project provided considerable expertise and common sense to getting things accomplished on the ground.

Introduction

The CTUIR North Fork John Day Anadromous Fish Habitat improvement project is funded under the Northwest Power Planning Council's Columbia River Fish and Wildlife Program, Section 7.6-7.8 and targets the improvement of instream and riparian habitat for all life stages of anadromous salmonids. Funding of this project provides partial mitigation for losses of salmon and steelhead (*Oncorhynchus spp.*) populations in the Columbia River Basin from the construction and operation of hydroelectric dams. This annual report covers work completed on the CTUIR North Fork John Day Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project through March 31, 2004. Our emphasis this year was working with landowners to identify improvement opportunities, alternative and cost shared funding sources and implementation of projects.

Significant funds have been directed at anadromous fish habitat restoration in the John Day Basin. The John Day River Basin supports the largest remaining, exclusively wild runs of Spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead in northeast Oregon (Stuart and Williams, 1988). The North Fork of the John Day Basin supports 70 percent of the distribution of adult spring Chinook salmon and 43 percent of the adult steelhead within the John Day Drainage (Sanchez and others, 1988). Emphasis on watershed-wide habitat is needed for protection and enhancement of the natural production capabilities in the basin.

The North Fork of the John Day River drains approximately 1,800 square miles. Elevations range from 1,830 ft at the mouth to over 8,300 ft in the headwater areas. There are 32 major tributaries to the North Fork system. Precipitation ranges from approximately 13 to 20 inches annually. The lower portion is generally drier and upper elevations wetter. The North Fork historically supplies 60% of the total stream flow to the lower John Day River. Over 75% of the North Fork aquifers are basalt/volcanic rock. The Middle Fork of the John Day River flows into the North Fork, however the Middle Fork has been treated as a separate system and is managed for enhancement by ODFW and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon (CTWSIRO).

Various factors continue to limit anadromous fisheries habitat in the John Day River Basin including low summer flows, high summer and low winter water temperatures, high spring flows, depressed beaver populations, accelerated streambank erosion, excessive stream sedimentation and reduced instream cover (CRITFC, 1995). High seasonal water temperatures are considered to be the major anadromous limiting factors in the North Fork John Day Subbasin. These impacts are the result of historical and current land management practices including placer mining, livestock overgrazing, irrigation withdrawals, land clearing, road building, logging and stream chanalization (Stuart and Williams, 1988). Riparian habitat degradation is the most serious anadromous fish habitat problem in the John Day River Basin with approximately 660

degraded stream miles (CRITFC, 1995). Approximately 261.5 (39 percent) of these impacted stream miles were previously identified within the North Fork of the John Day Subbasin (James, 1984). The John Day Summary produced for the NWPPC by ODFW identifies limiting factors and areas where work and funding should concentrate. The ongoing John Day Subbasin Watershed Assessment continues to add to our knowledge and priorities in the subbasin. On the ground observations during spawning rearing and migrations has established that steelhead use in the upper north Fork John Day Basin is much greater than previously thought. Historical data indicate low numbers in the Camas Creek Subbasin; however actual numbers are believed to be much higher as we identify more anadromous fish use where it had never been found before. Some streams thought to contain no anadromous fish have been found to have large rearing populations. Until further work is done we do not have data to support actual numbers or habitat potential.

The Umatilla National Forest has addressed approximately 80 miles of degraded stream reaches in the upper North Fork of the John Day Subbasin through construction of riparian corridor fencing and ongoing removal of mine tailings (Sanchez, pers. comm.). The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) have implemented several habitat enhancement projects within the North Fork Subbasin, including fencing eleven miles of stream on Cottonwood and Fox Creeks, construction of a fish ladder on Fivemile Creek (providing access to 25 miles of previously unavailable spawning habitat), and fencing two miles of upper Camas Creek and 2 miles of Granite Creek (Neal, pers. comm.). However, with the exception Camas Creek and Granite Creek, very little effort has been directed at private lands within the upper North Fork Subbasin. According to ODFW, the upper North Fork Subbasin is a high priority for implementation of habitat enhancements, but logistical constraints (i.e. an average driving distance of two hours from ODFW's John Day Office) restrict the agency from seeking landowner agreements in this remote area (Neal, pers. comm.). The North Fork John Day Watershed Council has recently completed improvements on push up dam removals, diversion screening, riparian fencing, and weed control. Watershed Council improvements have been localized close to Monument and utilizes primarily OWEB funding. There is a need for this anadromous habitat restoration project in the upper North Fork of the John Day River Subbasin to address habitat deficiencies on private lands and integrate Umatilla National Forest habitat enhancement efforts, ODFW projects, Warm Springs Tribal projects and Watershed Council improvements. Coordination among implementing agencies has been effective during the last three years. We have consistently and effectively worked with each other as well as with landowners. Cost share has been increased and different landowners are more receptive to working with different agencies.

The goal of this project is to protect and enhance habitat for improved natural production of indigenous, wild spring Chinook and summer steelhead in the North Fork of the John Day River Basin. This project addresses critical protection and restoration of habitat necessary for survival of salmonid fishes in the basin. Project functions includes identification of watershed impacts, creation of solutions to land use problems, integration of private and public habitat restoration efforts, prioritization and implementation of habitat improvements, providing and participating in educational outreach activities, and monitoring short and long-term effects of habitat enhancements.

The CTUIR has started to implement habitat enhancements on private lands in tributary areas in the upper North Fork of the John Day River Subbasin. ODFW have stated that

the highest priority streams for habitat improvements on private lands within the North Fork of the John Day Subbasin include: (1) 11 stream miles on Desolation Creek (from Park Creek to mouth), (2) 24 miles on Camas Creek (from 4 corners to Owens Creek) plus tributaries and (3) Owens Creek and tributaries (downstream of the Umatilla National Forest Boundary) (Stuart and Williams, 1988 and Neal, pers. comm.). The NPPC (1990) have also indicated that Camas, lower Desolation and Owens Creeks need riparian improvements. The project has attempted to implement passive, natural recovery approaches (riparian corridor fencing) in combination with intensive native revegetation efforts to restore anadromous fish habitat in these areas. During the process of recruiting landowners on these reaches other reaches with as high or higher potential have been identified. It has been further identified that certain challenges must be overcome before riparian recovery can be accomplished on some reaches. Passage and minor instream improvements may be initiated, if they are identified during passive recovery efforts (repair headcuts, alter or replace culverts or other passage barriers and stream bank stabilization). Other tributaries, which would benefit from habitat enhancements in the North Fork Subbasin, may also be considered for restoration. Specific project locations within stream drainages will be based upon habitat potential, proximity to existing anadromous populations and landowner cooperation. Grazing leases may be evaluated and pursued assuming that these leases are cost effective in comparison to other alternatives. Recovery efforts on Desolation Meadows and Camas Creek will require an expert hydrologist and wildlife biologist.

Project benefits shall include native plant community recovery, improved streambank stability, increased stream channel shading, hydrological stability, stream channel narrowing, cooler stream temperatures, reduced sediment inputs, increased wood recruitment, increased habitat accessibility, greater riparian and in-stream habitat. On a broader scale, elevation of John Day River Basin juvenile outmigration numbers through habitat protection and improvement will assist with accomplishing Columbia Basin adult escapement goals. Anadromous fish throughout the Columbia Basin are dependent on availability of quality habitat during all phases of their life cycles. Habitat issues in Columbia Basin sub-watersheds must be addressed, so that adequate rearing and spawning habitat is available for continued natural propagation.

Coordination

This project complements existing restoration efforts in the John Day River Basin including: ODFW's John Day River Subbasin Fish Habitat Enhancement Project (BPA Project # 8402100) and John Day Basin Natural Escapement & Productivity Monitoring of Spring Chinook Salmon (BPA Project # 9801600), the Umatilla National Forest's North Fork John Day River Dredge Tailings Restoration Project (BPA Project # 9605300), the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation's John Day Watershed Restoration Project (BPA Project # 9137), and the North Fork John Day Watershed Council's Lower North Fork John Day Gravel Push-up Dam Elimination Project (BPA Project # 9801700). Other coordination includes OWEB funding for Watershed Council projects (riparian fencing on FS ground, bank stabilization and off stream water developments) and FS Demonstration Area projects. The project functions as part of an interdependent program by integrating existing on-the-ground efforts into a comprehensive watershed management approach.

The project shares personnel, vehicles and field equipment with the BPA funded Umatilla River Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project (#87-100-01),

Walla Walla Basin Habitat Enhancement Project (#96-046-01) and the Grande Ronde Basin Habitat Enhancement Project (#96-083-00).

Active Project Areas

Upper Allstott Project:
Snipe Creek a tributary of Owens Creek flows through forested areas and open meadow. Elevations range from 4,800 ft to 3,340 at the confluence with Owens Creek. Snipe Creek headwaters flow through a forested area that is grazed. The forest is mixed conifers. Riparian vegetation has been heavily grazed. Shrubs along the creek are intermittent and consist of Alder, Maple, redosier dogwood, mock orange and Snowberry. The stream substrate is mostly gravel and fines. The water temperatures in upper Snipe Creek are cold and we observed salmonids in all months. This is the location of the Upper Allstott Project. We have contracted for a riparian buffer that is wider than the flood plane and averages 75' on either side of the creek. Creek length protected is 1.4 miles. For this project we are also building four offstream water developments at known spring sites.

Lower Allstott Project:
Lower Snipe Creek flows through an open meadow. Substrate is silt and gravel. The banks are very unstable and eroding due to grazing and reported selective herbicide applications, which have repressed riparian vegetation. The upper one-mile has sparse riparian vegetation (primarily brush alder, other than grasses) and has been heavily grazed. This upper mile is the location of the Lower Allstott Project. Lower Snipe Creek riparian vegetation is primarily grass. The lower Snipe Creek gradient is less than 1.5%. We observed adult steelhead and juvenile salmonids during the spring and squawfish, shiners, bullhead and dace during late August 2000. This project area is approximately 400 yards below the Upper Allstott project. We have a 150-foot buffer on each side of the creek and we are putting in 3 water developments. Creek stream length protected is 1 mile.

Standley Project:
The lowest 4 miles of Owens Creek flow through an open meadow pasture with virtually no riparian cover. Water temperatures are high within this reach during summer months. There are a number of springs feeding the stream in this area, however no salmonids were observed in this reach. Steelhead have been noted in upper reaches of Owens Creek, which is on National Forest Land. The USFS has recently built a riparian fence along Owens Creek within USFS boundaries. The riparian vegetation in this protected reach is recovering well and salmonids were noted in large numbers. The Standley project is in lower Owens Creek. Our goal on this project is to demonstrate recovery in a very visible location. We have negotiated a buffer width of 50' on either side of the stream and a stream reach .5 miles long. We are going to put in two water developments for this project.

Deer Creek (Trini-T Ranches):
Deer Creek is a tributary to the North Fork John Day River just East of Monument, Oregon. This drainage runs year around and is typical of several drainages in that area.

The stream has a year round flow of water which has marginal temperatures for anadromous fish during low flow months. The basin drains approximately 24,000 acres. Elevation ranges from over 5,000 ft to 2,000 ft at the confluence with the North Fork at Monument. Juvenile salmonids in high concentrations have been seen in all sections of this stream year around. This area is a 1.5-hour drive from John Day and a similar distance from Ukiah (50 miles). The area has not received much attention; however ODFW once had a riparian easement approximately 4 miles up from the mouth and extending at least two miles further up stream. The land is generally deep canyons. Uplands are covered with Juniper and sage where there is vegetation and riparian areas have Ponderosa Pine and cottonwoods, willows, and other riparian shrub species. Mostly private, this area is considered grazing land. Many of the riparian areas would definitely benefit from enhancement and we believe that this area would provide a high return for dollars spent.

Deer Creek (Berrey Properties):
We have negotiated a buffer width that averages 75' to 100' on both sides of the stream. The protected reach is two miles long. We are putting in four off-stream water developments with this project.

We recruited the adjoining landowner to participate in a riparian easement. This added another two miles of stream that are now in a cooperative easement with the Department of Agriculture. The buffer on this reach is 100' to 250'. Physical characteristics are the same as the adjoining property. We now have protected a contiguous four miles of year round anadromous stream along Deer Creek with conservation easements. A joint project with NRCS we are putting in three water developments on this

Methods

Project Phase: Planning/Design

Objective 1: Identify properties with critical anadromous salmonid habitat. Identify habitat impacts, attain solutions to detrimental land use practices and promote support of habitat enhancement measures in the upper North Fork John Day River Subbasin.

Task 1.1 Utilize existing information, including historical documents, research and management plans, and any available Geographic Information System (GIS) Data, to determine locations of site-specific habitat impacts.

