Department of Energy

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

Official File

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

May 27, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Re: Upper Lemhi River Conservation Easement

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of a conservation easement near the town of Leadore in Lemhi County, Idaho. The easement covers approximately 4,682 acres of agricultural land and riparian habitat located along the Lemhi River. When the purchase of the conservation easement is complete, the landowner will continue to own the property. BPA will provide funding for the conservation easement to the Lemhi Regional Land Trust, who will hold the easement and will also monitor and enforce the terms of the easement. BPA is granted a third-party right of enforcement on the easement. The terms of the easement ensure that the habitat values on the property will always be protected. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this purchase. Enclosed you will find a map showing the location of this land transaction.

The funding is in partial fulfillment of BPA's commitments to the State of Idaho, signed in an agreement as part of the historic Columbia Basin Fish Accords in 2008. BPA is funding this project as part of our ongoing efforts to protect, mitigate, and enhance habitat for salmon and steelhead, and as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the dams on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

BPA has prepared documentation concluding that no further environmental review is required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for this funding action. This documentation (known as a categorical exclusion) was approved on May 26, 2015, and is posted on BPA's website at: http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categoricalexclusions.aspx.

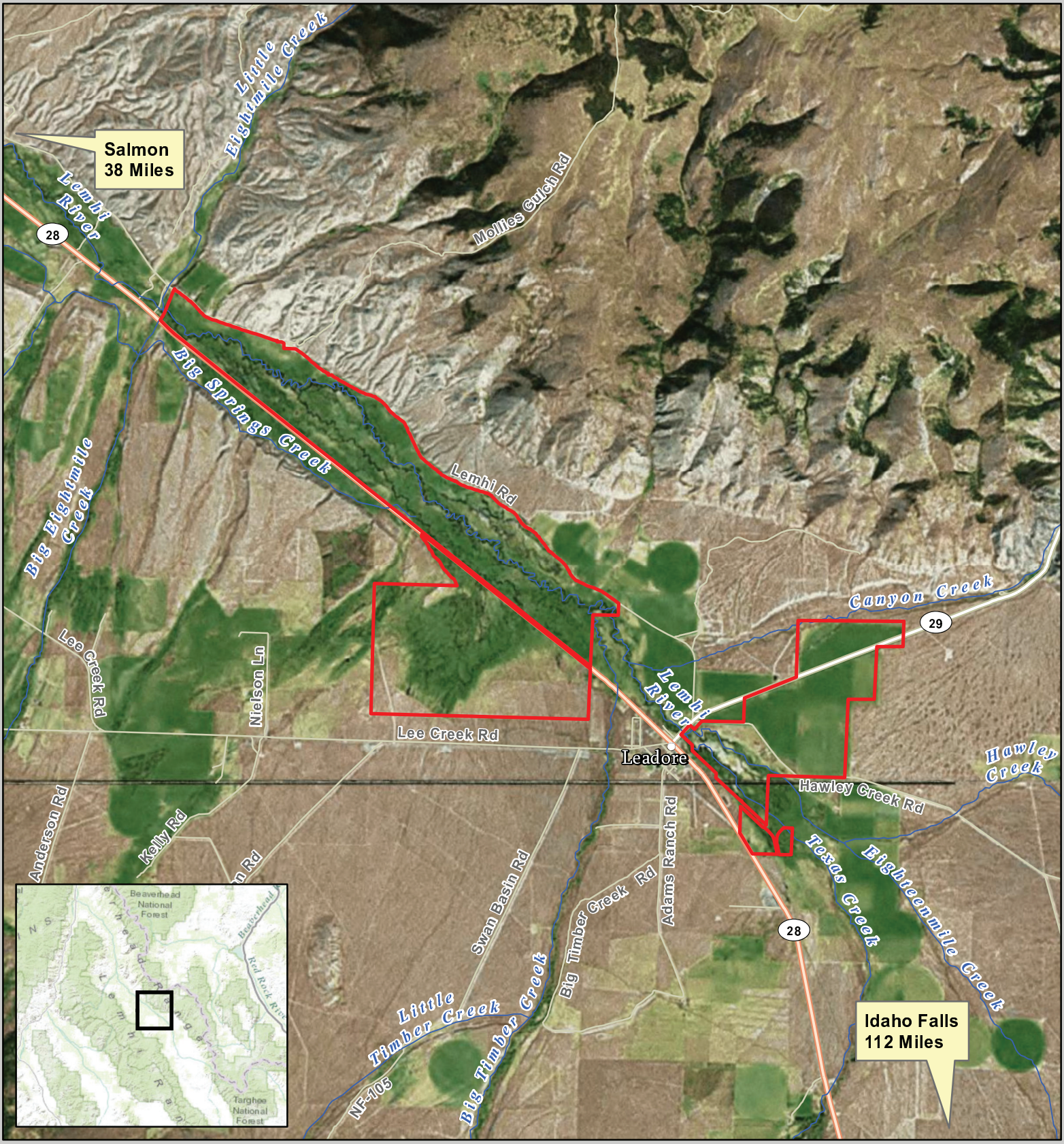
After the transaction is complete, Lemhi Regional Land Trust will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property. BPA will review the plan for consistency with the purpose of the easement acquisition. The plan will outline specific actions intended to protect in-stream and riparian habitat, improve flows in the Lemhi River, and reconnect tributary streams to the Lemhi River. If BPA proposes to fund any of these actions, 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, Joe DeHerrera at 503.230.3442 or jldeherrera@bpa.gov. You may also call toll free at 800.622.4519. In your response, please refer to the Upper Lemhi Conservation Easement.

Sincerely,

/s/ Don Rose
Don Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure: Vicinity Map



Upper Lemhi River Conservation Easement
Public Notification Map

Lemhi County, ID
4,682 Acres

Subject Property

6/23/2015

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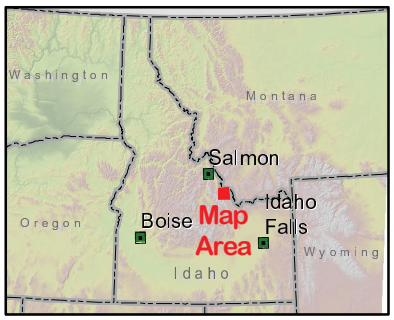
BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

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