

# Fact Sheet

HABITAT CONSERVATION – PUBLIC NOTICE

January 2011

## BPA proposes to fund salmon habitat protection in the Okanogan River watershed

**Location:** The Loup Loup Creek property is located near Malott, Wash. The Aeneas Creek property is located near Tonasket, Wash. Both are in Okanogan County, Wash.

**Acres:** Combined total of 24 acres.

**Partners:** The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

**Purpose:** The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the purchase of two properties in the Okanogan River watershed to protect salmon habitat. The Loup Loup Creek property is four acres and the Aeneas Creek property is 20 acres. These properties were selected for acquisition to protect and restore fish habitat and high-quality water sources. Development pressures increase the risk that remaining habitat will be converted to other uses. The Okanogan watershed supports populations of summer/fall chinook salmon, sockeye salmon and Upper Columbia River steelhead, which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Funding these acquisitions and associated conservation easements 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. Funding these purchases also helps 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 would fund the purchase of these properties. When the transactions are complete, the Colville Tribes would own and manage the land; BPA would receive a conservation easement. The easement places development restrictions on the land to protect habitat values in perpetuity.

**Land management:** The Colville Tribes 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.

### For more information

**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION:**

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**COLVILLE CONFEDERATED TRIBES:**

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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 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.



# Loup Loup Creek & Aeneas Creek Land Acquisitions

## Okanogan County, Washington