The most recent comprehensive document for prioritization of projects was the John Day Summary (Feb. 2001) written for the NWPPC by the ODFW. This has served as our base of information. We also look at historical data and information from various agencies. We regularly use USFS information for evaluating private land connectivity or potential effects from land in public ownership. The Farm Services Agency is also used to gain background information on habitat impacts.

Task 1.2 Coordinate with landowners and local, tribal, state and federal entities to identify habitat impacts, determine remedial measures and obtain support of project efforts. This task shall include integration of headwater protection strategies on public lands (Umatilla National Forest) within private land restoration efforts.

We made direct personnel contact with BOR, ODFW, NFJDWC, WST, FSA, NRCS, SWCDS, USFS, BPA, USFWS, NMFS, SWCDS, ODF, DSL, and ODOT. We obtained both written information and verbal input on watershed and riparian conditions. We participated in spawning ground surveys, Watershed Council meetings, and project planning meetings. We went to the field and directly observed riparian conditions on public and private land and received input from FS, BLM, Oregon State Parks and private landowners on past, present and planned future land practices. We identified impacts of these practices and potential future practices that may be directed toward salmonid recovery efforts.

We contacted and worked with ODFW on a regular basis to insure approval and cooperation on all actions.

We reviewed all DSL permits for private developments that were planned for riparian areas within our focus area. We provided comment where appropriate.

Task 1.3 Conduct local outreach efforts (public meetings, tours and presentations) to obtain input, address landowner concerns, provide educational opportunities, and promote stream habitat restoration and protection. Information obtained from this endeavor will better justify expenditure of funds and time.

We have attended almost all of the Watershed Council meetings and coordinated with members. We used this forum to reach various members of the community. We coordinate regularly with the watershed council director and monitoring coordinator. We have also participated in sub-work groups of the watershed council.

The project leader attended a Ukiah City Council meeting to update the council and inform the public of the project and its scope.

We specifically contacted the following landowners and managers in order to maintain good community relations and solicit riparian easements: Jensen, Pugsley, Weinke, Gillium, Fletcher, Allstotts, Thacker, Rienhart, Fields, Bravos, Battle Mountain Grazing, John Standley, Yardley, Berrey, and Kostings.

We worked with the FS Range, fisheries and hydrology departments to work out challenges that they face and are directly related to anadromous fisheries within our focus area.

Task 1.4 Continue to assist the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC) in development of a North Fork John Day Watershed Assessment. CTUIR will coordinate with the NFJDWC to determine watershed assessment needs and launch start-up efforts.

Coordinate these efforts with Camas Creek and Desolation Meadows intensive planning.

Discussions on watershed assessments were initiated at watershed council meetings. Included in discussions were priorities, what could be expected for the funds available, locations, focus areas, and project areas.

We continued discussions with the USFS on Desolation Meadows improvements.

We participated in NWPPC watershed assessment processes. We provided expertise and data input to the assessment contracted to Barnes and Associates Inc.

Task 1.5 Develop a Camas Creek subbasin assessment (subcontracted), and habitat recovery strategy using intensive planning, including a Hydrologist, Fishery Biologist and Wildlife Biologist. Submit these plans for implementation during future years.

A Camas Creek subbasin Assessment was discussed at watershed council meetings and with various agencies and consultants.

We pursued cost share with the COE.

Task 1.6 During natural recovery planning and implementation identify headcut problems, instream passage barriers, and bank stabilization challenges identified. Submit plans for further instream work identified during the field season.

Potential instream problems were examined in the field during project planning.

Objective 2: Foster cooperation with local habitat improvement program personnel from other agencies.

Task 2.1 Direct landowners to USDA/SWCD personnel who can represent agricultural incentive programs so that landowners can understand options and make informed decisions early in the planning process. This subtask shall include determining new and existing projects eligible under agriculture incentive programs that may be supplemented or extended with BPA funds. Project personnel will help landowners identify such projects.

We have informed all potential project landowners of USDA programs and we have provided them with names contacts within the appropriate agencies.

Task 2.2 Request reports from USDA offices that specify: landowners contacts, and landowners and affected properties that have applied to participate or are participating in riparian protection and restoration programs.

We have requested information on landowners participating in USDA programs so that we can further identify opportunities to extend easement agreements or coordinate joint projects.

Task 2.3 Provide to USDA offices a list of contacts and completed contracts that may mesh with complementary non-tribal projects on at least a quarterly basis.

We have provided the names of our project landowners to USDA, provided we have landowner consent.

Task 2.4 Make landowner contacts from the lists of landowners provided by USDA. Determine if landowners are willing to extend the time-frame of riparian protection. Determine if there are locations that could benefit from additional protection/restoration, but which do not qualify under other programs.

We have asked USDA personnel for lists of program participants.

Task 2.5 Coordinate with NRCS, FSA, SWCD and state Fish and Wildlife personnel in the basin to identify future projects. Meet on at least an annual basis to identify and prioritize prospective projects for the coming year.

We have met regularly throughout the year and discussed where projects are being done.

<u>Project Phase</u>: Construction/Implementation/Maintenance

Objective 3: Implement passive, natural recovery approaches in combination with intensive, native revegetation efforts to achieve anadromous fish habitat recovery on private lands in the upper North Fork John Day River Subbasin. Minor instream rehabilitation work such as bank stabilization, remediation of head cuts and passage improvements may be undertaken.

Task 3.1 Pre-construction preparation:

3.1.1 Prepare grant proposals and coordinate with local, state and federal agencies to develop cost share projects.

Our project leader met with ODFW, NFJDWC, NRCS, FSA, Oregon State Parks Dept. and SWCDS to put together joint proposals for anadromous habitat enhancement and to coordinate projects to avoid overlap and lend support to similar projects. We also contacted the BOR, CTWSIRO, OWEB, ODOT, USFWS, EPA, USFWS and ODF to solicit cost share projects and proposals.

3.1.2 Develop and secure riparian easements with private landowners for proposed habitat enhancements.

When landowners showed interest in our program we developed and pursued riparian easements for each individual property. These easements were prepared by first talking with the landowner and then walking the property and flagging potential project areas. Where landowners agreed, we secured these easements as contracts and prepared and submitted deed attachments to be filed by the appropriate county. Riparian easements restrict landowners from certain land use activities, such as grazing, removal of vegetation and use of weed or insect control measures, within enhanced riparian corridor areas. The term of the agreements is generally 15 years, and the landowner accepts the costs of all habitat improvements and CTUIR's maintenance of these improvements as consideration for participating in project recovery efforts. An attempt is made to address landowner needs (such as livestock water gaps, stream crossing sites, etc.) and incorporate these needs into the final agreement. Riparian easements protect habitat improvements and initiate recovery within project areas.

3.1.3 **Grazing leases may be pursued and secured where they are found to be cost effective.**

We have considered grazing leases as an option for habitat protection.

3.1.4 **Conduct cultural and archeological surveys in proposed project areas to determine if cultural resources are present and insure their protection prior to project implementation. Any cultural resources, eligible for inclusion to the National Register of historic places will be documented in reports. Reports of findings will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) and to the BPA Environmental Planning and Analysis Section.**

Once contracts were signed, and prior to project implementation, project personnel coordinated with CTUIR's Cultural Resource Protection Program (CRPP) at proposed habitat enhancement sites involving ground disturbance (fence construction, off-stream livestock water developments structures keyed into stream banks, etc.) to obtain cultural clearances. CRPP Staff conduct file and literature searches, pedestrian surveys and/or archeological excavations to determine if cultural resources potentially eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places are present at proposed enhancement sites. These surveys were used to determine where we could and could not disturb areas during project implementation. Final reports, documenting their findings, are prepared and submitted to the BIA Umatilla Agency Real Property Management Office (for implementation efforts on the Reservation) and to the State Historic Preservation Office (for implementation efforts, both on and off the Reservation). CRPP Staff may also monitor projects during implementation at culturally sensitive locations. All cultural clearances are obtained in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

3.1.5 **Address National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements utilizing BPA's Watershed NEPA checklist. Identify extent of potential project effects, especially in areas of ground disturbance, which may affect cultural resources, water quality or threatened or endangered species. Combine similar type projects into one Watershed NEPA Checklist for projects determined to have no significant measurable short or long term effects on cultural**

resources, water quality, or threatened or endangered species (such as riparian fence construction, off stream water developments or planning efforts). Develop a separate Watershed NEPA checklist for each project determined to have significant effects on cultural resources, water quality, or threatened or endangered species.

We have utilized the NEPA Checklist to evaluate actions necessary to comply with environmental policy, Cultural Resource laws and water quality regulations.

Subtask 3.1.5.1 If necessary, develop a Biological Assessment (BA) of potential effect on any threatened or endangered species present in the proposed project area(s) (Section 7 compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act). Submit the BA to the BPA Environmental Planning and Analysis Section for review and submittal to the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

3.1.6. Complete design and layout including: (1) coordination with CTUIR Hydrologist to develop hydraulic designs. (2) determination of the quantity and type of materials required to build or repair fence and hydraulic control structures, and (3) development of heavy equipment access sites, haul roads and boulder storage sites. Stake and flag to provide site assistance to subcontractors.

When we made contact with interested landowners and operators we walked project areas with the landowners and agreed on enhancement locations and type. At that time we staked and flagged fence locations and offstream water development sites. Fence locations and water development sites were checked by NRCS personnel when the projects were joint projects. Once easements were secured planting plans were prepared for each location. Planting plans used native vegetation.

3.1.7 **Solicit bids and award subcontracts for fence construction, native tree and shrub plantings, bank stabilization, passage work, minor instream work, heavy equipment rental, rock purchase and delivery, well drilling and associated electrical installation, off-stream water developments and noxious weed control. The BPA EIS Compliance Checklist will be submitted and proposed implementation activities approved by BPA prior to initiation of habitat enhancements. In addition, all subcontracts will include clearances and compliance with pertinent state and federal regulations, which may include U.S. Endangered Species Act - Section 7 Consultations, National Environmental Policy Act, Sections 401 and 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, Oregon Removal - Fill Law (Oregon Revised Statute 196.800 – 196.990) and Oregon Weed Control Law (Oregon Revised Statute.570.505 – 570.600) regulations.**

Sub contracts for riparian fencing, water developments, planting and weed control were prepared. Bids were solicited for fencing, planting and weed control.

Contact was made with the USFWS and NMFS to start the process to satisfy the ESA and CWA requirements. No other actions requiring satisfaction of the above requirements were initiated.

3.1.8 **Apply for and obtain necessary in-stream fill and removal permits, including U.S. Army Corps 404 Permits, and Oregon State Lands Permits. All permits will comply with U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) and NEPA Regulations.**

All projects were evaluated for necessary permitting requirements.

3.1.9 Each Watershed checklist developed shall include the following information:

--Project Title
--Project Location
--Project location map
--Project goals and objectives
--Proposed Implementation Actions
--Estimated Timeframes
--Monitoring and Evaluation plan
--Operation and Maintenance (O+M Schedule and Estimated Costs)

The EIS checklist was checked against projects to make sure that we are following environmental guidelines.

Task 3.2 Implement habitat enhancements in support of RPA 150, NMFS Biological Opinion (see attached project status table):

3.2.1 **Construct and maintain riparian corridor fencing to exclude livestock from stream corridors and flood plain areas to provide stream bank protection and vegetative recovery.**

Riparian fence construction was completed on the Deer Creek Project. Fencing follows Tribal and NRCS guidelines.

3.2.2 **Seed native grasses and plant indigenous trees and shrubs in project areas to stabilize streambanks, reduce sediment input, provide insect drop, shade stream channels, cool stream temperatures and increase instream wood recruitment.**

Project areas were seeded and planted with indigenous grasses, shrubs and trees. Panting of trees and shrubs was completed primarily in the spring. Grasses and some shrubs were planted primarily in the fall. Some planting of willows, Cottonwood and dogwood was completed throughout the year as water receded in each

3.2.3 Treat noxious weeds in project areas to decrease competition with native riparian vegetation (in compliance with state and federal regulations, including ESA, NEPA, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the Federal insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and the Oregon Weed Control Law).

Noxious weeds and their range were identified within each project area. Preparations were made to spray weeds following Federal and State guidelines.

Task 3.3 Conduct post-construction final reviews to insure that subcontracted services conform with contract specifications.

All projects were reviewed regularly to insure specifications were met or exceeded. Post construction final reviews were conducted on all projects.

Task 3.4 Develop off-stream water sources for livestock in new and existing project areas. This task will entail sub-contracting well drillers or other contractors to develop off-stream water developments. The configuration of these developments will be determined through site specific analysis. Developments may include: spring improvements, well drilling, installation of electrical services or solar panels, purchasing and installing pumps, plumbing materials and water troughs. Landowner may provide in kind services in construction and development.

