



Fact Sheet

HABITAT CONSERVATION – PUBLIC NOTICE

March 2011

Proposed Ninemile Creek land purchase would protect fish habitat

Location: Oroville, Okanogan County, Wash.

Acres: 6

Partners: Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

Purpose: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the purchase of six acres along Ninemile Creek, a tributary of the Okanogan River located in north central Washington. The Okanogan River watershed supports populations of Upper Columbia River summer/fall chinook and Okanogan River sockeye salmon, which are not listed, as well as Upper Columbia steelhead which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Protecting the habitat on this property with a conservation easement would benefit these species and other native populations of fish and wildlife and would prevent this land from being converted to other types of land uses.

This proposed acquisition will fulfill a commitment made with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords. The Accords build on NOAA Fisheries' plans for recovering 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 proposes to fund the purchase of this property in April 2011. When the

transaction is 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 to get management plan:

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 this property. 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:

Dave Roberts, project manager, 503-230-4511, daroberts@bpa.gov

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION:

Keith Kistler, anadromous fisheries biologist, 509-422-7429, or keith.kistler@colvilletribes.com

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.



Ninemile Creek land acquisition

Okanogan County, Washington

