

factsheet

July 2009

Beaver Creek conservation easement protects steelhead habitat

The Bonneville Power Administration is working with the Yakama Nation to fund the Methow Conservancy's acquisition of an 80-acre voluntary conservation easement on Beaver Creek in Okanogan County, Wash.

Located in north-central Washington, the easement would protect habitat for upper Columbia steelhead, spring and summer Chinook, and bull trout. Spring Chinook salmon are listed as endangered, and bull trout and steelhead are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Easements help restore salmon, steelhead

Ongoing efforts to restore habitat along Beaver Creek have resulted in spawning of steelhead and Chinook salmon for the first time in nearly 100 years. This easement would allow the removal of the last fish barrier on Beaver Creek and would create a natural meandering stream, replacing the existing channelized portion along upper Beaver Creek Road.

The easement would provide durability for a Bonneville Power Administration and Yakama Nation restoration project on Beaver Creek funded through the historic 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords. These Accords established firm, 10-year funding commitments to habitat and hatchery actions and greater clarity about biological benefits. The easement would also provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of anadromous and resident fish habitat losses due to construction and operation of the federal Columbia River hydroelectric system.



Land to get management plan

The easement is expected to be finalized in summer 2009, protecting this valuable habitat in perpetuity. The Methow Conservancy would hold the easement and work with the landowner to develop a long-term management plan to protect and enhance the habitat. This plan would be updated regularly to account for changes on the property and consider the best available science and regional opportunities for restoration.

The management plan would prohibit any activities that could damage fish or wildlife habitat.

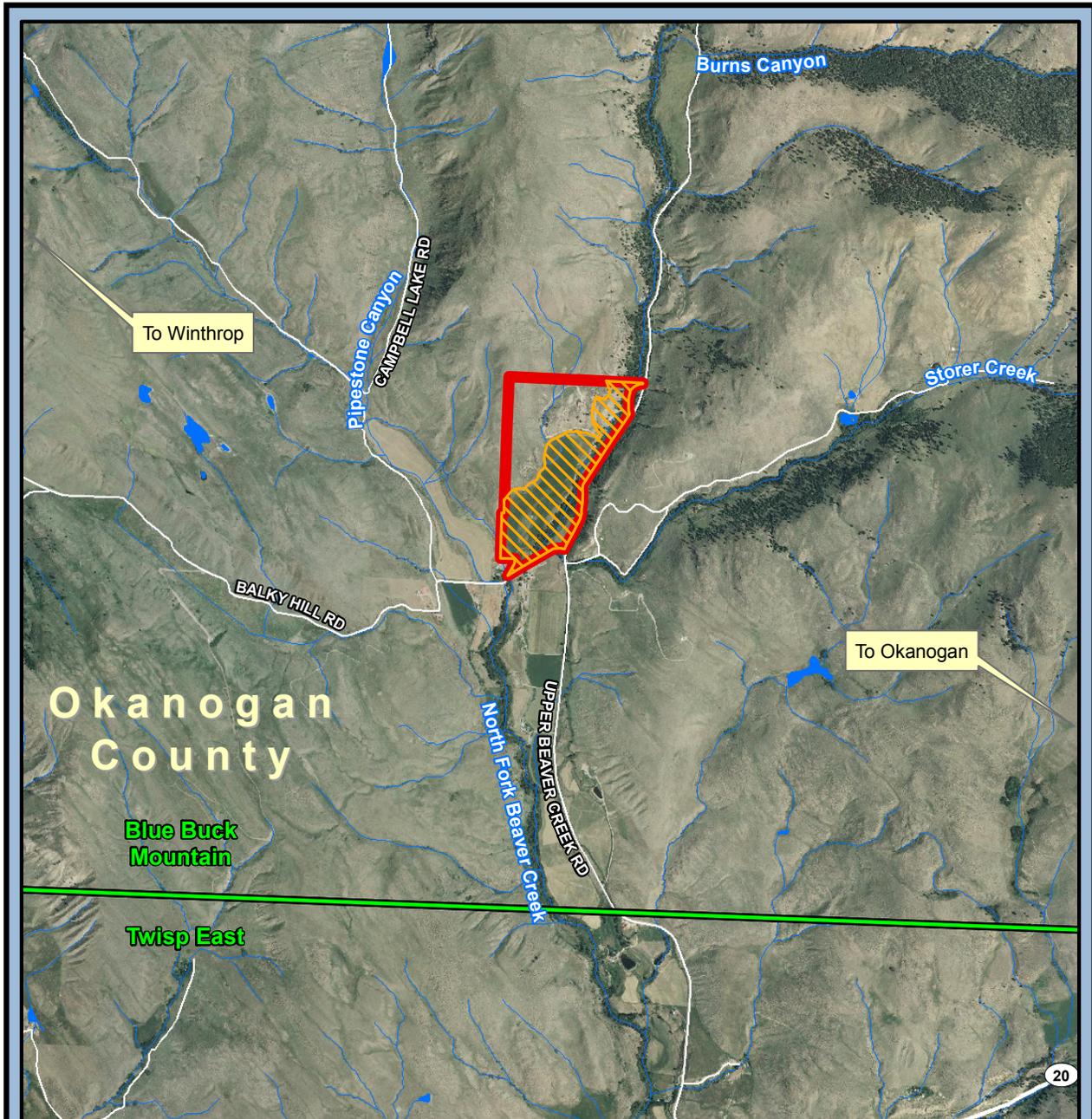
For more information

If you have questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Jay Marcotte, BPA, at (503) 230-3943, or toll-free at (800) 282-3713 or via e-mail at jgmarcotte@bpa.gov. You may also contact John Sunderland, the Methow Conservancy, at (509) 996-2870 or via e-mail at john@methowconservancy.org.



Beaver Creek Conservation Easement

Okanogan County, Washington



Beaver Creek Conservation Easement (80 Acres)
Blue Buck Mountain Quadrangle

-  Subject Property
-  Easement Purchase Area
-  Quad Name and Boundary

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles