

# BPA funds Okanogan County habitat for wildlife

Location: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Okanogan County, Wash. (see map)

**Acres:** 2,313

Purpose: The Bonneville Power Administration is funding the purchase of two parcels of land in Okanogan County for wildlife habitat protection. The properties provide habitat for sharp-tailed, blue and sage grouse as well as for mule and white-tailed deer, bobcat, mourning doves, Lewis' and downy woodpeckers, mink, bats and waterfowl. Funding these acquisitions will partially mitigate for wildlife habitat losses due to the construction and inundation of Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams, part of the Federal Columbia River Power System. The purchase is expected to be finalized in August 2010.

Type of action: BPA will fund the purchase of these properties as part of the Washington Wildlife Mitigation Agreement. Under this agreement, BPA provides funds for the acquisition and management of wildlife habitat by a coalition of Washington entities that includes the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Both parcels are privately owned and are within the boundaries of the Colville Tribes' reservation. When the purchase has been completed, the Colville Tribes will own the lands, and BPA will receive conservation easements on each parcel. The easement places development restrictions on the land, ensuring that the habitat will be protected in perpetuity.

Land management: The land will be managed and protected by the Colville Tribes. During development of the property's management plan, the Colville Tribes will provide information about opportunities for public involvement. Pending BPA approval of the management plan, no streamside development, grazing or other land management activities would occur other than maintenance and protection, such as weed control or fence maintenance.

#### For more information

#### BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION:

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## CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION:

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### **BPA Fish and Wildlife Program**

BPA's fish and wildlife program protects and preserves valuable fish and wildlife habitat throughout the Northwest. Since its inception in 1980, the program has set aside more than 300,000 acres of land, benefiting hundreds of species. The program protects habitat from development, either through outright purchase of land or by purchasing conservation easements on privately owned property. BPA works in partnership with conservation groups, local tribes and state fish and wildlife management agencies.



## Okanogan County Wildlife Habitat

Okanogan, Washington

