



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 30, 2013

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to provide funds to Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) to purchase a conservation easement on approximately 70 acres of land, including riparian and wetland habitat, along the Flathead River in Flathead County, Montana. MFWP is partnering with the Flathead Land Trust (FLT) which will hold the conservation easement and BPA will hold a third party right of enforcement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected.

The current property owners will continue to own and manage the land in the conservation easement consistent with fish and wildlife conservation purposes. The funding will be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout as mitigation for the construction and operation of the Hungry Horse hydroelectric facility on the South Fork of the Flathead River. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this conservation easement purchase.

Enclosed you will find a map showing the land that is subject to this transaction. BPA has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of funding this conservation easement and has determined that the action is categorically excluded from further environmental review and documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This categorical exclusion determination memo and environmental checklist was approved on July 10, 2013 and is posted on BPA's website at:

http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorialexclusions.aspx

MFWP, in coordination with FLT, will develop a management plan, to be reviewed and approved by BPA, which will guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property and provide for long term stewardship of the land. Management actions may include fencing repair or construction to protect the land from livestock grazing. 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 conservation easement, please feel free to contact the project manager, Cecilia Brown, at (503) 230-3462, or ckbrown@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the "Kokanee Bend South Conservation Easement."

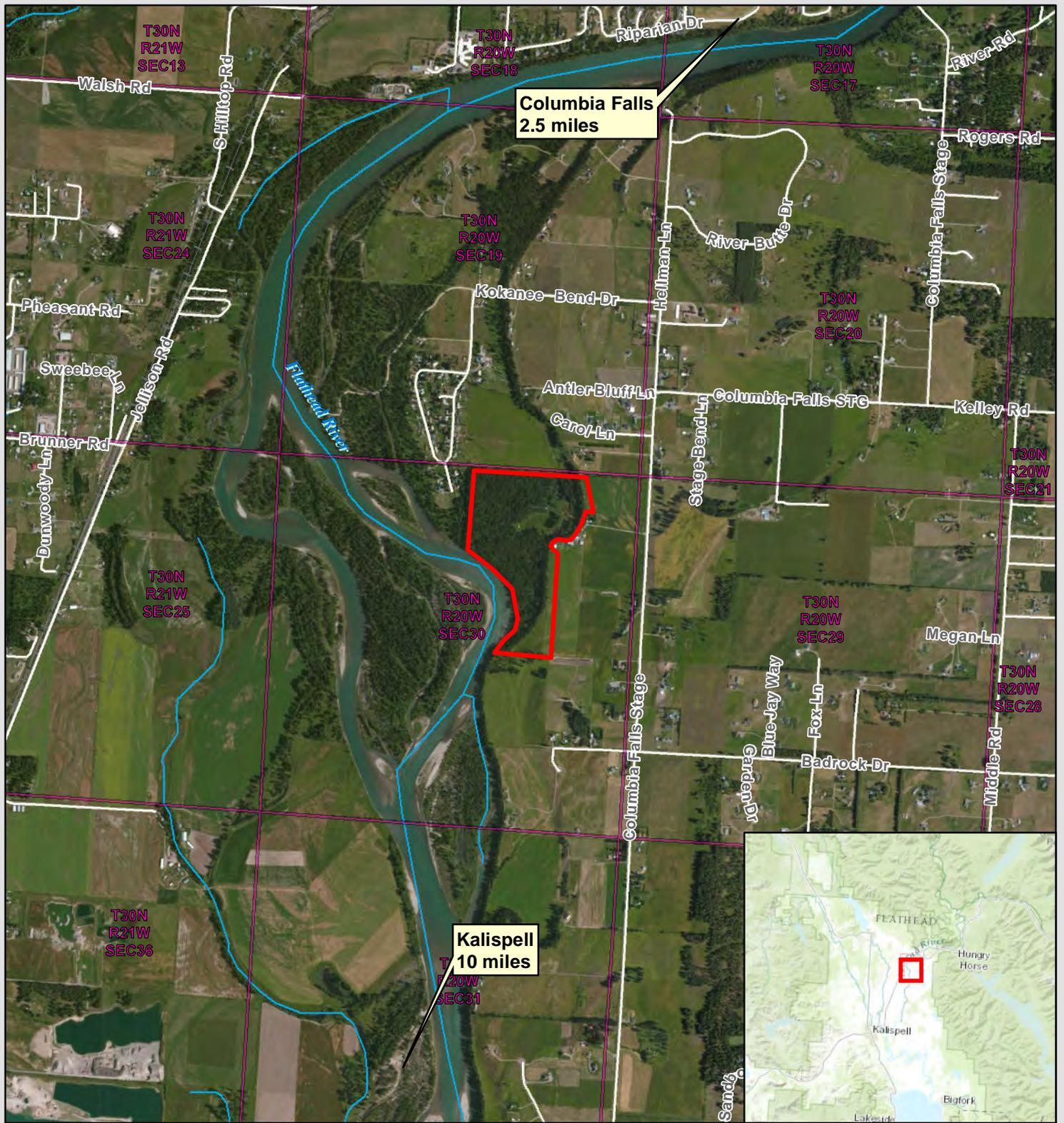
Sincerely,

/s/ Kim Johnson, July 30, 2013

Kim Johnson

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure: Vicinity Map



Kokanee Bend South Conservation Easement Public Notification Map

Columbia Falls South Quadrangle
Flathead County, MT
(68 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  TRS Boundary



0 0.5 1 Mile 7/25/2013

