



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

November 19, 2013

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of approximately 113 acres of wetland habitat, located along the Grays River in Wahkiakum County, Washington. When the purchase is complete, Columbia Land Trust will own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. To ensure that the habitat values are protected in perpetuity, BPA will receive a conservation easement. 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 fish and wildlife species, such as coho, Chinook, steelhead, Columbia white-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, and river otter. The acquisition would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the dams on the main stem Columbia and Snake Rivers, referred to as the Federal Columbia River Power System. This land purchase would satisfy some of BPA's Columbia River estuary mitigation requirements as identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008/2010 Biological Opinion that guides BPA's protection of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Enclosed you will find a map detailing this land transaction. BPA has prepared a memo 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 November 8, 2013, and is posted on BPA's website at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/pdf/Grays_River_Confluence_CX.pdf.

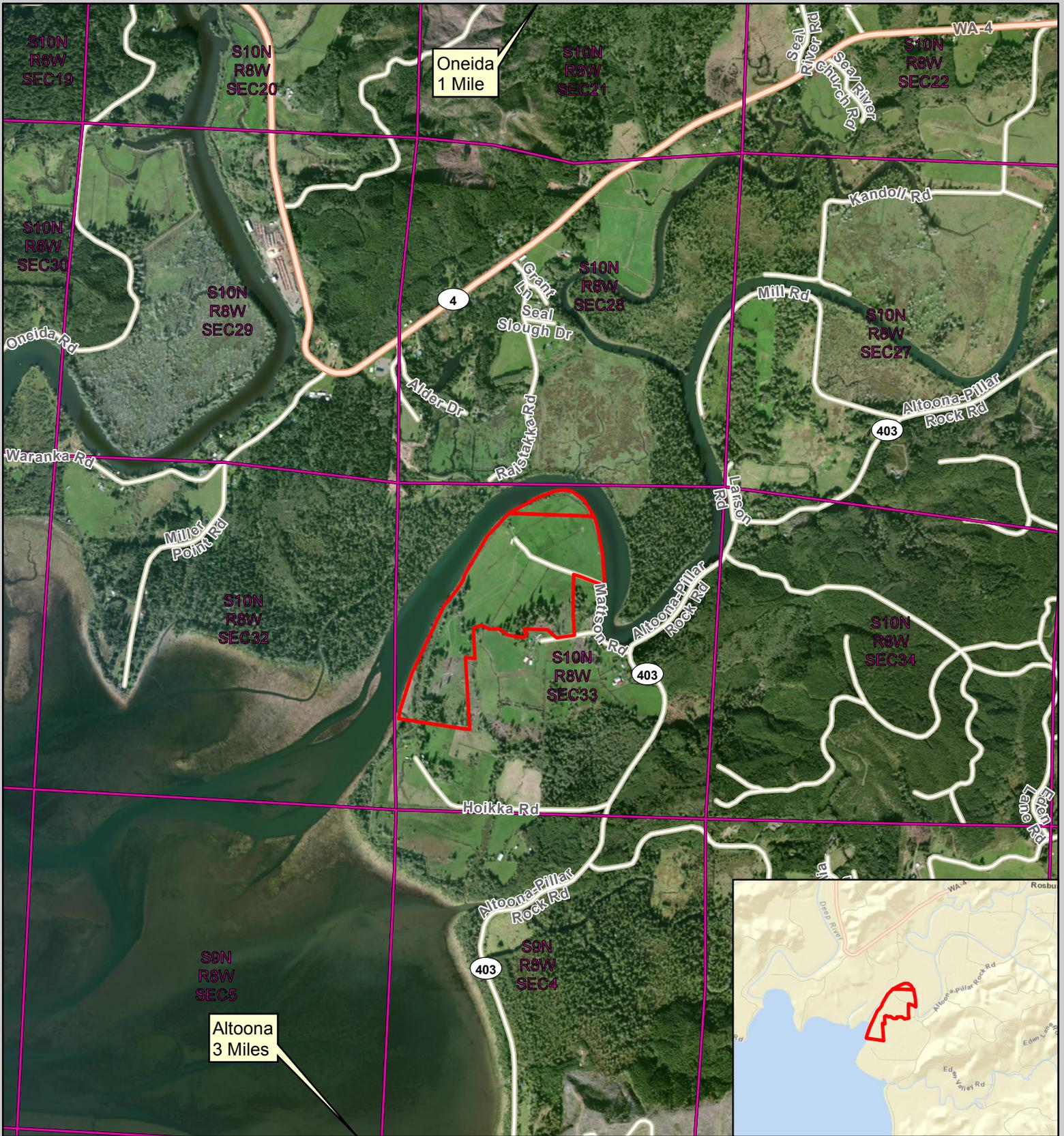
Columbia Land Trust will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property. Columbia Land Trust will provide the opportunity for the public to review on the draft plan. BPA will review the plan and must approve it before it is implemented. Management actions may include actions to restore intertidal, wetland, and side channel habitat. If BPA proposes to fund any of these 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, Anne Creason at 503-230-3859 or amcreason@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the Grays River Land Acquisition.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jesse Wilson
Jesse Wilson
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

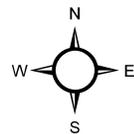
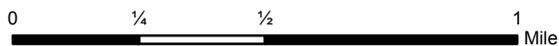
Enclosure: Vicinity Map



Grays River Confluence Land Acquisition

Wahkiakum County, WA
(113 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  TRS Boundary



8/26/2013

