

factsheet

August 2008

Post Creek conservation easement protects trout habitat in Montana

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a 120-acre conservation easement in Montana's Post Creek Watershed for fish habitat mitigation (see map).

Located in Lake County in northwestern Montana, this property is part of a watershed that provides critical habitat for bull trout, a resident fish listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The Post Creek watershed also supports local populations of resident and migratory westslope cutthroat trout, a species that is considered at risk by local tribes and the state of Montana.

This property, which is located within the boundaries of the Flathead Indian Reservation, was selected for protection for several reasons.

First, it is within the Post Creek watershed, a critical area for bull trout and is also home to the westslope cutthroat trout. Over the years, various land-use disturbances degraded stream channel conditions, elevated water temperatures and increased sediment levels in the river, leading to a decline in fish populations. The Post Creek Watershed was selected as a focus for restoration efforts because the high rate of development in the area increases the risk that more habitat resources will be damaged in the future.

Second, this land is significant to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and evidence of traditional use goes back hundreds of years.

Third, acquiring the easement would provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of resident fish habitat

losses due to the construction and inundation of Hungry Horse Dam, a federal dam located on the South Fork of the Flathead River. Other agencies involved with this project include Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Land to get management plan

If this proposed easement is acquired, which is expected in summer 2008, a conservation easement will be placed on the property to ensure that the fisheries values and habitat are protected in perpetuity. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will provide long-term oversight for the land and work cooperatively with the landowner to develop a management plan that will guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property.

Pending BPA's approval of the management plan, any activities that could damage habitat (such as harvesting of wood products, grazing of livestock or construction of buildings) would be prohibited on this land.

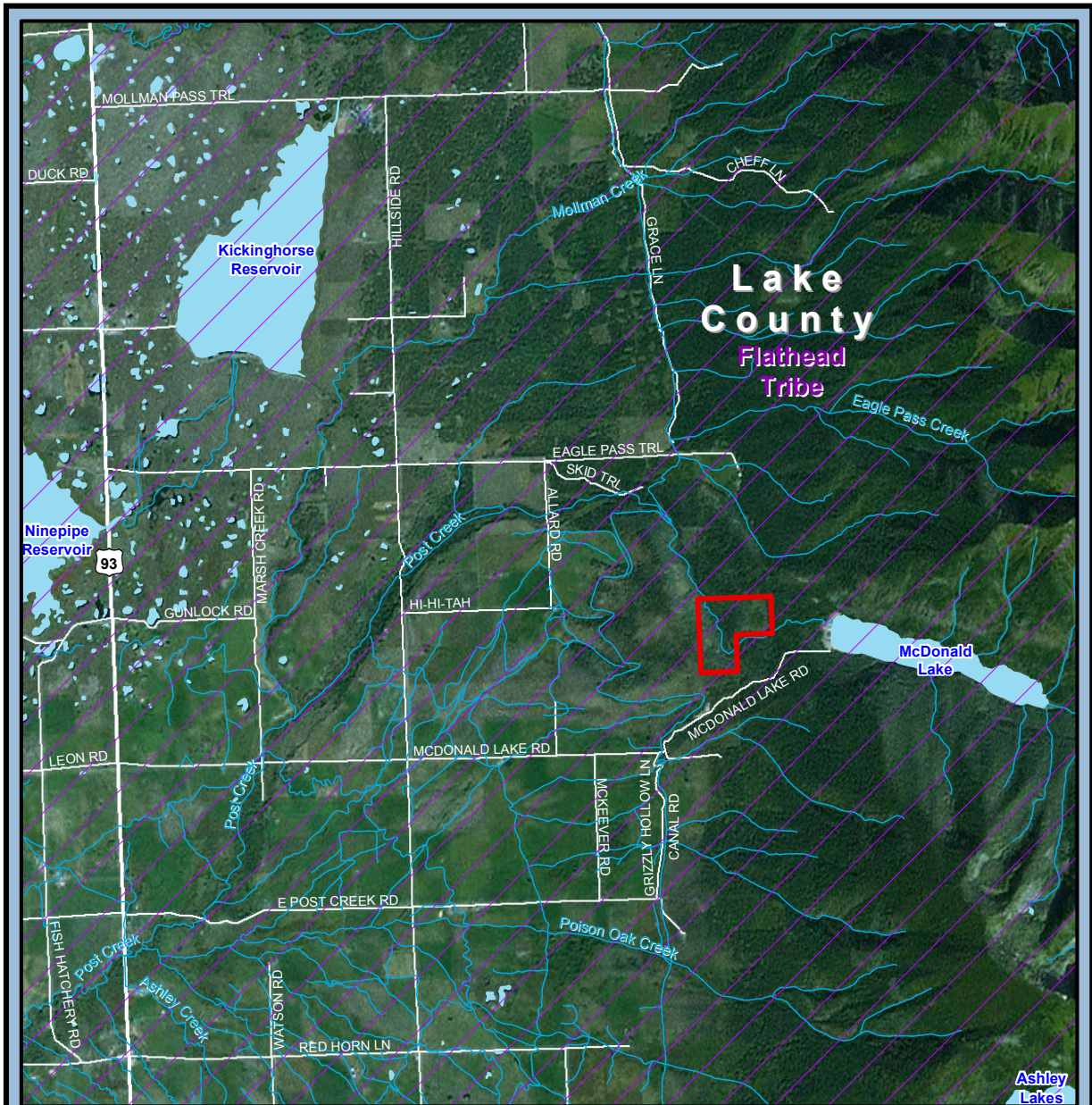
For more information

If you have any questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Cecilia Brown, BPA, at (503) 230-3462, toll-free at (800) 282-3713 or via e-mail at ckbrown@bpa.gov. You may also contact Lynn DuCharme of the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes at (406) 883-2888 or via e-mail at lynnd@cskt.org.



Post Creek Watershed Conservation Easement



Lake County, Montana



Post Creek Watershed Conservation Easement

(120 Acres)

Fort Connah Quadrangle

-  Land Acquisition Area
-  Tribal Lands

