

factsheet

March 2009

Foy's Bend conservation easement protects bull trout habitat in Flathead County

The Bonneville Power Administration is currently working with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks to fund the state's acquisition of a 245-acre parcel of land along the Flathead River south of Kalispell, Mont., for fish habitat mitigation (see map). Once the proposed land is acquired, which is expected in spring 2009, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks would convey a conservation easement on the property to BPA to ensure that the fisheries values and habitat are protected in perpetuity. This parcel is one of the highest-ranked conservation projects being proposed jointly by MFWP and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Located in Flathead County in northwestern Montana, this property comprises a major peninsula located along the mainstem Flathead River at the transition zone from upper braided river to a more quiet meandering section above Flathead Lake. The mainstem provides passage for native bull trout moving from Flathead Lake to the upper forks of the Flathead River for spawning and rearing and their return as adults to Flathead Lake.

The property includes almost two miles of riverbank habitat and over 100 acres of cottonwood gallery forests, ponds and other riparian/wetlands. It is adjacent to nearby conservation easements that protect nearly 830 acres on which river bank riparian restoration work has already been implemented.

This project would help protect and restore an important aquatic link between Flathead Lake and the upper forks of the Flathead River and allow

MFWP to restore river bank vegetation and deciduous shrub and riparian wetland habitats, helping ensure that development and other activities would not degrade this sensitive and important habitat.

The property proposed for acquisition and easement would provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of resident fish habitat losses due to the construction of Hungry Horse Dam, a federal dam located on the South Fork of the Flathead River, and inundation of the land behind the dam.

Land to get management plan

MFWP would provide long-term stewardship and management of the land and develop a management plan to ensure the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property. MFWP may propose to retain use of the existing homesite for an on-site caretaker to address public access and issues. Other details of land management and restoration plans would be subject to the Montana Environmental Policy Act draft Environmental Assessment and public review processes and would need to be approved by BPA.

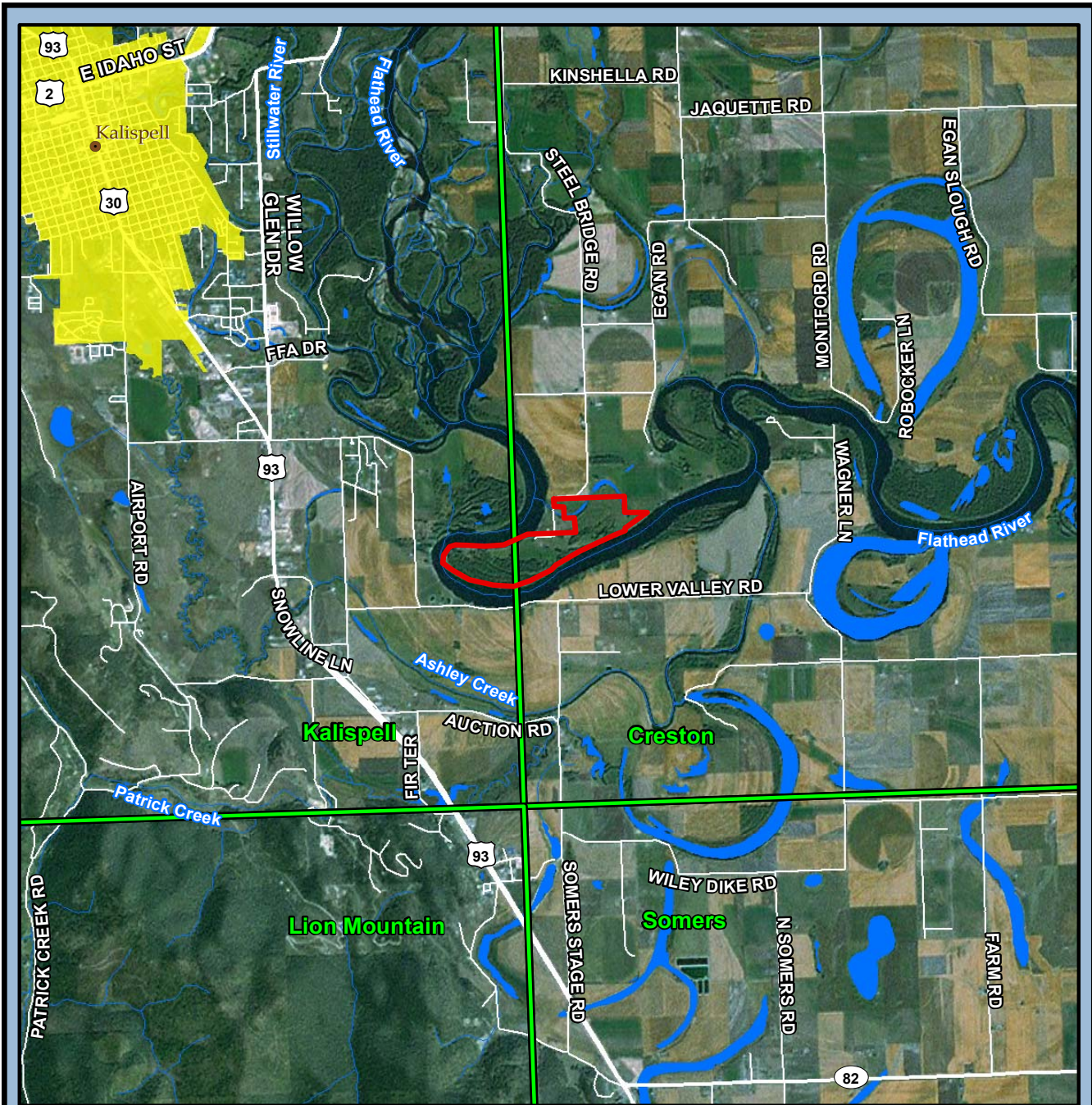
For more information

If you have any questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Cecilia Brown, BPA, at (503) 230-3462, at (800) 282-3713 or at ckbrown@bpa.gov. You may also contact John Wachsmuth at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks at (406) 751-4554 or at jwachsmuth@mt.gov.






Foy's Bend Land Acquisition

Flathead County, Washington



Foy's Bend Acquisition
Kalispell and Creston Quadrangles
(245 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary
-  City Boundary

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

