



Fact Sheet

December 2009

Okanogan County land acquisitions protect salmon, steelhead habitat

To protect fish habitat in northeastern Washington, the Bonneville Power Administration is working with the Colville Confederated Tribes to acquire two parcels of land in the Okanogan River watershed (see map). The property, located in Okanogan County, totals approximately 17 acres and includes more than one-third mile of footage along Salmon Creek, a tributary of the Okanogan River.

The Okanogan Basin supports populations of threatened upper Columbia steelhead as well as summer and fall chinook and sockeye salmon. Over the years, various land-use disturbances have degraded stream channel conditions, elevated temperatures and increased sediment levels in the Okanogan River and its tributaries. Acquisition of these parcels would protect the riverbanks, limit residential development and protect and enhance creek habitat.

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

If these parcels are acquired, which is expected in winter 2010, a conservation easement would be placed on the property to ensure that the fisheries values and habitat are protected in perpetuity. The Colville Confederated Tribes would provide long-term oversight for the land and develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property.

Pending BPA's approval of the management plan, any activities that could damage the existing habitat values (such as development and construction) would be prohibited.

For more information

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





Salmon Creek Land Acquisition

Okanogan County, Wash.



Map for Public Engagement
Salmon Creek Land Acquisition
 Okanogan Quadrangle
 17 Acres

 Subject Property
 City Boundary

0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

