

From: Graves, Ron - The Dalles, OR
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2006 11:21 AM
To: Baugh, Zenobia
Subject: FY07-09

NWPCC's draft recommendations not to fund technical support necessary to establish riparian buffer systems in Sherman, Gilliam, Wheeler, and Morrow Counties due to funding limitations is poor economy.

Land use in those counties is dominated by agriculture. In agricultural areas riparian buffer systems are the best tools we have available for both water quality and habitat. Costs to implement the riparian buffer systems once the plans are prepared are born by the USDA and the State of Oregon in their CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) Partnership. While it may vary from county to county, in our area we have leveraged BPA funding by 18:1 in the buffer program. In other words for every \$1 invested by BPA for technical support, the CREP Partnership has committed \$18 to implementation, landowner incentives, maintenance, and contract rental payments for up to 15 years on each contract. I am unaware of any other element of the Fish and Wildlife Program that has leveraged funding to that level.

To get the biggest "bang for the buck", I urge NWPCC to reconsider their recommendations and to fund the following riparian buffer proposals:

Project #	Sponsor
2002-015-00	Sherman SWCD
2002-034-00	Wheeler SWCD
2002-035-00	Gilliam SWCD
2002-026-00	Morrow SWCD

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