



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 1, 2014

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: Parties interested in the proposed Coyote Oaks land acquisition under the 2010 Willamette Wildlife Habitat Agreement

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of a conservation easement on the 152-acre Coyote Oaks property in Lane County, Oregon. When the purchase is complete, the McKenzie River Trust will hold the conservation easement and will make sure that the property is managed for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. BPA will hold third party rights to the easement and will ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this proposal.

The funding will be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore, and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife in the Willamette Valley. In addition, this conservation action is intended to benefit the Bradshaw's lomatium (*Lomatium bradshawii*), a rare plant species found on the site and currently protected under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In 2010, BPA and the State of Oregon signed a landmark agreement to jointly protect Willamette Basin fish and wildlife habitat. The Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Agreement dedicates stable funding from electric ratepayers for 15 years to preserve at least 16,000 acres of additional Willamette fish and wildlife habitat. The funding for land acquisitions is part of ongoing efforts to mitigate for the impacts to fish and wildlife from the construction and operation of federal dams in the Willamette River Basin. The State of Oregon agreed to engage stakeholders in a public process for allocating ratepayer funds to the most ecologically beneficial and cost-effective habitat projects. Under the agreement, tribes, agencies and others may apply to use the funds to protect and enhance wetlands, floodplains, grasslands, oak woodlands, riparian areas and other rare habitat, consistent with the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Northwest Power Council's Fish and Wildlife Program.

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 3/12/14, and is posted on BPA's website at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorical_exclusions.aspx.

The current property owners will continue to own and manage the land. The McKenzie River Trust will work with the landowner to provide long-term stewardship for the land protected by the conservation easement and will develop a management plan to guide the protection of habitat on the property. The

public will have an opportunity to review and comment on the plan before it is forwarded to BPA and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for their review. The plan must be approved by BPA. Management actions may include removal of non-native vegetation, weed control, and maintenance of native habitats. If BPA proposes to fund any additional activities on this property, 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, Dorie Welch, with BPA at (503) 230-5479 or dwwelch@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the "Coyote Oaks Conservation Easement".

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose 7-1-2014

Donald L. Rose

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:

Map

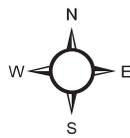


Coyote Oaks Public Notification Map

Lane County, OR
147.81 Acres

 Subject Property

2/11/2014



0  1 Miles

