Pack River acquisition protects habitat in northern Idaho

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the acquisition of five acres of land in northern Idaho along the Pack River near Trout Creek for wildlife habitat mitigation (see map).

This parcel is adjacent to a larger property already purchased under the Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Program. Acquiring this five-acre parcel would provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of wildlife habitat losses due to construction and operation of the federal Albeni Falls Dam on the Pend Oreille River. To date, BPA has mitigated over 34 percent of the habitat that was lost through combining efforts with partners like the Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Kootenai Tribes, Kalispell Tribe, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

Located in Bonner County, the property provides forested wetland and wetland scrub-shrub habitats for waterfowl and game species. This land contributes to the long-term plan of providing a safe movement corridor for wildlife along the Pack River. Additionally, the Pack River provides migratory habitat for threatened bull trout.

The property would be owned and managed by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. As owner of the property, Idaho Fish and Game would pay a fee in lieu of taxes to Bonner County.

Land to get management plan

Once this property has been acquired, which is expected in February 2008, Idaho Fish and Game will incorporate it into the Trout Creek Habitat Segment of the Pend Oreille River Wildlife Management Area.

The management plan for this wildlife management area is currently being amended and will guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property. The public will be given the opportunity to review and provide comments on the management plan.

Pending BPA approval of the management plan, no forest management, grazing or other land management activities would occur on the property except maintenance and protection.

For more information

If you have any questions regarding this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Rachel Rounds with the Bonneville Power Administration at (503) 230-3967 or toll free at (800) 282-3713 or rrounds@bpa.gov.

For information on the Idaho Department of Fish and Game’s mitigation acquisition program or wildlife management program, contact Kathy Cousins with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game at (208) 769-1414 or kcousins@idfg.idaho.gov.