BPA funds habitat acquisitions in Okanogan County

Location: Three properties located in Okanogan County, Wash. The first is near the town of Barker; the second is near the town of Omak, and the third property is near the town of Bridgeport. (see attached maps)

Acres: 73, 4 and 15 acres respectively

Partners: The Colville Confederated Tribes

Purpose: The Bonneville Power Administration is funding the purchase of three properties in Okanogan County for the protection and restoration of salmon habitat. Funding these acquisitions and their associated conservation easements is among the commitments made in the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords. BPA's Accord partners, the Colville Confederated Tribes, selected the Okanogan subbasin for conservation and restoration because development pressures pose an increasing threat to remaining fish habitat in the basin. Purchasing these properties will protect habitat for summer and fall chinook and sockeye salmon, as well as Columbia River steelhead that are listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Funding for the purchase of these properties will partially mitigate for anadromous fish habitat losses due to the construction of federal dams in the Columbia River Basin. The agreement is expected to be finalized in September 2010.

Type of action: The purchases will be funded by BPA. The Colville Confederated Tribes will own and manage the lands. BPA will receive a conservation easement on the properties. The terms of the easement place development restrictions on the land, ensuring that it will be protected in perpetuity as natural open space.

Land management: The Colville Confederated Tribes will manage and protect the land. When the acquisition has been completed, the Colville Confederated Tribes will lead the development of management plans to guide the protection and enhancement of resources on the properties. The Colville Confederated Tribes will provide information about opportunities for public involvement during development of the properties' management plans. Pending BPA approval of the management plans, no streamside development, grazing, or other land management activities would occur other than maintenance and protection of existing resources, such as weed control or fence maintenance.

For more information, contact

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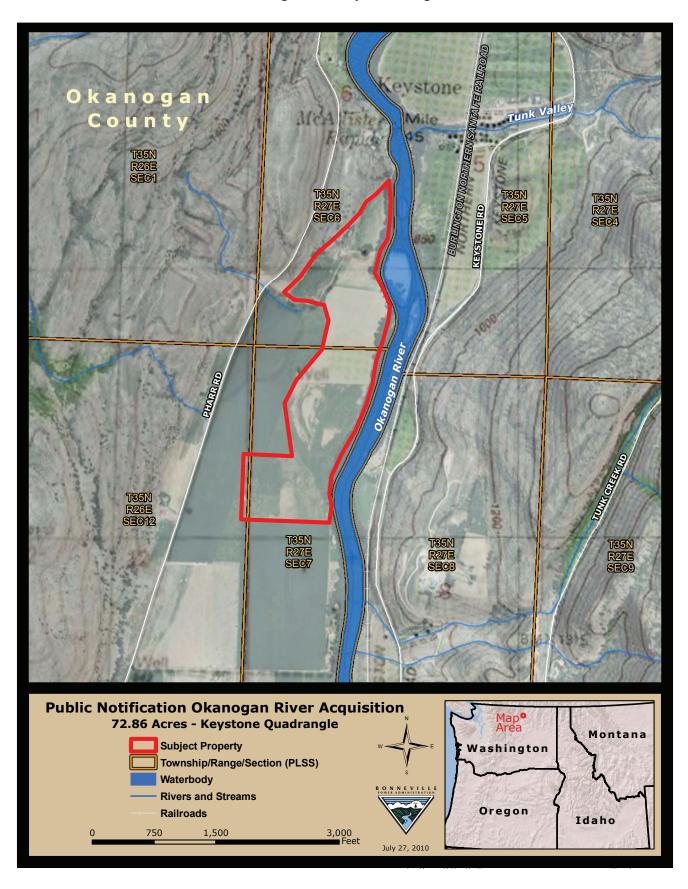
BPA Fish and Wildlife Program:

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.



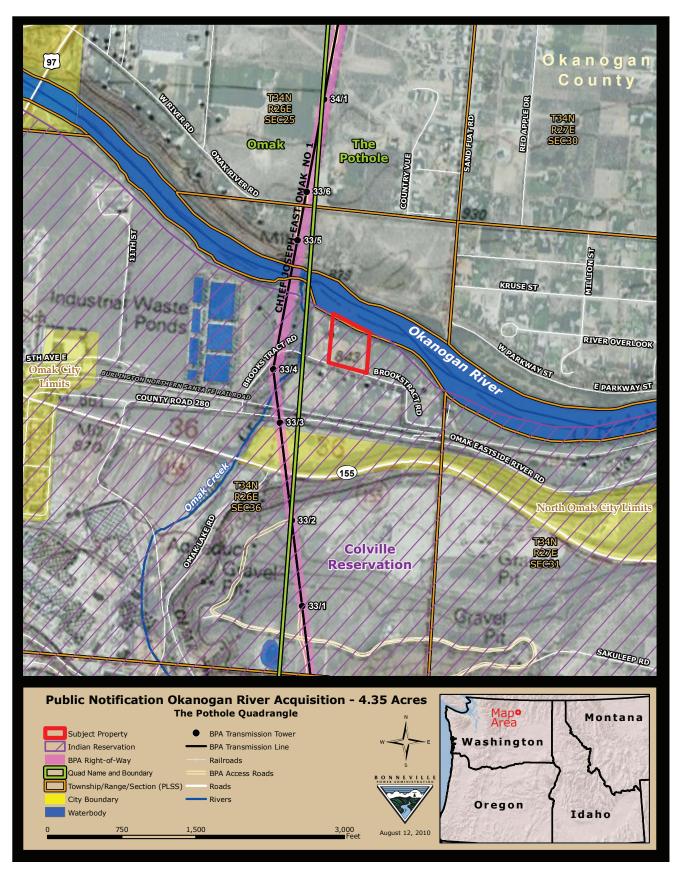
Okanogan River

Okanogan County, Washington



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