Off stream water sources were identified. We identified specific plans for each water development. Watershed developments were installed using contractors or Tribal employees.

Task 3.5 Remediate headcut problems, implement instream bioengineering solutions and complete bank stabilization.

We identified instream and riparian potential problems during project planning. We identified potential remedies for identified problems.

Task 3.6 Identify properties with critical anadromous salmonid habitat for acquisition or to purchase management rights (including perpetual easements, water rights, timber rights, grazing rights etc.) and investigate funding opportunities to fund such acquisitions.

We continued to identify crucial anadromous habitat through on the ground observations. We considered habitat acquisition and easements on all potential project sites. Potential success and cost benefit were an important part of this evaluation.

Task 3.7 Maintain existing project area enhancements.

Schedule: Tasks 3.1.1,3.1.2, 3.1.3, 3.1.6, 3.1.7, 3.1.8, 3.1.9, and 3.6 are activities that are pursued throughout the year. Tasks 3.1.4, 3.2.1, 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5 are implementation activities restricted to field season from March through November. Cultural resources for each project were inventoried prior to project implementation. The EIS checklist has been completed twice annually and checked against proposed projects as they are planned. Other environmental documentation and permitting was undertaken as necessary when not covered by the EIS checklist. Riparian

planting and noxious weed control will be completed in the spring and fall.

Deliverables: Grant proposals, coordination, permitting, habitat easements and cost share projects were identified in quarterly and annual reports. Environmental documentation will be submitted to BPA as it is completed. Subcontracts for fencing, water developments, riparian planting and other improvements were completed and results kept on file as well as reported in quarterly and annual reports. Riparian planting and noxious weed control were completed as per contract specifications.

Project Phase: Monitoring and Evaluation

Objective 4: Collect baseline data and conduct post-project monitoring to identify habitat limiting factors and to quantify effects of habitat enhancement measures in the upper North Fork John Day River Subbasin.

Task 4.1 Conduct habitat surveys (if recent surveys have not occurred) in proposed habitat enhancement project areas to obtain baseline physical data.

Surveys on the presence and absence of fish and their species were conducted in proposed habitat enhancement project areas. Existing vegetation types and quantities of species were noted. Shade on water from trees and shrubs was noted in each project area.

Task 4.2 Conduct biological inventories to determine pre and post-project utilization by anadromous fish within enhanced stream reaches.

Visual observation of fish species, existing vegetation and condition, and water temperature were evaluated at each project site.

Task 4.3 Establish photo points and stream channel transects to measure changes in channel morphology and vegetative responses to habitat enhancements.

Photo points were established on project areas.

Task 4.4 Collect maximum, average and minimum daily stream temperatures during summer months to monitor the effectiveness of habitat enhancements on water temperature cooling.

Thermographs were deployed on the mainstem of Camas Creek, on the Allstott and Deer Creek project areas. Thermograph deployment has been coordinated with the USFS and Watershed Council monitoring program to maximize efficiency.

Schedule: Temperature data was collected from June through October. Photos were taken in late spring or summer and periods without

leafed foliage. Habitat surveys were taken with full foliage. Fish use surveys were taken in spring and fall.

Project Phase: Contract Reporting

Objective 5: Report costs of site activities and Operations and Maintenance of previously completed activities.

Task 5.1 Include an appendix in the Annual Report which summarizes site costs and O&M.

Costs were monitored throughout the year. The quarterly and annual reports contain costs for project activities.

Task 5.1.1 CTUIR will provide in table format, as an Appendix to the Annual Report, actual costs for all line item expenses in the proposed budget.

Task 5.1.2 CTUIR will provide in table format an Appendix to the annual report, a summary of maintenance activities completed on projects that are currently being maintained.

Maintenance was completed by project personnel as part of every day work schedules. Very little maintenance was needed this year.

Task 5.1.3 CTUIR shall provide as appendix to quarterly reports copies of subcontracts, landowner agreements, and a list of landowner contacts.

Copies of subcontracts, and landowner agreements were provided to BPA with quarterly reports.

Objective 6: Coordinate with BPA to ensure maximum technology transfer, program consistency and coordination of habitat enhancement efforts. This objective addresses providing required contract deliverables to BPA and participating in on-going Columbia Basin management decisions pertinent to habitat enhancement efforts in the John Day Subbasin.

We have participated with other agencies in meetings on the North Fork Subbasin. We coordinate regularly with other agencies as well as private landowners. We have reported to BPA as required.

Task 6.1 Prepare and submit quarterly and annual reports to BPA. The annual report will assist the Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC), Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA), BPA and others in tracking this project and sharing information. Accomplishments will be listed in reference to RPA 150 to facilitate implementation tracking under the NMFS Biological Opinion.

Quarterly and annual reports were written and submitted to BPA. Responses to the ISRP and CBFWA request have been submitted. The 2003 SOW and budget for this project were finalized for this project. The 2003-2004 SOW were drafted and submitted.

Task 6.2 Attend management meetings, coordinate with funding entities and resource agencies, and provide input to NPPC, BPA, the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), CBFWA and others as required. The CTUIR Fisheries Program Manager will travel and participate as a stakeholder in decisions regarding BPA funded habitat efforts under this project and other habitat projects in the Columbia Basin. The project leader will respond to NPPC, BPA, ISRP and CBFWA requests regarding funding proposals, statements of works, material purchases, etc. as required.

The project leader and program manager have provided input and attended meetings associated with the North Fork John Day Subbasin and this specific CTUIR project.

Results and Discussion

Project Phase: Planning/Design

Objective 1: Identify properties with critical anadromous salmonid habitat. Identify habitat impacts, attain solutions to detrimental land use practices and promote support of habitat enhancement measures in the upper North Fork John Day River Subbasin.

While literature points to general problems and general focus and priority areas it does not address site specific needs. The John Day Summary and USFS information has allowed us to focus on specific priority areas. Participation in John Day Subbasin Assessment meetings has kept us up to date on projects and priorities from other agencies and groups and expanded information to include much data that to date has not been published. The FSA/NRCS data has been a great help in evaluating site-specific impacts.

All site-specific information gathered is integrated into our historical information, and recent survey information to evaluate potential enhancement.

Task 1.1 Utilize existing information, including historical documents, research and management plans, and any available Geographic Information System (GIS) Data, to determine locations of site-specific habitat impacts.

The Forest Service has done many environmental documents within the North Fork John Day Subbasin. These Forest Service documents concentrate on property managed by the US Forest Service. They have proved invaluable when evaluating on the ground project priorities. The FS also completes sampling and stream surveys throughout the North Fork drainage as part of their work. This information has been used in our project evaluation process.

During this field season we have increased our knowledge of the US Forest Service Management plans and activities on National Forest lands. New logging plans, mining planning and diversion permitting activities within the USFS are being integrated into our planning. This year the USFS has contributed much more to subbasin project prioritization. Their GIS information has been particularly valuable.

ODFW has substantial spawning ground information as well as biological sampling info that is pertinent to the North Fork John Day Subbasin. In 2001 the NWPPC through BPA funded the "John Day Subbasin Summary", Suzanne Knapp, ODFW, 2001. This document is a comprehensive summary of existing watershed information. It further identifies needs and suggests priorities for anadromous work within the entire John Day Subbasin.

The Camas Creek Assessment and John Day Basin Assessment are helping us to stay updated on current information. It specifically has started to integrate existing GIS information into a localized information source.

All historical information as well as up to date watershed surveys and research are combined with site-specific observations to evaluate past habitat impact and site potential.

We currently have more interested people who own high priority stream reaches than we have funding to accommodate. We will continue to prioritize project areas and concentrate on directing landowners to appropriate funding sources.

Task 1.2 Coordinate with landowners and local, tribal, state and federal entities to identify habitat impacts, determine remedial measures and obtain support of project efforts. This task shall include integration of headwater protection strategies on public lands (Umatilla National Forest) within private land restoration efforts.

We have continued to utilize expertise from Umatilla Forest Fish Biologists, ODFW, Oregon State Parks, Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and Soil and Water Conservation Districts) SWCD. The NRCS and FSA have provided expertise as well as detailed information, help in evaluation of properties and enhancement measure. USFS and FSA GIS, aerial photos and file information have been very helpful.

Through coordination with the USFS we have identified where they are working on National Forest lands as well as landowners and cattle allotment permitees who are interest in anadromous habitat protection.

We worked with the FS Range, fisheries and hydrology departments to work out challenges that they face and are directly related to anadromous fisheries within our focus area. Assessment information, allotment rotation, and weed control have been a focus with local Forest Service efforts. Landowners have indicated potential heavier pressure on private lands with less forage and more restrictions on Forest Service allotments. General poor forage conditions in 2002 had many landowners talking about overgrazing. We worked with the Forest Service in reviewing plans and providing Tribal input for the future of Pete-Mann Ditch, a diversion from the North Fork out of basin to the Powder River Basin. We provided input into the FS special use permit Mining EIS for

the Upper North Fork. We also provided comment on Timber harvest on Owens Creek and Bologna Creek, both high priority streams where timber harvest will affect our rehabilitation efforts. We met at length with Forest Service personnel on future potential extensive timber harvest in Fivemile Creek a major steelhead bearing tributary of Camas Creek.

We contacted and worked with ODFW and Warm Springs Tribe on a regular basis to insure approval and cooperation on all actions. We followed up on information requests from the Umatilla Tribal Fish and Wildlife Committee.

North Fork Tributaries around Monument Oregon have become obvious areas where enhancement dollars will be very beneficial (Deer Creek, Bologna Creek, Wall Creek, Swale Creek, Alder Creek and Potamus Creek). These areas are generally heavily grazed, however direct observation of these creeks by our project leader, ODFW and FS biologists reveal that where there is water, it is of good quality and temperature and usually holds anadromous salmonids year around. Headwaters as well as mid stream reaches with existing moderate protection often are filled to capacity with salmonids throughout the year. Protection and enhancement of these streams will increase water levels and water quality and we expect increase salmonid production.

We met with the Forest Service, ODFW, OWEB, Watershed Council Director, Warm Springs Tribe and local landowners to prioritize subbasins in the North Fork for rehabilitation. The goal is to promote collaboration on rehabilitation and passage. Primary criterion for prioritization was habitat potential, proximity to existing good habitat, proximity to existing populations, cooperative owners and potential benefit for dollars spent.

We participated with other agencies and interest groups on watershed assessment for the entire John Day Basin. This effort lead by BPA has resulted in Tribal participation in the Technical committee and stakeholder committee formed for decision making.

We continued working with the other landowner on Lower Deer Creek and he signed a conservation easement. This property is immediately adjacent to our other Deer Creek Project and has put the entire lower four miles of Deer Creek into conservation easements. The entire project includes funding from BPA, FSA, OWEB and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

We worked with Robin Fletcher to continue a working relationship for a joint NRCS/FSA/Tribal project on his property on Camas Creek. He has tentatively decided to put 350+ acres into wetland with the FSA. The FSA WCREP requires that he remove part of the dike along Camas Creek, install two water developments and install approximately one mile of riparian boundary fence. The FSA does not have the personnel to complete the BA for the project. Fletcher wants the Tribe to complete the BA put in the fence, install the water developments and remove part of the dike. The FSA will pay for 50% of the fence, pay $1,000 per water development and 100% of the dike removal.

The Upper Allstott project received extremely high blow-down within the riparian exclosure. In one reach there were over 100 trees that blew down in .5 miles. 85% of these trees were parallel to the creek on the first bench above the creek, out of the wetted floodplain. Fuels within this corridor and above the wetted area (approximately 5’

to 10' above the wetted floodplain) were high and a concern when we built the fence. We determined that it would be in the best interest of the exclosure project to remove the blow-down trees on the first bench above the floodplain. Trees in the wetted area were left increasing woody debris and stream cover. The rest of the adjacent property also had down trees removed to reduce fuel loading. A Tribal biologist or technician was present to direct removal of blow-down within the riparian exclosure. The ultimate result was an increase in down wood in the flooded area and decreased danger to catastrophic fire due to extremely heavy fuel loading.

Triniti/Cross D Ranch on Lower Deer Creek has been sold. We have an easement on the property and have a pending OWEB joint project for upland water developments on the property.

We have attended most of the Watershed Council meetings and coordinated with members. We coordinate regularly with the watershed council director and monitoring coordinator. This has lead to interested landowners and cost share opportunities. Specific projects that we reviewed include OWEB project solicitations.

Tribal habitat program personnel have met monthly to discuss projects, monitoring, personnel and coordination.

Integrating existing information on current populations and conditions is directing us to concentrate in areas where we can get contiguous habitat sections that are most beneficial to anadromous populations.

Task 1.3 Conduct local outreach efforts (public meetings, tours and presentations) to obtain input, address landowner concerns, provide educational opportunities, and promote stream habitat restoration and protection. Information obtained from this endeavor will better justify expenditure of funds and time.

The project leader attended monthly North Fork John Day Watershed Council meetings. The Project Leader serves as a voting member of the watershed council representing Tribal habitat interests. The Project leader provides the Watershed Council with project updates and potential opportunities on a monthly basis. We used this forum to reach various members of the community. We coordinate regularly with the watershed council director and monitoring coordinator. We have also participated in sub-work groups of the watershed council. This has lead to interested landowners and cost share opportunities. Specific projects that we reviewed include OWEB project solicitations, Nature Conservancy Projects, FS Demo projects and Oregon Trout Proposals.

The project leader attended a Ukiah City Council meeting giving a talk on the enhancement program and received input from landowners and concerned citizens.

We continued working with Ukiah School to start an educational outreach program. I have arranged to work with their science program on habitat enhancement.

We worked with the FS Range, fisheries and hydrology departments to work out challenges that they face and are directly related to anadromous fisheries within our focus area. Assessment information and weed control have been a local focus. This is a

continuing effort necessary to integrate our efforts on private ground with Forest Service efforts.

We specifically contacted the following landowners in order to maintain good community relations and solicit riparian easements: Jensen, Yardley, Gillium, Standley, Fletcher, Allstotts, Berrey, Hartley, Krostings, Thacker, Fields and Bravos.

A detailed plan was written for the Fletcher Property. Fletcher has signed up for the WCREP program. Analysis and permitting will take at least 6 months. He plans on putting the whole floodplain into the program for 15 years (over 350 acres). We will apply for an OWEB grant for water developments away from his floodplain. The plan also includes fence building and dike removal. This will be a joint FSA/Tribal/OWEB project.

Steve Berrey owns two miles of Deer Creek adjacent to the current project that we have. We have completed an easement for this property. This is a joint project with BPA, FSA, OWEB and RMEF funding.

We have continued contact with a landowner on Hideway Creek (Hartley). Our hydrologist put together an alternative for riparian management. The FSA representative indicated that the bottomlands will be eligible for CREP. We have incorporated the FSA plan into options for the landowner.

We currently have more interested people who own high priority stream reaches than we have funding to accommodate. We will continue to prioritize project areas and concentrate on directing landowners to appropriate funding sources.

Task 1.4 Continue to assist the North Fork John Day Watershed Council (NFJDWC) in development of a North Fork John Day Watershed Assessment. CTUIR will coordinate with the NFJDWC to determine watershed assessment needs and launch start-up efforts. Coordinate these efforts with Camas Creek and Desolation Meadows intensive planning.

We worked with the Forest Service on early planning for Desolation Creek rehabilitation and Camas Creek planning. The USFS has indicated that these projects are driven by need and funding. We have coordinated with the USFS on Owens Creek and Fivemile Creek drainage management

We have participated in several meetings about watershed assessments in the North Fork subbasin and the entire John Day subbasin assessment. Meetings have included prioritization of North Fork subbasins based on good habitat, habitat potential, passage, relationship of areas to nearby good habitat and existing anadromous populations. We have participated in the evaluation of proposals for subwatershed assessments that could be used in the overall John Day Basin watershed plan currently being lead by the NWPPC.

We gave a presentation to the Tribal Fish and Wildlife Committee where they approved our Subbasin Planning efforts and signed the MOA as a participant.

Task 1.5 Develop a Camas Creek subbasin assessment (subcontracted), and habitat recovery strategy using intensive planning, including a

Hydrologist, Fishery Biologist and Wildlife Biologist. Submit these plans for implementation during future years.

Meshing the COE, BPA and Tribal contracting mechanisms and rules has been a long process involving, fisheries, administrative and legal staff in each agency. We have worked through the Tribal and COE challenges and have a signed cooperative contract.

The contract was finished and signed to subcontract the work. The COE has agreed to a 75/25% cost share on the Camas Creek Watershed Assessment in the near future and may have more cost share available for habitat rehabilitation in future years.

EcoVista did the work under a subcontract with Normandeau Associates. We have worked with EcoVista to put together information for this assessment. We have participated in gathering data and landowner and public relations to support this effort. EcoVista has provided a draft of the assessment.

Task 1.6 During natural recovery planning and implementation identify headcut problems, instream passage barriers, and bank stabilization challenges identified. Submit plans for further instream work identified during the field season.

We have been working with the landowners of a two-mile reach of Hideway Creek. The Creek is near the confluence with Camas Creek and contain anadromous salmonids year around. On the Hideway project we have identified challenges with the flood plain. We brought our hydrologist out and he recommended that we put large wood on most of the point bars, plant the area with mixed vegetation and control grazing. Large wood is available immediately above the stream. This plan while active in the placement of large wood would not need instream work. Instream bioengineering was considered as an option, however given the current condition of the stream we may do more harm than good.

The headcut previously identified on the Fletcher property has disappeared. It appears that high water has filled the location with coble bedload.

Bank stabilization on the Standley project may be necessary if further bank erosion is not stopped with natural vegetative recovery.

Identification of the bedload as a major problem in the Camas Creek basin has been a challenge. While obvious to biologists other people are having a hard time grasping this as passage problem similar to a culvert. Addressing this challenge will open up a huge area to spawning and rearing of Spring Chinook and Steelhead. We believe that this bedload/passage problem may be the largest limiting factor in this drainage.

Objective2: Foster cooperation with local habitat improvement program personnel from other agencies.

We specifically worked on the USDA joint projects on the Allstott properties, in the Bologna Creek drainage, Deer Creek, Cooper Creek, Hideway Creek and the Fletcher property on Camas Creek.

Coordination with FSA/NRCS/SWCDs continued with the concentrated effort on resolving administrative differences to facilitate joint projects. Several alternative scenarios have been evaluated. This has been a very time consuming effort.

The FSA has informed us of a new program. The FSA/NRCS will outsource planning and implementation of programs like CREP, WCREP, WRP, CCRP and CRP. This Technical Service Provider program will allow Tribal personnel to be certified by FSA/NRCS to plan and implement these programs and the Tribe will be compensated for this work. Certification will require training. This program looks like a good opportunity for the Tribal habitat programs to take full advantage of FSA cost share opportunities as well as stand alone FSA program opportunities. This program has become harder to access as time has gone on. It appears that there are very different views on how the program should be implemented (different views between the USDA Washington Office, State and Local offices. While this looks like a great opportunity it is still evolving and may take a couple of years to actually take shape.

We have been informed that the FSA has an existing clause in their landowner CREP contracts that allows FSA to give payments directly to contractors putting in developments. This means that the Tribe can recruit landowner into the FSA program and when the landowner signs up they can utilize the Tribe to put in improvements. The FSA will then “assign payment” directly to the Tribe for construction. FSA will pay as much as 50%-95% of the improvement costs. While we have been unable to get lengthened easements for this cost share we may be able to cost share habitat improvements on the standard 15 year easements. This may help us to complete more projects with the same amount of BPA funds. We are using this method for joint projects to avoid delays while USDA works out specifics for their Technical Service Provider program.

Task 2.1 Direct landowners to USDA/SWCD personnel who can represent agricultural incentive programs so that landowners can understand options and make informed decisions early in the planning process. This subtask shall include determining new and existing projects eligible under agriculture incentive programs that may be supplemented or extended with BPA funds. Project personnel will help landowners identify such projects.

Don Hartley, Robin Fletcher and Norman Krostings were directed toward the FSA office in Pendleton and potential cost shared projects were discussed. The joint FSA/NRCS/Tribal project has continued with the Allstotts.

We have encouraged the Trini-D ranch manager (Chris Bravos) and Steve Berrey, to utilize Grant County USDA programs to increase participation in easement opportunities.

Steve Berrey and Norm Krostings are working on joint projects with the Tribe and FSA/NRCS. We are now working on administrative mechanisms for these joint projects. Steve Berrey has signed agreements with USDA, CTUIR, OWEB and the RMEF. The Krostings have been working with the NRCS on CREP and other FSA programs. We have had several joint meetings on this project.

We have met with Reinharts on their property and will be providing them with FSA contacts when we have agreed on a plan for their property.

We will continue to encourage landowners to utilize FSA programs. Some local landowners do not want to participate in FSA programs because "it takes too long and has too many restrictions".

Task 2.2 Request reports from USDA offices that specify: landowners contacts, and landowners and affected properties that have applied to participate or are participating in riparian protection and restoration programs.

We have requested information on landowners participating in USDA programs so that we can further identify opportunities to extend easement agreements or coordinate joint projects.

The USDA/SWCD's have strict confidentiality rules regarding whom they are working with. This information is not available unless the landowner/operator wishes to have their information released. If the landowner has not requested our involvement then the USDA/SWCD cannot contact us. The Krostings have requested that the USDA work with the Tribe on their riparian habitat project.

Task 2.3 Provide to USDA offices a list of contacts and completed contracts that may mesh with complementary non-tribal projects on at least a quarterly basis.

We have given the NRCS/USDA/SWCD personnel complete information on whom we have talked with concerning easements and who is in what stage of project development. We have done this with landowner consent.

Task 2.4 Make landowner contacts from the lists of landowners provided by USDA. Determine if landowners are willing to extend the time-frame of riparian protection. Determine if there are locations that could benefit from additional protection/restoration, but which do not qualify under other programs.

We have continued to spend extensive time developing joint project alternatives to utilize USDA/CREP programs in both Grant and Umatilla Counties. We have presented several mechanisms to the FSA, SWCD and NRCS for approval. We have also run these potential scenarios through Tribal and BPA administration and legal offices for approval.

Because of FSA confidentiality rules we are limited in our pursuit of FSA landowner contact lists. We will continue to pursue these opportunities as we are provided landowner names by FSA.

We have informed the landowners of options offered by the USDA. Some want to work with the USDA and others do not. Landowners talk extensively among themselves and know how to work the system, utilizing multiple funding sources to reduce out of packet expenditures. Most know that they can use these sources and that there is no requirement that they extend easement timelines. We always present it as our desire, however most choose to limit the easement duration.

Task 2.5 Coordinate with NRCS, FSA, SWCD and state Fish and Wildlife personnel in the basin to identify future projects. Meet on at least an annual basis to identify and prioritize prospective projects for the coming year.

We represented the Tribe and this project at all of the monthly North Fork John Day Watershed Council meetings. We have used this forum as a time and means to discuss and coordinate our respective projects. This has been an efficient means of meeting this objective. We served as a voting member of the Watershed Council, which included the review of BPA projects, and those funded by other entities. We recommended potential cost share alternatives for various projects.

Multiple Watershed Assessment meetings have provided not only input to the assessment but several times this year to discuss projects and prioritization.

Objective 3: Implement passive, natural recovery approaches in combination with intensive, native revegetation efforts to achieve anadromous fish habitat recovery on private lands in the upper North Fork John Day River Subbasin. Minor instream rehabilitation work such as bank stabilization, remediation of head cuts and passage improvements may be undertaken.

We filled the technician position in Ukiah. Delbert Jones the technician, is a local and has been invaluable for local contacts and has demonstrated excellent applicable skills working in the field.

We contacted local landowners for permission to take cuttings, rooted plants and seeds for planting in our riparian easements. We have contacted private and Forest Service Nurseries that grow the native seeds and cuttings that we take. The Tribe is planning to restart their native plants nursery and this is where we will grow most of our native seed and cuttings in the future.

Task 3.1 Pre-construction preparation:

3.1.1 Prepare grant proposals and coordinate with local, state and federal agencies to develop cost share projects.

We have found that by coordinating with other agencies we are able to lay out a complete list of options for project operations and funding sources. In the process of public outreach we presented the Tribal program, NRCS/FSA/SWCD, USFS, NFJDWC and OWEB programs for anadromous habitat enhancement. We consider this effort an important component in getting participation in habitat improvement. It has allowed us to get direct cost share on projects that we are working on as well as indirect cost share on a subbasin scale. These programs often allow landowners to pick a funding source that most closely fits their operations and watershed enhancement improvements. We encourage the landowners to pursue funding alternatives that most match their specific needs and desires.

We worked with Steve Berrey to prepare an OWEB proposal and also worked with other landowners on small grants proposals.

The project leader coordinated closely with the NRCS, FSA, and ODFW on preparing project proposals and cost share. During this process, some landowners decided to utilize entirely NRCS/FSA programs creating projects funded entirely by the FSA.

Some landowners are pursuing USFS Demonstration projects. In the North Fork John Day and Middle Fork John Day the USFS has a “Demonstration Project”. The USFS provides funds for watershed improvement projects both on and off National Forest Lands. Wildfire cost caused the Forest Service to temporarily suspend this funding source. The Forest Service honored projects for which they had already signed agreements. Joint projects inherently take more administrative time before approval. As a result cost share projects generally did not get funding. Some joint projects with cost share agreements did get funded (generally using other funds secured in previous years. This program encourages several categories of improvements including riparian pasture or riparian exclosures, off stream livestock water developments, road closures, culvert replacement, stand improvement and noxious weed control. We have supported these projects through landowner contacts, support at watershed council meetings and indirect cost share. These projects are often given approval based on direct cost share or indirect cost share where there are other similar projects in close proximity. At Watershed Council Meetings, landowners compare BPA, FSA, USFS and OWEB opportunities. Cost share is also discussed within this forum.

OWEB actively supported cost shared projects during this past year and we are now pursuing joint funding of projects where it is allowed. The OWEB has a program for grants to improve watersheds. These projects take the form of studies, riparian pastures, riparian exclosures, offstream water developments, irrigation improvements, diversion improvements and screening. We present this program as an alternative funding source. The OWEB grants program offers the opportunity for private landowners to obtain funding for project improvements that are evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Landowners have picked this alternative for riparian pasture, planting, vegetative controls, and projects that are completed on government land (grazing allotments, culverts, weed control, etc). We are presenting the OWEB funding as alternative habitat enhancement funding and referring landowners to the Watershed Council or OWEB office so that landowners can make a good decision on the OWEB program as a funding source. We worked with the North Fork Watershed Council to coordinate OWEB small grants programs as potential cost share for riparian habitat improvement projects.

Basin wide cost share has been identified to OWEB by delineating how much BPA and the USFS are spending on riparian exclosures, off stream watering developments, planting and weed control. We have combined these figures with those estimated through FSA programs. We are coordinating with the watershed council to use cost share alternatives where they are appropriate.

We continued attempts to get BOR involved in cost share in the North Fork by suggesting specific planning and implementation projects. While they are unable to work on projects other than planning at this time we have supported BOR efforts (in meetings) to get authority to participate in on the ground improvements.

3.1.2 Develop and secure riparian easements with private landowners for proposed habitat enhancements.

Deed attachments were filed with Grant County for the second Deer Creek project.

We have developed nine conservation easements within the North Fork John Day Subbasin. Five of these easements have been signed and easements attached to the deeds. Dorothy and Richard Allstott signed one agreement with the Tribe including 1.4 miles of Snipe Creek and a joint agreement with the Tribe and FSA including another mile of Snipe Creek. John Standley signed an agreement to protect ½ mile of Owens Creek, the Trinity Ranches signed an agreement to protect 2+ miles of Deer Creek and Steve Berrey signed a joint agreement with The Tribe and FSA and RMEF(GWEB funding will also be used in the future). These easements will protect approximately 7 miles of anadromous streams. This required approximately 14 miles of fencing and 12 offstream water developments. Two more fencing contracts were developed. Several off stream water development subcontracts, planting plans, and weed control measures were developed for implementation before the end of the 2003-4 contract year. See Appendix 1 and “Active Project Areas” section for more information.

As a result of our outreach efforts some landowners have signed up for NRCS programs (no BPA cost share). Other landowners have signed up with the OWEB program and numerous others have talked over their needs with the project leader. Talking over projects, funding alternatives, and operational alternatives with landowners has increased awareness of the various programs and stimulated interest among potential participants.

We are working with Camas Creek, and Hideway Creek landowners to secure riparian easements. The Deer Creek draft easement agreement contained new cost share language that was reviewed by Tribal administration, fisheries and legal departments. This agreement was signed and is now in effect.

3.1.3 Grazing leases may be pursued and secured where they are found to be cost effective.

We are evaluating the potential use of a grazing lease on the Hideway project. The alternative would allow grazing every four years to control high fuel loading. The landowner would not get full FSA/NRCS payment for grazing because of the periodic use. This alternative would allow four years to establish woody vegetation. The cattle

would then be allowed to graze just enough to reduce fire danger and remove decadent grasses that would compete with the established woody vegetation. Woody vegetation would then have another four years before grazing again. The landowner is willing to provide a very wide buffer to make this a viable alternative. The landowner needs to decide whether he wants total exclusion and FSA/NRCS payment and have complete exclusion and total payments or go with and periodic grazing program with reduced payments.

Grazing is an integral part of the Krosting FSA/NRCS agreement and we are coordinating the landowner planning with FSA.

3.1.4 Conduct cultural and archeological surveys in proposed project areas to determine if cultural resources are present and insure their protection prior to project implementation. Any cultural resources, eligible for inclusion to the National Register of historic places will be documented in reports. Reports of findings will be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) and to the BPA Environmental Planning and Analysis Section.

Once contracts were signed, and prior to project implementation, project personnel coordinated with CTUIR's Cultural Resource Protection Program (CRPP) at proposed habitat enhancement sites involving ground disturbance (fence construction, off-stream livestock water development) to obtain cultural clearances. CRPP Staff conducted file and literature searches, and pedestrian surveys to determine if cultural resources potentially eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places were present at the proposed enhancement sites. These surveys were used to determine where we could and could not disturb areas during project implementation. Final reports, documenting their findings, were prepared and submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

A survey for the fence and multiple water developments on the new Deer Creek project was completed

We coordinated with the Tribal Cultural Resources Department on all projects.

3.1.5 Address National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements utilizing BPA's Watershed NEPA checklist. Identify extent of potential project effects, especially in areas of ground disturbance, which may affect cultural resources, water quality or threatened or endangered species. Combine similar type projects into one Watershed NEPA Checklist for projects determined to have no significant measurable short or long term effects on cultural resources, water quality, or threatened or endangered species (such as riparian fence construction, off stream water developments or planning efforts). Develop a separate Watershed NEPA checklist for each project determined to have significant effects on cultural resources, water quality, or threatened or endangered species.

We contacted Nancy Weintraub and NMFS to discuss in detail what we will be doing in terms of weed control during the coming season. We provided input to the “in progress” BA for riparian weed control.

We coordinated with the Forest Service, Watershed Council, ODFW and BPA on weed control environmental requirements.

We have continued contact with the BPA, NMFS and USFWS to make sure that we are meeting environmental regulation guidelines.

Subtask 3.1.5.1 If necessary, develop a Biological Assessment (BA) of potential effect on any threatened or endangered species present in the proposed project area(s) (Section 7 compliance with the federal Endangered Species Act). Submit the BA to the BPA Environmental Planning and Analysis Section for review and submittal to the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Fletcher project was originally thought to need a BA to satisfy FSA requirements. BPA has coordinated with NRCS and we may not need to do a BA. BPA is going to evaluate whether this project fall under the programmatic BA for habitat projects. If so then a BA will not be required.

3.1.6 Complete design and layout including: (1) coordination with CTUIR Hydrologist to develop hydraulic designs. (2) determination of the quantity and type of materials required to build or repair fence and hydraulic control structures, and (3) development of heavy equipment access sites, haul roads and boulder storage sites. Stake and flag to provide site assistance to subcontractors.

All fence and water development locations were staked prior to implementation. These locations, and improvement specifications were approved by the landowners and the Tribe prior to implementation. We created fence specifications for each property to meet ODFW, Tribal and NRCS requirements. A planting plan was created for each contract. We evaluated weed control needs on project sites and developed contract bid information for weed control. We worked with ODF on planting plans within our area and projects. Currently the SWCD requires ODF to provide planting plans for all FSA projects where planting is required.

Designs and drawings were completed for the FSA/Tribal project on the Fletcher property. The plans have been accepted by NRCS and the Tribe. Stream crossing sites and use levels were identified.

We completed a cost comparison of contracting water development installation vs. doing our own installation using Tribal employees. There is a definite lack of experience among local contractors to install water developments to specifications. We decided that we would install three and contract to have three installed. So far it is less expensive and we get a better final product if we install the water developments with Tribal employees.

We evaluated the use of contractors and employees for planting trees shrubs and grasses on project sites. Employees have worked best during this field season and it is

likely that employees will be the best alternative in the future because of specific site needs. The Tribe may use contract planters to work under the close supervision of Tribal employees.

We remarked fence and water development locations on the new Deer Creek project as per landowner preference and Tribal specifications. We took field measurements to create fencing subcontractor specifications. Off stream water development locations were examined and altered to better utilize the better water supplies on the Deer Creek properties. This analysis involved better land utilization and will result in lower development costs. Twenty three water developments were sited and planned in the lower Deer Creek drainage, including the areas adjacent to both Tribal easements. We have submitted these plans as part of a proposal to OWEB. With cost share from BPA, FSA, OWEB and RMEF we can potentially help to manage this watershed with a ridge top to ridge top approach.

3.1.7 Solicit bids and award subcontracts for fence construction, native tree and shrub plantings, bank stabilization, passage work, minor instream work, heavy equipment rental, rock purchase and delivery, well drilling and associated electrical installation, off-stream water developments and noxious weed control. The BPA EIS Compliance Checklist will be submitted and proposed implementation activities approved by BPA prior to initiation of habitat enhancements. In addition, all subcontracts will include clearances and compliance with pertinent state and federal regulations, which may include U.S. Endangered Species Act - Section 7 Consultations, National Environmental Policy Act, Sections 401 and 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act, Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act, Oregon Removal - Fill Law (Oregon Revised Statute 196.800 – 196.990) and Oregon Weed Control Law (Oregon Revised Statute.570.505 – 570.600) regulations.

A fencing contract for Lower Deer Creek was 90% finished this year protecting 2. miles of anadromous streams.

Changes in the owners needs delayed the letting of fencing contracts on the Standley property. Because of the small size and complexity, we will install this exclosure using Tribal employees.

We distributed a bid solicitation package for the riparian fencing on the Lower Deer Creek project and conducted a bid tour with prospective subcontractors. We prepared, awarded and signed the Deer Creek fencing subcontract (subcontractor, Eric Schulze). This fencing project was 90% finished this year.

We worked with the US Forest Service and local COPE project to hire a crew of local individuals for planting cuttings and seedlings on project sites. The COPE crew worked with Tribal employees to plant over 13,000 seedlings and cuttings on 4 project areas.

We continued coordination with the Private Lands Forest Network through ODF to locate tree sources for planting in this area.

We continued to finalize water development specifications, fence specifications and planting plans for the Deer Creek easement contracts. Funding sources include FSA, RMEF and OWEB.

We coordinated set up, supplied equipment for, and scheduled riparian planting of Ponderosa Pines and riparian shrubs on the Lower Allstott project.

We coordinated with the Forest Service, Watershed Council, ODFW and BPA on weed control environmental requirements.

We worked with the NRCS engineer on the ground to finish specifications for off stream water developments. We also incorporated these specifications into our bid solicitation packages.

3.1.8 Apply for and obtain necessary in-stream fill and removal permits, including U.S. Army Corps 404 Permits, and Oregon State Lands Permits. All permits will comply with U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) and NEPA Regulations.

No other permits were required for work during this year.

3.1.9 Each Watershed checklist developed shall include the following information:

--Project Title
--Project Location
--Project location map
--Project goals and objectives
--Proposed Implementation Actions
--Estimated Timeframes
--Monitoring and Evaluation plan
--Operation and Maintenance (O+M Schedule and Estimated Costs)

An EIS checklist was prepared and NMFS and USFWS were contacted to satisfy ESA and CWA requirements. We are working with county weed department and USFS for future weed control measures and all planned activities are being planned with their input and guidance for regulatory compliance. We have checked with Nancy Weintraub and she has indicated that we are in compliance for building riparian fence and off stream livestock watering developments. We also discussed the NEPA and consultation status of weed control measures.

Task 3.2 Implement habitat enhancements in support of RPA 150, NMFS Biological Opinion (see attached project status table):

3.2.1 Construct and maintain riparian corridor fencing to exclude livestock from stream corridors and flood plain areas to provide stream bank protection and vegetative recovery.

Construction of riparian fencing on the Lower Deer Creek contract was 90% completed, inspected and approved. Weather and mud slowed construction during this winter contract. This contract has required an extension due to weather and muddy conditions.

Fencing materials and water development equipment were purchase to assure that we are prepared to supply all work on existing riparian easements.

Three water developments on lower Allstotts were completed. Three more were completed on the Deer Creek project.

3.2.2 Seed native grasses and plant indigenous trees and shrubs in project areas to stabilize streambanks, reduce sediment input, provide insect drop, shade stream channels, cool stream temperatures and increase instream wood recruitment.

We continued contacts for locating native plants to be planted this field season. We collected native plant and tree cuttings, from our area, to be planted by the Tribe.

Planting was completed on all project areas. We have contacted private and Forest Service Nurseries that will contract to grow the native seeds and cuttings that we take. We continued our support of a Tribal native plant nursery as well as working with USFS and private nurseries to make sure that we have stock for planting in 2003-2006.

