

memorandum

DATE: March 7, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dorie Welch
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Noble Oaks Property Acquisition Funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2011-003-00, BPA-007521

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.25 Real Property transfers for cultural protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management

Location: Sheridan quadrangle, in Polk County, Oregon (near Willamina, Oregon).

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund The Nature Conservancy's purchase of the Noble Oaks property (Property), a 472-acre parcel of land southwest of Willamina in Polk County, Oregon.

This funding supports commitments made in the 2010 "Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Habitat Protection and Enhancement between the State of Oregon and the Bonneville Power Administration". This is part of BPA's ongoing efforts to mitigate for the impacts to fish and wildlife from the construction and operation of federal flood control facilities in the Willamette River Basin. Placing this property in a conservation easement would provide long-lasting wildlife benefits as part of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley by preventing the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat to other land uses.

The Property consists of approximately 472 acres of Willamette Valley riparian habitat. ESA-listed species found on site include Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*), Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus spp. kincaidii*), and Nelson's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*).

Once the The Nature Conservancy acquires the proposed property, they would develop a management plan for long-term stewardship of the land. The management plan would be reviewed by BPA and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and approved by BPA. Before funding any management activities on the property, 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, 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.

/s/ Israel Duran

Israel Duran

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Date: *March 7, 2014*

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Map

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Noble Oaks Property Acquisition Funding

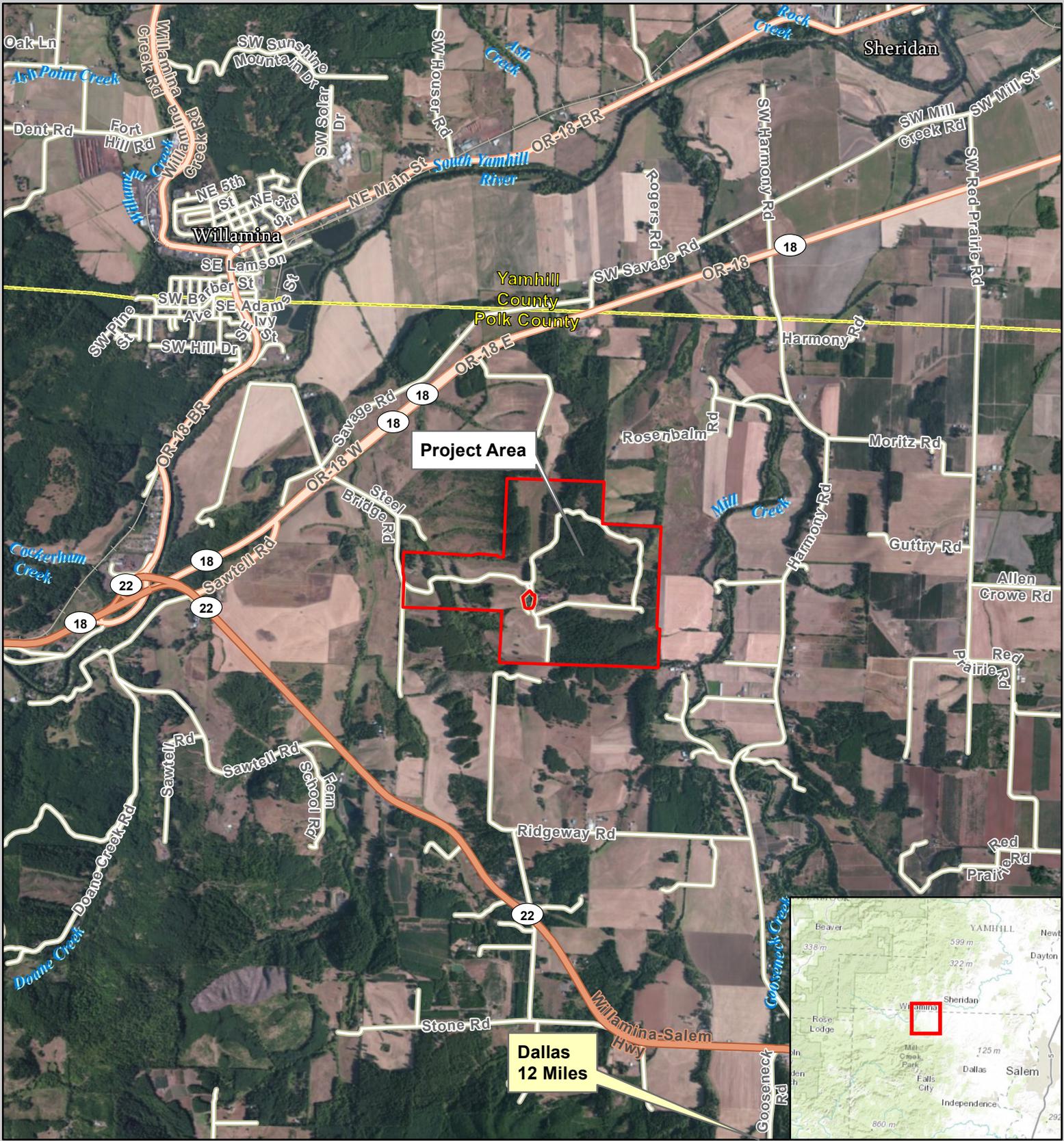
Work Order #: Project 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-007521

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Israel Duran

Date: March 7, 2014

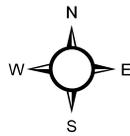


Noble Oaks Public Notification Map

Polk County, OR
472 Acres

 Subject Property

1/30/2014



0 1 Miles

