



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

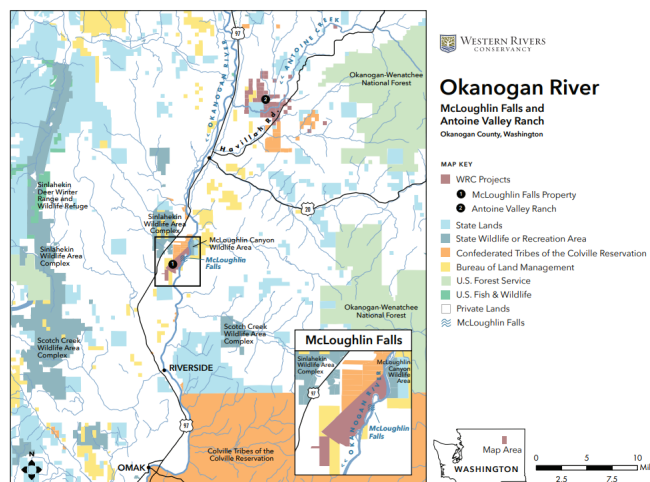
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Project Report Photos
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Washington's McLoughlin Falls Ranch: Conserving a Gem on the Okanogan River

Roughly 30 miles south of the Canada-US border, the Okanogan River dips into the glacier-carved McLoughlin Canyon, one of the most scenic and historic reaches of the river—and the location of McLoughlin Falls Ranch. Named after a hearty Class II rapid called McLoughlin Falls, the ranch makes up a critical part of a larger wildlife movement corridor that spans from the Cascade Mountains in the west to the Kettle River Range in the east. In summer 2022, WRC purchased the ranch in order to protect two miles of the Okanogan and a key piece of one of the state's most important wildlife corridors. We are now holding the property until we can permanently conserve the ranch in partnership with the Colville Tribes and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Once we transfer the property to its new stewards, the ranch will remain undeveloped for the benefit of fish, wildlife and people, including those who've had ties to this land for centuries.

Ellen Bishop photo



Yakima River, WA: Conserving a Premier Stretch of a Famed Trout Stream

In the upper reaches of the Yakima River Canyon lies the 812-acre Yakima Canyon Ranch, spanning two sides of the river at the heart of some of the best fly fishing water in Washington. It is one of just a handful of the canyon's river reaches that aren't protected within the Bureau of Land Management's surrounding Yakima Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and is home to the popular Big Horn boating access site. It's an important property from a fish and wildlife perspective and possesses outstanding river access, excellent camping and breathtaking desert vistas in every direction. WRC acquired the ranch in 2021 and we are now working to convey it to the BLM for inclusion in the ACEC. Once Yakima Canyon Ranch is in BLM hands, this premier stretch of the Yakima will be permanently protected for the sake of fish and wildlife, and public access to this very special stretch of the Yakima River Canyon will be guaranteed forever.

Tyler Roemer photo

