



## Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 27, 2011

In reply refer to: KEC-4

**To: People Interested in the Proposed Lavaside Land Acquisition under the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Mitigation Program**

The Bonneville Power Administration is providing funds to the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to purchase 575 acres of land in Bingham County, Idaho, near the town of Firth. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this land purchase.

The funding is being provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to assist with habitat protection and restoration activities to protect and enhance habitat for whitetail and mule deer, elk, moose, bald eagle, beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, coyote, fox, raccoon, badger, bobcat, turkey, Canada geese, mallard, wood duck and other water fowl as mitigation for impacts to habitat from the construction and operation of the Palisades hydroelectric facility on the Snake River. Currently, 40 acres of the property acres are under cultivation. The other approximately 535 acres are natural shrub-steppe grassland and riparian river bottom, including several miles of Snake River side channels, backwaters and sloughs.

Enclosed you will find a map describing this land transaction. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that our funding of the purchase of this property is categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that further environmental review of this funding action is not required. This categorical exclusion was approved on July 20, 2010, and has been posted on BPA's website at: [http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/categoricalexclusions.aspx](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categoricalexclusions.aspx).

When the transaction is complete, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes will own and manage the property to maintain habitat for fish and wildlife. They will develop a management plan for the property and give the public the opportunity to review and comment on the plan prior to implementing new actions on the property. Short-term planned management activities on the property include maintenance of current habitat and fencing to eliminate trespass grazing. Current water rights will be retained after the acquisition.

If you have any questions regarding this land purchase, please feel free to contact David Byrnes, BPA Project Manager, at 503-230-3171 or [dmbyrnes@bpa.gov](mailto:dmbyrnes@bpa.gov). You may also contact me at 503-230-4071 or [hadondy-kaplan@bpa.gov](mailto:hadondy-kaplan@bpa.gov). You can also call toll free 800-622-4519.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan*

Hannah Dondy-Kaplan  
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:  
Map

# Bingham County



## Lavaside Property Rose and Firth Quadrangles (575 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary
-  Railroads

