



Land conservation easement will protect wildlife in Western Montana

What's happening

Bonneville Power Administration is working with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to preserve, protect and restore the local environment and cultural resources located on a parcel of land called “Finley Creek” in western Montana.

The property is in the Flathead Lake watershed in Lake County, MT and is currently managed for livestock grazing. The area consists of the Finley Creek riparian corridor, which is surrounded by grasslands and forests and supports a variety of native and non-native fish, wildlife and vegetation, including black bears, bobcats and red foxes.

The property consists of a 40-acre parcel approximately 2.5 miles southeast of Arlee. See the map below for the precise location.

When the transaction is complete, this property will become part of a growing network of conservation lands providing important and long-lasting wildlife, habitat and ecological benefits.

Legal obligation and funding

Funding the purchase of the Finley Creek plot would partially mitigate effects from development and operation of Hungry Horse Dam, located about 100 miles upstream. BPA would maintain the conservation easement to permanently protect, mitigate and enhance threatened and endangered fish and wildlife and their habitat.

BPA and the CSKT intend to establish secure and permanent funding for stewardship of the property. As part of this, BPA will make a one-time lump sum payment into a stewardship account to support CSKT's procurement of long-term stewardship.



“Finley Creek” land conservation will protect animals like the black bear. Photo credit: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks.

Land to get management plan

The CSKT is developing a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat, wildlife and cultural resources on the property. The management plan will be reviewed by BPA for consistency set forth in the conservation easement and the intended purposes of conserving this plot of land. If BPA proposes to fund any additional activities on the property, further environmental review may be conducted.

Stewardship management may include, but is not limited to: public outreach, site monitoring, habitat mapping, encroachment monitoring, invasive species monitoring and control, and annual maintenance of boundary fencing, signage or gates.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact the project manager, Cecilia Brown, at 503-230-3462, or ckbrown@bpa.gov. You can also call Communications toll free at 800-622-4519. Please refer to the “Finley Creek” project.

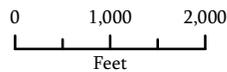




Finley Creek Conservation Easement Acquisition Public Notification Map

Lake County, MT - Arlee USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle
(40.42 Acres)

- Proposed Acquisition Area
- County Boundary



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