



FactSheet

January 2010

Yakima County land acquisition would protect both fish and wildlife

Steelhead, chinook, coho and riparian-dependent wildlife all would benefit if a proposed Yakima County land acquisition is finalized. The Bonneville Power Administration is working with the Yakama Nation to acquire a 33.25-acre parcel of land north of the city of Toppenish, Wash., to protect fish and wildlife habitat.

The property runs along the Yakima River and contains important in-stream and riparian habitat in the historic floodplain portions of the agricultural valley on the Yakama Reservation. The acquisition and subsequent restoration of this property would benefit threatened fish species as well as riparian habitat for a wide variety of wildlife, including waterfowl, bald eagles, herons, mule deer, songbirds and small mammals.

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

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

Land covered under management plan

This property is expected to be acquired in winter 2010. If acquired, the Yakama Nation would protect this land under its Wetlands and Riparian Restoration Project and manage it in accordance with the Wapato Wildlife Area Management Plan. The Wapato Wildlife Area is upstream of the property along the Yakima River. The management plan is available for public viewing in the office of the Yakama Nation Wildlife Resource Management Program in Toppenish.

For more information

If you have any questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Jay Marcotte of BPA at 503-230-3943, 800-282-3713 or jmarcotte@bpa.gov. You may also contact Tracy Hames of the Yakama Nation at 509-865-5121 ext. 6309 or tracyhames@yakama.com.



Yakima County Land Acquisition

