

BONAPARTE MEADOWS FACT SHEET

745 acres | Approximately 260 acres of peat wetland | Okanogan Highlands

ORGANIZATION:

Okanogan Land Trust

CAMPAIGN:

For the Fen! The campaign to protect Bonaparte Meadows

THE OPPORTUNITY

Okanogan Land Trust is working to permanently protect and restore Bonaparte Meadows, a 745-acre property in the Okanogan Highlands near Mount Bonaparte and Bonaparte Lake. The property includes approximately 260 acres of rare peat fen habitat and Okanogan County's largest known peat wetland. Without protection, the property remains vulnerable to development.

WHY IT MATTERS

Bonaparte Meadows is home to a calcareous fen, a wetland fed by mineral-rich groundwater and among the rarest wetland types in Washington and the United States. Its deep peat soils store water and carbon while supporting biodiversity and watershed resilience. Bonaparte Creek flows out of the wetland and is a headwater tributary of the Okanogan River.

WATER, FISH, AND RESTORATION

Past peat extraction lowered the water table. As the Columbia Basin is increasingly affected by drought and warming temperatures, this kind of natural water storage is an important part of long-term watershed and wildfire resilience. Permanent protection would create an opportunity to restore wetland hydrology, improve the meadow's capacity to store water, protect and support cold-water flows into Bonaparte Creek, which hosts salmon and steelhead.

Quotes:

"Not only are fens of this type vanishingly rare on the Western Landscape, but they are also among the most biodiverse and carbon-dense landforms per acre that we know of, globally. From a riverine perspective, Bonaparte Meadows serves a truly critical function in delivering cold, clean water to this headwater stream that hosts salmon and steelhead ... Thus, in a region (the Columbia Basin) with dwindling water available, most of that water rapidly warming, and in one of the most important salmonid watersheds in North America, Bonaparte Meadow and Creek serve an outsized ecologic role, even before you talk about carbon sequestration and biodiversity of terrestrial flora and fauna."

— Jordan Fields, Aquatic Resiliency Specialist, Trout Unlimited

"As the Columbia Basin is increasingly affected by drought and warming temperatures, this kind of natural water storage plays an important role in long-term watershed and wildfire resilience,"

— Kate Miller, Executive Director, Okanogan Land Trust

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

The property supports rare plant communities and wildlife species prioritized for habitat protection in Washington. Species of Greatest Conservation Need documented at Bonaparte Meadows include Columbia spotted frogs, Western toads, Barrow's Goldeneye, Cinnamon Teal, Bald Eagles, and Lesser Scaup, among others.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Okanogan Land Trust is partnering with Trout Unlimited, North Central Washington Audubon Society, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Sparrow Song Consulting, and others on this project.

MEDIA AND CAMPAIGN CONTACT

Kate Miller, Executive Director

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CAMPAIGN MATERIALS

Campaign flip book: [View](#) | Campaign landing page: [View](#)

Social media: [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#)