



FactSheet

October 2009

Land acquisitions benefit salmon habitat in Northern Washington

The Bonneville Power Administration is working with the Colville Confederated Tribes to acquire two parcels of land in northern Washington to preserve, protect and restore habitat for fish.

Both properties are in the Okanogan River watershed in Okanogan County, Wash. The watershed supports summer and fall chinook and sockeye salmon, as well as endangered Upper Columbia steelhead. Acquisition of the properties would protect the riverbanks, limit residential development and protect and enhance creek habitat.

One property consists of 120 acres of land along Omak Creek, a tributary to the Okanogan River. The property is located within the Colville Confederated Tribes Indian Reservation.

The second property consists of nearly four acres along Ninemile Creek, a tributary to the Okanogan River. The property is located within the North Half, ceded land that is historically important hunting and fishing grounds for the Colville Confederated Tribes.

Funding for the proposed acquisition is among the commitments made in the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords. The Accords established firm, 10-year funding commitments to habitat and hatchery actions and greater clarity about biological benefits to fish and wildlife.

BPA proposes to acquire the properties as partial mitigation for fish habitat losses due to construction and operation of the Columbia River hydroelectric system.

Land to get management plan

The properties are expected to be acquired in fall 2009. If acquired, the Colville Confederated Tribes would place a conservation easement on the property to ensure that the fisheries value and habitat are protected. The tribes would develop a management plan that would guide the long-term protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property.

For more information

If you have questions about these proposals or would like additional information, contact Dave Roberts of BPA at (800)282-3713, 503-230-4511, or daroberts@bpa.gov. You may also contact Keith Kistler of the Colville Confederated Tribes at (509)422-7429 or keith.kistler@colvilletribes.com.



Okanogon River Watershed Land Acquisition

Okanogon County, Wash.

