

Ashton Hydroelectric Project

FERC Project No. P-2381

Wildlife Enhancement Plan

2016 Update

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September 20, 2016



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On August 3, 1987, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued PacifiCorp (formerly Utah Power and Light) a license for the Ashton-St. Anthony Hydroelectric Project, effective January 1, 1988. License Article 405 required development of a final Wildlife Enhancement Plan (WEP) in consultation with resource agencies and filed with FERC by June 30, 1989. The plan was to contain descriptions and maps showing locations of the enhancement measures proposed in the license application. Subsequently, PacifiCorp prepared a WEP in 1990 and received orders from FERC in 1990 and 1991 approving and modifying the WEP. FERC requested that PacifiCorp file an application to amend the WEP by December 31, 1995. The amended 1995 WEP included the changed and unchanged components from the 1990 approved plan. This 1995 version of the WEP was approved by FERC on September 10, 1996. An update to the 1995 WEP was undertaken in 2015 to address changes in management focus initiated by Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) for off-site measures at the Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area and the need to address expiring wetland preservation leases.

1.1 Purpose of the Updated WEP

This updated plan describes the complete enhancement measures developed in consultation with the agencies to fulfill the requirements of License Article 405. To avoid potential problems associated with multiple documents or a complex amendment to the approved 1995 WEP, this update includes all current enhancement measures and will replace all previous WEP versions. All measures in this plan whether existing, new or modified have been approved by IDFG and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) and are included in this plan for FERC approval. PacifiCorp intends to implement the measures outlined in this updated WEP for the remaining term of the license (expiring December 31, 2027). PacifiCorp believes that implementation of this updated WEP will fulfill requirements of License Article 405.

This document is organized into the following sections:

- Background - Describes the history of WEP measures since issuance of the hydro license;
- Enhancement Measures - Lists all enhancement measures with current objectives and practices;
- Monitoring and Maintenance - Provides a general description of monitoring and maintenance procedures;
- Implementation Schedule - Describes items that need to be implemented and their status; and
- Appendices - Contain support materials including agency correspondence, monitoring plan and forms, wetland preservation and conservation easement documents, wetland preservation lease and temporary easement for conservation documents, and fence and raptor structure details.

2.0 BACKGROUND

This section provides background information and summarizes the implementation of enhancement measures since 1984.

In December 1984, PacifiCorp filed a license application with the FERC that proposed measures for enhancing the wildlife and botanical resources on project lands. The enhancement measures were described in Exhibit E, pages E-38 to 43 of the license application. The enhancement plan focused on: improving riparian habitats around the reservoir; protecting 250 acres of existing wetlands near the project; constructing cattle enclosure fences; building nest structures for geese, osprey and bald eagles; vegetation plantings; and monitoring. The enhancement measures proposed in the application were based on a reconnaissance-level evaluation of the habitat, land uses, and soil profiles in the vicinity of Ashton Reservoir.

On August 3, 1987, the FERC issued a license to PacifiCorp for the Ashton-St. Anthony Hydroelectric Project, effective January 1, 1988. License Article 405 required development of a final WEP in consultation with the resource agencies and filed with FERC by June 30, 1989. PacifiCorp filed a final wildlife plan with FERC on June 28, 1990, as required by the new license. PacifiCorp and IDFG were unable to agree on all components of the plan, so FERC issued an order approving the WEP in part on August 15, 1990. The order required PacifiCorp to install raptor perches, osprey nest structures and a bald eagle platform, and to file a supplement to its WEP by October 1, 1990. The supplement was to contain results of continuing consultation and any revisions to the plan. The issues left unresolved by the August 15, 1990 order included: the amount of fence to be constructed to protect riparian habitat; plantings to restore riparian and upland habitat and provide goose foraging areas; goose nesting platforms; wetland preservation easements; and monitoring.

On October 1, 1990, PacifiCorp filed verification that the ten raptor perches, seven osprey nest platforms with perches, and a bald eagle nest structure were installed. A supplemental WEP was also filed with FERC on this date. The supplemental plan proposed offsite enhancement measures through construction of 2 miles of fence and a water control structure in addition to the components of the June 1990 plan. The supplemental plan was not completely satisfactory to the IDFG and USFWS.

FERC issued an order approving and modifying the supplemental wildlife enhancement plan on March 13, 1991. The order required PacifiCorp to plant trees and shrubs on 20 acres around the reservoir with an average density of 300 stems per acre; plant 4-5 acres of alfalfa and bluegrass to provide a goose forage area; construct and maintain ten goose nesting structures, 2 miles of fence and a water control structure at IDFG's Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area (SCWMA); provide documentation that the wildlife habitat values are being protected by the wetlands easements; and file annual monitoring reports and 5-year summary reports with results of annual monitoring beginning in December 2000.

During 1992, PacifiCorp: constructed the required fences (1.5 miles at Ashton and 2.0 miles at SCWMA); planted trees and shrubs on 20 acres within 10 fenced areas at Ashton with an average of at least 300 stems per acre; acquired and planted 4.5 acres in alfalfa/bluegrass for a goose forage area; installed ten goose nesting structures at SCWMA; engineered a water control structure adjacent to SCWMA (construction was pending a water agreement and necessary

permits); and conducted vegetation surveys, aerial photography and cover typing to define baseline wildlife habitat conditions within the 250-acre wetland preservation easement area.

Enhancement plan components were modified from the 1991 FERC order during the summer of 1992. The water agreement necessary for construction of the dike and water control structure proved unattainable and IDFG and USFWS requested 2.2 miles of additional fence in lieu of a dike and water control structure. During the fall of 1992, PacifiCorp completed the original fencing (1.5 miles at Ashton and 2.0 miles at SCWMA) and 2.2 miles of additional fence for a total of 5.7 miles of fence as well as the tree and shrub plantings.

In 1993, the resource agencies requested that additional trees and shrubs be planted during the following year due to lower-than-expected survival, and that PacifiCorp more actively manage the wetland preservation easements. PacifiCorp agreed to a spring supplemental tree and shrub planting and to explore the feasibility of additional habitat enhancement measures within the wetland preservation easements during 1994. PacifiCorp indicated that the proposed improvements in the wetland preservation easements would be considered additional measures that exceed FERC requirements for the wetland preservation easements.

In October 1994, a draft enhancement settlement agreement which was intended to bring closure to the unresolved WEP issues was prepared by PacifiCorp and reviewed by the resource agencies. The proposed settlement agreement contained enhancement measures to be implemented in 1995. PacifiCorp proposed to: interplant an additional 5,000 trees and shrubs to restore the required density, provide \$20,000 to IDFG in lieu of any further plantings, and monitor plant survival through the fall of 1996; fence the goose forage area, install a water trough, and use cattle to maintain a suitable forage height for geese; and control grazing on approximately 96 acres within the wetland preservation easement area and attempt to acquire an additional 30 acres of grazing rights within or adjacent to the wetland complex. PacifiCorp also proposed to file an amended WEP with FERC once agreements were reached with the IDFG and USFWS. The resource agencies modified PacifiCorp's proposal but still reached a preliminary agreement with PacifiCorp on most issues except the tree and shrub plantings during 1994.

During 1995, PacifiCorp continued to discuss contingencies for low tree and shrub survival with the resource agencies and the following recommendations resulted. PacifiCorp agreed to continue to monitor plant survival, and in the fall of 1996, establish a new baseline survival density instead of the 300 stems per acre. If the density fell below this 1996 baseline in 1997, PacifiCorp had agreed to replant to maintain the 1996 level. An alternative to replanting was to acquire grazing rights on approximately 36 acres of wetland complex adjacent to the areas protected by wetland preservation easements. To pursue this option, PacifiCorp leased grazing rights and acquired a grazing right easement on 32 acres around two ponds at the wetland complex. This allowed PacifiCorp to control grazing on 105 acres (32 acres of pasture and 73 acres of marsh/open water) within the wetland preservation easements. The grazing rights easement is perpetual and the grazing right leases were acquired for 22 years.

In 1998, a property that PacifiCorp held a wetland lease on became available for purchase and was acquired to continue the protections provided by the lease. This property was known at the time as the Ritchie Pond property and is 45 acres in size. This property remains in PacifiCorp ownership and is managed for wildlife benefit under this WEP.

The leases at the wetland complex that were established for 22 years would generally expire 10 years short (expiring in 2017) of the hydro license expiration date. One goose forage lease on the

reservoir was established for 24 years and would expire 9 years short (expiring in 2018) of the hydro license expiration date.

In 2014, PacifiCorp was approached by Teton Regional Land Trust to gauge interest in participating in a large conservation easement at the wetland complex that would overlap two PacifiCorp preservation leases, one PacifiCorp preservation easement and a portion of a second PacifiCorp preservation easement. USFWS and IDFG were consulted to see if participation in this conservation easement project could be used as replacement mitigation for some of the expiring wetland leases. Agreement was reached that providing funding for 62 acres of new conservation easement on the Baum property could be used as replacement for three expiring preservation leases. The following expiring leases were replaced: a goose forage lease area of 4.5 acres on the reservoir, a goose forage area of 14.7 acres at the wetland complex, and two cattle exclusion lease areas on Hosner Pond that total 17.2 acres. This new PacifiCorp-funded conservation easement on the Baum property was approved by FERC on October, 23, 2015 and closed later in December of 2015. Ongoing monitoring and management of the conservation easement on the Baum property is the responsibility of Teton Regional Land Trust with reservation of oversight responsibility and reassignment by PacifiCorp.

Also completed in 2015 was the creation of a temporary conservation easement on 23 acres of reservoir riparian and shoreline areas through the remaining term of the license. This replaced measures on Egbert Farms of 5,100 feet of fence on the south shore that the owner removed consistent with the 1992 agreement for its installation and the 4 acres of leased shrub planting areas on the north shore and associated fencing.

During an ongoing investigation of property rights around Ashton Reservoir, PacifiCorp identified 32.8 acres of abandoned lands on the north shore. PacifiCorp gained title to these lands in 2016 and added them to the project's lands managed for wildlife purposes. Also added in 2016 is a 4.05-acre conservation easement that allows the fencing of 0.6 mile of reservoir shoreline.

This 2016 WEP update includes the changes to leases, easements and fee ownership described in the preceding paragraphs. In addition, because of changes in IDFG and USFWS priorities, some additional wildlife measures to enhance waterfowl cavity nesting and swan nesting at the reservoir and wetland complex are included in this updated plan. The 2016 WEP update also includes formal discontinuation of all off-site measures at the SCWMA.

Table 2.1 provides a comparison of enhancement measures approved in the 1990 and 1991 FERC Orders, the 1995 amended WEP, and the measures included in this updated WEP.

Table 2.1. Comparison of enhancement measures approved in the 1990 and 1991 FERC Orders, the 1995 amended WEP, and the measures included in this updated WEP.

WEP Approved by FERC Orders 8/15/90 and 3/13/91	1995 Amended WEP Approved by FERC Order 9/10/1996	2016 Updated WEP
Fencing		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 miles at Ashton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.5 miles at Ashton 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.2 miles of cattle exclusion fencing at Ashton Reservoir as broken out below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 miles of cattle exclusion fencing at Ashton Reservoir at PacifiCorp fee-owned north shore parcels. 0.3 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at Ashton Reservoir at PacifiCorp fee-owned south shore parcel. 0.2 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at Ashton Reservoir on BLM lands on the north shore. 0.6 mile of PacifiCorp shoreline buffer fencing on south shore at the Jenkins conservation easement. Option to install approximately 1 mile of fence if needed to exclude grazing at the Nedrow/Baker temporary conservation easement on the reservoir. Currently not needed but may be if adjacent use changes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.0 miles at SCWMA* Water control structure at SCWMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.0 miles at SCWMA 2.2 miles additional at Ashton (see “Wetland Preservation Easements”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCWMA measures were discontinued. 2.6 miles of cattle exclusion fencing at the wetland complex as broken out below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.8 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at the wetland complex at the Marshal grazing exclusion lease. 0.9 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at the wetland complex at the Cordingly grazing exclusion easement. 0.9 mile of cattle exclusion fence at the wetland complex around PacifiCorp fee-owned property at PacifiCorp Pond property.

