

ATTACHMENT B

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Big Game Analysis Letter



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Sauvie Island Wildlife Area
North Willamette Wildlife District
18330 NW Sauvie Island Road
Portland, OR 97231
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odfw.com



9/24/2020

Michael Schweizer NCARB, AIA
Oregon Department of Transportation
Facilities Services
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Salem, OR 97301-5192
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Dear Mr. Schweizer,

This letter is to provide you the information you requested of me on 9/15/2020 pertaining to whether a proposed Oregon Department of Transportation project falls within deer and elk winter range. As discussed, the project is an open pile stockpile storage area which will be fenced but the access road will not be.

Tax Lots 2N1W31C 02-400 and 02-500 are not within any known big game winter range. The site itself is within an Impacted Habitat area and in context of the surrounding area is not likely to have a significant impact to local big game populations. The tax lots are immediately adjacent to, separated by Cornelius Pass Rd, Year-round Peripheral Habitat for deer and elk and a herd of elk is known to cross the road just south of those tax lots. Peripheral habitat contains important forage and cover features interspersed in intensively managed areas. Staff can provide information on recommendations for elk exclusion fencing as requested.

The site appears to have some larger oak trees along the southern edge. Oak habitat is a strategy habitat within the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Preservation of the oaks on the property is suggested, if possible. Given the proximity to the forested woodland to the north of the property and surrounding grasslands the site may provide some nesting and foraging habitat for a number of strategy species such as acorn woodpeckers, western blue birds, chipping sparrows, olive-sided flycatchers, and a variety of bat species. While there were a limited number of oaks on the property, maintaining the oaks on the property may support continued connectivity in the surrounding area. If there are areas that will be temporarily disturbed by construction it is recommended that those areas be reseeded with a native vegetation mix to continue to support grassland bird species and prevent invasive plant species from dominating the area. Protection of ground nesting grassland bird species is best achieved by avoiding impacts between April and July 15th.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide suggestions and information on this project site. I hope the information is helpful; please feel free to contact me at 503-621-3488 ext. 231 with additional questions should they arise.

Sincerely,

Amy Darr
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CC: File
