

AVISTA CORPORATION

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON

**FIVE-YEAR WETLAND
AND RIPARIAN HABITAT
PROTECTION & ENHANCEMENT PLAN
2010 to 2014**

POST FALLS HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT
SPOKANE RIVER HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT
FERC PROJECT NO. 2545

**REVIEW DRAFT
JANUARY 7, 2010**

Prepared By: Avista

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FERC PROJECT NO. 2545-091

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

On June 18, 2009, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license for Avista Corporation's Spokane River Project, FERC Project No. 2545-091 for a 50 year license term. The new FERC license (license) became effective on June 1, 2009 and includes operation of the Post Falls Hydroelectric Development (HED) in Idaho. Ordering Paragraph D of the license incorporated the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ) Certification Conditions under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Conditions can be found in Appendix A of the license. **This five-year plan is to comply with FERC license condition identified in Appendix A, Section IV of the State of Idaho Section 401 Water Quality Certification for the Post Falls Hydroelectric Development (Idaho WQC) and the FERC license Article 401 (a) No. 3.** The Idaho WQC states in section IV that within the first year after the new FERC license becomes effective, Avista shall submit a Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection and Enhancement Plan (Plan) to IDEQ for approval. Article 401 (a) of the license requires Avista to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) in the preparation of the Plan and that the Plan be approved by FERC prior to implementation.

1.2 Post Falls HED

The Post Falls HED includes three dams located on the Spokane River about nine miles downstream from the outlet of Coeur d'Alene Lake. This outlet is the headwaters of the Spokane River. The Post Falls HED encompasses the large geographic area of Coeur d'Alene Lake (Lake), the Spokane River upstream of the Post Falls Dams, and the lower reaches of the St. Joe,

Coeur d'Alene and St. Maries rivers (Figure 1). The FERC license project boundary (Project) for the Post Falls HED includes the nine miles of the Spokane River upstream of the Post Falls Dams, Coeur d'Alene Lake, and the lower reaches of the St. Joe, St. Maries, Coeur d'Alene rivers, and other tributaries to Coeur d'Alene Lake to the normal full pool water elevation of 2,128.0 feet.

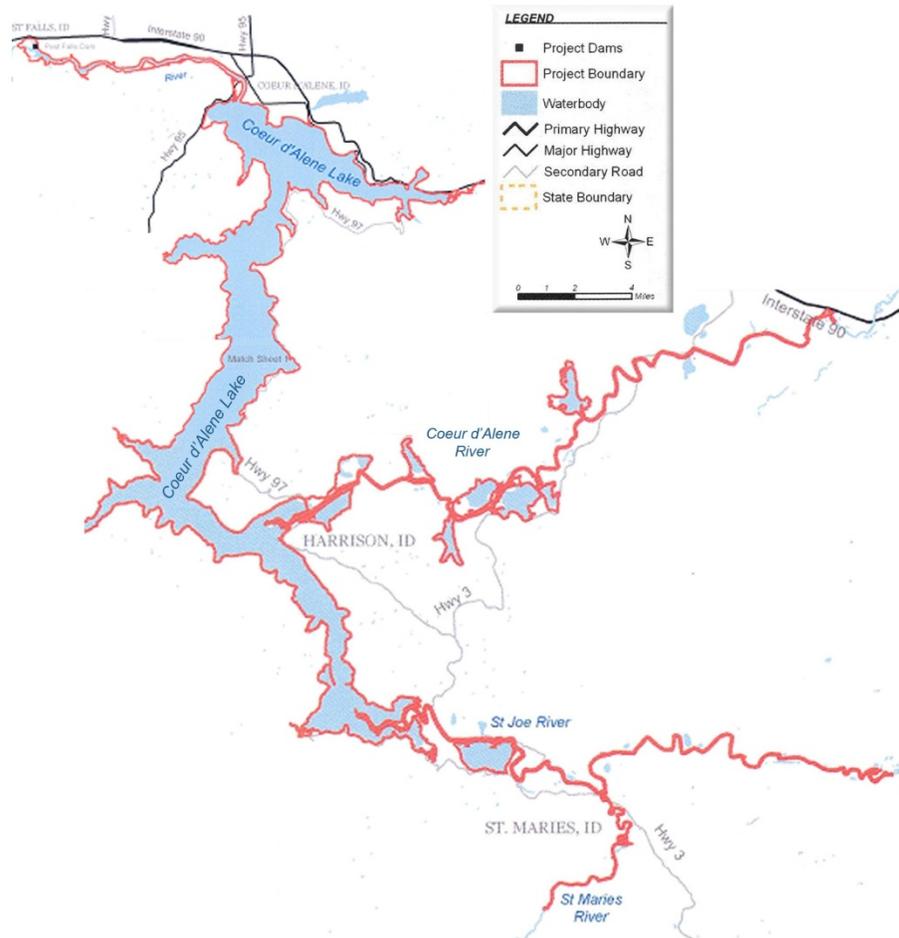


Figure 1: Post Falls Project Area

Coeur d'Alene Lake is a natural lake created by a channel restriction at the outlet. The Post Falls HED influences water levels in Coeur d'Alene Lake and the lower reaches of tributaries to the lake. During winter and through most of the spring run-off, Post Falls HED does not influence water elevation upstream of the dams or discharge flow into the Spokane River downstream. During winter and through most of the spring run-off, the channel restriction at the outlet of Coeur d'Alene Lake controls water elevation in the Project area and Spokane River flow.