WEP Approved by FERC Orders 8/15/90 and 3/13/91	1995 Amended WEP Approved by FERC Order 9/10/1996	2016 Updated WEP
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual inspection and maintenance of fences. • If entire sections of fencing are planned to be rebuilt, PacifiCorp will consult with IDFG and USFWS to apply the latest information on wildlife friendly fence designs.
Tree & Shrub Plantings		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 acres within four fenced parcels at 300/acre spaced 12' x 12' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 acres within ten fenced areas at 300/acre spaced 12' x 12' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All tree & shrub planting measures were discontinued.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish baseline plant survival in 1996 • Annual monitoring through 1996 • Annual photo documentation through license term 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an average plant survival of 300 stems/acre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replant in 1994 • Acquire 31 acres of grazing rights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See sections of this table titled “Wetland Conservation and Preservation Easements” and “Wetland and Riparian Enhancement Measures” for current grazing rights.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irrigation system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct fences to manage adjacent grazing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See “Fencing” section of this table for current fencing measures.
Goose Forage Area		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant 4 to 5 acres of alfalfa-bluegrass within fenced area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lease adjacent property • Plant 4.5 acres of alfalfa-bluegrass • Install water trough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All goose forage measures were discontinued.

WEP Approved by FERC Orders 8/15/90 and 3/13/91	1995 Amended WEP Approved by FERC Order 9/10/1996	2016 Updated WEP
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fence area to manage forage height with livestock grazing. 	
Goose Nesting Platforms		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten platforms at SCWMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten platforms at SCWMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All goose nesting measures were discontinued.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance 	
Raptor Perches (1990 FERC order)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten perches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fifteen perches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fifteen perches.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance.
Osprey & Bald Eagle Nesting Platforms (1990 FERC order)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven osprey nest platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ten osprey nest platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eleven osprey nest platforms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One bald eagle nest platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One bald eagle nest platform 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One bald eagle nest monitored (they moved from platform)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance.
Wetland Conservation and Preservation Easements		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire preservation easements on 250 acres of a wetland complex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire preservation easements on 250 acres of a wetland complex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation and preservation easements were acquired on 252.8 acres at the wetland complex. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cordingly preservation easement of 112.7 acres with 7.3 acres of overlapping grazing rights around Cordingly Pond. Marshall preservation easement of 78.1 acres with overlapping lease of 10.8 acres of grazing rights at Cordingly Pond. Baum conservation easement of 62 acres. Includes grazing management plan to protect riparian areas.

WEP Approved by FERC Orders 8/15/90 and 3/13/91	1995 Amended WEP Approved by FERC Order 9/10/1996	2016 Updated WEP
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenkins conservation easement with grazing exclusion on 4.05 acres was acquired on the south shore of the reservoir.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.0 miles of fencing at SCWMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.0 miles of fencing at SCWMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCWMA measures were discontinued.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water control structure at SCWMA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.2 miles additional at Ashton (see “Wetland Preservation Easements”) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCWMA measures were discontinued.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document wildlife habitat values are being protected by preservation easements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual photo documentation and site visit. Conduct aerial photography at 5-year intervals, as necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual photo documentation and site visit at Cordingly, Marshal and Jenkins easements, and aerial photo comparison to baseline every five years to assess changes in vegetation cover types. Review Teton Land Trust Monitoring Report of Baum conservation easement annually. See “Fencing” section of this table for associated fencing measures.
Wetland and Riparian Enhancement Measures		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease 32 acres of grazing rights to manage 105 acres within wetland preservation easements. Control livestock grazing by fencing and using goose forage area. Lease 31 acres to control grazing on 72 acres of adjacent wetlands outside of wetland preservation easements. Construct fences to control livestock on the 31 acres of grazing leases, obtained in lieu of continued tree and shrub planting, and the adjacent 41 acres of wetlands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease grazing rights from Marshal through the term of the license on 10.8 acres of the wetland complex at the north end of Cordingly Pond. This lease includes a renewal provision that will be exercised in 2017 to extend through 2027. Execute temporary conservation easement from Nedrow/Baker for 23 acres on the south reservoir shoreline. Manage PacifiCorp fee ownership of 45 acres at PacifiCorp Pond for conservation (These were leased lands in the 1995 WEP). Manage PacifiCorp fee-owned lands, south shore, 9.9 acres for conservation. Manage PacifiCorp fee-owned lands, north shore, 64.7 acres for conservation. Continue to maintain and manage 1.7 acres of BLM lands on the north shore for conservation and riparian protection. Conduct annual photo documentation and site visit at Marshal lease and Nedrow/Baker temporary conservation easement. Aerial photo comparison to baseline every five years to assess changes in vegetation cover types.

WEP Approved by FERC Orders 8/15/90 and 3/13/91	1995 Amended WEP Approved by FERC Order 9/10/1996	2016 Updated WEP
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See “Fencing” section of this table for associated fencing measures.
Waterfowl Nesting Measures		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install cavity nesting boxes in consultation with IDFG and USFWS on conservation lands within the FERC Boundary. Install up to five cavity nesting boxes per year for seven years, starting in 2017. Install two floating swan nesting platforms at wetland complex ponds in consultation with IDFG and USFWS. To be installed in 2017 and 2018, or on mutually agreeable schedule. Agencies will make final decision to implement after completion of nesting survey. Annual inspection and maintenance.
Noxious Weed Control		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform noxious weed control at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PacifiCorp fee-owned conservation and operations property at reservoir and PacifiCorp Pond Nedrow/Baker temporary conservation easement Jenkins conservation easement BLM lands within the FERC Boundary Marshal wetland preservation lease (cattle exclusion on north end of Cordingly Pond) Cordingly wetland wildlife habitat easement (cattle exclusion easement at Cordingly Pond).
* SCWMA = IDFG’s Sand Creek Wildlife Management Area.		

3.0 WEP AREA

The Ashton project is located in southeast Idaho, approximately 1 mile north of Ashton and about 50 miles northeast of Idaho Falls, Idaho. U.S. Highway 20 provides major access to the project area. The Ashton project includes the 329 surface-acre Ashton Reservoir located on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River. The maximum reservoir full pool elevation is 5,155.9 feet msl. The project operates in a run-of-river mode, as required by the license.

The WEP area is encompassed by the FERC Project Boundary and includes PacifiCorp fee-owned lands, the reservoir to maximum full pool, leased conservation lands, and conservation easements held or funded by PacifiCorp. Exceptions to the WEP area are the properties occupied by the dam, substation, shop/office, housing, operations yard, warehouse and, project roadways and parking. All of the listed exceptions to the WEP area are on two parcels, one each on the north and south ends of the Ashton Dam.

The climate in the WEP area is characterized by cold, snowy winters and warm, dry summers. Average annual precipitation is 14 inches, about two-thirds of which occurs in the form of snow. Average monthly temperatures range from 8 to 29°F in January to 48 to 85°F in July.

The WEP area lies within the northern extent of the Snake River Plain. Mostly aeolian (wind deposited) soils overlay basalt bedrock at a depth of 3 to greater than 5 feet. Knolls of shallow soil and rock outcrops are also common.

Major land uses in the project area include agriculture and livestock grazing. Both irrigated and dryland crops are grown including potatoes, alfalfa, and grain. A portion of the shoreline at Ashton Reservoir is developed for recreation home sites.

Federal land managed by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is on the north shoreline of the reservoir in places and extends to the north. All BLM lands within the FERC Boundary have Section 24 reservations.

4.0 WEP ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

This updated WEP describes the complete and current enhancement measures approved by IDFG and the USFWS to fulfill the requirements of License Article 405. This plan includes measures previously approved in FERC orders, modified measures and new measures. This section describes the current objectives and practices for each measure.

4.1 Fencing (Reservoir Shoreline)

Objectives

The objective of this enhancement measure is to protect riparian areas on the reservoir shoreline from cattle grazing by constructing and maintaining fence at Ashton Reservoir.

Practices

The following practices have been implemented:

- 1.4 miles of cattle exclusion fencing at Ashton Reservoir at PacifiCorp fee-owned north shore and south shore parcels.
- 0.2 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at Ashton Reservoir on the north shore on BLM reserved lands.
- 0.6 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at Jenkins conservation easement on the south shore, reservoir buffer.

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Option to install approximately 1 mile of fence if needed to exclude grazing at the Nedrow/Baker temporary conservation easement. Currently not needed but might be if adjacent use changes.
- Annual inspection and maintenance of fences.
- If entire sections of fencing are planned to be rebuilt, PacifiCorp will consult with IDFG and USFWS to apply the latest information on wildlife friendly fence designs.

4.2 Fencing (Wetland Complex)

Objectives

The objective of this enhancement measure is to protect riparian areas from cattle grazing by constructing and maintaining fence at the Ashton wetland complex.

Practices

The following practices have been implemented:

- 0.8 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at the wetland complex at the Marshal grazing exclusion lease.
- 0.9 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at the wetland complex at the Cordingly grazing exclusion easement.
- 0.9 mile of cattle exclusion fence at the wetland complex around PacifiCorp fee-owned PacifiCorp Pond property.

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Annual inspection and maintenance of wetland complex fences.
- If entire sections of fencing are planned to be rebuilt, PacifiCorp will consult with IDFG and USFWS to apply the latest information on wildlife friendly fence designs.

4.3 Nesting Enhancements

Objectives

The objective of this measure is to increase nesting opportunities for waterfowl by installing and maintaining nesting structures.

Practices

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Install cavity nesting boxes at wetland complex, PacifiCorp fee ownership on reservoir, and Baker/Nedrow lease area. This measure will be implemented over seven years with five nesting boxes installed per year. Type of nesting box and locations will be determined jointly with IDFG and USFWS. This measure to start in 2017.
- Install two floating swan nesting platforms, one each at the PacifiCorp Pond property and Baum Pond. This measure to be coordinated with USFWS and IDFG. This measure to start in 2017.
- Make best effort to obtain licenses for placement of perches and nests on private lands.

4.4 Raptor Perches

Objective

The objective of this enhancement measure is to provide and maintain 15 raptor perches around Ashton Reservoir.

Practices

The following practices have been implemented:

- PacifiCorp installed 15 raptor perches along the shoreline of Ashton Reservoir in areas where no power poles or natural perches existed.
- Rocky Mountain Power installed three additional perches on power line structures.
- Perches consist of two cross arms intersecting at a 90 degree angle.

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Annual inspection and maintenance.
- Make best effort to obtain licenses for placement of perches and nests on private lands.

4.5 Osprey Nesting Platforms

Objective

The objective of this enhancement measure is to provide and maintain 11 osprey nest platforms along Ashton Reservoir.

Practices

The following practices have been implemented:

- Installation and maintenance of 11 osprey nest platforms along Ashton Reservoir. Sticks or existing nest material were added to each platform to increase their attractiveness to osprey.
- Annual inspection and maintenance.

4.6 Wetland Preservation and Conservation Easements

Objective

The objective of this amended enhancement measure is to protect wildlife habitat values at the Ashton wetland complex by securing preservation and conservation easements to prevent current and future landowners from taking any actions that diminish the wildlife values of these wetlands.

Practices

The following practices have been implemented:

- Conservation and preservation easements were acquired on 252.8 acres at the wetland complex.
 - Cordingly preservation easement of 112.7 acres (includes 7.3 acres of grazing rights around Cordingly Pond).
 - Marshal preservation easement of 78.1 acres.
 - Baum conservation easement of 62 acres. Includes grazing management plan to protect riparian areas (replaced two Hosner wetland leases, overlapped a portion of Cordingly wetland easement, and overlapped Bolland preservation easement).
- Conservation easement was acquired on the reservoir.
 - Jenkins conservation easement of 4.05 acres. Grazing exclusion on reservoir shoreline.

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Noxious weed control at Cordingly wetland wildlife habitat easement (7.3 acres) and Jenkins conservation easement (4.05 acres).
- Annual monitoring.

4.7 Wetland Preservation Lease

Objectives

The objectives of this amended enhancement measure are to maintain or enhance riparian and upland wildlife habitat values within the wetland complex. These areas will be managed to provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Practices

The following practices have been implemented:

- Lease grazing rights from Marshal through the term of the license on 10.8 acres of the Ashton wetland complex at the north end of Cordingly Pond. This current lease includes a renewal provision that will be exercised in 2017 to extend through 2027

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Annual monitoring and noxious weed control.

4.8 Reservoir Shoreline Temporary Conservation Easement

Objectives

The objective of this enhancement measure is to maintain or enhance riparian and upland wildlife habitat values along the reservoir. These areas will be managed to provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Practices

The following practices have been implemented:

- Enter into a temporary conservation easement for 23 acres of shoreline from Baker/Nedrow for the remaining term of the hydro license. Grazing will be excluded from the easement area.

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Waterfowl nesting enhancements may be deployed within the lease boundary and may include cavity nesting boxes and vegetation measures to improve conditions for ground nesting.
- Remove old fencing and install buffer marker posts.
- Noxious weed control.
- Annual monitoring.

4.9 Reservoir Shoreline Conservation Easement

Objectives

The objective of this enhancement measure is to maintain or enhance riparian and upland wildlife habitat values along the reservoir. These areas will be managed to provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Practices

The following practices have been implemented:

- Enter into a perpetual conservation easement for 4.05 acres of shoreline from Jenkins. Grazing will be excluded from the easement area.

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Maintain exclusion fencing (see conservation easement for option of buffer posts)
- Noxious weed control.
- Annual monitoring.

4.10 PacifiCorp Fee-Title Property

Objectives

The objective of this enhancement measure is to maintain or enhance riparian and upland wildlife habitat values along the reservoir and at the Ashton wetland complex. These areas will be managed to provide habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife.

Practices

The following practices have been implemented:

- Acquired fee ownership of 45 acres at PacifiCorp Pond property (formerly Ritchie lease area) for conservation (These were leased lands in the 1995 WEP).
- Acquired abandoned lands on the north shore of the reservoir for conservation (32.8 acres acquired in 2016).

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Manage through fencing and noxious weed control PacifiCorp fee-owned lands, south shore, 9.9 acres for conservation.
- Manage through fencing and noxious weed control PacifiCorp fee-owned lands, north shore, 64.7 (32.8 acres acquired in 2016, 31.9 previously held) acres for conservation.
- Annual monitoring and monthly trespass grazing monitoring June, July, August, September and October.

4.11 Noxious Weed Control

Objective

The objective of this measure is to conform with state and county regulations concerning noxious weed control.

Practices

The following practices are to be implemented:

- Perform annual noxious weed control on:
 - PacifiCorp fee-owned lands—both conservation and operations lands,
 - Marshal wetlands preservation lease (cattle exclusion lease, north end of Cordingly Pond),
 - Cordingly wetland wildlife habitat easement (cattle exclusion easement at Cordingly Pond),
 - Jenkins conservation easement,

- BLM reserved lands parcels between exclusion fences and reservoir, and
- BLM reserved land parcel in Cedar View Estates.

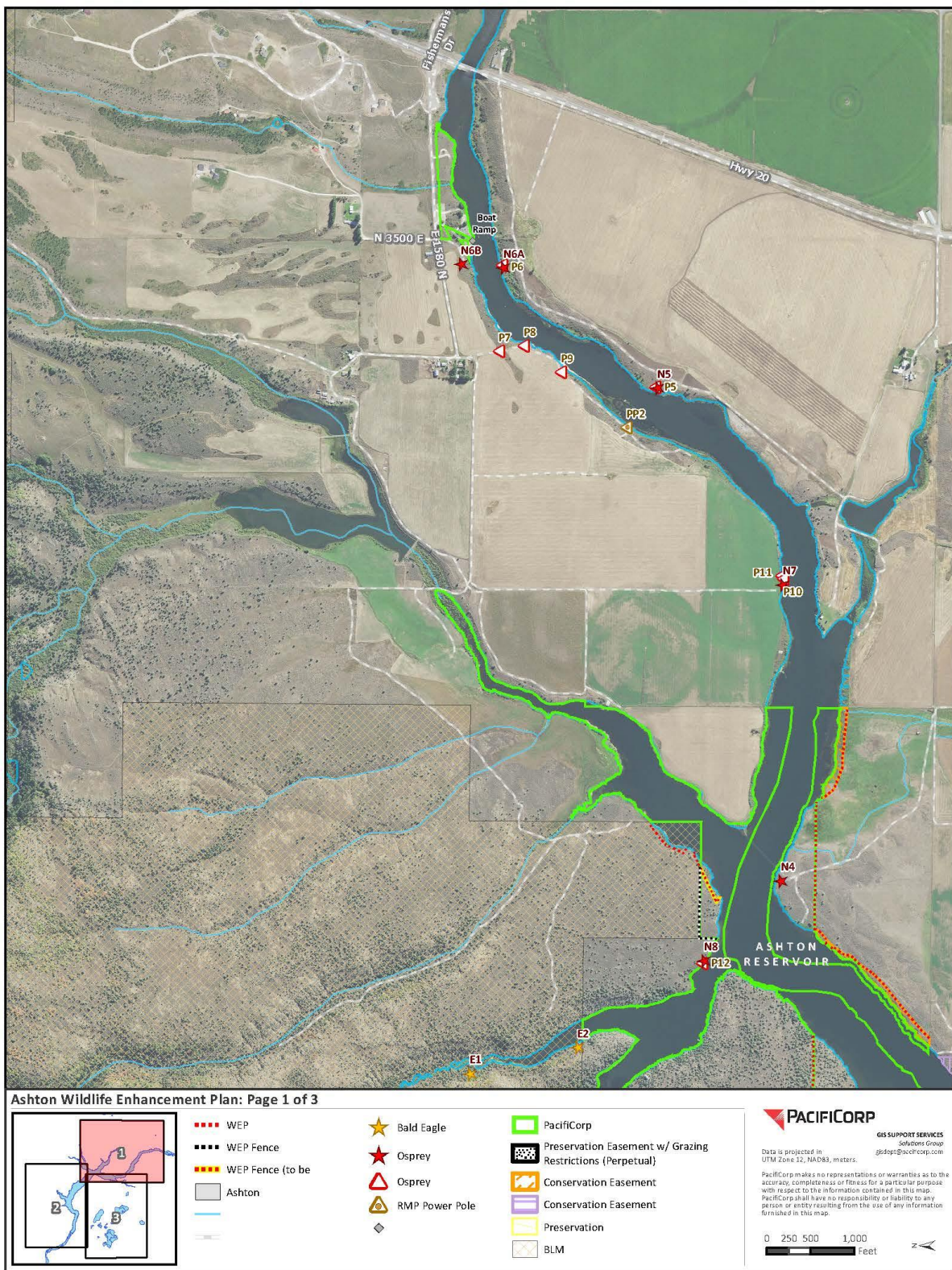


Figure 4-1. Ashton Reservoir with Wildlife Enhancement Plan Measures, Map Sheet 1.

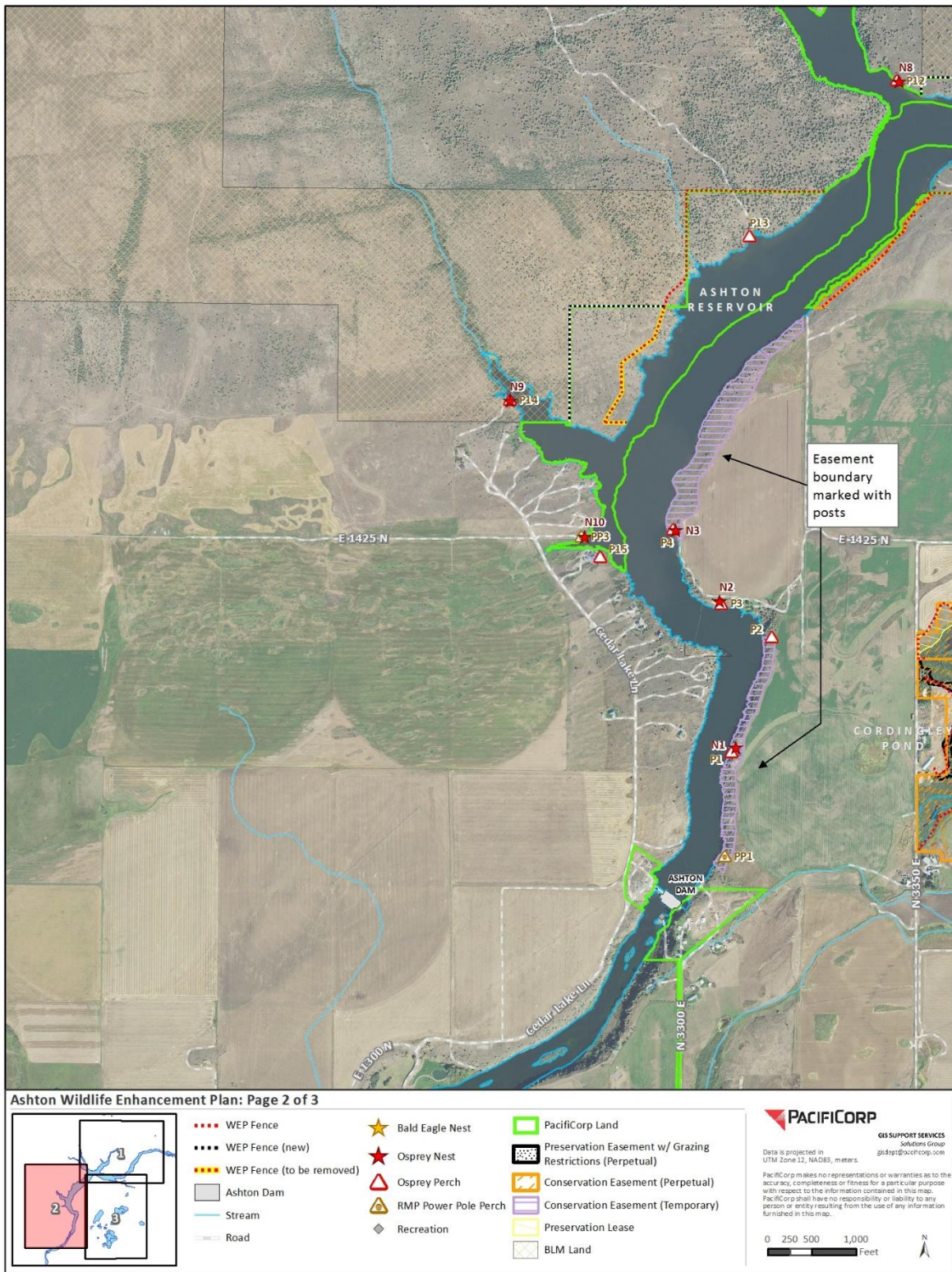


Figure 4-2. Ashton Reservoir with Wildlife Enhancement Plan Measures, Map Sheet 2.

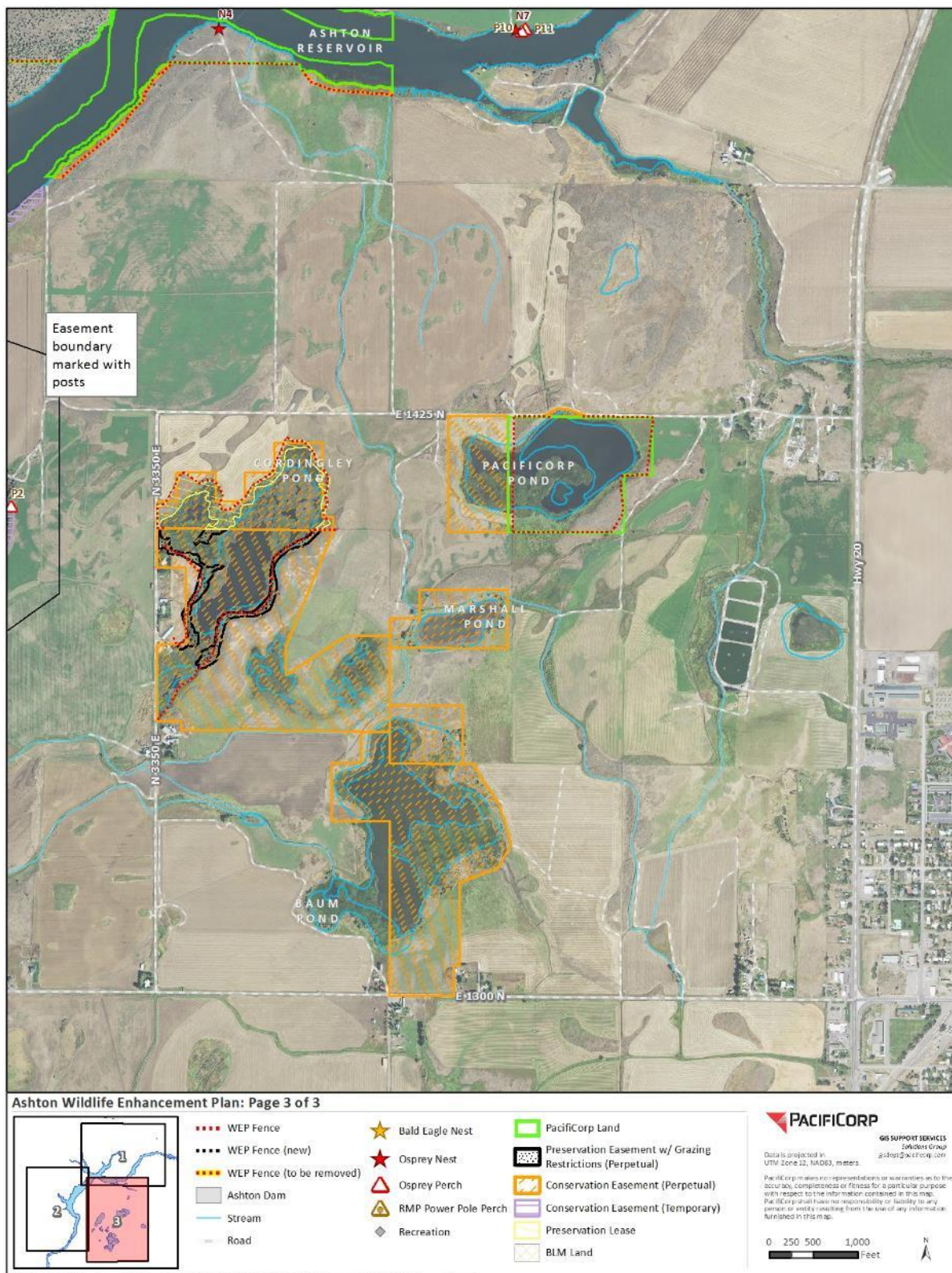


Figure 4-3. Ashton Reservoir with Wildlife Enhancement Plan Measures, Map Sheet 3.

5.0 MONITORING AND MAINTENANCE

Monitoring for compliance has been conducted annually since 1991 and is documented in annual reports. A monitoring plan developed to facilitate data collection was included in Appendix D of the 1992 annual report. An updated monitoring plan is included in Appendix A of this document. Monitoring coordination meetings with resource agencies and submittal of reports will continue as outlined in this updated WEP for the remaining term of the license.

PacifiCorp has monitored the enhancement measures annually and submitted reports to the agencies and the Commission for the first 5 years (1991 through 1995). Thereafter, the annual monitoring results were submitted in a 5-year summary report. Preparation and submittal of the 5-year summary report will continue through the remaining term of the license. PacifiCorp will continue to conduct the following monitoring and maintenance for each enhancement measure.

5.1 Fencing

Fences installed and maintained by PacifiCorp at Ashton Reservoir and the wetland complex will be inspected and maintained annually. All of these fences are shown on Figure 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3. To improve the life span of fencing PacifiCorp may elect to use take-down fences in place of permanent fencing. Fences will be inspected in the spring and repaired as needed.

5.2 Nesting Enhancements

PacifiCorp will inspect and maintain approximately one-third of the 35 cavity nesting boxes (installed over a period of seven years) and the two floating swan nesting platforms before the nesting season. Nesting platforms and approximately one-third of the nesting boxes will be annually monitored for occupancy and brood success. All nesting boxes will be maintained over a three-year period.

5.3 Raptor Perches

PacifiCorp will annually inspect and maintain 15 raptor perches before the nesting season.

5.4 Osprey Nesting Platforms

PacifiCorp will annually inspect the 11 osprey nesting platforms before the nesting season. Maintenance will be performed as needed. Platforms will be annually monitored for occupancy and brood success.

5.5 Eagle Nest Monitoring

Existing eagle nest and any future nests identified will be monitored annually for brood success.

5.6 Wetland Preservation and Conservation Easements

For PacifiCorp-held wetland preservation easements and conservation easements, PacifiCorp will provide annual documentation that the wildlife habitat values covered by the wetland preservation easements at the wetland complex (Cordingly and Marshall) and the conservation easement at the reservoir (Jenkins) are being protected by: conducting annual walk-through visits, conducting on-the-ground photo documentation, and every 5 years reviewing available aerial photography with 1993 baseline aerial photography for the wetland preservation easements and 2016 aerial

photography for the reservoir shoreline easement. If changes are evident in the aerial photos, PacifiCorp will discuss this information with IDFG and USFWS.

For the Teton Land Trust-held Baum conservation easement, PacifiCorp shall review a copy of the annual monitoring report from Teton Land Trust and will summarize those results in the annual and five-year report. If changes are evident from the baseline report PacifiCorp will discuss with Teton Regional Land Trust. See Appendix B for easement documents.

