



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 1, 2015

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of approximately 30 acres of historically estuarine wetland and riparian habitat, located along Deep River in Wahkiakum County, Washington. When the purchase is complete, Columbia Land Trust (Land Trust) will own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA will receive a conservation easement to 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 land purchase.

The funding will be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore, and enhance habitat for juvenile coho and chinook salmon, juvenile steelhead, black bear, elk, river otter, and other 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 BPA's Columbia River estuary mitigation requirements as identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008/2010/2014 Biological Opinion that guides BPA's protection of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

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 May 27, 2015 and is posted on BPA's website at:

http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/pdf/Deep_River_Mouth_3_Land_Acquisition.pdf.

Upon the completion of the land acquisitions BPA and the Land Trust intend to establish secure, permanent funding for stewardship of the properties. BPA will make a one-time lump sum payment to fund a stewardship account from which the Land Trust will draw monies as needed to provide permanent stewardship on the properties. Stewardship management actions may include, but are not limited to, public outreach, site monitoring, habitat mapping, encroachment monitoring, invasive species monitoring and control, and annual maintenance of boundary fence, signage, or gates. The Land Trust will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on the property. The Land Trust will provide the opportunity for the public to review the draft plan. BPA will review the plan for consistency with the purpose of the acquisition and the terms and conditions of the conservation easement before it is implemented. Large scale restoration activities associated with the property would be funded with sources other than stewardship funds. If BPA proposes to fund any restoration activities, 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, Anne Creason at 503-230-3859 or amcreason@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the Deep River Mouth 3 land acquisition.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donald L. Rose

Donald L. Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure: Vicinity Map

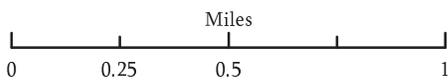


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Deep River 3 Land Acquisition Public Notification Map

Wahkiakum County, WA - Rosburg USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle
(29.81 Acres)

 Subject Property



May 12, 2015

