Department of Energy

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

Official File

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 29, 2018

In reply refer to: EC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of approximately 3,180 acres of riparian and upland habitats along Swift Creek in Flathead County, Montana. When the purchase of the Swift Creek property is complete, the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MDNRC) will own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. The United States would hold a conservation easement, which BPA would manage, to permanently protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this land purchase.

The funding is in partial fulfillment of BPA's commitments to the State of Montana, signed in an agreement as part of the historic Columbia Basin Fish Accords in 2008, and the 2010 Resident Fish Memorandum of Agreement. BPA is funding this project as part of our ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for resident fish, including bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout, and wildlife. The acquisition would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the Hungry Horse 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). The categorical exclusion was approved on August 27, 2018 and is posted on BPA's website at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categoricalexclusions.aspx.

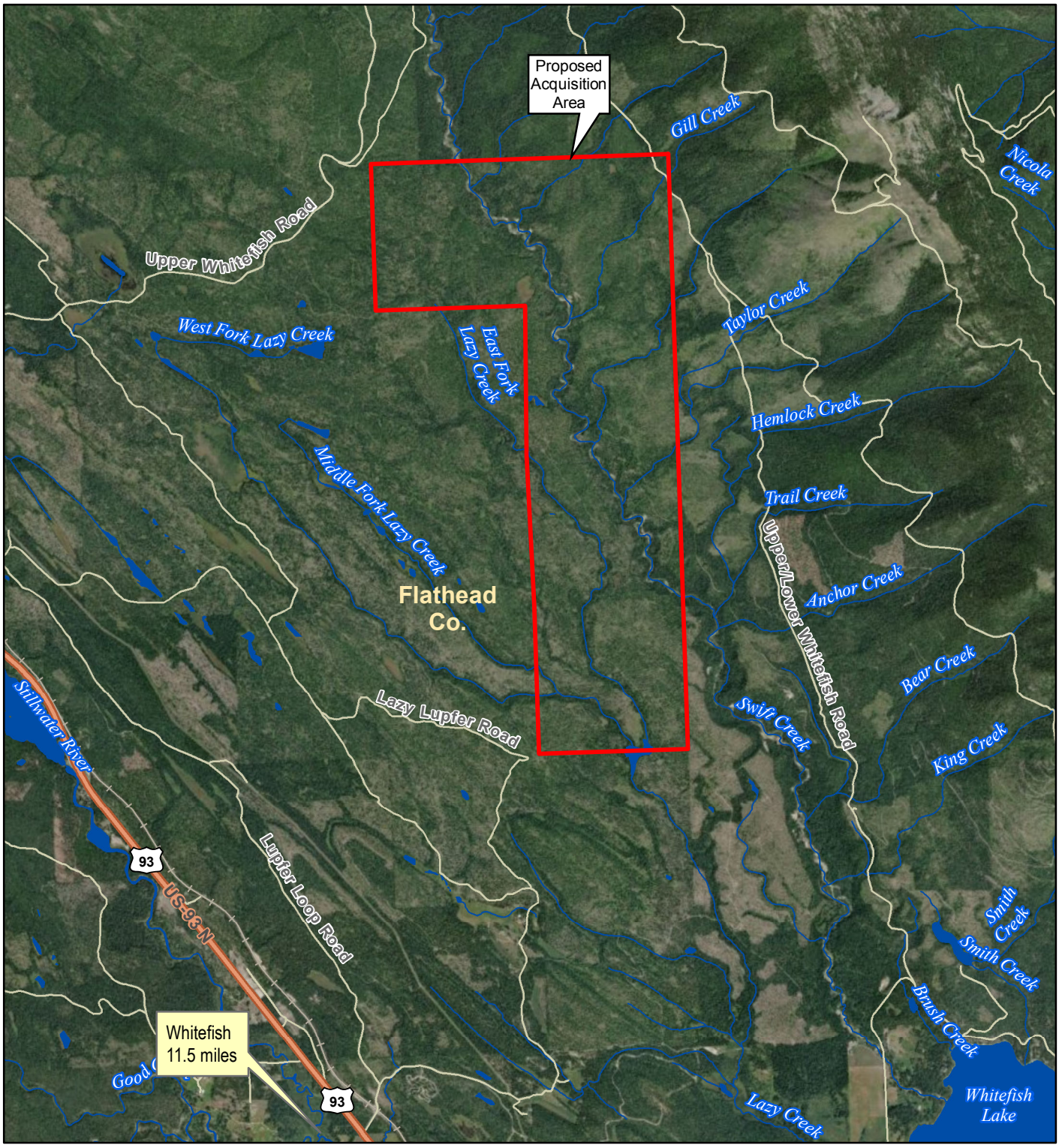
The MDNRC will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property. BPA and the MDNRC will review the plan for consistency with the conservation purposes of the land acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any additional activities on the property we will conduct additional environmental review under NEPA and other statues as appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this land purchase, 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 Swift Creek land acquisition.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brenda Aguirre
Brenda Aguirre
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure: Vicinity Map



Swift Creek Land Acquisition Public Notification Map

Flathead County, MT - Olney & Werner Peak 24k USGS Quadrangles
(3,180 Acres)

Proposed Acquisition Area

Miles
0 0.25 0.5 1

N W E S

Bonneville POWER ADMINISTRATION

August 17, 2018