



Naches River Watershed • Wenatchee National Forest, WA

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

PROJECT NAME

Heart of the Cascades Acquisition

ACRES

10,371

PURCHASE PRICE

Will be determined by Appraisal

CONSERVATION PARTNERS

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

SUPPORTED BY

Kittitas County and
Wenatchee National Forest

RESOURCE VALUES

- Elk, Mountain Goat and Mule Deer
- Fisheries – Gold, Rock, Milk and North Fork Wenas Creeks
- Habitat for over 30 listed Federal or State Priority Species
- Timber and Grazing
- Diverse habitat Types

PUBLIC RECREATION BENEFITS

- Protects Historic Public Access
- Fishing and Hunting
- Camping and Hiking
- ATV and Snowmobile use
- Scenic viewing

Heart of the Cascades Acquisition

A Forest Products Company is offering
10,371 acres for Public Ownership

An important habitat acquisition project has emerged in Washington. A major commercial timber company is offering **10,371 acres of its land holdings in the Central Cascades**. These lands are oriented in a “checkerboard” pattern within the Wenatchee National Forest, making their acquisition critical to protecting the fish, wildlife and recreational values on the surrounding public lands.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have formed a coalition and are working together to acquire the Heart of the Cascades lands. Recognizing the outstanding public values and the serious risk of residential or recreational development of these lands, the Kittitas County Commissioners and Wenatchee National Forest strongly support this land acquisition.

These lands offer scenic views, and extraordinary opportunities for people to enjoy the Bald Mountain area for recreation, including, hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, snowmobiling and other uses.

Remarkably diverse, the Heart of the Cascades lands span 3,000 feet in gradient from sub-alpine mountains and grass meadows to important shrub-steppe. The lands provide high quality water and fisheries habitat for bull trout, west slope cutthroat trout and steelhead. The varied landscape provides habitat for a multitude of species including spotted owl, elk, golden eagle and mountain goat.

Due to the high wildlife values, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has awarded a \$3.6 million grant toward the purchase, but those funds are only available on a matching basis. The coalition partners are seeking non-federal matching funds to be able to utilize the grant. Each \$1,000 raised toward the purchase is matched with over \$800 from the grant.

For additional information, please contact Mike Hale, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation at (877) 826-3945.



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Habitat Partner level gifts to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Permanent Land Protection Program will help ensure that this important project is accomplished.