



Fact Sheet

HABITAT CONSERVATION – PUBLIC NOTICE

August 2010

BPA funds habitat acquisition in Lane County

Location: Springfield, Lane County, Oregon,
(see map)

Acres: 58

Partner: McKenzie River Trust.

Purpose: The Bonneville Power Administration is funding the acquisition of 58 acres in the Willamette Valley near the town of Springfield, Ore., on the southeast side of Green Island near the confluence of the Willamette and McKenzie rivers. The property contains important in-stream habitat for Upper Willamette River chinook and Oregon chub listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. There is an active gravel mine operating on the site. Under the terms of the acquisition, gravel mining would stop and the property would be restored to protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.

Funding this acquisition provides partial wildlife mitigation credit and Willamette Biological Opinion fish credit for habitat losses due to the construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities in the Willamette Valley. The purchase is expected to be final in September 2010.

Type of action: BPA will fund the purchase of the property. In exchange, it will receive a conservation easement that will prevent habitat conversion and secure rights to restore and maintain wildlife habitat. The McKenzie River Trust will own and manage the property.

Land management: All other property on Green Island is owned by the McKenzie River Trust, which manages the land for conservation purposes to benefit fish and wildlife. The McKenzie River Trust has developed a management plan for the other properties

and will update the plan to include the new acquisition. The property has significant potential to generate additional in-stream habitat for upper Willamette River chinook and Oregon chub and to create better floodplain connectivity with the Willamette and McKenzie rivers. This area has a high level of channel complexity. Restoring the gravel ponds will contribute to the habitat value. It is anticipated that the restoration activities on this property can serve as a model for shallow gravel pit restoration elsewhere in the Willamette Valley.

For more information, contact:

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION:

Sandra Fife, project manager 800-622-4519 or 503-230-3678, SAFife@bpa.gov

MCKENZIE RIVER TRUST:

Ryan C. Ruggiero, land protection manager 541-345-2799, rruggiero@mckenzieriver.org

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.



Green Island

Lane County, Oregon

