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BPA and Burns Paiute Tribe join forces to protect and restore 1,760 acres for fish and wildlife

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Bonneville Power Administration

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BURNS, Ore. – The Bonneville Power Administration has funded the purchase of 1,760-acre Logan Valley Ranch, located south of the Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area in the Malheur National Forest. The Burns Paiute Tribe will hold title and manage the property.

"This is an example of how ratepayer dollars are invested in environmental projects with potentially large dividends," said Judi Johansen, BPA administrator. "Our Native American partners will now take the project and enhance it as habitat for fish and wildlife."

BPA funded the purchase of the Logan Valley Ranch from The Nature Conservancy for \$2 million using BPA's fish and wildlife budget.

According to Dan Gonzalez, Burns Paiute Tribe's program manager, the tribe lost its

1.7 million-acre reservation in 1872. The current reservation was purchased and placed into reservation status through a presidential executive order in 1972. This acquisition is the first since re-establishment of the reservation.

The ranch has been used extensively for summer and early fall grazing, as well as for meadow hay production for the past 80 years. The previous owners were good stewards of the land, but their main objective was livestock production. The property is home to mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, antelope, upland sandpipers and sandhill cranes. ESA listed species include bull trout and bald eagle. Species proposed for ESA listing include redband trout and Canada lynx.

A management plan will be developed by the tribe with the help of an advisory group. The management plan will address all issues concerning the operation of the property.

The Burns Paiute plan to dedicate the property in June.

One of the ways BPA restores habitat is by purchasing land and having other organizations own and manage it. All such purchases are credited against a ledger of habitat losses resulting from dam

construction.

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