



Fact Sheet

HABITAT CONSERVATION – PUBLIC NOTICE

January 2011

Proposed acquisitions would protect threatened steelhead and bull trout in Kittitas County

Location: Ellensburg, Kittitas County, Wash.

Acres: 56

Partners: Yakama Nation

Purpose: BPA is proposing to fund the purchase of three properties along Reecer Creek in Washington's Yakima River watershed to protect fish habitat. The protected habitat will benefit Mid-Columbia River steelhead and Columbia River bull trout that are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This habitat also supports spring-run chinook salmon, coho salmon, and other native species of fish and wildlife.

Funding these acquisitions fulfills commitments in the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords. They build on NOAA Fisheries' plans for recovering salmon and steelhead runs listed under the ESA and on the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia River Basin Fish and Wildlife Program. These purchases help BPA mitigate for fish habitat lost to the construction and operation of federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River. The purchases are expected to be finalized in February 2011.

Type of action: BPA is providing funds to the Yakama Nation for the purchase of these properties. When the transactions are complete, the Yakama Nation would own and manage the land. BPA would receive a conservation easement designed to protect the habitat values in perpetuity.

Land management: The Yakama Nation will lead the development of a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of fish habitat and other natural resources on these properties. They will provide information about opportunities for public involvement during development of the management plan. Pending approval of the management plan by BPA, land management will be limited to operations or maintenance actions. Because these properties are located within Ellensburg city limits, initial land management activities will focus on protecting and securing sites consistent with the stewardship of the natural resources located on the properties.

For more information:

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

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

Lisa Wright, BPA Environmental Compliance Lead 800-622-4519 or 503-230-4047, LSWright@bpa.gov

YAKAMA NATION'S YAKIMA-KLICKITAT FISHERIES PROGRAM:

Scott Nicolai, Yakima Subbasin Habitat Coordinator 509-962-6142, YKFPhabitat@farirpoint.net

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 550,000 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.



Reecer Creek Land Acquisitions





Kittitas County, Washington



Reecer Creek Land Acquisitions Vicinity Map

Ellensburg North and Ellensburg South Quadrangles

(56 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary
-  City Boundary
-  Railroads

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

