



## Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 12, 2012

In reply refer to: KEW-4

**To: People interested in the proposed Natapoc land acquisition under the Federal Columbia River Power System Mitigation Program**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the purchase of 155.45 acres in Chelan County, Washington for the purpose of implementing salmonid habitat improvements and habitat conservation. The Natapoc land acquisition is a joint effort between the Yakama Nation (YN) Upper Columbia Habitat Restoration Project (UCHRP) and the Yakama Nation Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Project. The property will be purchased with funds provided to the Yakama Nation through the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords that established a partnership between federal agencies, tribes and states to implement protective actions for fish. Following the acquisition of the property, BPA will receive a conservation easement to ensure the habitat is protected forever.

BPA would provide funding as part of ongoing efforts to protect, restore, and enhance habitat for Upper Columbia steelhead and spring Chinook that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Restoration would also benefit bull trout and a variety of non-listed native fish and upland birds and mammals. Purchasing this land would partially mitigate for the construction and operation of the dams on the Columbia and Snake River, and would satisfy some of BPA's requirements for the Columbia River basin identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008 Biological Opinion that guides the protection of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

The enclosed map shows the location of the proposed land purchase. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of this property is categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that further environmental review of this funding action is not required. This categorical exclusion was approved on June 12, 2012, and has been posted on BPA's website at: [http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/categorical\\_exclusions.aspx](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorical_exclusions.aspx)

A management plan that identifies proposed restoration activities and future productive uses allowed on the property will be completed by the Yakama Nation within a year. They will provide an opportunity for public review and comment on the plan once it has been drafted. BPA will review and must approve the plan before it is implemented.

If you have any questions regarding this acquisition, please contact Jay Marcotte, BPA project manager, at 503-230-3943 or [jgmarcotte@bpa.gov](mailto:jgmarcotte@bpa.gov). You can also call toll free 800-622-4519—please refer to the “Natapoc land purchase”.

Sincerely,

/s/ Ted Gresh, June 12, 2012

Ted Gresh

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:

Map



Natapoc Property Acquisition  
 Chelan County, WA  
 (155.96 Acres)

 Subject Property

