



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 9, 2013

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: Parties Interested in the Proposed Luckiamute Meadows Acquisition under the 2010 Willamette Wildlife Habitat Agreement

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to provide funds to Greenbelt Land Trust to purchase a conservation easement on the 78-acre Luckiamute Meadows property located west of the City of Corvallis in Benton County, Oregon. Greenbelt Land Trust would hold the easement, and BPA would receive third-party rights of enforcement over the property to help ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other parties of this proposed easement acquisition, outline our process, and describe where to find further information.

Funding the purchase of this easement would partially fulfill BPA's commitments in the 2010 "Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Habitat Protection and Enhancement between the State of Oregon and the Bonneville Power Administration". This is part of ongoing efforts to mitigate for the impacts to fish and wildlife from the construction and operation of federal flood control and hydroelectric facilities in the Willamette River Basin. When the transaction is complete, this property would become one of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley providing important and long lasting fish and wildlife habitat benefits.

The 78-acre Luckiamute Meadows property is located within a priority conservation area for riparian and aquatic habitats identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, adopted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in 2006. One of the goals of the Oregon Conservation Strategy is to protect and restore native Willamette River tributary habitats and the species that rely on them. This property contains the confluence of the Luckiamute River and Maxfield Creek, a priority area in Kings Valley for the protection and enhancement of riparian and floodplain habitats and to improve water quality and habitat for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*), Chinook salmon, (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), western painted turtle (*Chrysemys picta*), and red-legged frog (*Rana aurora*). Existing riparian and oak forests are comprised of native species including but not limited to Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), Pacific ninebark (*Physocarpus capitatus*), and red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*). The grassland and wetland areas support numerous species including elk (*Cervus canadensis*), waterfowl, shorebirds, and neo-tropical migrants. In addition, the Property is contiguous with an existing conservation easement creating a conservation zone of nearly 225 acres adjacent to the Luckiamute River that includes the confluence of the Luckiamute River and Price Creek.

Enclosed you will find a map of the Luckiamute Meadows property. BPA has prepared an environmental clearance memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of this property is

categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act and that further environmental review of this funding action is therefore not required. BPA approved this categorical exclusion May 28, 2013 and posted it on BPA's website at:

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

Greenbelt Land Trust, in coordination with BPA, would develop a management plan for the property and Greenbelt land Trust would provide the public an opportunity to review the plan. BPA must review and BPA must approve the plan before it can be implemented. It is anticipated that Greenbelt Land Trust and the landowner would restore and enhance habitat on the property and ensure the long-term stewardship of the land according to the actions defined in the management plan. Prior to funding additional land management activities on the property BPA would conduct further environmental review.

If you have any questions regarding purchase of this conservation easement please feel free to contact Dorie Welch with BPA at (503) 230-5479 or dwwelch@bpa.gov. You can also call BPA's toll free number (800) 622-4519; be sure to reference the "Luckiamute Meadows Conservation Easement" in your message.

Sincerely,

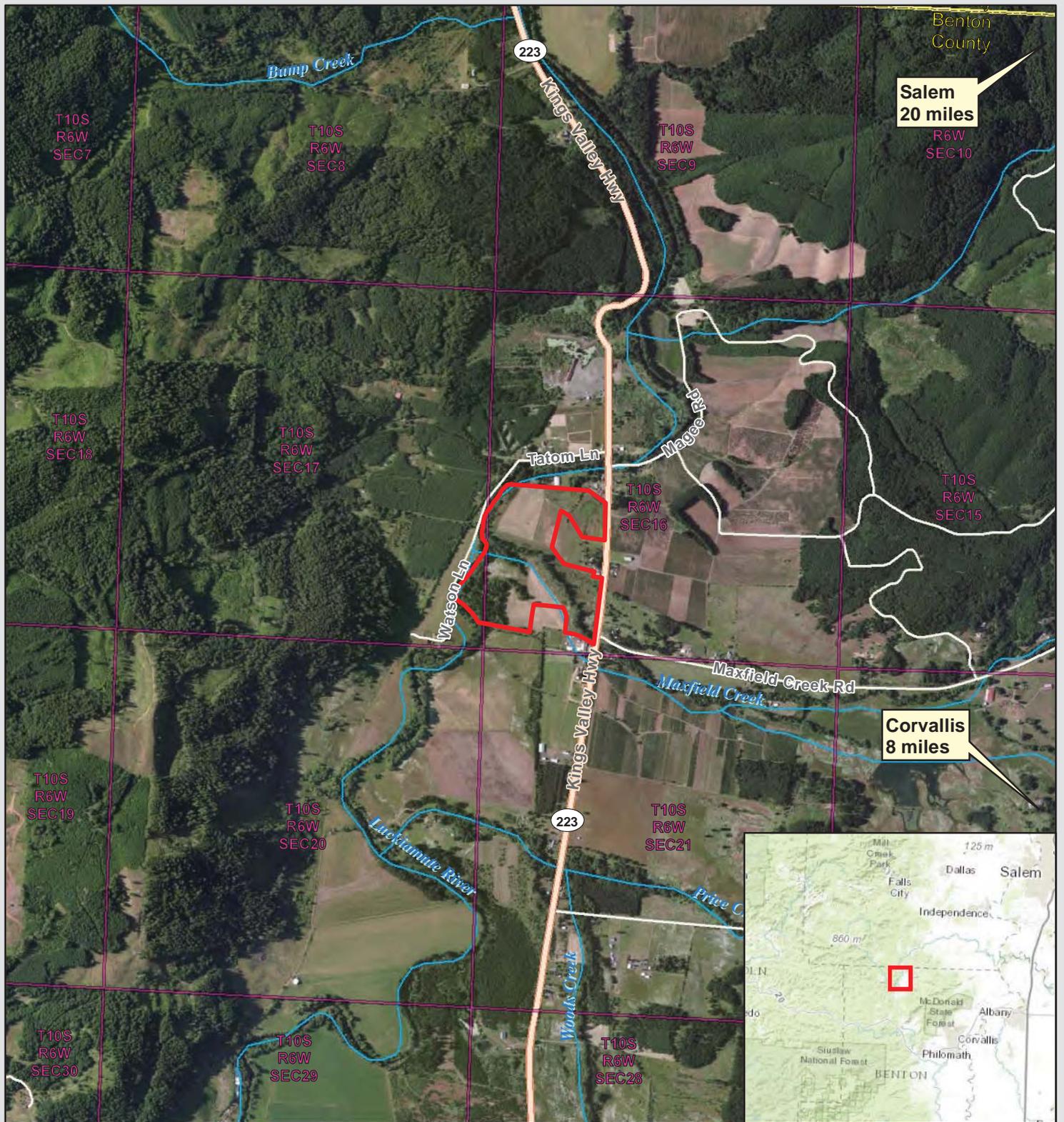
/s/ Israel Duran

Israel Duran

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:

Vicinity Map



Luckiamute Meadows - Public Notification Map

Kings Valley Quadrangle
 Benton County, OR
 (73.6 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  TRS Boundary



0 0.5 1 Mile 5/14/2013

