



# Fact Sheet

HABITAT CONSERVATION – PUBLIC NOTICE

December 2010

## Habitat protection proposed for the Methow River watershed

**Location:** Winthrop, Okanogan County, Wash.

**Acres:** 17

**Partners:** Yakama Nation and the Methow Conservancy

**Purpose:** The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to acquire a 17-acre conservation easement on high quality anadromous and resident fish habitat in Washington's Methow River watershed. The West Chewuch acquisition will protect spawning, rearing and migrating habitat used by spring chinook salmon, steelhead and bull trout listed as either threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. This is a Yakama Nation Accords project, an agreement among Northwest federal agencies, three states and several tribes.

The Accords established firm 10-year funding commitments to Accord partners for habitat and hatchery actions. Accord projects provide greater clarity about the biological benefits of projects and build on NOAA Fisheries' biological opinions for listed salmon and steelhead and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's fish and wildlife program. Funding this acquisition partially mitigates for the fish habitat losses due to the construction and operation of federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River. The purchase is expected to be finalized in January 2011.

**Type of action:** The Yakama Nation and the Methow Conservancy are partnering with BPA to purchase this conservation easement. BPA will provide funding as part of its Accords commitment with the Yakama Nation. When the transaction is complete, the Methow Conservancy will own the conservation easement, and

BPA will have a third-party right of enforcing the easement. The existing landowner has agreed to donate an additional 24 acres to the Methow Conservancy, bringing the total acres protected by this acquisition to 41.

**Land management:** The Methow Conservancy will provide long-term stewardship for the land as defined in a management plan that must be approved by BPA.

The Methow Conservancy will provide opportunities for review and public involvement in the development of the management plan.

### For more information

#### BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

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#### CONFEDERATED TRIBES AND BANDS OF THE YAKAMA NATION

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#### THE METHOW CONSERVANCY

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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.



# West Chewuch Riparian Conservation Easement

## Okanogan County, Washington



**West Chewuch Riparian Conservation Easement Project Vicinity**  
**Lewis Butte**  
**(16.83 Acres)**

-  West Chewuch Riparian Conservation Easement
-  BPA Funded Conservation Easement
-  Quad Name and Boundary