2.0 FIVE-YEAR PLAN

The purpose of the Plan is to describe a prioritized set of measures to identify, evaluate, and undertake wetland and riparian protection, restoration, creation and enhancement projects for 2010 through 2014. This Plan satisfies the requirements identified in Article 401 (a) No. 3 and Appendix A, Section IV of the license. Avista shall develop this Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection and Enhancement Plan to include the following components as stated in Section IV of the Idaho WQC:

1. **Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection and Enhancement Plan.** Avista's Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection and Enhancement Plan shall include actions to identify, evaluate, and undertake wetland and riparian protection, restoration, creation, and enhancement projects. Preference will be given to sites where perpetual protection is possible; to existing wetlands associated with or in proximity to the Project, with an emphasis on those that cannot be easily replaced through mitigation; and to sites that are "in basin" and "in kind" to the Project-affected wetlands.

2. **Five (5) Year Plan.** The Plan shall set forth and describe a prioritized set of measures to be implemented in the first five (5) year period following the effective date of the New License.

B. Within the first year after the effective date of the New License, Avista shall develop and submit the Plan to IDEQ for approval. IDEQ shall consult with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game ("IDFG") regarding the Plan. Once approved by IDEQ, Avista shall implement the Plan. Every five (5) years beginning with the approval of the first Plan and continuing for the term of the New License, Avista shall update the Plan to describe those measures to be implemented within the next five (5) years. The updated Plan shall be submitted to IDEQ, for approval, and upon approval, shall be implemented by Avista. Avista shall consult with IDEQ and IDFG annually regarding those measures to be carried out within the year. Implementation of the Plan and expenditure of funds for specific projects will be governed by Section VIII.A. of this certification.

C. Avista will prepare and submit to IDEQ a summary report every five (5) years documenting implementation of the measures described in the Plan. The report shall be submitted to IDEQ within six (6) months of the end of each reporting period. The report will summarize the activities conducted under this condition during the preceding five (5)

years and the results achieved, the overall results achieved to date (subsequent to first 5 – year period), and the general nature of the activities that will be implemented during the next 5 – year period.

D. By the first July 1st after the effective date of the New License, and every July 1st thereafter for the term of the New License, Avista shall make available \$75,000 to implement this condition. Any funds not expended within one (1) year shall carry over and can be used in the following year consistent with Section VIII.A. of this certification. Any funds carried over shall be in addition to the annual \$75,000 provided by Avista. The fact that funds have not been expended in one (1) year and are carried over does not diminish Avista’s responsibility for providing \$75,000 annually for the life of the New License. Provided, however, that funds which are carried over and not expended within five (5) years shall no longer be available in accordance with Section VIII.A. of this certification. The funding provided by Avista shall be used to pay for work by Avista, IDEQ, or their contractors for the planning, implementing, or reporting components of this condition. The \$75,000 annual payment shall be adjusted in accordance with Section VIII.B. of this certification.

Avista’s internal administrative costs to implement this measure shall be part of Avista’s internal costs for license implementation and compliance. The funds described in this Section IV.D. shall not be used to support Avista’s internal administrative costs to implement this condition.

The Plan will be developed in consultation with and approval of IDEQ. Avista will consult and provide IDEQ, the USFWS and IDFG a 30 day review period of the final Plan in accordance with the license (Appendix A includes the record of consultation established in developing this Plan and Appendix B includes agency recommendations and the rationale for including or not including them in the Plan). Avista will implement the Plan upon final FERC approval.

2.1 Funding

Avista shall make \$75,000 available on an annual basis to implement the approved Plan. Implementation of this Plan and expenditure funds for specific projects will be governed by Section VIII.A of the Idaho WQC as follows:

A. Except as otherwise provided in this Section VIII., all funds to be provided by Avista described in this certification will be subject to the cost

caps set forth in the certification and will remain in Avista's control until individual measures or activities required by this certification are implemented. Avista will fund individual measures and activities as they are implemented, in accordance with the plans required by this certification, and in coordination with IDEQ and, when applicable, IDFG. All funds required by this certification to carry out measures or activities include the costs of permitting such measures and undertaking any necessary studies and monitoring. If funds are made available for measures or activities conducted IDEQ or IDFG, IDEQ or IDFG shall provide an accounting/invoice to Avista quarterly. Within 30 days of receipt, Avista shall reimburse IDEQ or IDFG for the costs set forth in the accounting/invoice, up to the cost caps set forth in this certification. Funds not expended in a given year will remain available during the subsequent five (5) years and will not bear interest or be further escalated pursuant to Section VIII.B. below. Any funds provided by Avista pursuant to this certification or any funds carried over may be used to carry out and fund any measures set forth in Sections II, III, IV and VII of this certification. Funds carried over and not spent within five (5) years will no longer be available to implement the conditions of the certification.

Budget sheets will be created and updated to identify funding obligations, expenditures and carry over dollars. It is the intent of IDEQ, Avista and IDFG to leverage Avista's commitment whenever possible to acquire outside partnerships and funding as opportunity arise. Successful partnerships or funds that are obtained will not diminish Avista's responsibility in any way under this Plan. Implementation activities will be reviewed for potential additional funds through grants, partnerships or other sources that may include: IDFG accessed Bonneville Power Authority Wetland Mitigation Fund; IDFG accessed Recovery Land Act grant; IDFG acquisition and/or habitat improvement funds; Natural Resource Damage Trustees for superfund remediation; The North American Wetland Conservation Act grants; the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; farm bill programs administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (esp. WRP and WHIP); and USFWS partners for wildlife program funds.

2.2 Reporting and Updating

Avista will prepare and submit a summary report every five (5) years as described in section IV. 2. C. of the Idaho WQC. The summary report will document implementation of the measures described in this Plan and the overall results achieved during the previous 5 years. The report shall be submitted to IDEQ within six (6) months following each reporting period (the

reporting period is five years after FERC approval of this Plan). The 5-year report will be submitted to FERC following consultation with IDEQ, IDFG and USFWS.

