

memorandum

DATE: April 25, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: David Byrnes
Project Manager - KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Provision of funds to Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) for purchase of Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Properties.

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 1995-057-00

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B 1.25 Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management.

Locations:

Hammer Flat Property	Township 2 North, Range 3 East, Sections 2, 3 Township 3 North, Range 3 East, Section 34	Ada County, ID	705 Acres
Sandy Point Property	Township 2 North, Range 3 East, Sections 2 and 11	Ada County, ID	139 Acres
Payette River Property	Township 8 North, Range 4 West, Sections 27 and 34	Payette County, ID	100 Acres

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to provide funds to IDFG for a fee-simple title acquisition of three properties, totaling 944 acres. The acquisitions would be consistent with an existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between BPA and IDFG. Under the MOA, BPA would have an executory limitation on the property deed to ensure that the property is being managed for wildlife.

In funding IDFG's purchase of the property, BPA would be provided with partial mitigation credits for the construction and operation of the the Palisades, Anderson Ranch, Black Canyon and Minidoka dams on the Snake River. The Hammer Flat and Sandy Point parcels in Ada County provide important winter habitat for mule deer, pronghorn, and elk, and provide additional habitat for golden eagles, bald eagles, coyotes, long-billed curlews, Say's phoebes, bluebirds, lizards and snakes. The parcels will become part of the Boise River Wildlife Management Area. The Payette River parcel provides nesting and brooding habitat for upland birds and waterfowl, and will become part of the Birding Islands Segment of IDFG's Payette Wildlife Management Area.

The purchases would protect the conservation values for which the properties are being acquired by restricting activity such as residential, non-agricultural commercial and industrial development. The

IDFG would provide long-term management for the land and would develop management plans to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the properties. Prior to the development of the management plans, BPA would conduct further environmental review and public access would not change.

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, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

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
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Date: April 25, 2012

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Maps (2)

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Southern Idaho Wildlife Mitigation Acquisitions

Work Order #: 188542

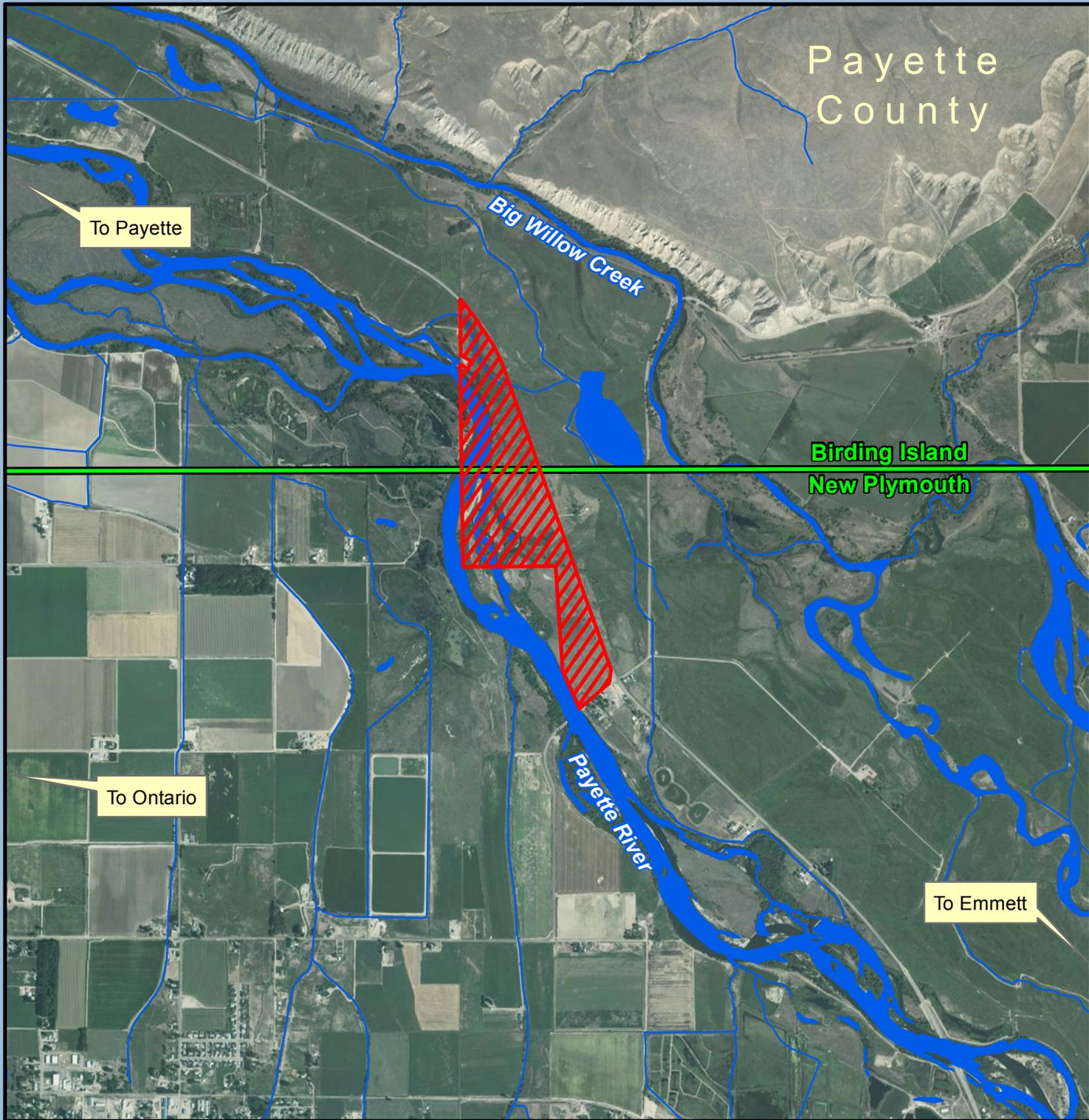
This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources Land purchase only—APE reviewed by SHPO and THPO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Land purchase only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Land purchase only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water NA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

