

Exhibit F

Public Correspondence received as of
Nov 4, 2024

From: REIS Kelly E * ODFW <Kelly.E.Reis@odfw.oregon.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 30, 2024 2:09 PM
To: Ryan.Ceniga@lanecountyor.gov
Cc: BRUMM Justine A * ODFW <Justine.A.Brumm@odfw.oregon.gov>; Schwartz,Matthew D (BPA) - EWM-4 <Kelly.E.Reis@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Proposed ODFW habitat acquisitions near Fern Ridge Wildlife Area

Attachments: 1. South Coyote IV, V, VI Outreach mtg invite Letter.pdf; 2. South Coyote IV, V, IV Outreach Fact sheet.pdf; 3. South Coyote IV, V, VI Acquisitions FAQs and maps.pdf

Commissioner Ceniga,

To follow up on my voice mail just now, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is proposing to acquire three properties totaling 222 acres adjacent to Fern Ridge Wildlife Area west of Eugene. The properties would be acquired by ODFW using funds from the Bonneville Power Administration and will contribute towards mitigation to permanently settle for impacts of the federal hydroelectric and flood control system in the Willamette Basin.

ODFW is proposing to acquire these properties in order to permanently protect and restore them as wildlife habitat as part of the [Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program](#). In addition to their potential habitat values, their proximity to the wildlife area, as well as their locations within a [Priority Wildlife Connectivity Area](#) and the West Eugene Area Conservation Opportunity Area as defined by ODFW's [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#), has lead us to prioritize them for conservation.

I have attached outreach materials we have prepared for a **virtual public meeting via Teams on October 15th from 6-7:30pm** (information for how to join below). This information includes additional background information about the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program, as well as for the properties themselves. I would like to invite you to attend this meeting, as well as have the opportunity to discuss any thoughts or concerns you may have about these acquisitions in advance of this meeting.

Please call or email me to set up a time to discuss at your convenience.

Thank-you for your consideration.
Kelly

Kelly Reis (she/her)

Willamette Fish and Wildlife Policy and Program Manager
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife

3150 Main Street | Springfield, OR | 97478
P: 541-686-7880 | C: 541-517-2228
kelly.e.reis@odfw.oregon.gov

From: BRUMM Justine A * ODFW <Justine.A.Brumm@odfw.oregon.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Kendra Chamberlain <kendrarchamberlain@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Press Inquiry! FRWA for Columbia Insight, deadline Tues COB

Hi Kendra,

Thank you for reaching out about the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area acquisitions and for your thoughtful questions. I've attached the requested map from the public meeting presentation here.

To get at your first question, I'll quote the [Wetlands page of the Oregon Conservation Strategy website](#): "Almost all remaining wetlands in the Willamette Valley ecoregion have been degraded to some degree by altered water regimes, pollution, and invasive plants and animals. Wetlands in the Willamette Valley serve important ecological functions for communities, provide habitat for amphibians, turtles, birds, and fish, and offer key bird and fish migratory pathways." Several sources estimate that only ~1% of historic wet prairie habitat in the Willamette Valley remains.

These proposed South Coyote acquisitions are located within the [West Eugene Area Conservation Opportunity Area \(COA ID: 086\)](#) identified in the [Oregon Conservation Strategy](#) (OCS 2016). The West Eugene Area COA contains some of the largest remaining fragments of the Willamette Valley's native wet prairies. Acquisition of these sites will contribute to the protection and restoration of this important habitat in decline. Protection of existing high functioning habitat, and restoration and enhancement actions that result in high functioning habitat, are consistent with the Department's Climate and Ocean Change Policy.

To your second question – You're absolutely correct that habitat connectivity and adjacency to Fern Ridge Wildlife Area are key reasons that these particular properties have been prioritized for acquisition. All three of the properties fall within a [Priority Wildlife Connectivity Area](#) identified through ODFW's [Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project](#). The protection and restoration of these sites will allow for increased habitat connectivity to large blocks of priority habitats on adjacent protected sites, providing migration corridors for wildlife. The ability to move throughout the landscape is critical for many species to fulfill their needs for food, shelter, and opportunities to reproduce. Larger blocks of contiguous habitat allow for access to a wider variety of resources and reduces competition for those resources. Microhabitat connectivity may provide an adaptive measure in a changing climate and provides greater resilience against environmental changes. This landscape-level habitat conservation has the potential to benefit several OCS Strategy Species, and the acquisition facilitates several of the recommended conservation actions identified in the OCS for the West Eugene Area COA.

