



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 23, 2018

In reply refer to: EC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of three properties totaling approximately 123.48 acres of riparian habitat located along Elochoman River near the town of Cathlamet in Wahkiakum County, Washington. When the purchases are complete, the Columbia Land Trust will own and manage the properties for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. The United States would hold a conservation easement, which BPA would manage, to permanently protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this land purchase.

The funding will be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act. The acquisition would support efforts to mitigate for the effects of development and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries under the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 in a manner consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. These land purchases would specifically satisfy some of BPA's Columbia River estuary mitigation commitments in its record of decision to implement the 2008 National Marine Fisheries Service Biological Opinion.

Enclosed you will find a map detailing these land acquisitions. BPA has prepared a categorical exclusion and environmental checklist documenting that no further environmental review of this funding action is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This documentation, known as a categorical exclusion, was approved on August 21, 2018, and is posted on BPA's website at:

<https://www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/CategoricalExclusions/Pages/default.aspx>.

Upon completion of these land acquisitions, BPA and the Columbia Land Trust intend to establish secure, permanent funding for stewardship of the properties. BPA will make a one-time lump sum payment to fund a stewardship account from which the Columbia Land Trust will draw monies as needed to provide permanent stewardship on the properties. Stewardship management actions may include, but are not limited to public outreach, site monitoring, habitat mapping, encroachment monitoring, invasive species monitoring and control, and annual maintenance of boundary fence, signage, or gates.

The Columbia Land Trust will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on the properties. The Columbia Land Trust will provide the opportunity for the public to review the draft plan. BPA will review the plan for

consistency with the purpose of the acquisition and the terms and conditions of the conservation easement prior to its implementation. Large scale restoration activities associated with the property would be funded with sources other than stewardship funds. If BPA proposes to fund any restoration activities, we will conduct additional environmental review under NEPA and other statutes as appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this land purchase, please feel free to contact the project manager, Steve Gagnon, 503-230-3375, skgagnon@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the Elochoman 3 land acquisition.

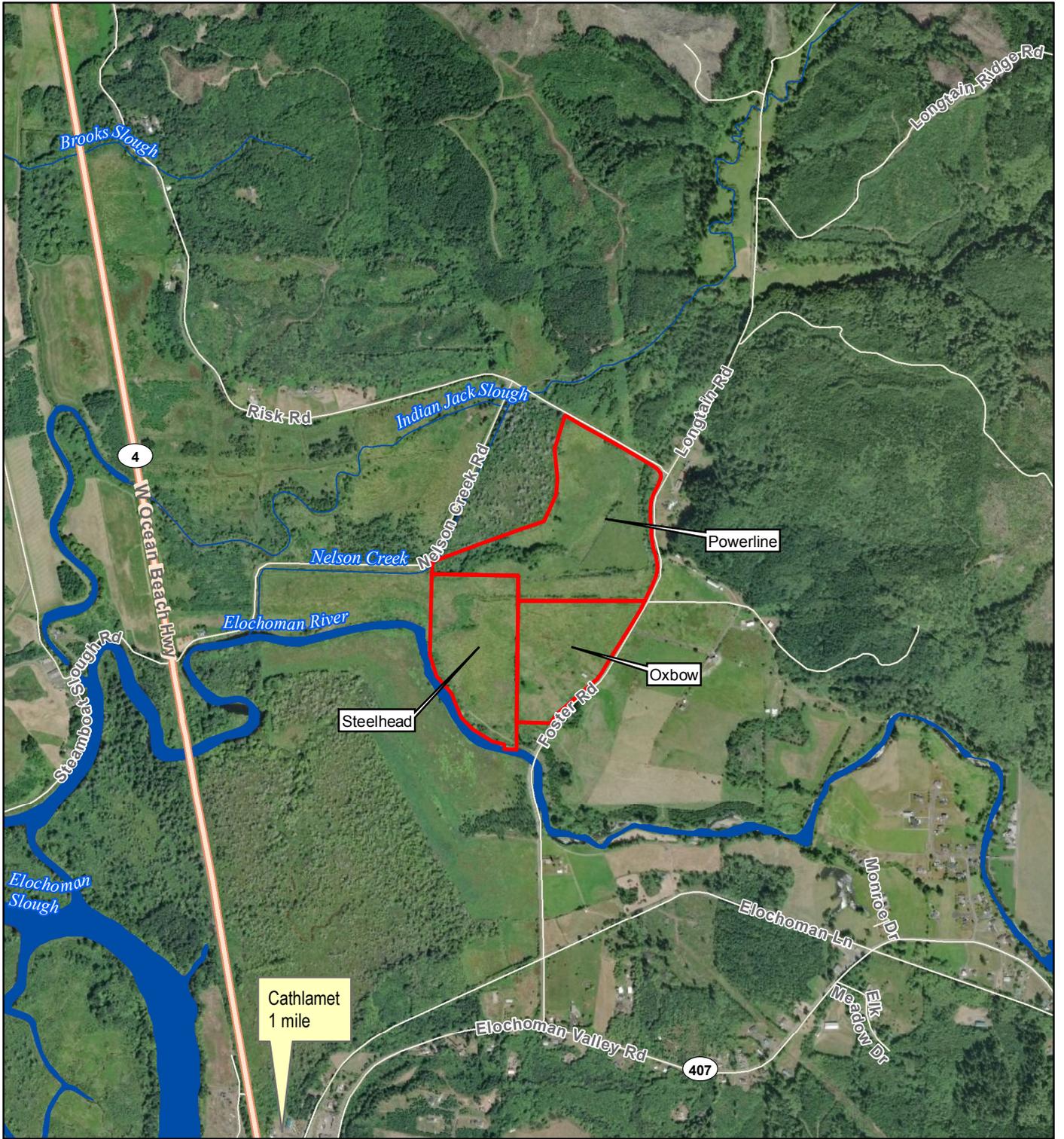
Sincerely,

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

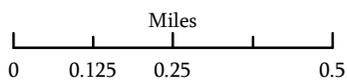
Enclosure: Vicinity Map



Elochoman 3 Land Acquisition Public Notification Map

Wahkiakum County, WA - Cathlamet & Nassa Point 24k USGS
Quadrangles (123.48 Acres)

 Proposed Acquisition Area



August 16, 2018

