

factsheet

September 2008

Acquisition protects fish habitat in Yakima County

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the acquisition of about 300 acres of land in central Washington's Yakima County for fish and wildlife habitat mitigation (*see map*). This property supports Chinook salmon as well as federally threatened mid-Columbia summer steelhead and bull trout.

Located near the confluence of the Naches and Tieton rivers, the property is in a strategic and critical location for fish and wildlife in the Naches River Basin. This acquisition would protect existing high-quality stream, riparian and floodplain habitat. It would also allow future habitat enhancements that would return the area to a natural functioning riparian ecosystem. Improving elements such as off-channel rearing, riparian habitats and water-diversion efficiencies in this reach are identified as critical components for salmonid species in the Yakima Subbasin plan.

Acquiring this land would provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of fish and wildlife habitat losses due to the construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities. The property would be owned and managed by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Land to get management plan

Once this property has been acquired, which is expected in September 2008, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of resources on the property. The public would be given the opportunity to review and provide comments on the management plan.

Pending BPA approval of the management plan, no land management would occur on the property except maintenance and protection.

For more information

If you have any questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Patty Smith with the Bonneville Power Administration at (503) 230-7349 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or e-mail prsmith@bpa.gov.

For information on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife mitigation acquisition program or wildlife management program, contact Leah Hendrix with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife at (509) 457-9312 or e-mail hendrlh@dfw.wa.gov.



Oak Flats Land Acquisition

Yakima County, Washington

