Department of Energy

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

Official File

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 3, 2018

In reply refer to: EC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of approximately 6.6 acres of riparian and upland habitat, located along the Jocko River in Lake County, Montana. When the purchase is complete, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA will receive a conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected. 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 bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. The acquisition would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and inundation of the Federal Columbia River Power System which includes dams on the main stem Columbia and Snake Rivers. This land purchase would specifically satisfy some of BPA's mitigation for the construction and inundation of the Hungry Horse federal hydroelectric facility on the South Fork of the Flathead River.

Enclosed you will find a map detailing this land transaction. 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 July 13, 2018, and is posted on BPA's website at:
https://www.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/CategoricalExclusions/Pages/2018.aspx.

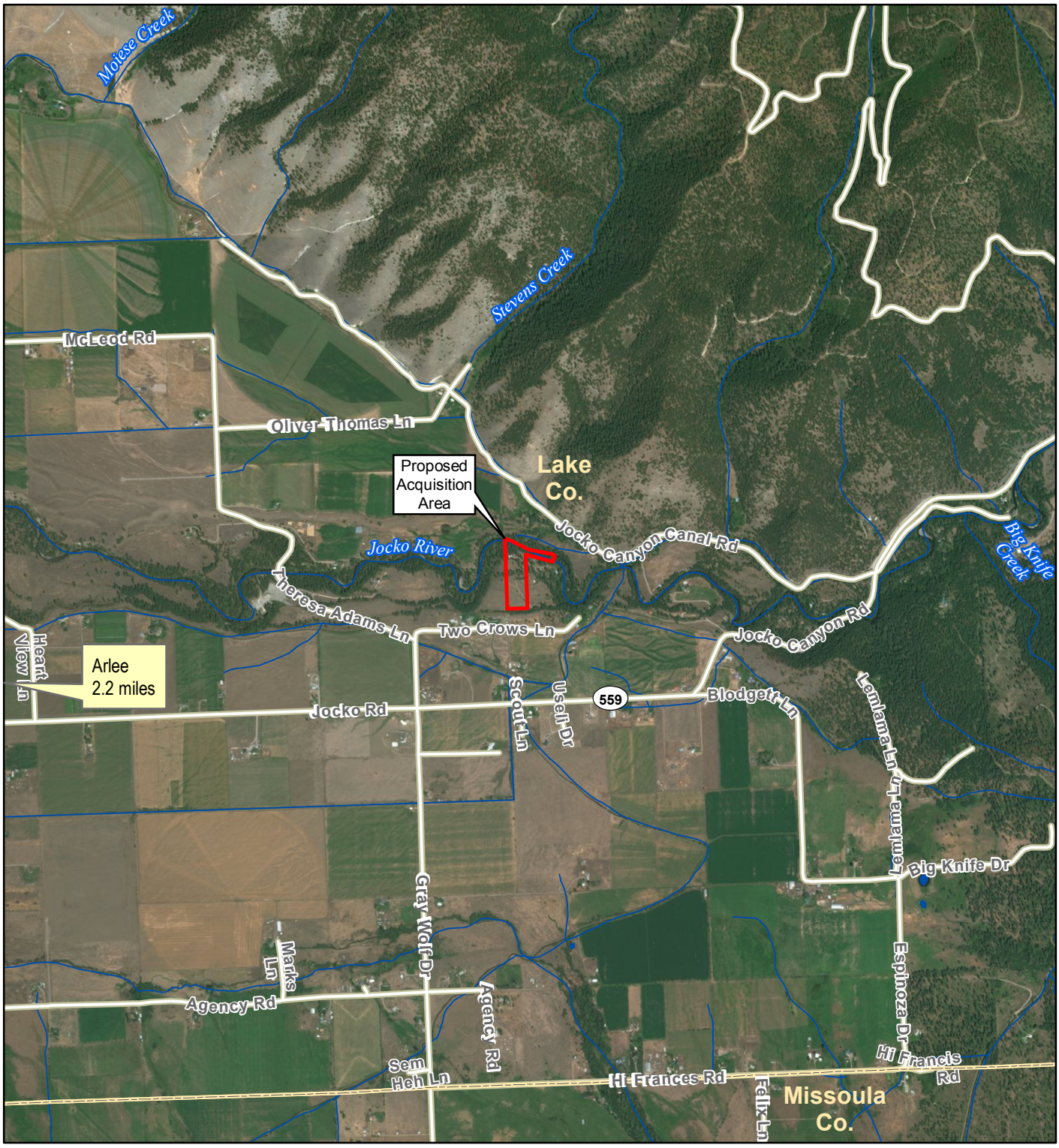
The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on the property. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will provide the opportunity for the public to review the draft plan. BPA will review the plan for consistency with the purpose of the acquisition and the terms and conditions of the conservation easement prior to its implementation. 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, Cecilia Brown at 503-230-3460 and ckbrown@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the Hummingbird Land Acquisition.

Sincerely,

/s/ Chad Hamel
Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure: Vicinity Map



Hummingbird Land Acquisition Public Notification Map

Lake County, MT - Arlee 24k USGS Quadrangle

(6.65 Acres)

Proposed Acquisition Area

Miles

0 0.125 0.25 0.5

N W E S

Bonneville POWER ADMINISTRATION

June 14, 2018