Every five (5) years beginning with the FERC approval of the first Plan, and continuing for the term of the new license, Avista shall update the Plan to describe those measures to be implemented within the next five years. The updated Plan will be developed and approved in the same manner as this Plan and shall be submitted to IDEQ for approval. To address Article 401 (a) of the license, the updated Plans will be developed in consultation with USFWS and IDFG and submitted to FERC after approval from IDEQ. Avista will implement the updated Plans upon FERC approval.

3.0 PRIORITIZED PROJECTS AND ACTIONS

3.1 Selection Priorities and Evaluation Criteria

Idaho DEQ, IDFG, and Avista (Parties) have developed selection priorities and evaluation criteria for all projects and/or activities that will be implemented through this Plan. Listed below are the criteria for selecting, prioritizing and evaluating projects and/or actions:

1. Wetland protection and/or enhancements projects within the Hydroelectric Project Boundary will receive the highest priority;
2. Projects that will qualify for perpetual protection, enhancement and/or restoration;
3. Projects that are ecologically connected to the Hydroelectric Project area;
4. Projects that have a high degree of urgency or the wetland benefit to cost ratio is considered high;
5. Projects that are publically owned and/or public access is secured;
6. Projects that are consistent with existing plans and are currently identified as having significant potential to protect or restoration wetland or riparian areas;
7. Projects with multiple partners and/or projects that leverage significant non-Avista funds;
8. Projects that have an adequate management component; and
9. Other programs or actions deemed appropriate and agreed to by the parties.

Prioritization will be based on an understanding of the baseline information, the known presence of contaminated sediments, and the most urgent need for wetland protection and enhancement. Further consideration will be given to assuring that adequate funding and oversight to complete any action is available prior to implementation. Fewer, but more effective efforts should be preferred to a larger number of activities that may not be sustainable either financially or logistically. A step-wise Wetland and Riparian Project Ranking Criteria (Attachment 1) will be used to help objectively evaluate and prioritize projects.

3.2 Prioritized Measures

Potential projects and measures may be identified by IDEQ, IDFG, Avista or other entities. Potential projects will be evaluated through the consultation process and then prioritized and selected according to the prioritization and evaluation criteria identified in section 3.1 of this Plan. Summaries of previous work activities and other pertinent information will be used to help determine project effectiveness. Potential wetland or riparian site information may include, but not be limited to, the project name, size, location, soil type and drainage, ownership, maps, photographs, and hydraulic characteristics. Other relevant information includes National Wetland Inventory (NWI) data, the known presence of contaminated sediments, participating partners, planning and management objectives. Review and consultation of project proposals ensures a defined evaluation process to select and prioritize measures to undertake wetland and riparian protection, restoration, creation and enhancement actions through this Plan.

3.3 Anticipated Five-Year Implementation Schedule for 2010 to 2014

Avista in cooperation with the other parties plans to implement a number of actions and projects over the five-year period between 2010 and 2014. These measures may be modified, changed or extended depending on the results achieved; information obtained or as new opportunities arise.

Year One

Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project

The purpose of this project is to restore/create a self-sustaining wetland complex along the St Joe River in Idaho. This project is expected to be a multi-year project including several tasks which will be implemented in partnership with IDEQ, IDFG and the US Forest Service. The project includes 42 acres of Avista property and 42 acres of IDFG property. The specific tasks and schedules to be accomplished in 2010 are detailed in the attached 2010 Annual Work Plan for the Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project and summarized here:

Task 1: Avista work with IDFG, IDEQ, St. Joe River Ranger District of the US Forest Service to confirm property boundaries, lease requirements, cost share opportunities and management goals for long term protection of the property.

Task 2: Select a qualified contractor to review existing information and, if necessary, complete a topographic survey of Avista's 62 acres. The topography for IDFG's property is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

Task 3: Select a qualified contractor to develop a detailed project restoration plan.

Year Two

Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project

Task 1: Complete the project wetland restoration plan initiated in 2010.

Task 2: Implement the project restoration plan.

Year Three

Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project

Task 1: Complete restoration actions

Task 2: Develop a monitoring and management plan based on the completed project.

Identify and evaluate potential wetland and riparian habitat protection and enhancement projects including:

Robinson Creek Acquisition and Restoration-

The IDFG and USFWS are collaborating on the Robinson Creek wetland restoration project located on the lower Coeur d'Alene River. IDFG is currently negotiating with the landowner to purchase the property. Once the property is acquired, a project restoration and management plan can be developed.

Mica Bay Wetland Restoration-

IDFG owns approximately 100 acres of Mica Bay. Immediately upstream of the IDFG property Mica Creek has been ditched, drained, and grazed. This project will explore securing additional property to combine with the IDFG property and develop a project restoration and management plan for the wetland and riparian complex.

Wolf Lodge Bay Wetland Restoration-

That portion of Wolf Lodge Bay located between Interstate 90 and Highway 97 has been ditched, drained, and grazed. This project will explore securing property and develop a project restoration and management plan for the wetland and riparian complex.

Lower St. Maries River Floodplain Protection and Restoration-

A large wetland complex is associated with the St. Maries River Floodplain from the confluence with the St. Joe River extending almost 4 miles upstream. This project will

explore securing property for long term protection and develop a project restoration and management plan for the wetland and riparian complex.

Yet to be identified Projects-

Other projects may be identified or new opportunities for wetland and riparian habitat protection and enhancement may be evaluated.