Sorry for the long answer! I hope this is helpful for your story, and feel free to reach out if there's anything else I can provide!

Best,
Justine

Justine Brumm (she/her)
Interim Program Coordinator
Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife
C: 541-799-4556

From: Kendra Chamberlain <kendrarchamberlain@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 6:50 AM
To: DENNEHY Michelle N * ODFW <michelle.n.dennehy@odfw.oregon.gov>
Subject: Press Inquiry! FRWA for Columbia Insight, deadline Tues COB

Hi Michelle,

My name is Kendra Chamberlain and I am a journalist for Columbia Insight. I am working on a story about the proposed land acquisitions for the Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. I have just a couple questions about FRWA, would it be possible to get answers to these by Tuesday (today) close of business from perhaps Justine Brumm?

1. I'm trying to convey how wildly important and rare this type of habitat is -- how much habitat of these types of ecosystems -- wetland prairie and upland prairie, etc, -- is left in the valley?

2. The proposed land acquisitions are all adjacent to existing managed lands -- can you explain a bit about why connectivity is so important for this type of restoration work?

Also wondering if I can get a higher-res version of the map of the land acquisitions that was used in the PP presentation last week? (Map on pg 8 of the presentation).

My deadline is today close of business.

I am happy to hop on the phone this afternoon if that's easier. I am free between 230 and 6pm at 337-255-6551.

Best,
Kendra

--

Kendra Chamberlain
Journalist | Eugene, OR
337-255-6551
@KendraRC976

ODFW – WWMP Virtual Public Meeting via Microsoft Teams: Proposed Acquisitions South Coyote IV, V & VI October 15, 2024

ODFW staff present: Kelly Reis, Justine Brumm, Jennifer Ringo, David Speten
Seven members of the public were in attendance.

Meeting started at 6:02 PM.

- Kelly Reis welcomed attendees and introduced ODFW staff.
- Justine Brumm then gave a PowerPoint presentation on the proposed ODFW additions to Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.
- Jennifer Ringo took notes on questions received from the public.

Questions from the public

Q1: Are there beavers present on the properties?

A1: Kelly responded that she has not seen any beaver sign personally, however there isn't anything precluding them. We would encourage them at the properties. Justine noted she has seen signs of beaver use on adjacent ODFW-owned properties.

Q2: What is the cost per acre for these properties?

A2: Kelly responded that \$6,000/acre is the average cost of acquisition only, excluding additional stewardship funding and closing costs.

Q3: Will stewardship funding cover all of the planned restoration work at the properties?

A3: Kelly responded that no, stewardship dollars cannot be used for restoration costs – they are strictly for management and maintenance of the properties. ODFW works with partners such as the Long Tom Watershed Council and Ducks Unlimited to seek grant funds offered through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, North American Wetlands Conservation Act Standard Grants, and other sources. Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act dollars can be used as well.

Q4: Will this presentation or slides be available later for download?

A4: The presentation is not recorded, but the slides will be available on the ODFW-WWMP website.

Q5: Will the management plan be essentially an extension of the existing WMA plan or an independent plan?

A5: A Land Management Plan is required separately for each property but would align with the overall plan for the FRWA.

Q6: Can you talk a bit about the wildlife that benefit from this acquisition?

A6: Justine responded that some species that would benefit include northern red legged frogs, northwestern pond turtles, a variety of bird species, and waterfowl.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Comments received from Wufoo, an on-line form on the WWMP website

Name		Current city of residence	Who do you represent? (optional)	Comments
Talha	Khan	Hillsboro	Myself	I am writing in support of the proposed acquisition of lands adjacent to the Fern Ridge Wildlife area.
Jennifer	Lippert	Eugene, Oregon	Emerald Chapter, Native Plant Society of Oregon	Emerald Chapter of the Native Plant Society would like to go on record as supporting the acquisitions of additional parcels South Coyote IV, V and VI, adjacent to Fern Ridge Reservoir. We support maintenance and enhancement of native Willamette Valley wetlands as they provide habitat for many rare and unique plant species of conservation concern.



