

factsheet

Acquisition of Conservation Easement on Elk Creek

The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund the acquisition of land near the mouth of Elk Creek, a major tributary to the Swan River in northwest Montana. The project will benefit bull trout in the Swan Valley. BPA is requesting comments on its proposal through June 1, 2006.

Elk Creek is a major spawning, rearing, staging and migratory tributary for threatened bull trout. The project is part of the ongoing fish enhancement program of Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes.

Land to get management plan

The Swan Ecosystem Center, a nonprofit community organization in Condon, Mont., would acquire the land and develop a management plan for it. The center also would provide information about opportunities for public involvement in the development of its management plan for the property in the future.

Pending BPA approval of the management plan, no forest management, grazing or other land management activities would occur except maintenance and protection, such as weed control and tree planting. After the land management plan is developed and approved, some forest management activities could be allowed.

Easement terms insure protection

In return for its partnership funding, BPA would receive credit for meeting some of its obligation to mitigate the environmental impacts of construction of Hungry Horse dam and reservoir.

BPA would insure long-term protection of the land by holding a permanent conservation easement on it. Under this easement, public access compatible with habitat protection would continue, but development would generally be prohibited unless it benefited the resident fish.



Comments welcome through June 1

We would appreciate your comments on this proposed land conservation project through June 1, 2006. Please reference "Hungry Horse Mitigation Acquisition – Elk Creek." Send comments to:

Bonneville Power Administration,
Public Affairs Office DKC-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland OR 97293-4428

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Online: www.bpa.gov/comment

E-mail: comment@bpa.gov

Fax: (503) 230-3285.

Phone: (800) 622-4519.

For more information

If you have any questions regarding this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Colleen Spiering at (503) 230-5756 or caspiering@bpa.gov.

You may also contact Anne Dahl, Executive Director of Swan Ecosystem Center, (406) 754-3137, swanec@blackfoot.net; or Gael Bissell (MFWP), (406) 751-4580, gbissell@mt.gov; or Alan Wood (MFWP), (406) 751-4595, awood@mt.gov.