

factsheet

August 2006

Omak Creek acquisition to protect summer steelhead habitat

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the purchase of two adjacent land parcels to protect and improve spawning, rearing and migratory habitat of summer steelhead and other salmonids in lower Omak Creek, Okanogan County, Wash. The two parcels, totaling 5.72 acres, are within the lowermost 0.5 mile of Omak Creek and include 193 feet of creek frontage.

Tribe to manage land

The land has been acquired by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation for the purposes of improving the riparian and instream habitats, reducing possible adverse impacts to the habitat, and providing the Colville Tribes access to evaluate this lower reach of Omak Creek. The Colville Tribes has requested funding from BPA to pay the balance owed on the property.

The Tribes have discontinued livestock and horse grazing on the property which will encourage native plants to return, improve access to Omak Creek habitat for Upper Columbia River summer steelhead, and increase riparian understory. Additionally, they hope to increase the hydrological connection in the lower reach of the river by not pumping ground water from wells on the property.

In return for its partnership funding, BPA will ask for a conservation agreement so that the land resources can be afforded long-term protection and conservation.



Property to be acquired. Omak Creek is located on the right side of the photo.

For more information

If you have questions regarding this acquisition or would like additional information, please contact Carl Keller at (503) 230-7692 or cjkeller@bpa.gov.

You may also contact Sarah Branum, BPA, at (503) 230-5115 or stbranum@bpa.gov; or Christopher Fisher, Colville Tribes, at (509) 422-7427 or Chris.Fisher@colvilletribes.com.

