



## Wells Project Relicensing Phone Conversation Summary

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**Call To:** Scott Kreiter  
**Call From:** Dan Trochta (USFWS)  
**Date:** 07/26/2007  
**Time:** 9:50 AM  
**Subject:** 230kV Transmission Line Wildlife and Botanical Study Plan

**Summary:**

Dan Trochta (USFWS) called to discuss edits that were made to the 230 kV transmission line study following the June 15 study plan meeting. Dan had three questions/comments on the plan.

1. Dan asked about language on Page 8 referring to unlikely waterfowl collisions due to the north-south orientation of the transmission corridor. He asked whether this was taken from a citation or if it was an assumption. He also added that migrating waterfowl would be travelling higher than the transmission corridor, and collisions would be more likely if the birds were circling before landing. I pointed out that Corhnel Lake and the Columbia River were identified in the study plan as the most likely locations where waterfowl could be circling prior to landing. Because of the higher potential for waterfowl collision at these sites, the study would focus the collision surveys along these two sections of the transmission corridor.

It was agreed that no changes to the study plan are required to address this issue.

2. Dan noted that on Page 8 new language refers to the Washington ground squirrel and striped whipsnake. He asked if information could also be provided in the report for the pygmy rabbit, whose range does not overlap with the study area, but is near the study area.

Douglas PUD will include background information on pygmy rabbits including their status, current range and the fact that the range for this RTE species is outside but within 50 miles of the study area.

3. Dan asked about methodology on page 15 which states that collision surveys will be conducted over 5 days during the spring bird migration and 5 days during the fall bird migration. He asked why surveys would only be conducted during those times. I explained that the

Terrestrial Resources Work Group discussed this issue, and agreed that it would be difficult to identify evidence of collisions due to high scavenger rates. However, there is a sentence in the plan noting that collision evidence will be reported if observed during the other phases of the study (botanical surveys, mammal surveys, etc.).

It was agreed that no changes to the study plan are required for this issue.