

memorandum

DATE: October 20, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Marcy Foster
Project Manager - KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Provision of funds to Columbia Land Trust (CLT) for purchase of Lower Columbia River Estuary Properties

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2010-073-00

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):

B1.25 Transfer, lease, disposition or acquisition of interests in uncontaminated land for habitat preservation or wildlife management, and only associated buildings that support these purposes. Uncontaminated means that there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that would pose a threat to public health or the environment.

Locations:

Wallicut River	Township 10 North, Range 11 West, Sections 34 and 27	Pacific County, WA	111 Acres
Knappton Cove Property	Township 9 North, Range 9 West, Section 9	Pacific County, WA	436 Acres
Deep River Mouth Property	Township 10 North, Range 8 West, Section 31	Wahkiacum County, WA	66 Acres
Columbia Stock Ranch Property	Township 6 North, Range 2 West, Section 24	Columbia County, OR	885 Acres

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the CLT

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of four properties, totaling about 1500 acres, by the CLT. BPA will be granted a perpetual conservation easement over each entire property as a condition of funding the acquisitions. The properties are being acquired as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System, and because of their riparian and floodplain natural resource values. Additionally, the properties are important for providing habitat to coho and Chinook salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, black bear, elk, river otter, and other wildlife. The easements will protect the conservation values for which the properties are being acquired by restricting activity such as residential, non-agricultural commercial and industrial development.

When the transactions are complete, the CLT will own and manage the properties to maintain important fish and wildlife habitat. The CLT will provide long-term stewardship for the land and

will develop management plans to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the properties. Prior to the development of the management plans, public access will not change. BPA will not fund any management activities without further environmental review.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce Date: October 20, 2011
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Lower Columbia River Estuary Properties Land Acquisitions

Work Order #: #BPA- 266311

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. Cultural Resources No adverse effect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other Only BPA approved herbicides will be applied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

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