



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 5, 2019

In reply refer to: "Umatilla Yurt", mail stop EC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) intends to fund the purchase of approximately 76.94 acres of property consisting of mixed conifer forest and riparian/wetland habitat located along the Umatilla River in Umatilla County, Oregon. When the purchase of the Umatilla Yurt Property Acquisition is complete, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) will own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and Bonneville will receive a conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected. Bonneville is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this land purchase.

The funding will be provided as part of Bonneville's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife. The acquisition would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation 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 Bonneville commitments to acquire new fish and wildlife habitat as identified in the 2008 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion, as amended in 2010, 2014 and 2019 under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Enclosed you will find a map detailing this land transaction. Bonneville 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 was approved on July 23, 2019 and is posted on Bonneville's website at: <https://apdf.bud.bpa.gov/efw/Analysis/CategoricalExclusions/Pages/2019.aspx>.

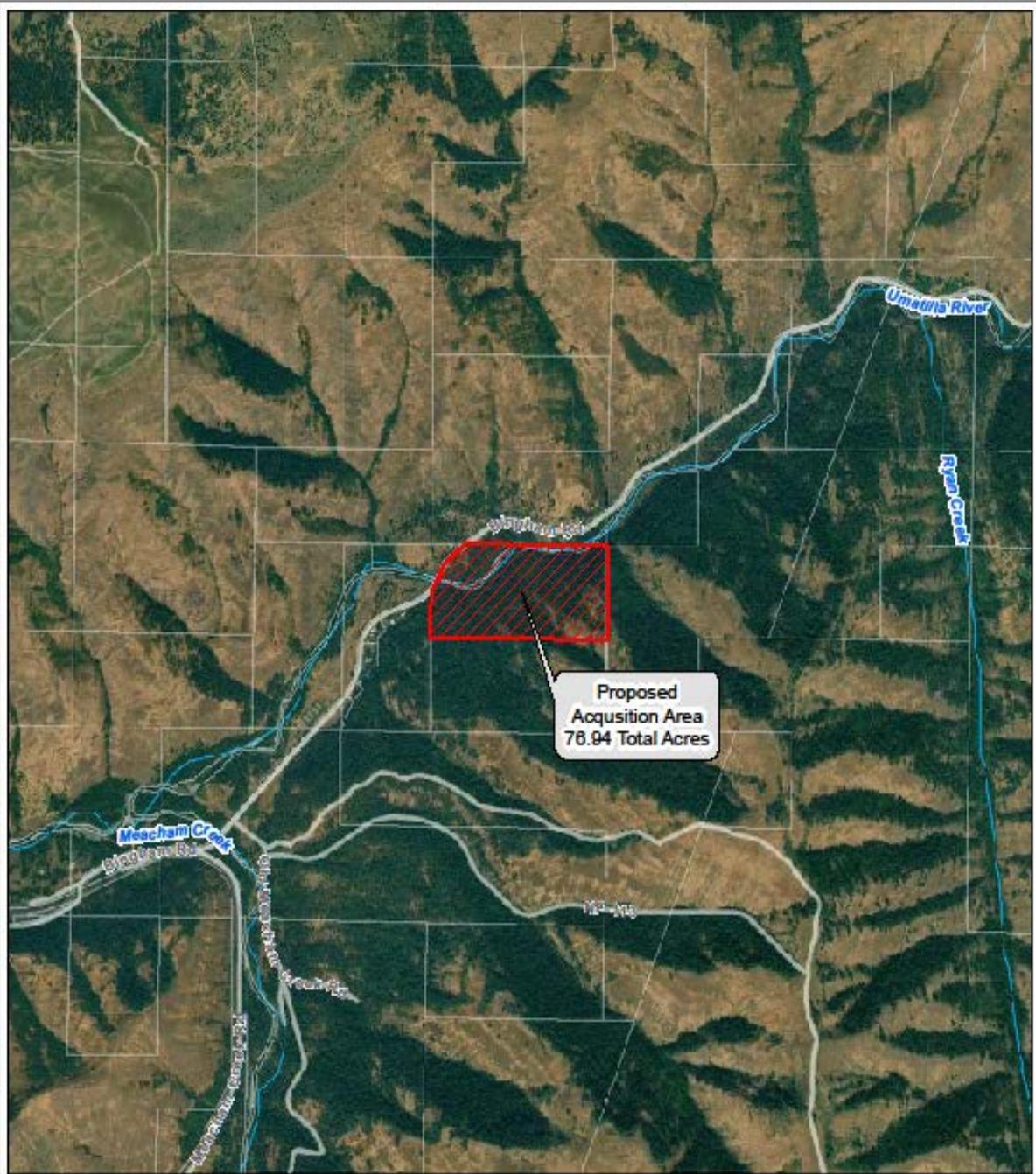
The CTUIR will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on the property. Bonneville will review the plan for consistency with the purpose of the acquisition and the terms and conditions of the conservation easement prior to its implementation. If Bonneville proposes to fund any restoration activities, Bonneville 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, Hannah Dondy-Kaplan at (503) 230-4071 or hadondy-kaplan@bpa.gov. You can also call Public Affairs toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the "Umatilla Yurt" Property Acquisition project.

Sincerely,

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure: Vicinity Map



**Umatilla Yurt Property Acquisition
Public Notification Map**

7/17/2019

 Proposed Acquisition Area

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle
Gibbon

County and State
Umatilla, OR