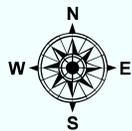
List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signature: /s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

Date: April 25, 2012



Payette River Acquisition
 Birding Island and New Plymouth Quadrangles
 (100 Acres)

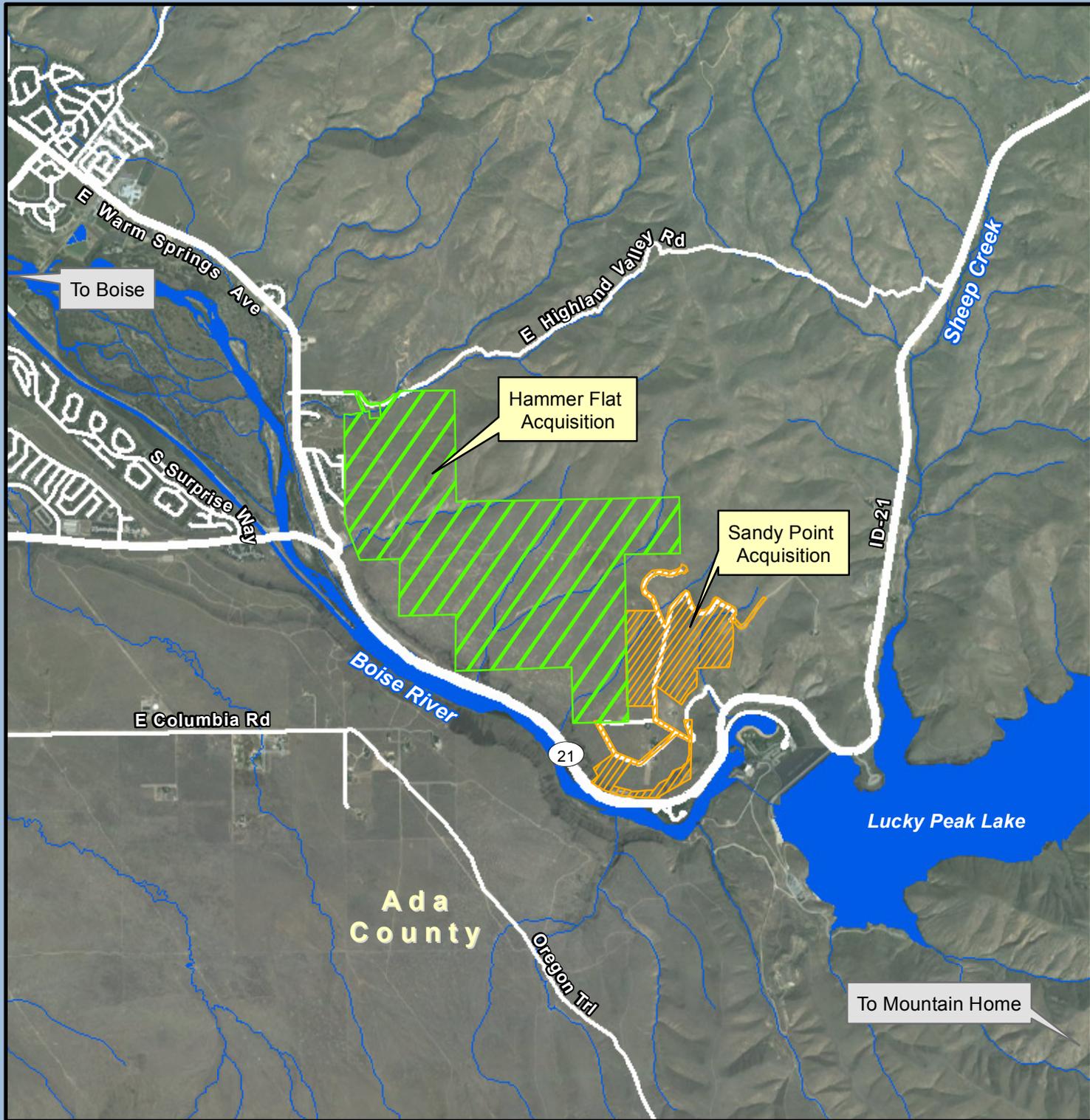


Subject Property
 Quad Name and Boundary

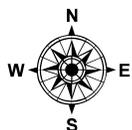


10/20/2011



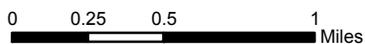


IDFG Land Acquisitions



Subject Property

-  Hammer Flat Acquisition
-  Sandy Point Acquisition



10-25-2011

