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December 15, 2013

PROGRESS MEMO, Oregon Processed Vegetable Commission project:  
**Wildlife and fish use of seasonal watercourses and wetlands in vegetable producing farms  
of the Willamette Valley**

The ultimate goals of this project are to 1) provide farmers with data-based advice on maintenance and enhancement of habitat for native wildlife based on what species are using the remnant/unfarmed patches on producers farms and to 2) provide background knowledge and data to enable development of a larger project in support of Willamette Valley vegetable growers interested in Food Alliance certification. To achieve those goals, we proposed field investigations to gather data on what wildlife species are using the habitats provided by Willamette Valley vegetable producers.

Much of the work for this project will be conducted during winter 2013-14 and spring of 2014. One preliminary fish sampling visit has already been conducted, but the additional visits will be carried out as precipitation and stream water levels produce optimal conditions later this season. We were able to collect data at the relative end of the 2013 in-migration for birds. To date we have conducted a total of 7 point counts for birds on 3 cooperators' farms. During those visits we detected 50 species, several of which are of high conservation value. Because we sampled relatively late in the season, we know that more bird species (greater biodiversity) were likely present, but no longer singing and detectable in our surveys. From this preliminary pilot data however, we can argue that the habitat patches are providing valuable resources for native species of high conservation value. We have scheduled a full season of bird point counts for the

upcoming 2014 spring migration season and expect to obtain an even richer dataset. Similarly, we will conduct the herpetile surveys in synch with the spring emergence and movement season. And finally, we will place and monitor camera traps (for mammals) as soon as the spring-emerging vegetation produces increased movement and activity among the mammalian species.

We greatly appreciate having the opportunity to work with our collaborating farmers. We are excited to have an opportunity to conduct these important surveys of Oregon wildlife within these hitherto unappreciated patches of important habitat, and expect that the spring data yields will be very rich and valuable.

s/Dr. Dana Sanchez

s/Dr. Guillermo Giannico