



# Fact Sheet

June 2010

## Bingham County land acquisition is the next step in recovering Snake River sockeye

The Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund the purchase of a 73-acre parcel near the town of Springfield, Idaho (see map). This land would be used to develop a new hatchery capable of rearing up to 1 million full-term sockeye salmon smolts annually.

This proposed purchase is part of the Snake River Sockeye Salmon Captive Broodstock Program, which was initiated in 1991 following the federal listing of Snake River sockeye salmon as

endangered. The BPA-funded captive broodstock program is co-managed by Idaho Department of Fish and Game and NOAA Fisheries staff with rearing facilities in Idaho and Washington.

Originally a gene conservation program, the captive broodstock program is now preparing to address the long-term recovery objectives of the Snake River sockeye program by expanding a “production-level” program with the facility and resources needed to rear and release increased numbers of full-term smolts annually. Increased smolt production is critical to returning large numbers of anadromous adults to the Stanley Basin. The reliance on greater numbers of naturally-returning adult sockeye will be an important “next step” in the ultimate recovery of Snake River sockeye in Idaho.

Under the Idaho Fish Accords, BPA funded a process to identify and scope the availability, value and suitability of property dedicated to the rearing of Snake River sockeye salmon. The acquisition of a suitable property is for development of a hatchery is also part of BPA’s commitments under the current 2008 NOAA Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System.



*The Springfield Hatchery site would help federal and state agencies rebuild the Redfish Lake sockeye salmon run. These hatchery-bred sockeye returned to the lake and spawned naturally in 2008. (Photo courtesy of Jeff A. Heindel, Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game)*



## The proposed Springfield Fish Hatchery

IDFG has worked collaboratively with BPA over the last few years to identify and purchase land for a facility capable of expanding the Snake River sockeye salmon captive broodstock program. The proposed Springfield Fish Hatchery is a 73-acre site located in Bingham County, Idaho. The water source is cool (52° F), pathogen-free artesian water from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer, and water rights are in excess of 50 cubic-feet per second. The existing infrastructure is aging and not capable of rearing fish. Existing facilities will be razed, and new construction is planned to include:

- Employee housing to accommodate up to three permanent staff as well as a small dormitory for seasonal support staff.
- An administrative building.
- Incubation and early-rearing facilities to raise up to 1 million sockeye.
- Aquaculture infrastructure (tanks, raceways, feed storage).
- Associated effluent and water treatment ponds.

Current plans also call for retaining a small fishing pond on site as a public day-use area; pond maintenance and upkeep are not associated with the BPA-funded sockeye program. Construction of new facilities and the expansion of the program will be addressed in a future NEPA document.

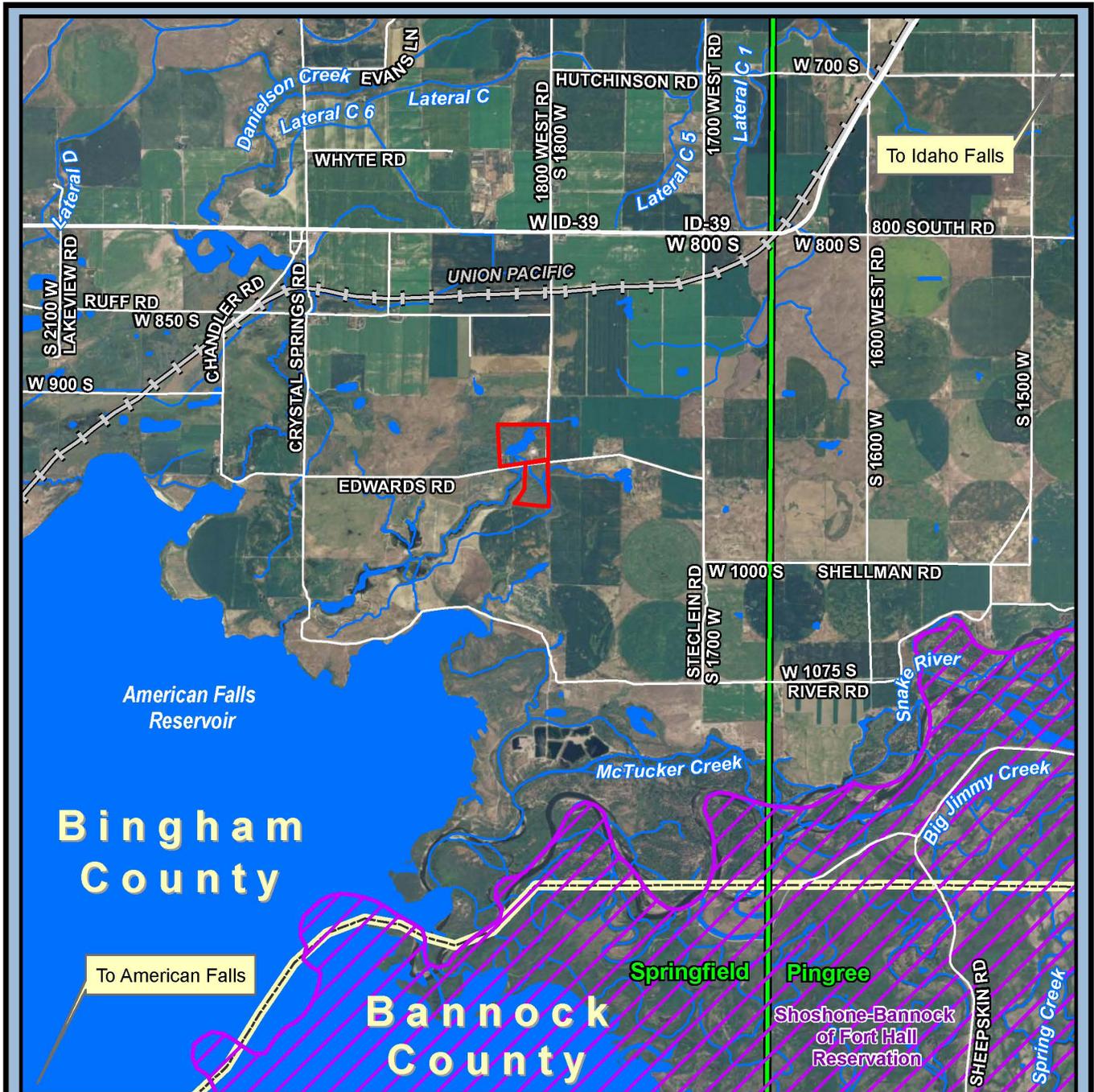
Smolts produced at the facility would be transferred to the Stanley Basin each spring and will then begin a 900+ mile journey to the Pacific Ocean. Sockeye salmon typically spend one to three years in the ocean and then return to the Stanley Basin as mature adults. Adults would be collected at weirs (traps) in the Stanley Basin and used for both broodstock (artificial spawning) as well as release to Redfish Lake for natural spawning. The eggs collected from the broodstock would be transferred to this new proposed facility to be raised to the smolt stage.

## For more information

If you have questions about this proposal or would like additional information, contact Greg Baesler of BPA at 503-230-7637, toll-free at 800-282-3713 or via e-mail at [gdbaesler@bpa.gov](mailto:gdbaesler@bpa.gov). You may also contact Jeff Heindel of IDFG at 208-287-2712 or via e-mail at [jeff.heindel@idfg.idaho.gov](mailto:jeff.heindel@idfg.idaho.gov).

# Springfield Fish Hatchery

Bingham County, Idaho



## Springfield Hatchery Acquisition Springfield Quadrangle (72.53 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  County
-  Quad Name and Boundary
-  Indian Reservation
-  Railroads