5.7 Wetland Preservation Lease and Reservoir Shoreline Temporary Conservation Easement

For the PacifiCorp-held wetland preservation lease (Marshal) and reservoir shoreline temporary conservation easement (Nedrow/Baker), PacifiCorp will provide annual documentation that the wildlife habitat values covered by the wetland preservation lease at the wetland complex and temporary conservation easement at the reservoir are being protected by: conducting annual walk-through visits, conducting on-the-ground photo documentation, and every 5 years, reviewing available aerial photography with 1993 baseline aerial photography for the wetland preservation lease and 2016 aerial photography for the reservoir shoreline temporary conservation easement. If changes are evident in the aerial photos, PacifiCorp will discuss this information with IDFG and USFWS. See Appendix C for lease documents.

5.8 PacifiCorp Fee Title Properties

For the PacifiCorp-held fee title properties, PacifiCorp will provide annual documentation that the wildlife habitat values on them are being protected by: conducting annual walk-through visits, monitoring and maintaining exclusion fences, semi-monthly trespass monitoring in the months of June through October and noxious weed control.

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE

The status and schedule for implementing enhancement measures discussed in the WEP are presented below in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1. Summary of Ashton Wildlife Enhancement Plan Implementation (Completed and Future Actions).	
Enhancement Measure	Status
Fencing	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.4 miles of cattle exclusion fencing at Ashton Reservoir at PacifiCorp fee-owned north shore and south shore parcels. 	Complete.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.2 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at Ashton Reservoir on north shore on BLM. 	Complete. All on BLM Reserved Lands.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.8 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at the wetland complex at the Marshal grazing exclusion lease. 	Complete.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.9 mile of cattle exclusion fencing at the wetland complex at the Cordingly grazing exclusion easement. 	Complete.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.9 mile of cattle exclusion fence at wetland complex around PacifiCorp fee-owned property at PacifiCorp Pond. 	Complete.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.6 mile of cattle exclusion fence on reservoir at the Jenkins conservation easement. 	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option to install approximately 1 mile of fence if needed to exclude grazing at the Nedrow/Baker temporary conservation easement. Currently not needed but might be if adjacent use changes. 	Not currently needed. Evaluate annually.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance of exclusion fences. 	Ongoing
Nesting Enhancement Measures	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install cavity nesting boxes in consultation with IDFG and USFWS on conservation lands within the FERC Boundary. Install up to five cavity nesting boxes per year for seven years, starting in 2017. 	To be implemented over five years starting in 2017.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install two floating swan nesting platforms at wetland complex ponds in consultation with IDFG and USFWS. To be installed in 2017 and 2018 or on mutually agreeable schedule. 	To be implemented in 2017 and 2018.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance. 	Ongoing
Raptor Perches	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 perches. 	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make best effort to obtain licenses for placement of perches and nests on private lands. 	Ongoing
Osprey Nesting Platforms	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 osprey nest platforms 	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual inspection and maintenance. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make best effort to obtain licenses for placement of perches and nests on private lands. 	Ongoing

Table 6.1. Summary of Ashton Wildlife Enhancement Plan Implementation (Completed and Future Actions).	
Enhancement Measure	Status
Eagle Nest	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual brood success monitoring. 	Ongoing
Wetland Preservation and Conservation Easements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservation and conservation preservation easements were acquired on 252.8 acres at the wetland complex. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cordingly preservation easement of 112.7 acres (includes 7.3 acres of grazing rights easements around Cordingly Pond). Marshall preservation easement of 78.1 acres. Baum conservation easement of 62 acres. Includes grazing management plan to protect riparian areas. Conservation easement on reservoir shoreline. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jenkins conservation easement 4.05 Acres. 	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual photo documentation and site visit at Cordingly and Marshall easements and aerial photo comparison to baseline every five years. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Teton Land Trust Monitoring Report of Baum conservation easement annually. 	Ongoing
Wetland Preservation Lease	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lease grazing rights from Marshall through the term of the license on 10.8 acres of the wetland complex at the north end of Cordingly Pond. Lease includes a renewal provision that will be exercised in 2017 to extend through 2027. 	To be implemented in 2017.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual photo documentation and site visit at Marshall lease and aerial photo comparison to baseline every five years. 	Ongoing
Reservoir Shoreline Temporary Conservation Easement	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Execute temporary conservation easement from Nedrow/Baker for 23 acres on the south reservoir shoreline. 	Complete
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual photo documentation and site visit at Nedrow/Baker temporary conservation easement and aerial photo comparison to baseline every five years. 	Ongoing
PacifiCorp Fee Title Property	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage for conservation PacifiCorp fee ownership of 45 acres at PacifiCorp Pond property. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage for conservation PacifiCorp fee ownership of 9.9 acres on south reservoir shore. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage for conservation PacifiCorp fee ownership of 64.7 acres on the north shore. 	Ongoing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual monitoring. 	Ongoing
Noxious Weed Control	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform noxious weed control on PacifiCorp fee-owned property at reservoir and PacifiCorp Pond, Nedrow/Baker temporary conservation easement, Jenkins conservation easement, BLM lands within FERC Boundary, Marshall wetland preservation lease (cattle exclusion on north end of Cordingly Pond), and Cordingly 	Ongoing

Table 6.1. Summary of Ashton Wildlife Enhancement Plan Implementation (Completed and Future Actions).	
Enhancement Measure	Status
wetland wildlife habitat easement (cattle exclusion easement at Cordingly Pond).	

Appendices

Appendix A – Monitoring Plans and Forms including the Ashton Wildlife Enhancement Program Monitoring Plan (Revised May 9, 2016)

Appendix B – Wetland Preservation and Conservation Easement Documents

Appendix C – Wetland Preservation Lease and Temporary Easement for Conservation Documents

Appendix D - Fence Specifications and Construction Details for Wildlife Friendly Cattle Exclusion Fences

Appendix E – Osprey Perch Detail

Appendix F – Osprey Nest Platform Detail

Appendix G – Nest and Perch Licenses