



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 19, 2013

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of two properties totaling approximately 100 acres of historically estuarine wetland, riparian, and woodland habitat, located along Deep River and Crooked Creek in Wahkiakum County, Washington. When the purchase is complete, Columbia Land Trust (Land Trust) will own and manage the properties for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA will receive a conservation easement on each property to ensure that the habitat values 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 juvenile coho and chinook salmon, juvenile steelhead, black bear, elk, river otter, and other wildlife. 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 two maps detailing these land transactions. 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 December 18, 2013, and is posted on BPA's website at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/pdf/CLT_Crooked_Creek_3_and_Deep_River_Mouth_2_CX.pdf.

Upon the completion of the land acquisitions BPA and the Land Trust intend to establish secure, permanent funding for stewardship of the properties. BPA will make a one-time lump sum payment to endow a trust fund from which the Land Trust will draw monies as needed to provide permanent stewardship on the properties. Stewardship management actions may include, but is 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 Land Trust will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property. The Land Trust will provide the opportunity for the public to review the draft plan. BPA will review the plan and must approve it before it is implemented. 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, Anne Creason at 503-230-3859 or amcreason@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the Crooked Creek 3 or Deep River Mouth 2 land acquisition.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jesse Wilson, December 19, 2013

Jesse Wilson

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

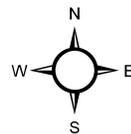
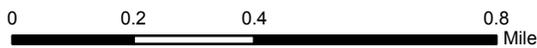
Enclosures: Vicinity Maps



Crooked Creek 3 Land Acquisition

Wahkiakum County, Washington
(19 Acres)

 Subject Property



11/25/2013

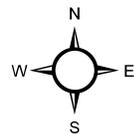




Deep River Mouth 2 Land Acquisition

Wahkiakum County, Washington
(81 Acres)

 Subject Property



11/25/2013

