

memorandum

DATE: November 4, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dorie Welch
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Provision of funds to acquire Greenbelt Land Trust, the 371.43-acre Harkens Lake property.

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-005974

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.

Location: Monroe and Harrisburg Quadrangles, in Benton County, Oregon (near Corvallis, Oregon).

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The property is partly within the 100-year Willamette River floodplain, and includes a major remnant side channel called Harkens Lake, as well as frontage along the Willamette River. Harkens Lake contains water year-round. The property has important conservation value for non-structural storage of floodwater, wetland and riparian habitats, and extensive bottomland hardwood forests. Existing bottomland hardwood forests in the 100-year floodplain are relatively dense, and comprised of species including but not limited to, black cottonwood, Oregon ash, Oregon white oak, bigleaf maple, willow, Douglas fir, Pacific ninebark, red osier dogwood, Oregon grape, wapato, camas, and trillium. These back channel and wetland areas provide cold water refugia and critical life history functions for listed or species of conservation concern, including spring Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, Oregon chub, Pacific lamprey, western pond turtle, and red-legged frog. A conservation easement on this property would significantly facilitate the restoration of adjacent floodplain areas. Restoration activities would increase the quality and quantity of native habitats for fish and wildlife and the public value of the ecosystem services that the conservation values provide to humans.

BPA proposes to partially fund the purchase of the 372-acre Harkens Lake Property. In exchange, BPA would receive a conservation easement that would prevent habitat conversion and secure rights to restore and maintain fish and wildlife habitat. Funding this acquisition would provide partial wildlife mitigation credit and Willamette Biological Opinion fish credit for habitat losses due to the construction and operation of the federal hydroelectric facilities in the Willamette Valley. Greenbelt Land Trust would own and manage the property.

Greenbelt Land Trust would develop a management plan for the new acquisition and proposed conservation easements on adjacent properties. Once the property has been acquired, Greenbelt Land Trust would perform restoration and wildlife enhancements and provide long-term stewardship of the land. The management plan would be developed in coordination with and approved by BPA, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife prior to implementation. Prior to funding any management activities, BPA would conduct 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.

Based on the provision that a cultural resource survey will be conducted prior to any ground disturbing activities, 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/ Israel Duran

Israel Duran

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Date: November 4, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Willamette Wildlife MOA Acquisitions- Harkens Lake

Project #: 2011-003-00 Cont# BPA-005974

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 Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other Funding land acquisition only.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Israel Duran

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