



FactSheet

November 2009

Acquisitions would protect habitat in Touchet River watershed

The Bonneville Power Administration is working with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to acquire and manage three land parcels along the South Fork Touchet River in Columbia County, Wash.

The properties proposed for acquisition contain habitat for threatened summer steelhead and bull trout. The area, located in southeastern Washington, is best known for its high quality habitat for big game, including large populations of elk and deer. The habitat also supports black bear, cougar, blue and ruffed grouse, wild turkey, California quail and a wide variety of forest-dwelling birds.

The acquisitions total 2,340 acres, and would be managed by the tribes to preserve and restore habitat for resident and anadromous fish and wildlife. If acquired, the parcels would become part of the adjacent Rainwater Wildlife Area, an 8,678 acre wildlife preserve created with BPA funding in 1998.

BPA proposes to fund this acquisition as partial mitigation for habitat losses related to construction and operation of the federal Columbia River hydroelectric system.

Land to get updated management plan

The lands are expected to be acquired in winter 2009/2010. If acquired, the management plan for the Rainwater Wildlife Area would be amended to guide the long-term protection and enhancement of the property. Activities anticipated to be addressed include road obliteration, noxious weed control, boundary fence construction and posting and instream and riparian habitat enhancement. The public will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the management plan. Pending BPA approval of the management plan, no forest management, grazing or other land management activities would occur except those needed for habitat maintenance and protection.

For more information

If you have questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Wynn Avocette at 503-230-5049, 800-282-3713, or wgavocette@bpa.gov. You may also contact Allen Childs of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation at 541-969-3142 or allenchilds@ctuir.com.



Rainwater Wildlife Area Additions

Columbia County, Wash.

