



# Fact Sheet

March 2010

## Acquisition would protect salmon habitat in the Okanogan River Watershed

Environmental values are an important part of our Pacific Northwest heritage, and at the Bonneville Power Administration, protecting the environment and fish and wildlife is one of our core functions. This is especially relevant as development and other activities threaten the pristine areas that we, as a region, hold dear. That's why BPA is proposing to fund the purchase of 138.03 acres in Washington's Okanogan River watershed (see map).

This property borders the Okanogan River in Okanogan County, northeastern Washington. It fronts the Okanogan River for three-quarters of a mile and runs along the border of Aeneas Creek for one-quarter of a mile.

### Why this watershed

The Okanogan River watershed supports populations of summer and fall chinook and sockeye as well as upper Columbia steelhead, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The property proposed for purchase contains fish habitat that would provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of anadromous fish habitat losses due to federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. This watershed was selected for restoration and preservation efforts because natural habitat is shrinking in the area, and development poses increasing risk that more habitat will be lost in the future.

Over the years, various land-use disturbances have degraded stream channels, elevated temperatures and increased sediment levels in the Okanogan River and its tributaries.

Acquisition of the property would protect the riverbank by limiting residential development. It would also protect and enhance Aeneas Creek, which provides cold water salmon need

### Part of a bigger picture

Funding for the proposed property acquisition and a related conservation easement is among the commitments made in the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords, which were signed by the Colville Confederated Tribes and three federal agencies (BPA, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation).

The Accords established 10-year commitments to habitat and hatchery actions and greater clarity about biological benefits of those actions. The Accords build on NOAA Fisheries' plans for improving salmon and steelhead runs listed as endangered or threatened and on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's fish and wildlife program.



## Land would be managed

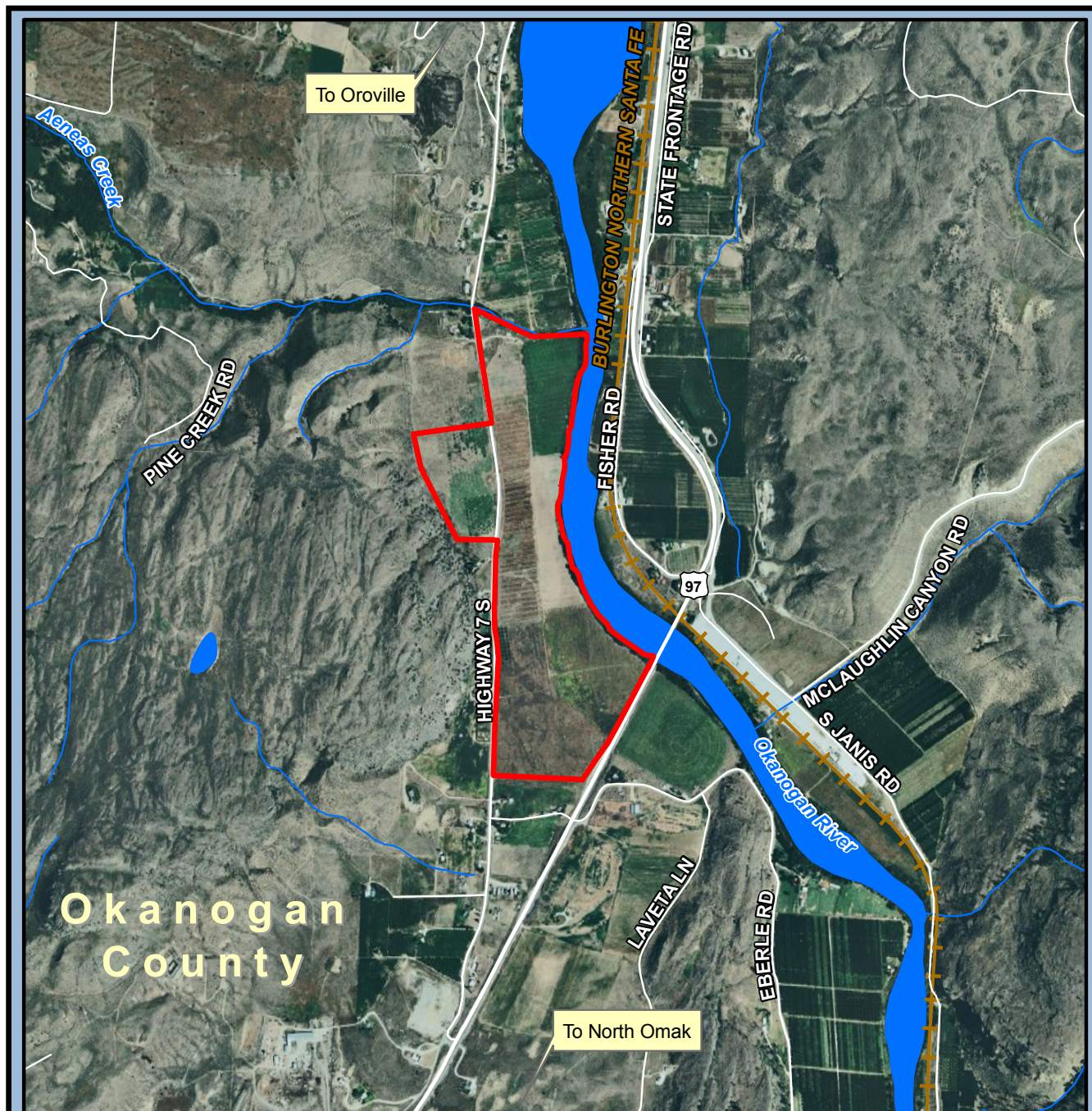
BPA expects to decide whether to acquire the property in spring 2010. If the agency proceeds with the acquisition, a conservation easement would be placed on the property to ensure that its fisheries values and habitat are protected in perpetuity. The Colville Confederated Tribes would provide long-term oversight for the land and develop a management plan that would guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property.

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



## For more information

If you have questions about this proposal or would like additional information, contact Dave Roberts with the Bonneville Power Administration, toll-free at 800-282-3713 or 503-230-4511 or [daroberts@bpa.gov](mailto:daroberts@bpa.gov). You may also contact Keith Kistler of the Colville Confederated Tribes at 509-422-7429 or [keith.kistler@colvilletribes.com](mailto:keith.kistler@colvilletribes.com).

# Okanogan River Acquisition Okanogan County



**Map for Public Engagement Okanogan River Acquisition**  
Tonasket Quadrangle  
(138.03 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  Railroads

