

factsheet

March 2009

Land acquisition protects fish habitat in Wahkiakum County, Wash.

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the Columbia Land Trust (CLT) through its contract with the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (LCREP) to acquire 305 acres of hillside forest, riparian and seep wetland habitat in Wahkiakum County, Wash (see map) for permanent fish habitat conservation and stewardship. Acquisition of this property for permanent conservation would ensure that the habitat functions are not compromised by future land uses and activities.

The property includes portions of Grays River, Crazy Johnson Creek and tributaries. Watershed assessments and salmon recovery plans identified the site as a high priority property for conservation because of its value as spawning habitat for a critical chum population. It also supports fall chinook, winter steelhead, coho and a wide variety of other fish and wildlife species. The site is also valuable for its connectivity to other conservation and restoration efforts within the watershed.

The property proposed for acquisition contains habitat that 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.

Land to get management plan

Once this proposed property has been acquired, which is expected in the spring of 2009, a management plan to guide habitat protection and enhancement would be developed with input from local leaders and property owners within this river reach.

Management activities would likely include selective timber harvest in upland areas where threat to aquatic resources can be limited with certainty, where there is a good opportunity to enhance stand structure and facilitate growth and where trees can be accessed with very low impact. Management activities would also strive to reduce sediment inputs to the Grays River and its tributaries.

For more information

If you have questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Tracey Yerxa, Bonneville Power Administration, at (503) 230-4738 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or e-mail tyerxa@bpa.gov. You may also contact Cherie Kearney, Columbia Land Trust, at (360) 213-1209, or e-mail ckearney@columbialandtrust.org.



Crazy Johnson Land Acquisition

Wahkiakum County, Washington