April 13, 2023

Laura Tesler
c/o Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program
4034 Fairview Industrial Ave SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

Dear Laura,

On behalf of the Long Tom Watershed Council, I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) proposed acquisition of the South Coyote Creek IV, V, and VI properties, which collectively will contribute an additional 205 acres of conserved habitats at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.

These projects offer an opportunity to expand upon the protected lands to the south of Fern Ridge Reservoir that are high priorities to several organizations. In addition to being in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) West Eugene Area Conservation Opportunity Area, the properties are in a core conservation area identified in the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan. The Prairie Cooperative is a newly formed partnership with a long-term vision to conserve and maintain prairie and oak habitats within the Willamette Valley through a regionally focused, collaborative, and sustainable program.

These parcels would add to a connected aggregate of projects in this area southwest of Eugene that contribute to the long-term protection and enhancement of OCS habitats and species and would continue the history of successful work identified in the Rivers to Ridges Vision and Strategy document.

The two parcels are proximate to more than 600 acres already protected by ODFW, with South Coyote Creek III purchased in 2022, Northeast Coyote Creek in 2015, and South Coyote Creek in 2013. This region around Coyote Creek has been an ODFW priority area for over a decade and contains high quality wetlands, prairie, and oak areas. Since 2015, the Long Tom Watershed Council has partnered with ODFW to complete large-scale restoration of wet prairie and vernal pool habitats on these parcels and is committed to continuing this partnership on adjacent lands.

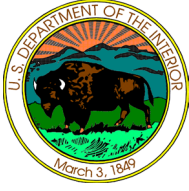
ODFW is the appropriate organization to own, restore, and manage these two properties. They have a demonstrated track record of success in this area, including working with partners to implement ecological restoration, as well as responsibly managing public access on conservation land. They will ensure that the conservation values of this area reach their full potential and that the properties will provide benefits to the people of Lane County and the Willamette Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Dear". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steve Dear
Executive Director and Watershed Coordinator





United States Department of the Interior

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Willamette Valley NWR Complex

26208 Finley Refuge Road

Corvallis, Oregon 97333-9533

Phone (541) 757-7236

Fax (541) 757-4450



April 14, 2023

c/o Laura Tesler
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program
4034 Fairview Industrial Ave SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

Re: South Coyote Creek IV, V and VI Acquisitions

Dear Laura and Review Team Members:

The Willamette Valley National Wildlife Refuge Complex (WVNWRC), supports funding the South Coyote Creek IV, V and IV properties by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. These three acquisitions will collectively add an additional 215 acres of conserved habitats at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.

The three parcels are proximate to more than 600 acres already protected by ODFW, with South Coyote Creek III purchased in 2022, Northeast Coyote Creek in 2015, and South Coyote Creek in 2013. This region around Coyote Creek has been an ODFW priority area for over a decade and contains high quality wetlands, prairie, and oak areas.

In addition to being in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) (2016) West Eugene Conservation Opportunity Area, the properties are in a core conservation area identified in the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan (2020.) The area was also identified as a Priority Conservation Area by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in our Willamette Valley Conservation Study (2018.) These parcels would add to a connected aggregate of projects in this area southwest of Eugene that contribute to the long-term protection and enhancement of OCS habitats and species and would continue the history of successful work identified in the Rivers to Ridges Vision and Strategy document.

Protection and restoration of these properties will compliment the prairie and restoration efforts underway on the adjacent, recently-protected properties as well as management of the wildlife area, benefitting focal species such as western meadowlark and yellow warbler. ODFW has partnered with organizations such as the Long Tom Watershed Council and our agency on these restorations.

Thank you for considering funding this application. If you have any questions, please contact our Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program biologist, Jarod Jebousek, at 541-760-4994.

Sincerely,

Damien Miller, Project Leader





WESTERN REGIONAL OFFICE
3074 Gold Canal Drive
Rancho Cordova, CA
(916) 852-2200
www.ducks.org

Mr. Curt Melcher, Director
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Dr
Salem OR 97302

RE: *South Coyote Creek IV, V, VI- Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program*

Dear Director Melcher,

Ducks Unlimited Inc. (DU) is writing this in support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) proposed acquisition of the South Coyote Creek IV, V and VI which collectively will contribute an additional 200+ acres of conserved habitats at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area. Natural resources in the Willamette Valley are faced with many risks including urbanization, climate, and drought. This addition to Fern Ridge Wildlife Area will meet several of the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program's (WWMP) goals including, valuable wildlife habitat, future public access, and added conservation connectivity on adjacent lands.

