

factsheet

November 2007

Squeezer Creek conservation easement protects fish habitat in Swan Valley

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a 320-acre conservation easement in northwest Montana to protect critical habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout in a reach of Squeezer Creek in Lake County.

Squeezer Creek provides high-quality cold water habitat for native fish, and this easement would protect one of the most important spawning areas in the Swan Valley for the threatened bull trout. Additionally, this parcel of land is home to other threatened and endangered species, such as the grizzly bear, Canada lynx and grey wolf. This easement would also enhance previous conservation efforts in the area, including the conservation easement in the Goat Creek and Squeezer Creek watersheds that protected 7,204 acres for the benefit of fish and wildlife.

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

What happens next?

By late fall 2007, the current property owner (The Trust for Public Land, a national, nonprofit land conservation organization) is expected to sell the property to Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, which will then grant a permanent conservation easement on the property to BPA.

Once the easement has been finalized, which is expected by March 2008, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks would provide long-term stewardship for the property. To guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks will develop a long-term management plan. The plan will address fish and wildlife needs, watershed health and forest management practices as well as public access issues. The public will be given the opportunity to review and provide comments on the management plan.

Pending BPA approval of the management plan, no forest management, grazing or other land management activities would occur on the property, with the exception of maintenance and protection activities, such as weed control or fence maintenance.

For more information

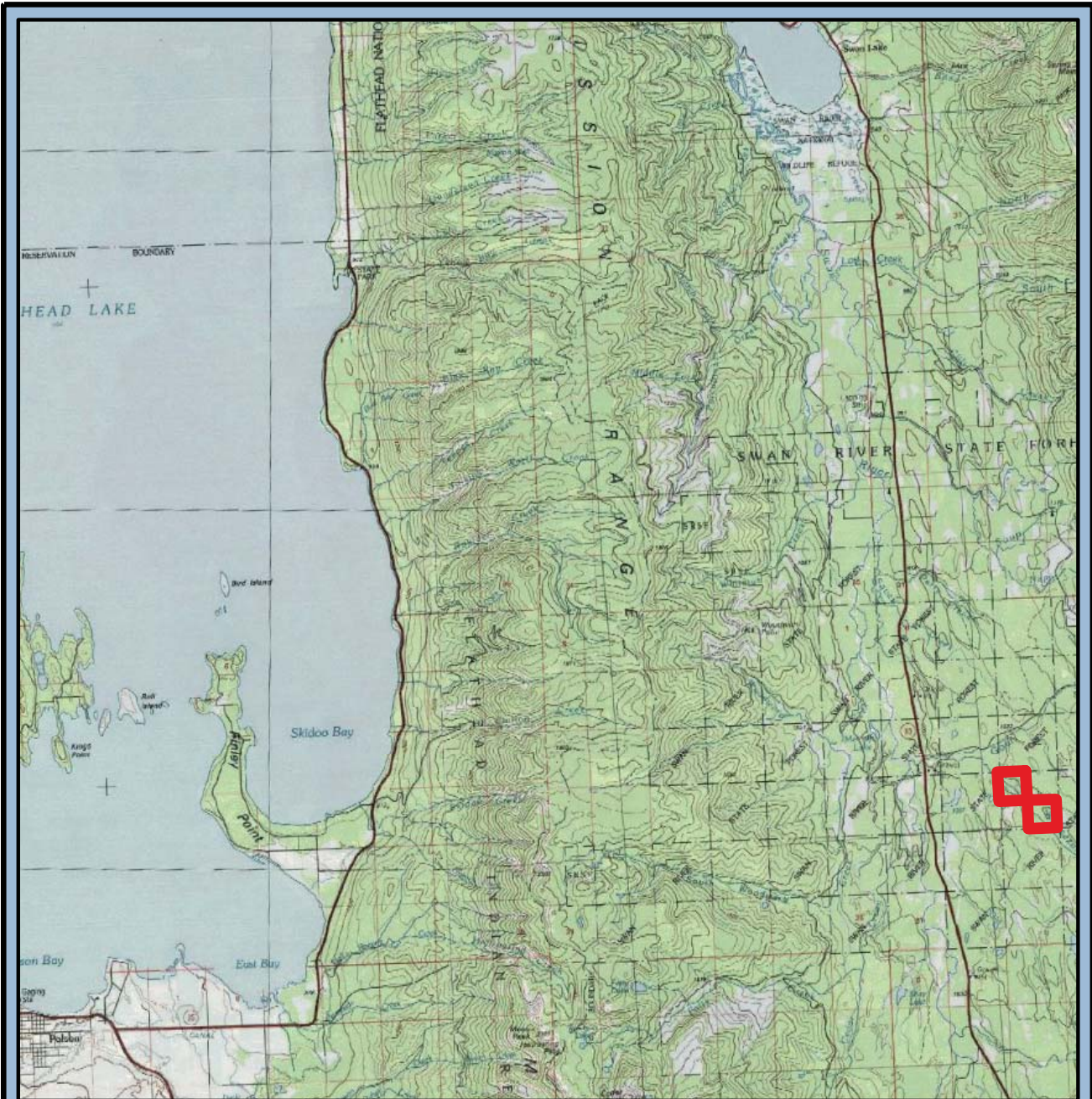
If you have any questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Cecilia Brown, BPA, at (503) 230-3462 or toll free at (800) 622-4519 or ckbrown@bpa.gov.

You may also contact Alan Wood with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at (406) 751-4595 or awood@mt.gov; or Robert Rasmussen with The Trust for Public Land at (406) 443-4017 or Robert.Rasmussen@tpl.org.



Squeezer Creek Conservation Easement

Lake County, Montana



Squeezer Creek Conservation Easement

Lake County, Montana



Subject Property

