

# factsheet

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November 2007

## Conservation easement to protect critical habitat along Flathead River

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a 670-acre conservation easement in northwest Montana (see map). Located along the Flathead River near Kalispell, this easement would protect critical fisheries and wildlife habitat as well as prime agricultural lands.

The Flathead River and its braided stream channel systems provide a protected environment for the spawning and rearing of threatened bull trout as well as the west slope cutthroat trout. Bald eagles, osprey, herons and river otter are some of the other key native species that make this area their home.

This property, which consists of three separately owned parcels, is a critical centerpiece of the Flathead River System Riparian Habitat Conservation Plan. It is surrounded by conservation easements held by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, The Nature Conservancy, the Flathead Land Trust and the Montana Land Reliance. Many of the private farms and ranches in the area have been involved in a long-term initiative to protect the sensitive riparian resources around their working lands.

Acquiring the easement will provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of fish and wildlife habitat losses due to construction and operation of the federal Hungry Horse Dam, located on the Flathead River.

### What happens next

After BPA finalizes the easement, which is expected by the end of this year, The Trust for Public Land will acquire the conservation easement. It will then be conveyed to the Montana Land Reliance, the largest land trust in Montana, for long-term stewardship.

A land management plan developed by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property.

### For more information

If you have any questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Cecilia Brown with Bonneville Power Administration, at (503) 230-3462 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or [ckbrown@bpa.gov](mailto:ckbrown@bpa.gov).

You may also contact Kelly Ramirez with The Trust for Public Land at (406) 522-7450 or [kelly.ramirez@tpl.org](mailto:kelly.ramirez@tpl.org).



# Flathead River Conservation Easement

## Flathead County, Montana

