Department of Energy

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

Official File

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

September 10, 2012

In reply refer to: KEW-4

To: People Interested in the Proposed Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes land acquisitions under the Federal Columbia River Power System Mitigation Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the purchase of two properties in Lake County, MT—the 112 acre Skidoo Creek property and the five acre Post Creek Property. When the transactions are complete, the properties would be owned and managed for fish and wildlife habitat conservation purposes by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). To ensure that the habitat values are protected in perpetuity, BPA will receive a conservation easement for each property. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of these proposed land purchases.

The funding would be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout habitat in Montana. Purchasing the land would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the Hungry Horse Dam on the South Fork Flathead River.

Enclosed you will find maps describing the land transactions. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of the properties would be categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that further environmental review of this funding action is not required. This categorical exclusion was approved on September 7, 2012, and is posted on BPA's website at: *http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categoricalexclusions.aspx*

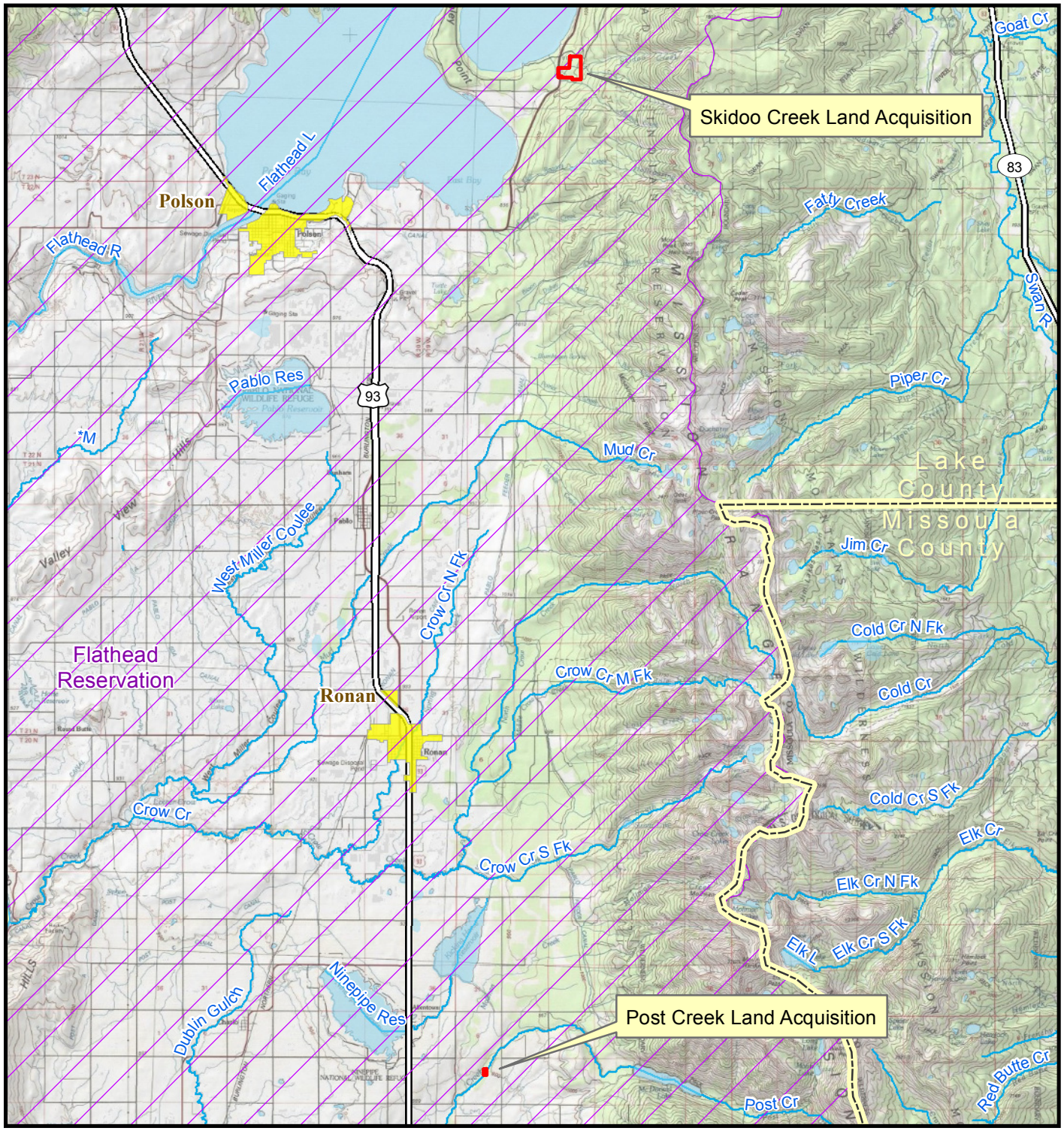
The CSKT would provide long-term management of the land and would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources. CSKT will provide the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the plan. BPA must review and approve the plan before it is implemented.