Year Four

Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project

Implement the monitoring and management plan for the Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project.

Select potential wetland and riparian habitat protection and enhancement projects:

Select one or more protection and enhancement projects or monitoring activity and develop Annual Work Plans for each project.

Year Five

Implement Annual Work Plans

4.0 ANNUAL WORK PLANS

Projects that are selected will be implemented through annual work plans. The Idaho WQC, section IV. 2. states that Avista shall consult with IDEQ and IDFG annually regarding those measures to be carried out within the year. Avista will consult with IDEQ and IDFG to develop Annual Work Plans (AWP) during the first quarter of the upcoming year to be approved for implementation by April 30 of each year of this 5-year Plan.

Annual Work Plans will provide a detailed set of actions to implement within the specified calendar year. The AWP will describe the purpose, goals and objectives to how each project will be accomplished that year. Specific tasks will detail the schedules, budgets, funding sources, and any planning, restoration or management activities. Budget sheets will identify all anticipated expenditures, carry over dollars, cost share commitments or other funding sources. The AWP will be implemented by Avista after consultation with IDEQ and IDFG, the securing of required funding or partnerships, and the approval of any necessary permits. Additions or changes to AWP may occur depending on new information, new opportunities, or as agreed by IDEQ, IDFG and Avista. The initial 2010 Annual Work Plan for the Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project (Attachment 2) has been developed in consultation with IDEQ and IDFG and in accordance with this Plan. Subsequent AWP will be developed each year and implemented by Avista through consultation with IDEQ and IDFG.

5.0 POTENTIAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITIES

The following section identifies general categories of activities that may be implemented to protect, enhance or restore wetland and riparian habitat through this Plan. This list is not all inclusive and activities may include portions or subsets of these possible measures.

5.1 Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection, Restoration, Creation, and/or Enhancement

This measure provides for a commitment of resources which will be used to protect, restore and/or enhance wetland, riparian, lakeshore and stream habitats. Project selection may occur depending on the urgency of securing property ownership or protection. To be effective, activities should be conducted on lands held in fee title, with permanent conservation easements, or by some other means that assures long-term management. Activities may include planting and maintenance of buffer strips, exclusion of livestock, reforestation to provide shading, construction of wetland or riparian areas, or other restoration objectives. Floodplain protection and/or protection or restoration of river deltas and lake bays also helps to preserve important habitat types.

Tributary stream and riverine habitats represent important wetland and riparian habitats that often have been affected by a range of natural and human disturbances including mining, non-native species, roads, timber harvest, agriculture, land use and development. In some instances, protection and restoration of stream and riverine habitat may require protecting adjacent lands through purchase, conservation easements, buffer strip creation or other measures with willing and cooperative land owners and managers. In other cases, specific stream channel or shoreline improvements may be deemed desirable.

This program may develop new or modify existing education or information programs on conservation biology or approaches necessary for the protection of wetland and riparian habitat. Programs may be developed to inform landowners about the importance of preventing or minimizing land disturbances close to wetland or riparian areas or the careful and prudent use of herbicides and pesticides, livestock watering and access to stream banks.

5.2 Fee Title Acquisition

An important component in wetland and riparian protection or enhancement is parcel acquisition. Acquisition can be pursued through long-term partnership or contracts with willing landowners. Fee title acquisition and ownership by partner agencies or Avista is the preferred means to secure long-term or perpetual protection and management of land acquired under this Plan.

5.3 Perpetual Easement

Perpetual easements are another important mechanism in wetland and riparian habitat protection. Perpetual easements will be pursued where appropriate to ensure long-term protection and management opportunities.

5.4 Term Agreements

Term agreements are a less desirable but often time effective means of securing and protecting riparian and wetland areas where perpetual protection is not possible. Terms may be for 20 or 50 years or some other long-term period. Term agreements may be pursued when habitat value is high or the project shows benefit for the term.

5.5 Coeur d'Alene Lake Habitat Protection and Enhancement

Protection, restoration and enhancement of lake shore, bays, and other habitats may be pursued along Coeur d'Alene Lake. Measures to protect or enhance floodplain and delta area near tributary mouths or other specified locations may also be pursued if they provide Project related benefits.

5.6 Monitoring and Evaluation

Project studies may be required to determine if the restoration or protection objectives or management goals may be achieved. Projects will be evaluated for restoration or protection

opportunities and to determine appropriate goals, objectives and actions. Monitoring programs will be a part of the overall restoration/protection and management program necessary to ensure the long-term goals are achieved. This program also helps insure that implemented measures be adequately monitored to determine if the action is producing the intended results, and to provide a basis for adjusting or re-directing resources consistent with management goals and objectives.

5.7 Management and Restoration Plans

Management or restoration plans will be developed for protection, restoration and enhancement projects and will include goals and objectives, restoration and protection activities, monitoring, maintenance, information and education measures or other relevant specific actions.

5.8 Wetland Banking

Wetland banking programs in Idaho consist of securing wetland or riparian areas as credits offset from other areas. The banking system may be pursued to combine habitat areas or partnerships to meet management goals or restoration/protection objectives.

6.0 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The USFWS was consulted with on threatened or endangered species and their critical habitats during the re-licensing of the Spokane River Project, including the Post Falls HED. The FERC submitted its initial biological assessment to the USFWS on January 31, 2007. The USFWS concurred with FERC that licensing of the Project was **‘not likely to adversely affect’** bald eagles and would have **no effect** on the water howellia, Ute ladies’ tresses, Spalding’s catch fly or gray wolf. On July 31, 2008 the USFWS concurred with FERC that issuance of new license for Avista Utilities Spokane River Hydroelectric Projects, which includes the Post Falls Hydroelectric Development, is **“not likely to adversely affect”** bull trout or bull trout critical habitat.

7.0 REFERENCES

- Avista Corporation. 2003. Scoping document 1 - issued in support of the preparation of an environmental assessment for the relicensing of the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 2545. Avista Corporation, Spokane, Washington. 48 pp.
- Avista Corporation. 2002. Initial information package for the FERC relicensing of the Spokane River Hydroelectric Project (FERC Project No. 2545). Avista Corporation, Spokane, Washington. 80 pp.
- FERC. 2009. Order Issuing New License and Approving Annual Charges For Use of Reservation Lands. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Project Nos. 2545-091 issued June 18, 2009. Washington DC.
- IDEQ. 2008. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Certification Under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Issued June 5, 2008.
- Parametrix. 2004. Spokane River Hydroelectric Project Wetland and Riparian Habitat Mapping and Assessment. Parametrix Inc. Kirkland, WA.
- PBS&J. 2009. Wetland Assistance and Funding Guide. PBS&J. Missoula, MT
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2002(b). In bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) draft recovery plan. Chapter 15, Coeur d'Alene Lake Basin Recovery Unit. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 92 pp.

APPENDIX A

Record of Consultation:

November 19, 2009: Avista, IDFG and USFWS meet to discuss initial comments and recommendations on the Review and Discussion Draft 5-year Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection & Enhancement Plan and 2010 Annual Work Plan.

November 6, 2009: Tim Vore sends to IDEQ, IDFG, and USFWS Review and Discussion Draft 5-year Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection & Enhancement Plan and 2010 Annual Work Plan and schedules a meeting with these agencies.

October 26, 2009: Tim Vore meets with USFWS to discuss the general layout and sections of the proposed 5-year plan and the general specifics of the proposed Shadowy St. Joe AWP.

October 21, 2009: Meeting with IDEQ and IDFG to discuss overall process to proceed with development of plans. Preliminary comments and recommendations are discussed.

September 25, 2009: Tim Vore and Robert Steed (IDEQ) discuss and review a working draft of the 5-year Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection & Enhancement Plan and 2010 Annual Work Plan.

September 15, 2009: Tim Vore, Bryan Helmich and Jim Fredericks meet at IDFG office to discuss 5-Year Plans and Annual Work Plans.

June 26, 2009: Bryan Helmich sends Tim Vore recommendations and ideas on the 5-year plan and AWP.

June 25, 2009: Meeting with Tim Vore and Bryan Helmich to review an outline of the 5-year plan and suggest revisions.

APPENDIX B

Agency Recommendations:

November 20, 2009: via email USFWS recommends that project selection should consider the presence of mining related metals. This recommendation is included in the plan.

Attachment 1

Wetland and Riparian Project Ranking Criteria (17 total points) Five Year Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection and Enhancement Plan

Project and Total Points:

Reviewer:

- Area enhancement project will encompass (4 points):
 - Direct association within Post Falls HED Project Boundary (4 pts).
 - Adjacent to or ecologically connected to HED Project (3 pts).
 - Not in HED Project basin (project ineligible).
- Project qualifies for long term protection (4 points):
 - Perpetual protection, enhancement and/or restoration (4 pts)
 - Long term protection but not perpetual (3 pts).
 - Sustainability and/or ongoing oversight (2 pt).
 - Not perpetual or sustainable (0 pt).
- Expected benefits relative to cost (3 points):
 - Project shows urgency of need or identified as significant benefit (3 pts.)
 - Project benefits exceed costs (2 pts).
 - Project benefits about equal to cost (1 pt).
 - Project costs exceed benefits (Project ineligible).
- Project consistency with existing management/recovery plans (2 points):
 - Project is consistent with and complements goals and objectives of existing management plans, recovery plans, or has significant potential to benefit wetlands and/or designated beneficial uses (2 pts).
 - Project is not identified in and is not consistent with existing management or recovery plans goal and objectives (0 pts).

- Cost sharing or in-kind services (2 points): Percent of the project that will be funded from other (non Avista funding) revenue sources and/or in-kind services.

Greater than or equal to 25% of the total project cost (2 pts).

Project will rely entirely on funding from this initiative (1 pt).

- Project has monitoring and management component (2 points):

Project has well defined monitoring and/or management component that will help determine effectiveness (2 pts).

Project does not have monitoring or management component (0 pts).

Attachment 2

2010 Annual Work Plan Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Program

2010
ANNUAL WORK PLAN
WETLAND AND RIPARIAN PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Spokane River Project, FERC No. 2545
Post Falls Hydroelectric Development

Title: Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project

Implementation Staff Lead: Avista Aquatic Program Leader

Introduction and Background: On June 18, 2009 the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a new license (license) for the Spokane River Project that includes the Post Falls Hydroelectric Project (HED) (FERC 2009). Ordering paragraph D of the license incorporated the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality's (IDEQ) Certification Conditions under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act as Appendix A. Section IV. 2. of the IDEQ Certification Condition states that Avista shall consult with Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) and IDEQ annually to implement the measures of the FERC approved *Five-Year Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection & Enhancement Plan, 2010 to 2014* (Avista 2010). This Annual Work Plan (AWP) has been developed in consultation with IDEQ and IDFG to meet the requirements of the five-year plan for measures to implement in 2010.

Priority: This project is high priority since it is directly adjacent and ecologically connected to the Hydroelectric Project. This project qualifies for perpetual protection and multiple partners are organized for restoration and management assistance including IDFG, US Forest Service, IDEQ, and Avista. Partnerships maximize the benefits associated with the restoration project by expanding the land base, capitalizing on cost-sharing opportunities, and utilize a diverse pool of expertise.

Currently, IDFG has federal funding to restore their parcel. These funds are potentially available for the next three years so this project has priority for urgency and immediate work.

Project Description: The purpose of this project is to restore/create a self-sustaining wetland complex along the St Joe River in Idaho. The Project is focused on a combined total of approximately 124 acres of IDFG property and Avista property along the St. Joe River in Section 13, T46N R1W, about 10 miles upriver of the town of St. Maries near the Shadowy St. Joe Campground. Collectively, the IDFG and Avista parcels represent 1 ½ miles of riverfront along the St. Joe River directly adjacent and hydraulically connected to the Project boundary of the Post Falls (HED). The IDFG owns 62 acres in fee title ownership approximately ¾ mile in length, encompassing the entire property located between Forest Highway 50 and the St. Joe River (Figure 1).

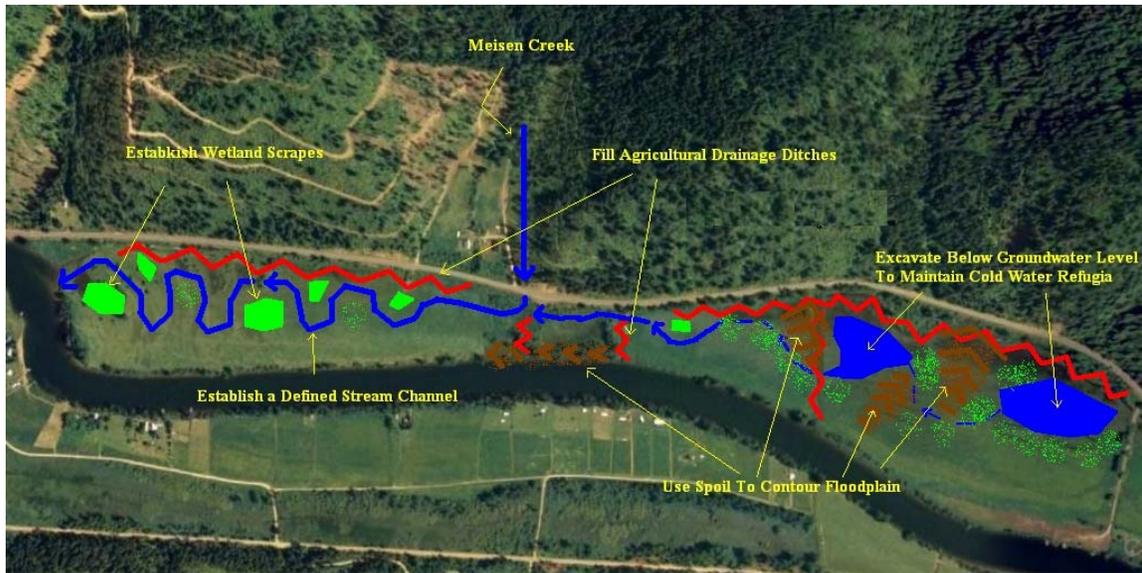


Figure 1: Conceptual Project Design IDFG Property

Avista owns approximately 62 acres in fee title ownership between the St. Joe River and Forest Highway 50 directly adjacent and upstream of the IDFG parcel (Attachment A). Within the Avista property is approximately ¾ of a mile of St. Joe River frontage and associated riparian area (Figure 2). A portion of this property is leased to the US Forest Service for the operation of the Shadowy St. Joe Campground. Avista will work with the US Forest Service and accommodate the lease and campground area into the planning process for this project.

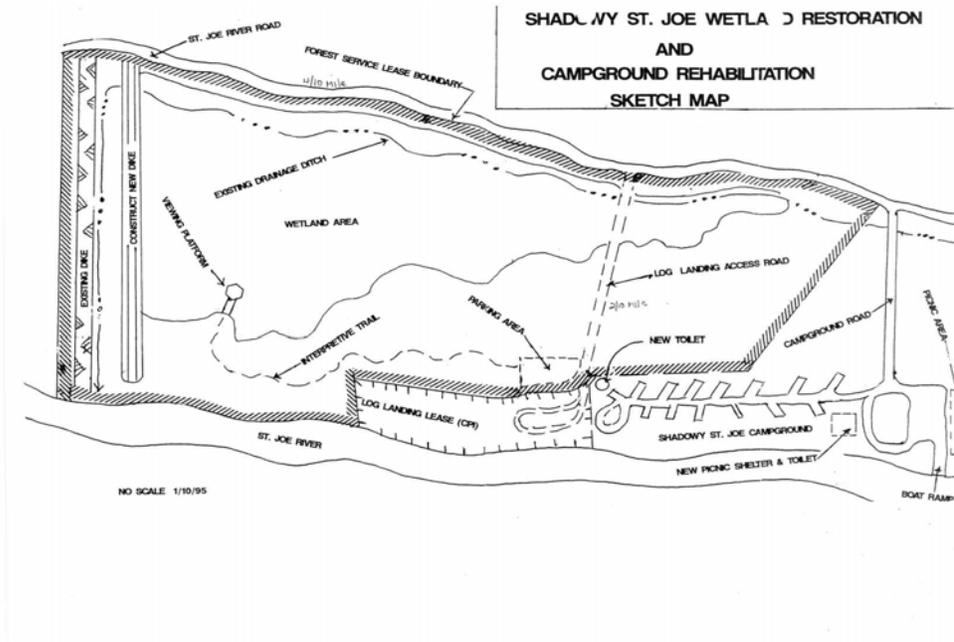


Figure 2: Conceptual Project Design Avista Property

Specific goals for the project include:

- Develop a detailed restoration plan for the combined Avista and IDFG properties. The restoration plan is expected to include specific actions, schedules, drawings and intended results of the wetland complex.
- Place both IDFG and Avista property under perpetual, long-term protection.
- Explore the possibility of incorporating cool water refugia for native salmonids into restoration activities.
- Support specific restoration recommendations to include portions or aspects of the following:

1. Fill the ditch along the base of Forest Highway 50.

The ditch currently intercepts all of the groundwater seeping out of the hillside for the entire length of both properties (1 ½ miles). Filling the ditch is expected to increase the water table height significantly, bringing water to the surface in places. Given the base of the ditch is 10-15' below road elevation, this action is not expected to saturate the road base.

2. Fill the drainage ditch which separates the Avista parcel from the IDFG parcel.

This ditch currently intercepts groundwater flow from the upstream Avista parcel and routes it to the St. Joe River before it can reach the IDFG parcel. Filling the ditch is expected to further raise the water table and increase water flow through the IDFG parcel. Ground which is currently dry should remain saturated most of the season following this action.

3. Fill the drainage ditch located immediately east of the point Miesen Creek enters the floodplain.
4. Eliminate the man made channel which routes Miesen Creek directly to the St. Joe River.
5. Via excavation and the planned placement of fill, route Miesen Creek lengthwise along the property in a meandering fashion.
6. Excavate deepwater pools which will be heavily influenced by groundwater and therefore remain full all year as well as provide cool water refugia for native salmonids during the warmest summer months.
7. Encourage the establishment of native woody vegetation and supplement natural vegetation with plantings.

Specific 2010 Annual Work Plan Tasks: This project is expected to be a multi-year project including several tasks which will be implemented in partnership with IDEQ, IDFG and US Forest Service. Specific tasks will be implemented after Avista consultation on this AWP, partnerships are established and approval of any necessary permits.

Task 1: Avista work with IDFG, IDEQ, St. Joe River Ranger District of the US Forest Service to confirm property boundaries, lease requirements, cost share opportunities and management goals for long-term protection of the property.

Task 2: Select a qualified contractor to review existing information and, if necessary, complete a topographic survey of the Avista property. The topography on IDFG's property is scheduled to be completed in 2010. Develop the combined topography into an electronic contour site map and provide up to three (3) paper maps of topography.

Task 3: Select a qualified contractor to develop a detailed project restoration plan for the combined Avista and IDFG property:

Step one: Evaluate the existing information, the topographic data and the existing conceptual designs to identify and refine restoration options, anticipated groundwork, vegetation types and water resources.

Step two: Begin developing a detailed wetland restoration plan that will include a description of the recommended earth work activities, potential water control features, vegetation types and other relevant restoration features. The initial plan will include drawings, schedules, anticipated restoration and management actions, and budgets required to complete the project. Cost share and partnership opportunities will be identified and included in the plan.

Schedule: [Depends on Plan approval, AWP consultation and approved permits]

Task 1: Contact participants: June 2010

Task 2: Select a contractor and complete a topographic survey: August, 2010

Task 3: Select a contractor to develop a detailed restoration plan: December, 2010

[Restoration plan to be completed in 2011]

2010 Budget Summary Funds Allocated: (Estimated)

Task 1	\$ 0?	
Task 2	\$ 15,000	
Task 3	\$ 40,000	
	<i>Total obligation</i>	\$ 55, 000

Available Cooperative Funds [Bonneville Power Administration TBD]

Total obligated Funds **\$ 55,000**

References:

- Avista. 2010. Five-Year Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection & Enhancement Plan 2010 to 2014. Draft in process. Avista Corporation. Spokane, WA.
- FERC. 2009. Order Issuing New License and Approving Annual Charges for use of Reservation lands. Project Nos. 2545-091. US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. DC
- IDEQ. 2008. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality Certification Under Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act. Issued June 5, 2008. Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Idaho.
- IDFG. 2009 Draft Shadowy St. Joe Floodplain Restoration Scoping Meeting summary.
- Panhandle Bull Trout Technical Advisory Team (PBTTAT). 1998. Draft Coeur d'Alene Lake Basin bull trout problem assessment. Prepared for the State of Idaho. 73 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2002(b). In bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) draft recovery plan. Chapter 15, Coeur d'Alene Lake Basin Recovery Unit. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 92 pp.

Annual Consultation: Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration

- November 19, 2009: Avista, IDFG and USFWS meet to discuss comments and recommendations on the AWP.
- October 26, 2009: Tim Vore meets with USFWS to discuss the general layout of the proposed 5-year plan and the general specifics of the Shadowy St. Joe work plan.
- October 21, 2009: Meeting with IDEQ and IDFG to discuss overall process to proceed with development of plans.
- September 25, 2009: Tim Vore and Robert Steed (IDEQ) discuss a working draft of the 5-year Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection & Enhancement Plan and 2010 Annual Work Plan.
- September 15, 2009: Tim Vore, Bryan Helmich (IDFG) and Jim Fredericks meet at IDFG office to discuss 5-Year Plan and Annual Work Plans.
- August 6, 2009: Tim sends Bryan a preliminary working discussion draft of the 5-year Plan. Ideas for the Shadowy St Joe work plan

Wetland and Riparian Project Ranking Criteria (17 total points)
Five Year Wetland and Riparian Habitat Protection and Enhancement Plan

Project and Total Points: Shadowy St. Joe Wetland and Riparian Restoration Project
[16 points]

