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**MEMORANDUM**

**Date:**      August 27, 2013

**To:**      Tracey Dulin

**From:**      Craig Tumer

**Re:**      Avian Point Count Results, Rock Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank Site  
Washington County, Oregon  
PHS #5155

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Pacific Habitat Services, Inc. (PHS) performed avian Point Counts at the proposed Rock Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank site during the late spring/early summer of 2013. This memorandum describes the methodology used and summarizes the results of the surveys.

**Methodology**

PHS conducted avian point counts at the Rock Creek Wetland Mitigation Bank site at the Portland Community College (PCC) Rock Creek Campus in Washington County, Oregon. The survey method followed *A Habitat-Based Point-Count Protocol for Terrestrial Birds, Emphasizing Washington and Oregon* by Huff, Bettinger, Ferguson, Brown, & Altman (2000) and methodologies used by the City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services and Metro in their bird survey monitoring efforts.

PHS established five survey stations at the mitigation bank site, as follows:

1. In the palustrine forested wetlands adjacent to Rock Creek;
2. In the upland conifer forest adjacent to the PCC- Rock Creek;
3. In the oak grove in the south-central portion of the project site;
4. In the palustrine emergent wetland in the east-central portion of the site; and
5. In the palustrine emergent wetlands in the northern portion of the site.

The approximate locations of the survey stations are depicted on the attached figure.

PHS conducted three separate visits to each of these stations in spring and early summer to conduct avian point count surveys. Surveys were performed on May 31, June 10, and June 21, 2013. All surveys were performed between 5:00 AM and 10:00 AM. At each survey station, all birds seen and heard were recorded for a period of five minutes. Birds noted during the first three minutes and those recorded during the final two minutes of the five-minute survey period were recorded separately. Birds were noted as occurring within 50 meters of the survey station or greater than 50 meters from the station. Birds noted as flying over the survey station were noted as either “associated” or “independent” flyovers. Associated flyovers included those birds flying over the station, but also using the habitat (e.g., swallows foraging over the survey site), while independent flyovers included those birds flying high overhead with no apparent use of the habitat (e.g., soaring turkey vultures).

The numbers of birds recorded at each survey station during the survey period were recorded on data sheets, as were details of weather conditions at the time of the survey. Copies of the field data sheets are included with this memorandum.

## **Survey Results**

PHS recorded 43 species of birds at the five survey stations during the three point count surveys. A cumulative list of all species seen with numbers of individuals recorded at each survey station on each survey date is included with this memorandum. Note that this list does not differentiate between birds recorded within 50 meters of the survey point from those recorded more than 50 meters from the survey point. For this reason, the results for each survey station may include species that are not typically found in the types of habitat that the survey point was intended to represent. For example, Survey Station 3 was located within the oak grove in the south-central portion of the study area. Because of the small size of this habitat patch, any bird recorded greater than 50 meters from the survey station was almost certainly outside of the oak habitat, as were the Marsh Wrens recorded at Station 3 on two separate survey dates. Species recorded within 50 meters of the survey station and those recorded greater than 50 meters from the survey station are noted separately on the field data sheets.

Two special concern bird species were recorded during the avian point counts. A singing Willow Flycatcher was noted in the vicinity of Station 5 on the June 10 and June 21 surveys. Willow Flycatchers nest in scrub-shrub wetlands and shrubby riparian areas. It is likely that this species nests in suitable habitat at the wetland mitigation bank site. On the May 31 survey date, Yellow-breasted Chats were heard singing from Stations 4 and 5. Yellow-breasted Chats nest in dense, shrubby upland habitats such as blackberry thickets and regenerating clearcuts. It is likely that this species nests in the dense blackberry thickets at the edges of the mitigation bank site as well as on adjacent properties.





