



Department of Energy

Official File

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

January 6, 2012

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Okanogan River Land Acquisitions for Okanogan Subbasin Salmon Habitat Mitigation, Okanogan County, Washington.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the acquisition of two parcels of land in Okanogan County Washington to protect, preserve and restore salmon habitat. Both parcels are located along the Okanogan River. One parcel is 15-acres, the other is 83-acres, see attached map for more information. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our process and schedule, and tells you where to call if you have any questions or want further information. Additional information is also available online at www.efw.bpa.gov.

Proposal

The Bonneville Power Administration is working with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to acquire and manage two parcels of land in Eastern Washington along the Okanogan River. Protecting these parcels and the habitat they contain is important because the Okanogan River watershed supports populations of summer and fall Chinook and sockeye salmon as well as upper Columbia River steelhead, that are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This watershed was selected for preservation and restoration efforts because healthy habitat is shrinking in the area, and development poses increasing risk that existing habitats will be converted to other land uses in the future.

Schedule

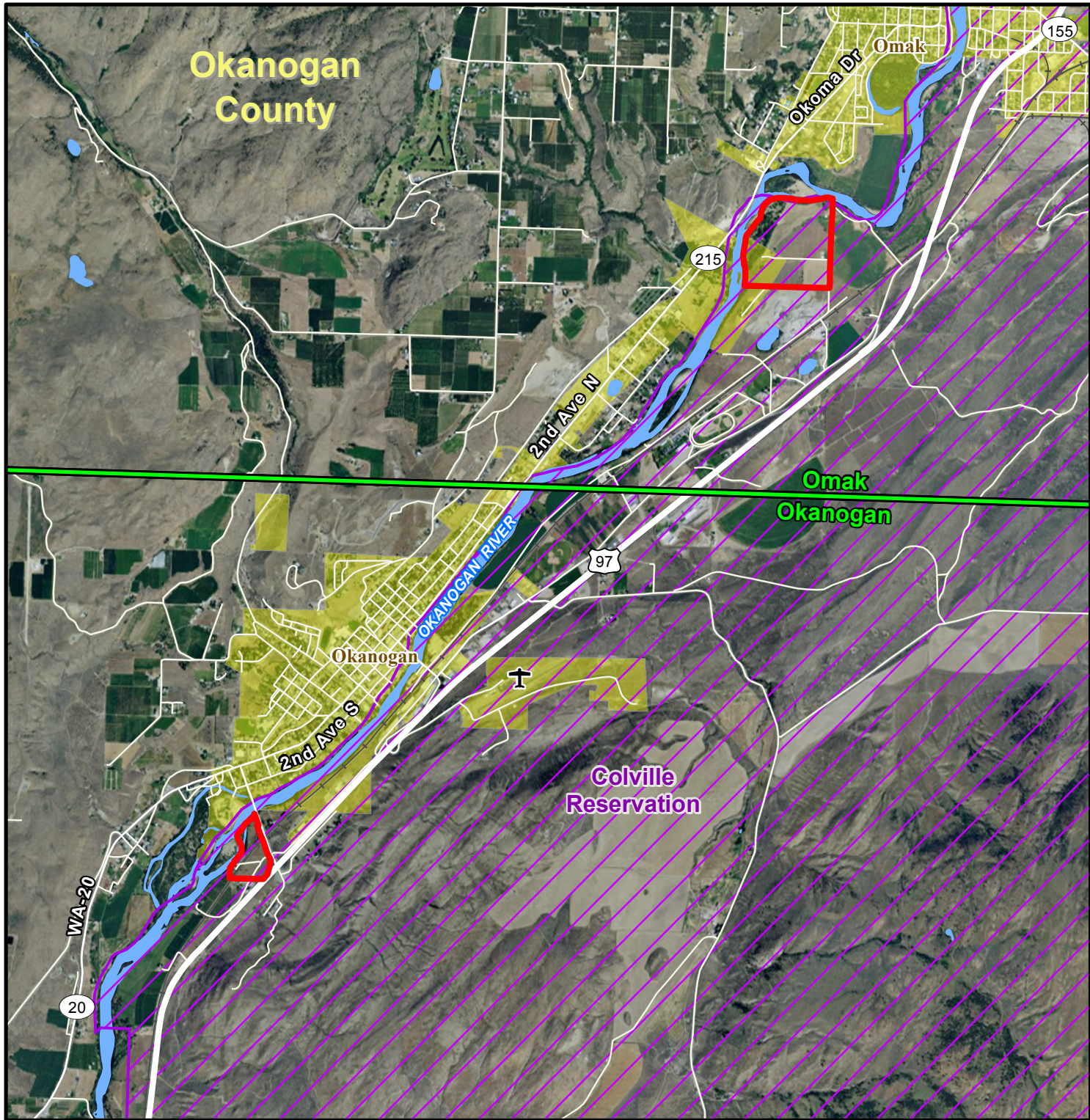
The transactions are expected to be completed in Feb. 2012. If the properties are purchased they would be owned and managed by the Colville Confederated Tribes. BPA would receive a conservation easement on the properties to ensure that the habitat is protected in perpetuity. Funding for the proposed acquisitions and conservation easements is among the commitments made in the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords, which were signed by the Colville Confederated Tribes and three federal agencies. Purchasing these properties would help mitigate for fish habitat losses due to the construction and operation of federal dams in the Columbia River basin.

For More Information






If you have questions about this proposal or would like additional information, contact Dave Roberts of BPA at (503) 230-4511, (800) 282-3713 or daroberts@bpa.gov.

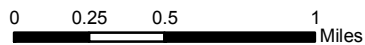
Sincerely,

Jenna Peterson
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4



Map for Public Notification Okanogon River Acquisition
Omak and Okanogon Quadrangles
 (113 Acres)

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------|---|----------------|
|  | Subject Property |  | City Boundary |
|  | Quad Name and Boundary |  | Public Airport |
|  | Indian Reservation | | |



Washington