If you have any questions regarding these acquisitions, please contact Cecilia Brown, BPA project manager, at 503-230-3426 or ckbrown@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free: 800-622-4519—please refer to the Skidoo and Post Creek land acquisitions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan, September 10, 2012
Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosures:
3 Maps



Skidoo Creek and Post Creek Land Acquisitions

East Bay and Fort Connah Quadrangles

(Approx. 117 Acres)

N
W E
S

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

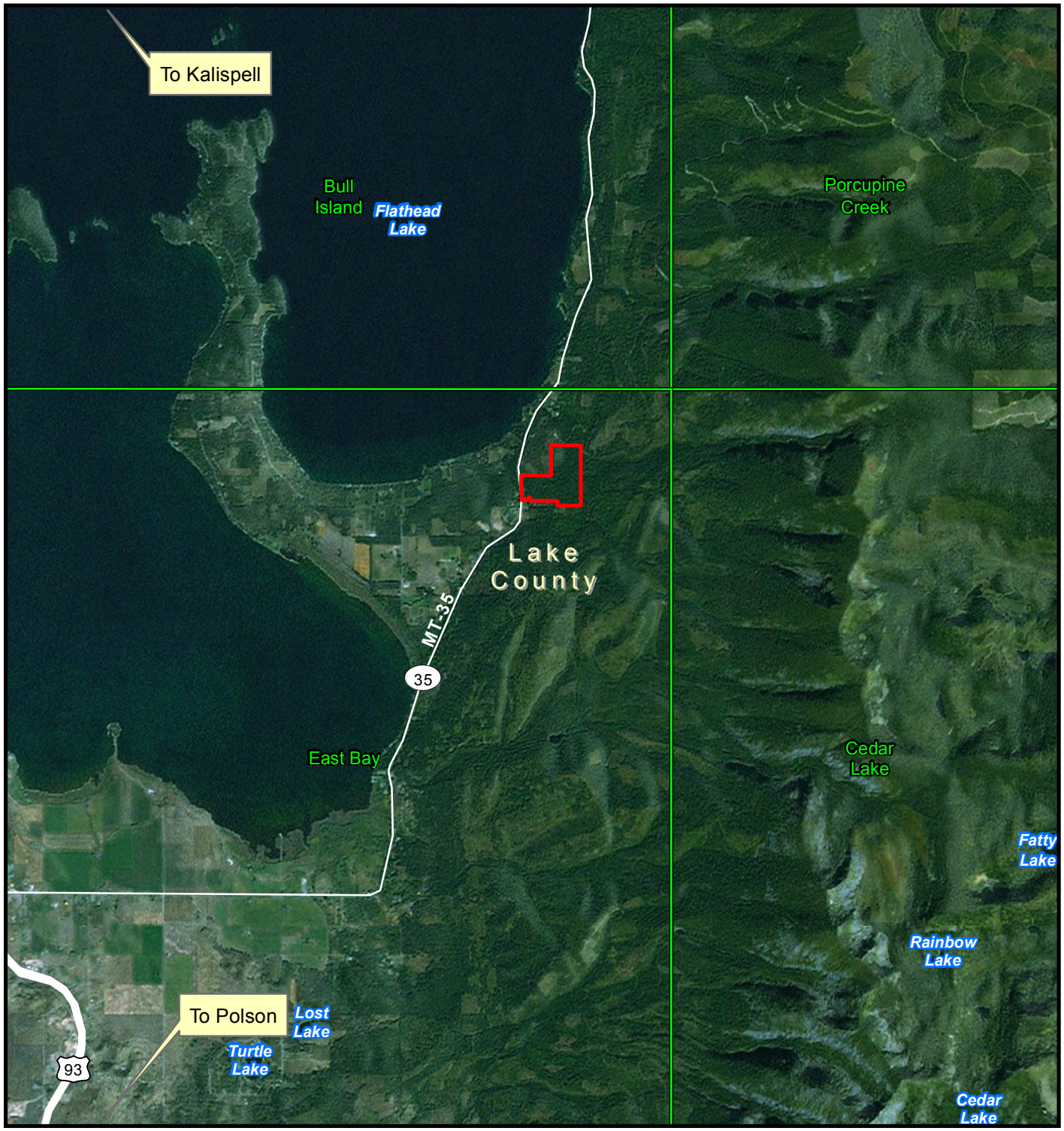
Subject Property

Flathead Reservation

City Boundary

County

0 1 2 3 4 5 Miles



Skidoo Creek Land Acquisition

East Bay Quadrangle

(Approx. 112 Acres)