Species <sup>1</sup>	Birds Recorded from each Survey Station by Date <sup>2</sup>															
	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
	5/31	6/10	6/21	5/31	6/10	6/21	5/31	6/10	6/21	5/31	6/10	6/21	5/31	6/10	6/21	5/31
Gadwall (GADW)										2						
Mallard (MALL)									1	12						
Great Blue Heron (GBHE)								1		2						
Red-tailed Hawk (RTHA)							1							2	1	
Virginia Rail (VIRA)												1				
Mourning Dove (MODO)							1					2		1	1	
Anna's Hummingbird (ANHU)							1				1		1	1		
Rufous Hummingbird (RUHU)							1							1		
Red-breasted Sapsucker (RBSA)					1			1	2		1					
Northern Flicker (NOFL)											1			1	1	
Pileated Woodpecker (PIWO)							1									
Western Wood-Pewee (WWPE)	1		2				1	1	1	1					1	1
Willow Flycatcher (WIFL)																
Pacific-slope Flycatcher (PSFL)						1		1								
Warbling Vireo (WAVI)			1	2	3	1										
Steller's Jay (STJA)	1															
Western Scrub-Jay (WSJA)							1									
Tree Swallow (TRSW)										2	1					
Barn Swallow (BRSW)										4	2				1	
Black-capped Chickadee (BCCH)	1								1						1	
Chestnut-backed Chickadee (CBCH)					1	1										
White-breasted Nuthatch (WBNU)			1						1							
Brown Creeper (BRCR)				1					1							
Marsh Wren (MAWR)							1	1		1		1	1			
Bewick's Wren (BEWR)		1								1				1		
Swainson's Thrush (SWTH)		1			1			1							1	
American Robin (AMRO)	2	1	1	2		2		1	2		1	1	1	1	1	
Cedar Waxwing (CEWX)		3					1		1				7		1	
Common Yellowthroat (COYE)								1	2	1	3	5	1	4	3	
Black-throated Gray Warbler (BTYW)	1			1					1							
Wilson's Warbler (WIWA)				2										1		
Yellow-breasted Chat (YBCH)										1			1			
Spotted Towhee (SPTO)		2	1	2		1									1	
Song Sparrow (SOSP)	2	5	6				1	1	3	2	1	2		2	3	
Dark-eyed Junco (DEJU)					1										1	
Western Tanager (WETA)				1												
Black-headed Grosbeak (BHGR)	1					1		1		1	1	1				
Lazuli Bunting (LABU)				1			1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	



Species <sup>1</sup>	Birds Recorded from each Survey Station by Date <sup>2</sup>															
	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	5	5	5	5
	5/31	6/10	6/21	5/31	6/10	6/21	5/31	6/10	6/21	5/31	6/10	6/21	5/31	6/10	6/21	
Red-winged Blackbird (RW/BL)							1		1	3	1	1				
Brown-headed Cowbird (BHCO)		1								1			2	1		
Purple Finch (PUFI)		1	1			1		1	1							
House Finch (HOFI)							2									
American Goldfinch (AMGO)							1	1		1		3	2			
1. The letters within parentheses following each species name represent the four-letter banding coded for the species. These codes were used in place of full species names on the field data sheets.																
2. The numbers of birds reported for each station include birds recorded within 50 meters of the station, birds recorded greater than 50 meters of the station, and birds recorded as flyovers at the station. See the original field data sheets for a breakdown of the number of birds in each of these categories.																

Date 5/31/13Sheet 1 of 4**Bird Indicators****Point Count Data Form**

DATE: <u>5/31/13</u>				OBSERVER: <u>CET</u>	
SITE: <u>PCC - Rock Creek</u>				START TIME: <u>06:05</u>	END TIME: <u>07:14</u>
CLD:	<10%	10-50%	<u>60-90%</u>	>90%	Drizzle
WIND:				Calm - Low (0-5 mph)	Moderate (5-10 mph)
Human Dist.				Low	<u>Moderate</u> High
FIELD NOTES:					

S T N #	START TIME	SPP. CODE	TYPICAL DETECTION				FLYOVERS				J U V	F L U S H	FIELD NOTES
			0 to 50m		> 50m		ASSOC.		IND.		CNT	CNT	
			0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN			
2	0605	WAVI	1		1								
		SPTO	1	1									
		AMRO	1		1								
		WIWA			1	1							
		LABU			1								
		WETA	1										
		BRCR	1										
		BTW		1									
3	0616	ANHU	1										
		HOFI	11										
		MAWR			1								
		LABU			1								
		KUHU	1										
		RWBL			1								
		RTHA							1				

S T N #	START TIME	SPP. CODE	TYPICAL DETECTION				FLYOVERS				J U V	F L U S H	FIELD NOTES
			0 to 50m		> 50m		ASSOC.		IND.		CNT	CNT	
			0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN			
		SOSP	1										
		BHGR	1										
		MODS	1										
		CEWA	1										
		WWPE				1							
		AMGO		1									
		WSJA				1							
		PIWO				1							
4	0630	SOSP	1		1								
		RWBL	11										
		BRSN	111										
		TRSN	11										nest
		COYE	1										
		YBLH			1								
		BHCO	1										
		MA LL	12										
		GBHE										11	
		BEWR			1								
		AMGO	1										
		BHGR			1								
		MAWR	1										
		LABU				1							
		WNPE				1							
		GADW	2										



Sheet 3 of 4.

## Point Count Data Form

DATE:					OBSERVER:	
SITE:					START TIME:	END TIME:
CLD:	<10%	10-50%	50-90%	>90%	Drizzle	WIND:      Calm – Low      Moderate (0-5 mph)      (5-10 mph)
Human Dist.	Low	Moderate	High			
FIELD NOTES:						
AMCR						

[illegible]

[illegible]

## Bird Indicators

## Point Count Data Form

DATE: 6/10/13	OBSERVER: CFT	
SITE: PCC - Rock Creek	START TIME: 7:35	END TIME: 8:38
CLD: <del>10%</del> 10-50% 50-90% >90% Drizzle	WIND: <del>Calm</del> - Low Moderate (0-5 mph) (5-10 mph)	
Human Dist. Low <del>Moderate</del> High		
FIELD NOTES:		

[illegible]



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[illegible]

Sheet 3 of 4.

## Point Count Data Form

<b>DATE:</b>						<b>OBSERVER:</b>	
<b>SITE:</b>						<b>START TIME:</b>	
						<b>END TIME:</b>	
<b>CLD:</b> <10%    10-50%    50-90%    >90%    Drizzle						<b>WIND:</b> Calm – Low    Moderate (0-5 mph)    (5-10 mph)	
<b>Human Dist.</b> Low    Moderate    High							
<b>FIELD NOTES:</b>							

[illegible]

[illegible]



## Bird Indicators

## Point Count Data Form (MWMP<sup>1</sup>, 4/08)

DATE: 6/21/13		OBSERVER: CRT	
SITE: <del>TRI 4</del> PCC - Rock Creek		START TIME: 6:04	END TIME: 7:03
CLD: <10% 10-50% 50-90% <u>&gt;90%</u> Drizzle		WIND: <u>Calm = Low</u> Moderate (0-5 mph) (5-10 mph)	
Human Dist. Low <u>Moderate</u> High			
FIELD NOTES:			

			TYPICAL DETECTION				FLYOVERS				J U V	F L U S H	FIELD NOTES
S T N #	START TIME	SPP. CODE	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	0-3 MIN	3-5 MIN	CNT	CNT	
2	6:04	PUFF	I										
		BPTO	I										
		AMRO	I		I								
		CBCH			I								
		BHGR			I								
		WAVI		I									
		PSFL				I							
I	6:16	LJWP	II										
		SOSP	III		I	I					I		w / Food
		AMRO	I										
		WBNU			I								
		WAVI			I								
		SPTO		I									
		PUFF				I							

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## Point Count Data Form (MWMP<sup>1</sup>, 4/08)

<b>DATE:</b>						<b>OBSERVER:</b>	
<b>SITE:</b>						<b>START TIME:</b>	<b>END TIME:</b>
<b>CLD:</b>	<10%	10-50%	50-90%	>90%	Drizzle	<b>WIND:</b>	Calm – Low (0-5 mph)____           Moderate (5-10 mph)____
<b>Human Dist.</b>	Low	Moderate	High				
<b>FIELD NOTES:</b>							

[illegible]



Sheet \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]