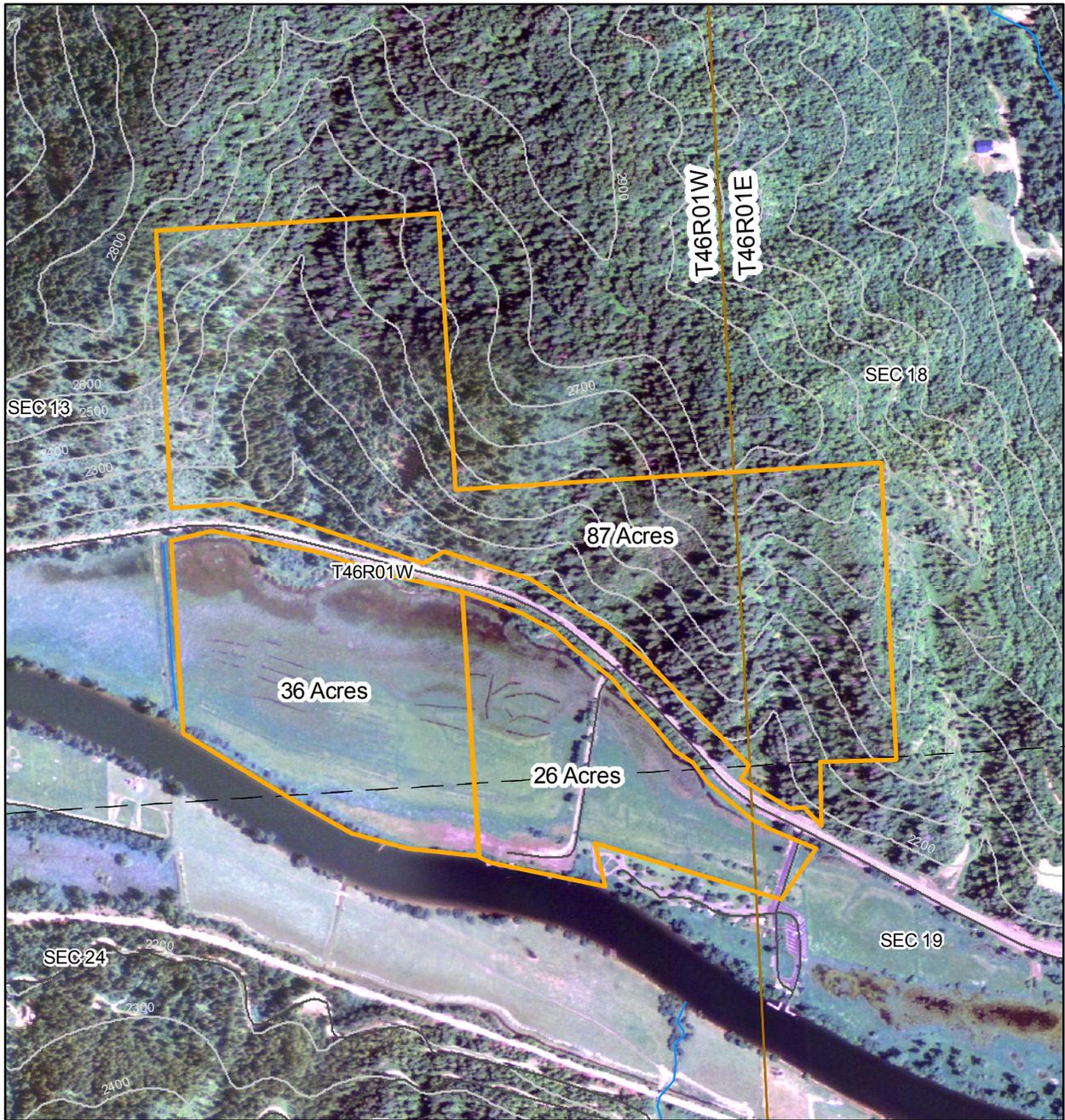
Reviewer:

- Area enhancement project will encompass (4 points):
 - Direct association within Post Falls HED Project Boundary (4 pts).
 - Adjacent to or ecologically connected to HED Project (3 pts).
 - Not in HED Project basin (project ineligible).
- Project qualifies for long term protection (4 points):
 - Perpetual protection, enhancement and/or restoration (4 pts)
 - Long term protection but not perpetual (3 pts).
 - Sustainability and/or ongoing oversight (2 pt).
 - Not perpetual or sustainable (0 pt).
- Expected benefits relative to cost (3 points):
 - Project shows urgency of need or identified as significant benefit (3 pts.)
 - Project benefits exceed costs (2 pts).
 - Project benefits about equal to cost (1 pt).
 - Project costs exceed benefits (Project ineligible).
- Project consistency with existing management/recovery plans (2 points):
 - Project is consistent with and complements goals and objectives of existing management plans, recovery plans, or has significant potential to benefit wetlands and/or designated beneficial uses (2 pts).
 - Project is not identified in and is not consistent with existing management or recovery plans goal and objectives (0 pts).
- Cost sharing or in-kind services (2 points): Percent of the project that will be funded from other (non Avista funding) revenue sources and/or in-kind services.
 - Greater than or equal to 25% of the total project cost (2 pts).
 - Project will rely entirely on funding from this initiative (1 pt).

- Project has monitoring and management component (2 points):

Project has well defined monitoring and/or management component that will help determine effectiveness (2 pts).

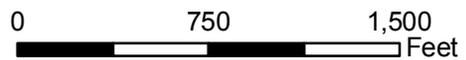
Project does not have monitoring or management component (0 pts).



ST. JOE RIVER, BENEWAH CO., IDAHO

Legend

-  AVISTA PARCELS
-  nhd streams
-  township range
-  sections
-  Streets
-  contour100ft



1 inch equals 750 feet