



# Fact Sheet

HABITAT CONSERVATION – PUBLIC NOTICE

March 2011

## Proposed Beaver Creek land purchase would protect fish habitat

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

**Acres:** 145

**Partners:** Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, the Yakama Nation and Trout Unlimited

**Purpose:** The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the purchase of 145 acres along Beaver Creek in the Methow River watershed in north-central Washington to protect and restore fish habitat. The Methow River watershed is important for fish conservation because it supports populations of Upper Columbia spring chinook salmon, Upper Columbia steelhead, and Columbia River bull trout, which are all listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

This proposed acquisition would fulfill a commitment made with the Yakama Nation in the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords. The Accords 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.

**Type of action:** BPA is proposing to provide funding to the Yakama Nation to purchase the land. The transaction is expected to be finalized in April 2011. The Yakama Nation may undertake additional habitat restoration work on the property. When the transaction is complete the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will own and manage the land for conservation purposes. In a separate but related action, Trout Unlimited purchased waters rights from the same landowner. This will improve habitat values for fish by moderating temperature and making more water available for fish during late summer months. It is anticipated that the property would be sold within the next few years.

At that time, the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation will place a conservation easement on the property and grant BPA a third party right of enforcement to ensure that habitat values are protected in perpetuity.

**Land management:** Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation in cooperation with the Yakama Nation will develop a management plan to protect and restore the resources on the property. Pending BPA approval, the management plan would include riparian restoration, weed control, fencing and fire management.

### For more information

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**CONFEDERATED TRIBES AND BANDS OF THE YAKAMA NATION:**

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**METHOW SALMON RECOVERY FOUNDATION:**

Chris Johnson, board president, 509-997-0028, [msrf@communitynet.org](mailto:msrf@communitynet.org)

**TROUT UNLIMITED:**

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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.



# Beaver Creek land acquisition

Okanogan County, Washington

