



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

April 2, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of a conservation easement on approximately 2,928 acres of riparian and upland habitat, located along the main stem of Dark Canyon Creek in Union County, OR. The current landowner will continue to own the property and will continue to graze cattle in the uplands in a way that is compatible with wildlife habitat. Cattle will be excluded from the riparian areas especially along Dark Canyon Creek and Meadow Creek in order to improve fish habitat. Access to the property will continue to be granted at the discretion and with the permission of the landowner. The funding to purchase the easement is part of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation's Accord agreement with BPA. When the purchase is complete, the Blue Mountain Land Trust will work with the landowner to manage the property under the easement for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. BPA will receive a third party right of enforcement on the conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property and identified in the conservation easement are always protected. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this conservation easement purchase.

The Accords are agreements BPA has signed with federal agency partners, three states and several tribes in the Columbia basin. These agreements established firm 10-year funding commitments to Accord partners for habitat and hatchery actions. Accord projects provide greater clarity about the biological benefits of projects and build on NOAA Fisheries' biological opinions for listed salmon and steelhead and the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's fish and wildlife program. The funding will be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for Snake River spring-summer chinook and steelhead as mitigation for the construction and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System on the Columbia and Snake Rivers.

Enclosed you will find a map detailing this land transaction. 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 March 27, 2015, and is posted on BPA's website at: http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categoricalexclusions.aspx.

The Blue Mountain Land Trust will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property while monitoring and enforcing the terms and conditions identified in the conservation easement. BPA, the Blue Mountain Land Trust and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will review the plan for consistency with

the mitigation and conservation purposes of the acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any activities on the property, additional environmental review would be conducted.

If you have any questions regarding this land purchase, please contact the project manager, Dorie Welch, 503-230-5479, dwwelch@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the Dark Canyon land acquisition.

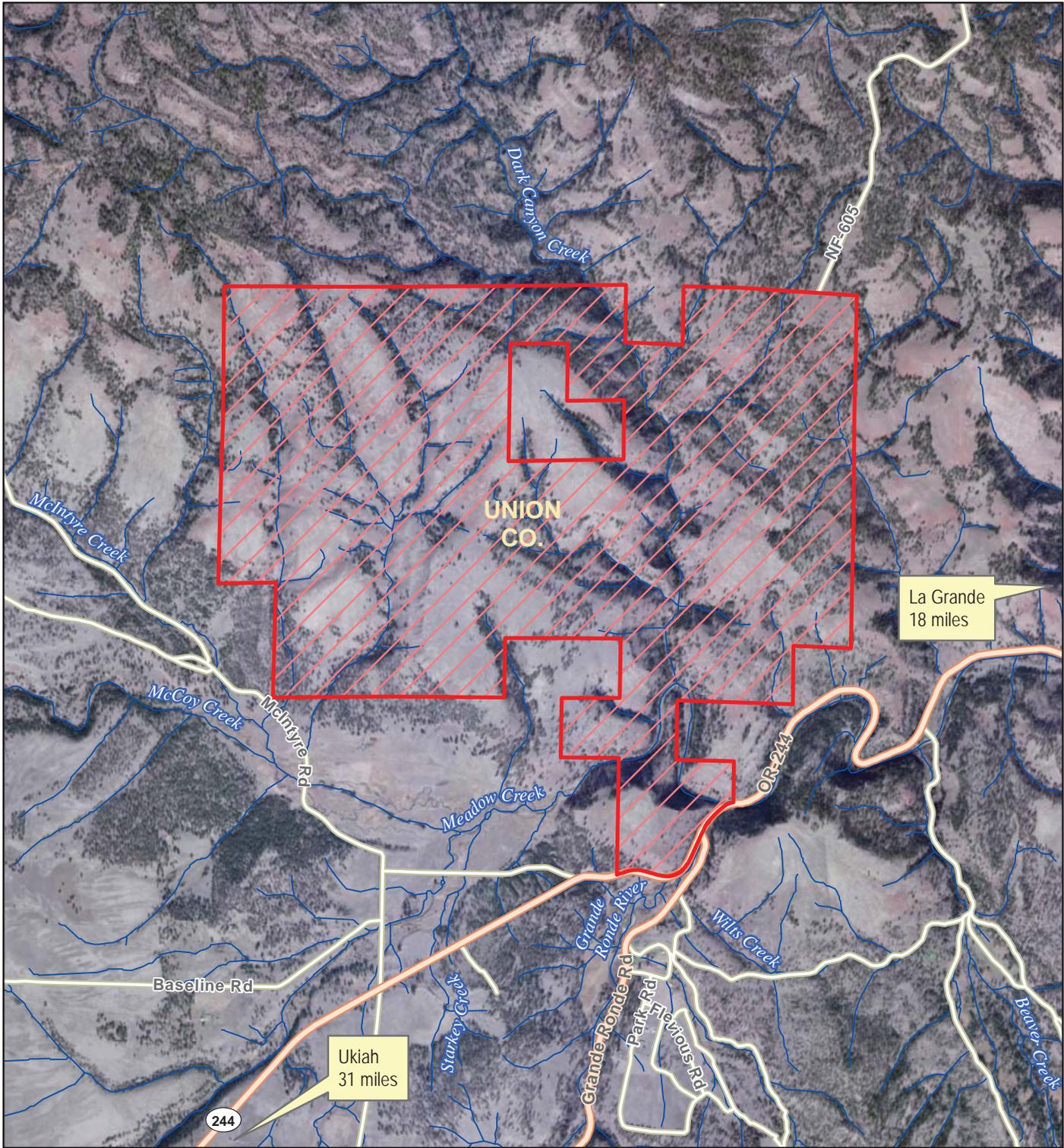
Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose

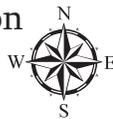
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure: Vicinity Map

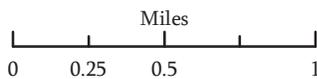


Dark Canyon Conservation Easement Acquisition Public Notification Map

Union County, OR - McIntyre Creek and Kamela SE USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle
(2,928 Acres)



 Subject Property



February 18, 2015

