



United States Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Idaho Fish And Wildlife Office

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Mark Stenberg, Environmental Coordinator
PacifiCorp
822 Grace Power Plant Road
Grace, ID 83241

AUG 30 2016

Subject: USFWS Support of the Revised Wildlife Enhancement Plan for the Ashton Hydroelectric Project. In Reply Refer to 01EIFO00-2016-CPA-0063

Dear Mr. Stenberg:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Wildlife Enhancement Plan (WEP) for the Ashton Hydroelectric Project (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Project No. P-2381), located on the Henrys Fork of the Snake River, Fremont County, Idaho. The following comments provide technical assistance only and are provided in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, as amended; the Endangered Species Act, as amended; the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, as amended; the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (NEPA); and the Federal Power Act, as amended (FPA).

The WEP for the Ashton Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. P-2381) was approved by FERC on September 10, 1996. Measures designed to mitigate for goose forage and wetland loss consisted of fee ownership, conservation easements, and preservation leases that were acquired by PacifiCorp during implementation of the WEP. The preservation leases were established with terms that were 10 years short of the 40 year license. Three of these preservation leases are expiring near the end of 2017. PacifiCorp was approached by the Teton Regional Land Trust to participate in the acquisition of a perpetual conservation easement that overlaps with two of the expiring preservation leases. PacifiCorp provided \$60,000 toward the acquisition of the conservation easement to replace the three expiring preservation leases. Some of the conservation actions detailed in the original WEP, such as goose nesting platforms and livestock exclusion fences, have become obsolete. PacifiCorp has updated and strengthened many of the conservation actions that reflect current agricultural conditions and conservation design.

The Service fully supports the updated Wildlife Enhancement Plan. We commend PacifiCorp for its collaboration with the agencies. We hope that these mitigation measures will help ensure that the riparian and wetland habitats remain viable for wildlife and migratory birds well into the future.

The Service appreciates the opportunity to work with PacifiCorp and other partners in the Henrys Fork watershed. Please contact Cary Myler at 208-237-6975 x104 if you have any questions or requests for clarification on the content presented in this letter.

Sincerely,

for Dennis Mackay

Dennis Mackay
Acting State Supervisor

cc: IDFG, Idaho Falls (Tom Bassista)