These projects are an opportunity to expand upon the protected lands to the south of Fern Ridge Reservoir that are high priorities to several organizations including DU. The two parcels are proximate to more than 600 acres already protected by ODFW, with South Coyote Creek III purchased in 2022, Northeast Coyote Creek in 2015, and South Coyote Creek in 2013. This region around Coyote Creek has been an ODFW priority area for over a decade and contains high quality wetlands, prairie, and oak areas.

In addition to being in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) West Eugene Area Conservation Opportunity Area, the properties are in a core conservation area identified in the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan. These parcels will contribute to the long-term protection and enhancement of OCS habitats and species and would continue the history of successful work identified in the Rivers to Ridges Vision and Strategy document.

ODFW is the appropriate organization to own, restore, and manage these two properties. They have a demonstrated track record of success in this area, including working with partners to implement ecological restoration, as well as responsibly managing public access on conservation land. They will ensure that the conservation values of this area reach their full potential and that the properties will provide benefits to the people of Lane County and the Willamette Valley.

Ducks Unlimited appreciates ODFW's dedication to conservation and we look forward to our continued partnership to assist them with meeting their protection and restoration vision. Growth of a wildlife area is a unique opportunity, and we encourage WWMP's full consideration and support. Please contact our Regional Biologist for Western Oregon, Kelly Warren (360-334-2338) if you have any further questions about Ducks Unlimited or our involvement in this project.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey McCreary
Director of Operations



April 13, 2023

Laura Tesler
c/o Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program
4034 Fairview Industrial Ave SE
Salem, Oregon 97302

Dear Laura,

On behalf of the City of Eugene, I am writing in support of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) proposed acquisition of the South Coyote Creek IV, V and VI properties, which collectively will contribute an additional 205 acres of conserved habitats at Fern Ridge Wildlife Area.

These projects are an opportunity to expand upon the protected lands to the south of Fern Ridge Reservoir that are high priorities to several organizations. In addition to being in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (OCS) West Eugene Area Conservation Opportunity Area, the properties are in a core conservation area identified in the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan. The Prairie Cooperative is a newly formed partnership with a long-term vision to conserve and maintain prairie and oak habitats within the Willamette Valley through a regionally focused, collaborative, and sustainable program.

These parcels would add to a connected aggregate of projects in this area southwest of Eugene that contribute to the long-term protection and enhancement of OCS habitats and species and would continue the history of successful work identified in the Rivers to Ridges Vision and Strategy document.

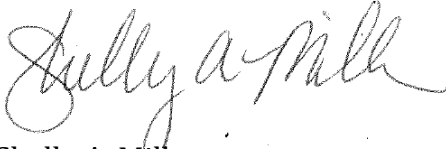
The three parcels are proximate to more than 600 acres already protected by ODFW, with South Coyote Creek III purchased in 2022, Northeast Coyote Creek in 2015, and South Coyote Creek in 2013. This region around Coyote Creek has been an ODFW priority area for over a decade and contains high quality wetlands, prairie, and oak areas. The intact riparian habitat and native forested wetlands under consideration for acquisition are remarkable.

In addition, the South Coyote Creek V and VI parcels provide 128 acres of forested wetland and prairie habitats adjacent to our Coyote Prairie wetland mitigation bank site. We are excited about opportunities for potential future collaborations in land management with ODFW including the removal of fences; possible cross-site hydrologic enhancements; increased connectivity, and an expansion of native prairie habitat for all grassland-dependent organisms; and increased access for the implementation of prescribed fire.

ODFW is the appropriate organization to own, restore, and manage these three properties. This agency has a demonstrated track record of success in this area, including working with partners to implement ecological restoration, as well as responsibly managing public access on

conservation land. ODFW staff will ensure that the conservation values of this area reach their full potential and that the properties will provide benefits to the people of Lane County and the Willamette Valley.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelly A. Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shelly A. Miller

Supervisor, Ecological Services and GIS teams
Eugene Parks and Open Space