

# factsheet

April 2006

## Completing the North Swan Valley Conservation Project

The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to partially fund a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks purchase of a conservation easement on Plum Creek Timberlands property in the North Swan Valley, Montana. The easement will conserve stream habitat in the Goat and Squeezer creek drainages, protecting bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout and other resident fish. BPA is requesting public comments on its proposal through June 1, 2006.

### Funding to finish the project

The North Swan Valley Conservation project will protect 7,200 acres of Plum Creek Timberlands within the Swan River State Forest. MFWP Commission and the Montana State Land Board approved the North Swan Valley Conservation project in December 2005 following environmental and public review.

MFWP purchased a conservation easement on 6,083 acres this February using Forest Legacy Program and private funding.

BPA and additional private funding would allow MFWP to buy a conservation easement on the remaining 1,121 acres.

### Ratepayers get contribution credit

In return for its partnership funding, BPA would acquire the right to enforce the easement on the entire conservation easement area. BPA would receive credit for meeting some of its obligation for mitigating the environmental impacts of construction of Hungry Horse dam and reservoir.

All BPA costs are paid by Northwest electricity users on their power bills; BPA funding is a contribution by Northwest power ratepayers to mitigate the environmental impacts of the power system.

### Easement terms remain unchanged

The conservation easement terms for the entire area protected would remain as they are now for the area already under protection. The terms prohibit subdivision and residential development but provide for continued commercial forest management in a manner that conserves riparian and upland habitat. The entire conservation easement will be held by MFWP.



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## Comments welcome through June 1

We would appreciate your comments on this proposed land conservation project through June 1. Please reference “Hungry Horse Mitigation Acquisition – Squeezer/Goat Creek.” Send comments to:

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

Online: [www.bpa.gov/comment](http://www.bpa.gov/comment)

E-mail: [comment@bpa.gov](mailto:comment@bpa.gov)

Fax: (503) 230-3285.

Phone: (800) 622-4519.

## For more information

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

You may also contact Gael Bissell (MFWP), (406) 751-4580, [gbissell@mt.gov](mailto:gbissell@mt.gov); or Alan Wood (MFWP), (406) 751-4595, [awood@mt.gov](mailto:awood@mt.gov); or Robert Rasmussen (The Trust for Public Land), (406) 443-4017, [robert.rasmussen@tpl.org](mailto:robert.rasmussen@tpl.org).