



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 2, 2013

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party,

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the purchase of approximately 200 privately owned acres at fair market value. The property is located on the Chinook River, at its confluence with the Columbia River in Pacific County, Washington. When the purchase is complete, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. BPA will be granted a conservation easement on the property to ensure that the habitat values are always protected. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this proposed land purchase.

The funding would be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore, and enhance habitat in the estuary that benefits all 13 Columbia Basin salmon and steelhead stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act. The acquisition would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the dams in the Columbia River Basin, referred to as the Federal Columbia River Power System. This land acquisition would satisfy some of BPA's mitigation requirements as identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008 Biological Opinion, which guides the protection of Columbia River salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as well as the Washington Memorandum of Agreement with BPA, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Corps of Engineers that was signed in September 2006 by former Washington Governor Christine Gregoire.

Enclosed you will find a map showing the location of the property. 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. This documentation, known as a categorical exclusion, was approved on April 1, 2013 and is posted on BPA's website at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorical_exclusions.aspx.

The WDFW would provide long-term stewardship for the land and would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on the property. This management plan would also guide the increased public access to the land for a variety of recreational activities. WDFW would provide the public an opportunity to review and comment on the plan. BPA would review the plan and must approve it before it is implemented. Purchase of the property would allow future restoration of estuarine wetlands and floodplains. Activities may include: removing ditches, re-creating historic side channels, controlling invasive weeds, and planting native vegetation. If BPA proposes to fund any of these or other activities, we would first conduct additional environmental review under NEPA and other statutes as appropriate.

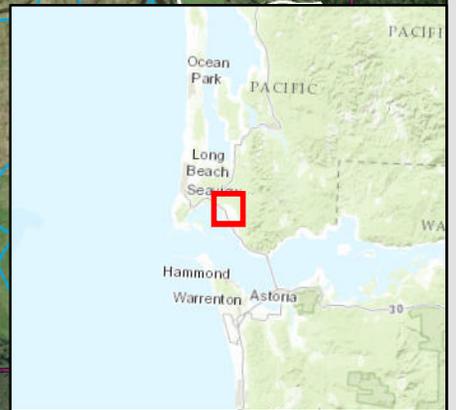
If you have any questions regarding this land purchase, please feel free to contact the project manager, Jason Karnezis, at 503-230-3098 or jpkarnezis@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the “Chinook Property Acquisition.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michelle Guay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'y'.

Michelle Guay
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure:
Vicinity Map



Chinook Property Acquisition - Public Notification Map

Chinook Quadrangle
 Pacific County, WA
 (Approximately 200 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  TRS Boundary



8/8/2013