We worked with Forest Service personnel to gather hands on information on planting cuttings and seedlings. The Forest Service personnel worked alongside Tribal and COPE employees during planting operations.

We worked with Forest Service and Private Nurseries so that they know how much and when we will want plants. They provided us with more expertise on taking and planting wild plants. Most of these nursery-raised plants will not be ready until 2004 (some in fall of 2003).

We ordered plants, trees and seed for planting. We coordinated our orders and deliveries with the USFS to save funds and utilize their storage facilities.

We worked with ODF to order Ponderosa pines to plant this year and next.

We reviewed a potential planting plan for the Standley easement. ODOT often removes native stock along the roadways. We have asked that they inform us so that we can collect before their removal however they have been uncooperative and have destroyed irreplaceable plant stocks.

We monitored soil moisture for planting conditions on all project areas.

We worked with the US Forest Service to plan timing and number of Aspen root cuttings to be taken. We collected cuttings and delivered them to nurseries to be grown for planting in coming years.

We worked with other Tribal projects to arrange for holding, planting and rearing of native plants. We continued our support of a Tribal native plant nursery as well as working with USFS and private nurseries to make sure that we have stock for planting in 2003-2006.

We worked with several nurseries to put together native grass mixes for varied environments on our easements and to compete with noxious weeds. We seeded grasses in areas that were disturbed during fence and water development construction.

We continued to install fencing around trees on Deer Creek to protect cottonwood galleries from beavers. We continued to monitored soil moisture for planting conditions on both Allstott properties as well as the DEER Creek project.

3.2.3 Treat noxious weeds in project areas to decrease competition with native riparian vegetation (in compliance with state and federal regulations, including ESA, NEPA, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, the Federal insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act and the Oregon Weed Control Law).

Our project landowners are controlling weeds on their property adjacent to our projects. We identified noxious weed locations on project areas.

We have contacted State, County and private entities to coordinate noxious weed control.

We let a professional services contract for spraying weeds within project areas.
We had weeds within project areas sprayed by a contractor and we have completed some hand removal.

We have included weed control within our project areas as part of our standard riparian easements. We have been waiting for approval from BPA for weed control guidelines. We have been in contact with Nancy Weintraub the US Forest Service, NMFS, USFWS and BLM to help this process along.

Task 3.3 Conduct post-construction final reviews to insure that subcontracted services conform with contract specifications (July 1 – December 30, 2002).

We inspected water developments, fencing and plantings from projects finished last field season and those under construction this project year.

Task 3.4 Develop off-stream water sources for livestock in new and existing project areas. This task will entail sub-contracting well drillers or other contractors to develop off-stream water developments. The configuration of these developments will be determined through site-specific analysis. Developments may include: spring improvements, well drilling, installation of electrical services or solar panels, purchasing and installing pumps, plumbing materials and water troughs. Landowner may provide in kind services in construction and development.

We continued construction on six offstream water developments on the Allstotts properties and Deer Creek.

We have completed installing three water developments on the lower Allstott projects. We are using Tribal employees and it is going very well.

Materials were purchased for all water developments.

Task 3.5 Remediate headcut problems, implement instream bioengineering solutions and complete bank stabilization.

On the Standley contract the landowner has narrowed the corridor. We may need to protect one or two cut banks along this reach in the future.

We have identified the use of large wood as the preferred alternative to rehabilitate the two-mile tributary reach of Hideway Creek. The wood will not be placed instream, but on existing point bars to accelerate natural recovery of the riparian area. This introduced wood will be taken from an adjacent overstocked stand of conifers.

We have identified several cut banks on the two Deer Creek projects. We believe that they will be remediated through natural means (riparian planting and the exclusion the exclusion of livestock).

Several individuals have evaluated the Fletcher property. Removing a dike and connecting the existing stream course with adjoining wetlands and potential wetlands is our recommended strategy for rehabilitation of this reach. One headcut on the Fletcher property was remediated with the natural deposition of coble in this reach.

Task 3.6 Identify properties with critical anadromous salmonid habitat for acquisition or to purchase management rights (including perpetual easements, water rights, timber rights, grazing rights etc.) and investigate funding opportunities to fund such acquisitions.

The Lower Desolation Creek Tract was sold to Hood River County. Late in our contract year we have contacted them again and they may be willing to enter into a riparian protection and enhancement agreement. All biologists and hydrologists agreed that the stream reaches within this tract would have been a very high priority for enhancement (the reaches met all criterion for high priority status).

We have continued to examine various areas to identify properties and priority areas for habitat enhancement. The Krostings have an anadromous tributary of Owens Creek, Cooper Creek on their property as well as tributaries that may provide valuable rearing habitat if enhanced with fencing and water developments. We met with the owners and the FSA on the property and in the office. We identified potential enhancement opportunities that will probably lead to another joint project.

Task 3.7 Maintain existing project area enhancements.

We regularly examined completed riparian fences and partially completed water developments. We performed regular maintenance (removing fallen trees from the fences, fixing broken fences and making fence adjustments).

The upper Allstott project received heavy winds and blow-down across their property and within the riparian area. We worked with the Allstotts to make sure that fuels were reduced and instream structure was improved when blow-down was removed to reduce fire danger and potential high intensity fires.

Newly planted shrubs and trees within our riparian exclosures were watered throughout the dry summer and fall.

Objective 4: Collect baseline data and conduct post-project monitoring to identify habitat limiting factors and to quantify effects of habitat enhancement measures in the upper North Fork John Day River Subbasin.

Beaver activity on Deer Creek and on the Lower Allstott project is removing woody vegetation much faster that it can grow.

Post project monitoring of Upper Allstotts, Deer Creek #1 Lower Allstotts indicates major vegetative recovery.

The Deer Creek property has an intense problem with noxious weeds. We are addressing this with plantings (to compete with noxious weeds), manual removal and spraying.

In the spring and fall we walk each project to collect qualitative and quantitative information on flora and fauna. These observations are use to evaluate where and when we will schedule work during the year as well as progress toward ultimate enhancement goals.

Task 4.1 Conduct habitat surveys (if recent surveys have not occurred) in proposed habitat enhancement project areas to obtain baseline physical data.

On the six project areas where we prepared contracts we identified the limiting factors and connectivity to adjacent areas and the subbasin as a whole. We identified riparian fencing and off stream livestock watering as the means to address the limiting factors. We took photos at photo points at three project sites. We used a specific overview to distinguish existing condition.

We determined by visual observation; bank stability, channel morphology, water temperature, fish presence, soil types and riparian vegetation condition.

Task 4.2 Conduct biological inventories to determine pre and post-project utilization by anadromous fish within enhanced stream reaches.

We walked Deer Creek and found both adult kelts and juvenile steelhead throughout the protected reach. Several steelhead redds were observed. Juvenile steelhead were found in very high numbers throughout the year.

Streams were surveyed for water (or lack of) during the quarter. On Lower Snipe Creek we found water on the upper 50% of the reach for the entire year. The lower 50% was wet and had pools but was not running for approximately 20-30 days in 2003. In 2002 80% of the reach was not running for at least 60 days.

As part of this monitoring the project leader also noted landowner attitudes toward rehabilitation projects. This has been noted so that we may make the best use of our time during public outreach. We have noted landowners who are very positive toward the program and signed up and landowners who are very negative. Most would like to do something; noting what each landowner wants will facilitate better negotiations in the future.

Task 4.3 Establish photo points and stream channel transects to measure changes in channel morphology and vegetative responses to habitat enhancements.

Photos were taken with and without foliage at different times of the year. We also took pictures during flood events. We have collected pictures from local residents of flood events from past years. We have attempted to get photos from the same locations.

Task 4.4 Collect maximum, average and minimum daily stream temperatures during summer months to monitor the effectiveness of habitat enhancements on water temperature cooling (June 1 – September 30, 2003).

We coordinated with the monitoring program of the North Fork Watershed Council. We submitted the data that we had collected to them and we worked with them to standardize our data with theirs. They have taken the lead in putting this data into a format that is easily used and manipulated.

Thermograph locations were coordinated with the Watershed Council program. The Watershed Council and Tribe coordinated when and where thermographs would be placed this year. The Watershed Council uses the same program as the Tribes and has taken the lead in standardizing graphic format for inclusion in reports. The coordination has led to less duplication of effort, and standardization of locations and reporting. This cooperative effort has also led to better communication between various projects and landowners.

Objective 5: Report costs of site activities and Operations and Maintenance of previously completed activities.

Task 5.1 Include an appendix in the Annual Report which summarizes site costs and O&M.

Project progress regarding status and cost of easements, materials, and implementation are summarized in Appendix 1. Costs are included in project operating cost reports generated within Tribal administration and provided to BPA. The attached appendix has

cost summaries. Costs for projects are included in the table at the end of this report. Actual costs are indicated where we have indicated tasks are complete. Other costs are estimates and will be updated as we complete these tasks.

Costs beyond Tribal personnel expenses have been calculated and shared with FSA for cost share information. Riparian fence is costing $7,900 per mile of fence. Water developments are highly variable depending on individual conditions. Costs have been as low as $1,300 where we provide materials and do the installation in cooperation with the landowners to $3,500 where we have purchased materials and had subcontractors do the installation.

O+ M is highly variable, Replacement of a stolen solar panel will cost $1,700 and cost to monitor clean up of blowdown on upper Allstotts was approximately $1,000. Overall hours for O+M are estimated at 10% of our time. This does not include watering of plants which we consider implementation during the first two years of a project.

Task 5.1.1 CTUIR will provide in table format, as an Appendix to the Annual Report, actual costs for all line item expenses in the proposed budget.

Task 5.1.2 CTUIR will provide in table format an Appendix to the annual report, a summary of maintenance activities completed on projects that are currently being maintained.

Very little project maintenance has been completed to date. Project personnel have completed this on regular workdays. An estimated 30 days were spent by the project technician doing regular maintenance.

Maintenance activities on completed projects have been undertaken and records maintained. We are tracking the amount of time spent on improvement maintenance. This is somewhat nebulous in that it often takes more time coordinating with individual landowners about maintenance that actually doing the work.

Task 5.1.3 CTUIR shall provide as appendix to quarterly reports copies of subcontracts, landowner agreements, and a list of landowner contacts.

Subcontracts are quite lengthily and include much legal and redundant information and contract language. At the request of the COTR we have informed him when the contracts are completed and hold the actual contracts within our files.

Objective 6: Coordinate with BPA to ensure maximum technology transfer, program consistency and coordination of habitat enhancement efforts. This objective addresses providing required contract deliverables to BPA and participating in on-going Columbia Basin management decisions pertinent to habitat enhancement efforts in the John Day Subbasin.

We have participated in Watershed Council meetings and have coordinated with the Warm Springs Tribe, ODFW, NRCS, FSA, SWCDs, BPA and Forest Service on habitat activities.

Task 6.1 Prepare and submit quarterly and annual reports to BPA. The annual report will assist the Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC), Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA), BPA and others in tracking this project and sharing information. Accomplishments will be listed in reference to RPA 150 to facilitate implementation tracking under the NMFS Biological Opinion.

Quarterly reports were prepared and submitted for this project for all quarters.

The project leader collected data for the 2004-2005 SOW and budget as well as the 2003 annual report. We wrote the FY 2002 annual report and submitted it to BPA. The 2004-5 SOW and budget was submitted to BPA.

Information related to RPA 150 is included within Appendix 1. Information requested for RPA 150 was also submitted to BPA during the contract year.

Task 6.2 Attend management meetings, coordinate with funding entities and resource agencies, and provide input to NPPC, BPA, the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP), CBFWA and others as required. The CTUIR Fisheries Program Manager will travel and participate as a stakeholder in decisions regarding BPA funded habitat efforts under this project and other habitat projects in the Columbia Basin. The project leader will respond to NPPC, BPA, ISRP and CBFWA requests regarding funding proposals, statements of works, material purchases, etc. as required.

The program manager has participated in stakeholder meetings that will affect BPA habitat efforts throughout the Columbia Basin.

We attended and provided input at CBFWA meetings on Columbia Basin Province project, policy and the scientific reviews.

We have tracked and responded to CBFWA, NWPPC, and BPA information and requests associated with statements of work, proposals, projects and costs.

Non-Capital Equipment Purchased During this Year-non

Challenges Encountered

The joint projects with NRCS/FSA have continued to be problematic. Although several NRCS & SWCD staff have made excellent attempts to help make joint projects work, there continues to be delays in working out a joint approach. We have held discussions on joint projects with Grant and Umatilla County FSA/SWCD personnel and appear to be making headway. This activity has taken on a huge amount of time and while contacts

have resulted in a limited number of joint projects and projects fully funded by FSA, we have fallen behind in our own implementation, which can be damaging to credibility.

The USDA is refining its methods for implementing projects and joint projects and it is easier than in the past. However methods and language for different agencies require rewriting information and translating information into different formats and different forms. This is very time consuming. Goals, costs, plans, implementation, specifications, budget tracking, billing etc. are all different for each agency. Conversions and replicate submissions are difficult and time consuming. Often a landowner wants to know exactly how and why each program is so different. There currently no mechanisms to make this easier. We made a huge leap of progress when environmental and cultural resource documentation was determined to be compatible among agencies, but there is a long way to go. There is really no way out of the situation other than working on standardization and agreements between agencies. Because of past efforts (required by BPA) and completions on joint project landowners know about and now expect benefits of joint projects.

Each county FSA office has different interpretation of rules and implementation for joint projects. Working within each county has its own set of challenges including personnel, rules interpretation, monetary incentives and political values. When OWEB is added to the cost share equation it further complicates administration of joint projects.

Contracting regulations from BPA and the Tribe make it very difficult for on the ground implementation. Funding cycles and timing requirements are not realistic. Example: BPA wants habitat projects to identify what projects are going to be completed in a coming year before approving a budget or budget amendment. To this end we have held back on budget amendments until near the end of the contract period to more accurately estimate these costs and tie them to specific projects. The nature of working with private landowner makes these estimates difficult until late in the contract year. BPA does not want to amend contract budget near the end of a contract year and did not approve the contract amendment. In order to meet on the ground project timelines we need to purchase before the field season. Basically we are in a Catch 22, 1) Do not amend the budget until it is more refined and then 2) BPA will not amend the budget late in the contract cycle. 3) We will be purchasing during the field season, when time is a premium and 4) we will be purchasing under contract funding for the coming contract period, which will change the expenditures in the coming contract cycle thus perpetuating the problem. These amendments were not going to increase the total contract funding amount just change line item amounts. Example: We needed to put weed control under subcontracting when putting together the budget because it exceeded a certain dollar figure. Contracting during the year for weed control comes in two periods requiring two contracts which then fall under “Professional Services” (not a line item in the original budget because total weed control exceeded professional services limits). BPA was then unwilling to amend the contract when the weed control showed up as professional services. These are but two of several examples of “Catch 22s” that project leaders face. Habitat project effectiveness is dependent on natural processes and the will of individual landowners not the man made and institutional deadlines of agencies. Landowners, particularly farmers and ranchers repeatedly are frustrated when they make honest efforts to work on conservation measures and clearly state their frustrations with budget decisions that do not make sense on biological timeline. The most common comments are 1) if they tried to farm without taking biology into account they would go bankrupt, the banks and investors that they work with know that biology runs the business, profits and

effectiveness, 2) how do agencies expect to be successful when they ignore the physical and biological limiting factors. The people that we are supposed to attract into the program believe that the agencies administering the projects know nothing about the biological requirements that the farmers and ranchers and projects leaders face. If these challenges are addressed through logical discussion with BPA it would be far more efficient than the current situation. Projects could certainly get more done on the ground.

BPA budget exercises to meet physical year requirements take much away from potential field time. Project contracts generally do not begin and end on October 1 and September 29. This makes sense in that it would be impossible for administrators and COTRs to do everything at one time. The reconciliation for September 30 takes projects leader from the field and increases administrative time. Agencies like the Tribe have a physical year break January 1 (like most businesses). This requires a budget exercise also. BPA also requires a mid year accrual exercise. This means that project leader is doing not less than four official budget exercises annually and must alter all information to meet different dates. All of this financial information is well organized in the Tribal accounting reports and is clear and concise. The Tribal accounting procedures have made this as easy and accurate as possible, but it still requires project leader time. Add these exercises to the contract amendment process and negotiations for BPA and you have a huge amount of time spent on this instead of on the ground work.

The Camas Creek watershed assessment was completed this year. The COE and Tribe and BPA envisioned a final product that would address the bedload /passage problem in Camas Creek near Ukiah. This would open up a very large portion of the North Fork watershed that could enhance anadromous populations more than any other project on the North Fork. Unfortunately the ultimate goal has been lost through personnel changeover. The next step would be an analysis of the bedload and potential remediation alternatives followed by a construction phase. The original plan would have taken a total of five years. The COE would like to continue to the next phase of the project and is in a position to cost share fund this next phase (analysis of bedload and remediation alternatives. The Tribe hopes that this project will continue to completion. Landowners and local residents want resolution to the challenges in the mainstem Camas Creek, however they see potential property damage and continued fishery problems long before a solution can be implemented.

The project leader fro this project resigned, effective in early October. While he has continued to help out on part time basis the project has fallen behind while the position was being filled.

Computer problems have plagued the NFJDAHEP from the beginning. They have become especially problematic the longer the project goes on. While computer hardware and software are becoming outdated the Forest Service phone system is also causing problems. E-mail and internet hook-ups only connect approximately 25% of the time and users are “kicked off line” at least 50% of that time (5-15 minute connections are the rule). It is impossible to receive or send large documents, maps or pictures and we generally go to Pendleton to get things done in a timely manner. Short turn around requests are often not received for response within a timeframe that is acceptable. Response requires two hours of driving plus whatever time is necessary at the Mission office.

Available Cost Share Funds to Assist North Fork John Day River Basin Anadromous Fish Habitat Enhancement Project

Organization	Service Provided	Amount
USFS	Office Services&Personnel	12,000
NRCS	Direct project cost share	150,000*
COE	Camas Creek Assessment	60,000
	Total	**$222,000**

*This estimated dollar amount reflects projects partially or completely funded by NRCS and has been provided annually over the last three years.

--OWEB projects within the North Fork Drainage that will result from BPA coordination generated another $70,000 additional dollars in riparian fencing, weed control and water developments.
--The USFS Demo project has spent approximately $200,000 this year on private lands.

Summary

The CTUIR North Fork John Day Subbasin Habitat Enhancement project completed the fourth year. The majority of time during the first year was spent on public outreach, evaluation and prioritization of focus areas and coordination of joint projects. Five riparian easement contracts were signed and five others prepared. The five easements will protect a total of seven miles of anadromous streams. There are 12 off stream water developments associated with these easements. Two small instream projects were identified within project areas. During the 2003 contract period materials were purchased for implementation on all of project sites where we have signed easements. Cultural Resource surveys and associated final reports were completed on project sites. Construction was completed on four miles of Deer Creek. Water development materials have been purchased and detailed plans for each site drafted for subcontractors. Nine off stream water developments have been completed two more partially completed and twenty planned for development. Riparian planting plans utilizing native plants have been drafted for each project. Natural planting materials have been obtained and planting of 3,000 Ponderosa Pine and over 10,000 other riparian cuttings and plants planted. Seeds and cuttings from a complete cross section of native local plants were collected and delivered to nurseries for future planting or stored to be planted this coming spring. Weed control measures were implemented on all easements. A summary of status, costs materials and results are presented in Appendix 1 and the “Active Project Areas” sections of this report.

Public outreach was an emphasis during the first year. We were very successful at reaching virtually all landowners with riparian properties in our focus area and we raised project awareness within the community. Word of the project has spread and we now have more landowners interested than we can fund or implement with current funding and personnel levels.

This year we emphasized landowner satisfaction and trust, cost share alternatives and joint project alternatives were explored and implemented. Implementation on project easements was definitively planned and started and completed. We are now in a position where we concentrate on implementation on the ground and work with interested landowners to match funding alternatives and provide realistic implementation scheduling.

Identification of priority areas continued to change during the year as we became more aware of stream and reach conditions and cooperative landowners. We have pinpointed many areas where we can get the most for dollars spent and where each agency doing this type of work can be most effective. There are very few areas where passive riparian protection, off stream water developments and riparian planting will not reap similar salmonid benefits. We have been very careful to not enter areas where riparian enhancement will have little benefit.

Coordination with other projects and potential for cost sharing was very time consuming. The NRCS/FSA/SWCD and OWEB programs have very different rules and ways of doing business. These differences in implementation mechanisms have been overcome in a limited number of projects. Landowners have tended to pick a single funding source, because it is easier and involves less meeting time (according to landowners). Many landowners make their decisions based on whom they trust most. Thus they have the opportunity to match the program that most supports their operation. We continue to present all funding options. Ideally agencies will work together to facilitate the maximum number of private enhancement program participants. There will always be individuals that want to work exclusively with one agency or another, however I think that most efficiency and sign-up can be accomplished if the agencies work together. This approach will also minimize administrative duplication, and agency competition. This year we made significant progress toward joint programs and getting landowners to use various funding sources.

Contracting challenges between BPA and the Tribe caused significant delays in implementation of existing easement improvements as well as slowing the number of finalized easement agreements.

Signed Easement Contracts:
Dorothy and Richard Allstott-Snipe Creek (two contracts)
John Standley-Owens Creek
Trini-D Ranches-Deer Creek
Berrey Properties-Deer Creek

Pending Contracts:
Robin Fletcher-Camas Creek
Battle Mountain Grazing-Snipe Creek
Norm Krostings-Cooper Creek
Don Hartley-Hideway Creek

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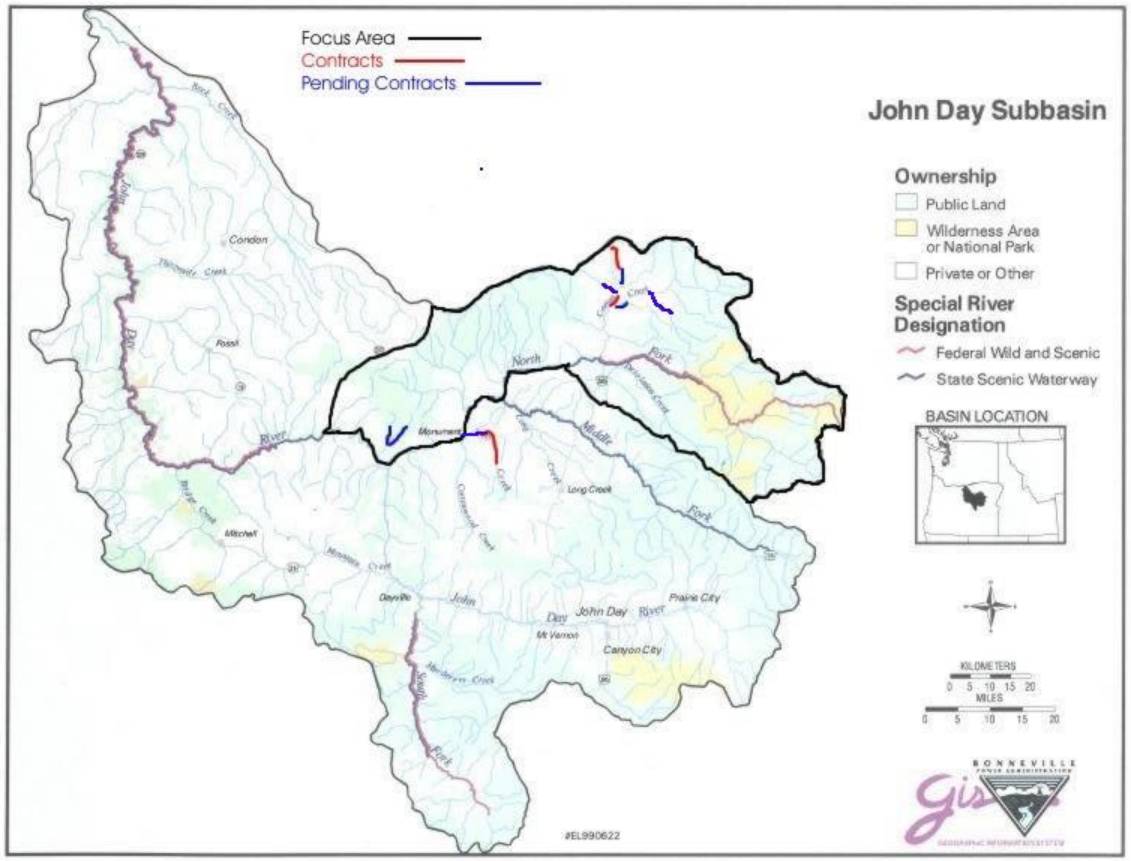

Focus Area
Contracts
Pending Contracts
John Day Subbasin
Ownership
Public Land
Wilderness Area or National Park
Private or Other
Special River Designation
Federal Wild and Scenic
State Scenic Waterway
BASIN LOCATION
Condon
Fossil
Monument
Long Creek
Mitchell
Prairie City
John Day
Mt Vernon
Canyon City
KILOMETERS
0 5 10 15 20
MILES
0 5 10 15 20
#EL990622

Appendix 1: Projects, Cost, Status, Miles of Fence, Number of Water Developments, and Completion Dates.

Note: Costs and Completion dates are estimates unless status indicates completion

CTUIR Projects and Status Update for North Fork John Day Anadromous Habitat Enhancement BPA Project # 202131 – 3/31/04

Project: Upper Allstott Riparian Fencing/Water Dev. Location: Snipe Creek

Item	Cost	Status	Mi. Fence/ WD	Completion Date
Legal Status	$100	Easement Signed		Jan 2001
Riparian Fence -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $5,874 $15,356	 Completed Completed	 3 (1.5 str-mi)	 Apr 2002
Water Developments -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $2,800 $11,200	 Materials purchased 90% Complete	 4	 June 2003
Planting -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $1,200 $800	 On Site Planting Finished		 April 2003

Project: Lower Allstott Riparian Fencing/Water Dev. Location: Snipe Creek

Item	Cost	Status	Mi. Fence/ WD	Completion Date
Legal Status	$100	Easement Signed		Jan 2001
Riparian Fence -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $5,872 $9,921	 Completed Completed	 2 (1 str-mi)	 Apr 2002
Water Developments -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $8,000 $2,000	 Complete	 3	 July 2003
Planting				

-Materials -Subcontract	$5,300 $3,000	Completed Completed		May 2003 Spring 2003

Project: Deer Creek #1 Riparian Fencing/Water Development

Item	Cost	Status	Mi. Fence/ WD	Completion Date
Legal Status	$100	Easement Signed		Apr 2001
Riparian Fence -Materials -Subcontract	 $5,800 $15,600	Complete	 3 (2+ str-mi)	 Oct 2002
Water Developments -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $2,800 $11,200	Complete	4	 March 2004
Planting -Materials -Subcontract	 $3,000 $2,000	Completed		 June 2003

Project: Standley Riparian Fencing/Water Development Location: Owens Creek

Item	Cost	Status	Mi. Fence/ WD	Completion Date
Legal Status	$100	Easement Signed		Jun 2001
Riparian Fence -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $2,800 $4,500	 Completed Ready for bid	 .6 (.3 str-mi)	 Aug 2003
Water Developments -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $4,500 $500	 Purchased 25% Complete	 2	 July 2004
Planting -Materials -Subcontract	 $1,350 $1,000	 Purchased Planning		 March 2004 Spring 2004

Project: Deer Creek #2 Riparian Fencing/Water Development Location: Deer Cr.

Item	Cost	Status	Mi. Fence/ WD	Completion Date
Legal Status	$100	Easement signed		July 2003
Riparian Fence -Materials -Subcontract	 $13,200 $21,560	 Purchased 85% Complete	 4.4 (2.2 str-mi)	 March 2003 May 2004
Water Developments -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $2,100 $8,400	 Purchased Planning	 3	 June 2003 Oct. 2004
Planting				

-Materials -Subcontract	$3,300 $2,000	Purchased Planning		March 2004 April 2004

Project: Battle Mt. Riparian Fencing/Water Development Location: Snipe Cr.

Item	Cost	Status	Mi. Fence/ WD	Completion Date
Legal Status	$100	Negotiating		July 2004
Riparian Fence -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $9,000 $14,700	 Planning Planning/siting	3 (1.5 str-mi)	 May 2004 Sept. 2004
Water Developments -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $11,200 $2,800	 Planning Planning/siting	4	 May 2004 Sept. 2004
Planting -Materials -Subcontract	 $4,000 $3,950	 Planning Planning		 May 2004 Spring 2004

Project: Hartley/Hideway Riparian Pasture Fencing/Water Development/Lg Wood Placement Location: Snipe Cr.

Item	Cost	Status	Mi. Fence/ WD	Completion Date
Legal Status	$100	Negotiating		Aug 2004
Riparian Fence -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $12,000 $19,600	 Planning Planning	4 (2 str-mi)	 May 2004 Aug 2004
Water Developments -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $11,200 $2,800	 Planning Planning	4	 May 2004 Aug 2004
Large Wood	$?	Planning		Fall 2004
Planting -Materials -Subcontract	 $5,300 $5,300	 Planning Planning		 May 2004 Fall 2004

Project: Ukiah Land Co. Riparian Fencing/Water Development Location: Camas Cr.

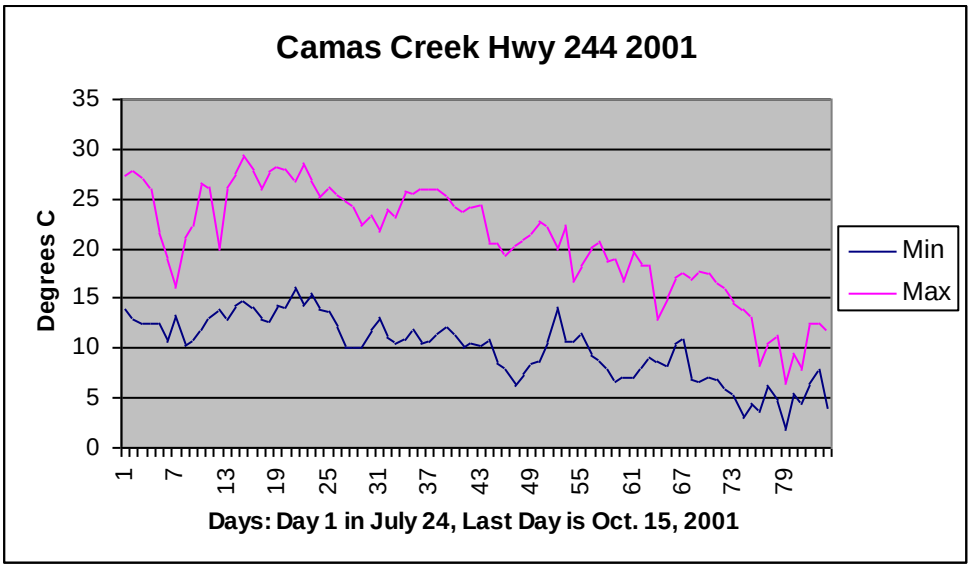
Item	Cost	Status	Mi. Fence/ WD	Completion Date
Legal Status	$100	Negotiating		May 2004
Riparian Fence -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $3,500 $5,400	 Planning Planning/siting	1.2 (1.4 str-mi)	Oct. 2004
Water Developments -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $11,200 $2,800	 Planning Planning/siting	3	 Oct. 2004 Oct. 2004
Planting				

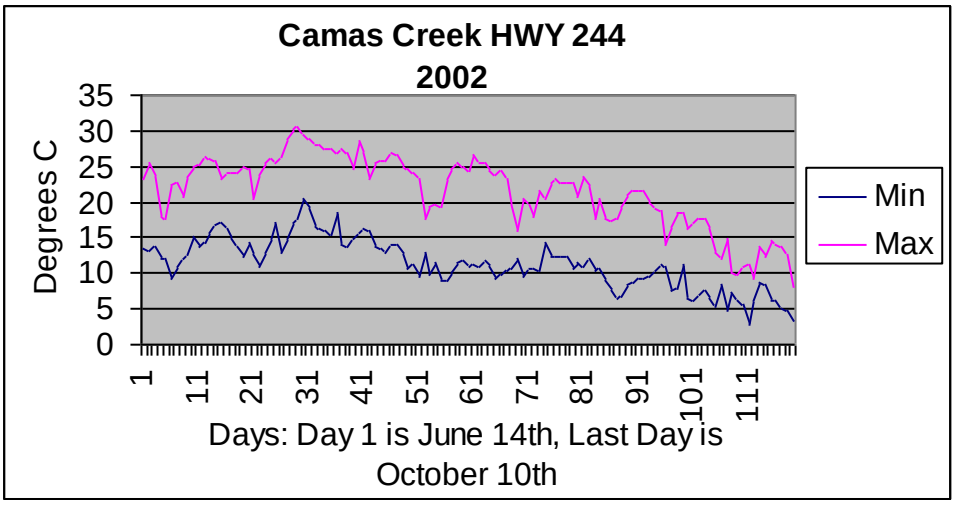
-Materials -Subcontract	$4,000 $3,950	Planning Planning		Sept. 2004 April 2005

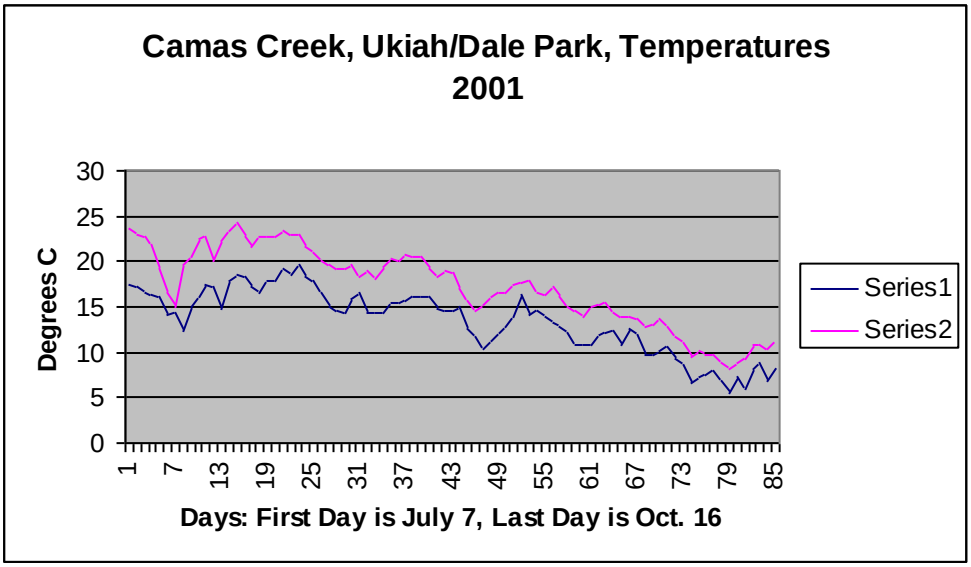
Project: Krostings, Fencing/Water Development Location: Cooper Cr.

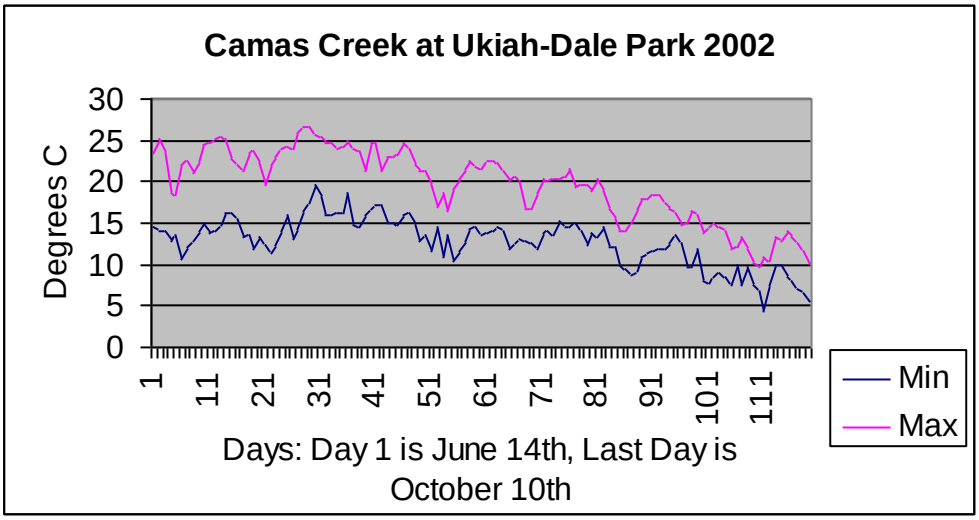
Item	Cost	Status	Mi. Fence/ WD	Completion Date
Legal Status	$100	Negotiating		May 2004
Riparian Fence -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $3,500 $5,400	 Planning Planning/siting	1 (1 str-mi)	Oct. 2004
Water Developments -Materials -Subcon/Const	 $11,200 $2,800	 Planning Planning/siting	3	 Oct. 2004 Oct. 2004
Planting -Materials -Subcontract	 $4,000 $3,950	 Planning Planning		 Sept. 2004 April 2005

Appendix 2. Water Temperatures




Camas Creek HWY 244
2002
Degrees C
35
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1
11
21
31
41
51
61
71
81
91
101
111
Days: Day 1 is June 14th, Last Day is October 10th
Min
Max


Camas Creek, Ukiah/Dale Park, Temperatures
2001
Degrees C
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1
7
13
19
25
31
37
43
49
55
61
67
73
79
85
Days: First Day is July 7, Last Day is Oct. 16
Series1
Series2


Camas Creek at Ukiah-Dale Park 2002
Degrees C
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
1
11
21
31
41
51
61
71
81
91
101
111
Days: Day 1 is June 14th, Last Day is October 10th
Min
Max