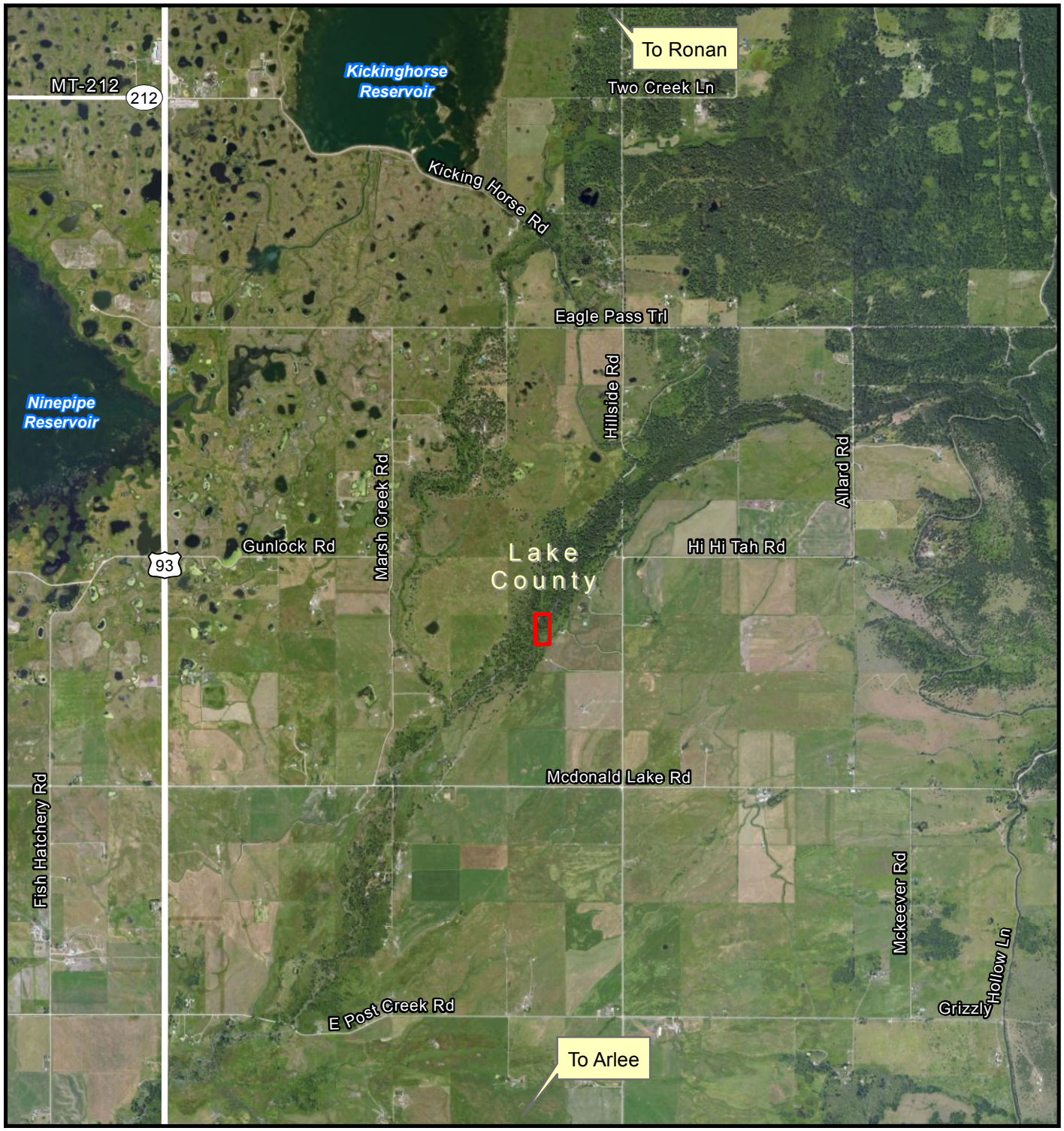
N
W E
S

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION

Subject Property

Quad Name and Boundary

0 0.5 1 2 Miles



Post Creek Land Acquisition

Fort Connah Quadrangle
(Approx. 5 Acres)

Subject Property

0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles