Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

March 4, 2013

In reply refer to: KEW-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the purchase of approximately 62 acres of riparian habitat, located along Yellow Bay Creek in Lake County, MT. When the purchase is complete, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes would own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA would 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 proposed land purchase.

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

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. This documentation, known as a categorical exclusion, was approved on February 27, and is posted on BPA's website at http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categoricalexclusions.aspx.

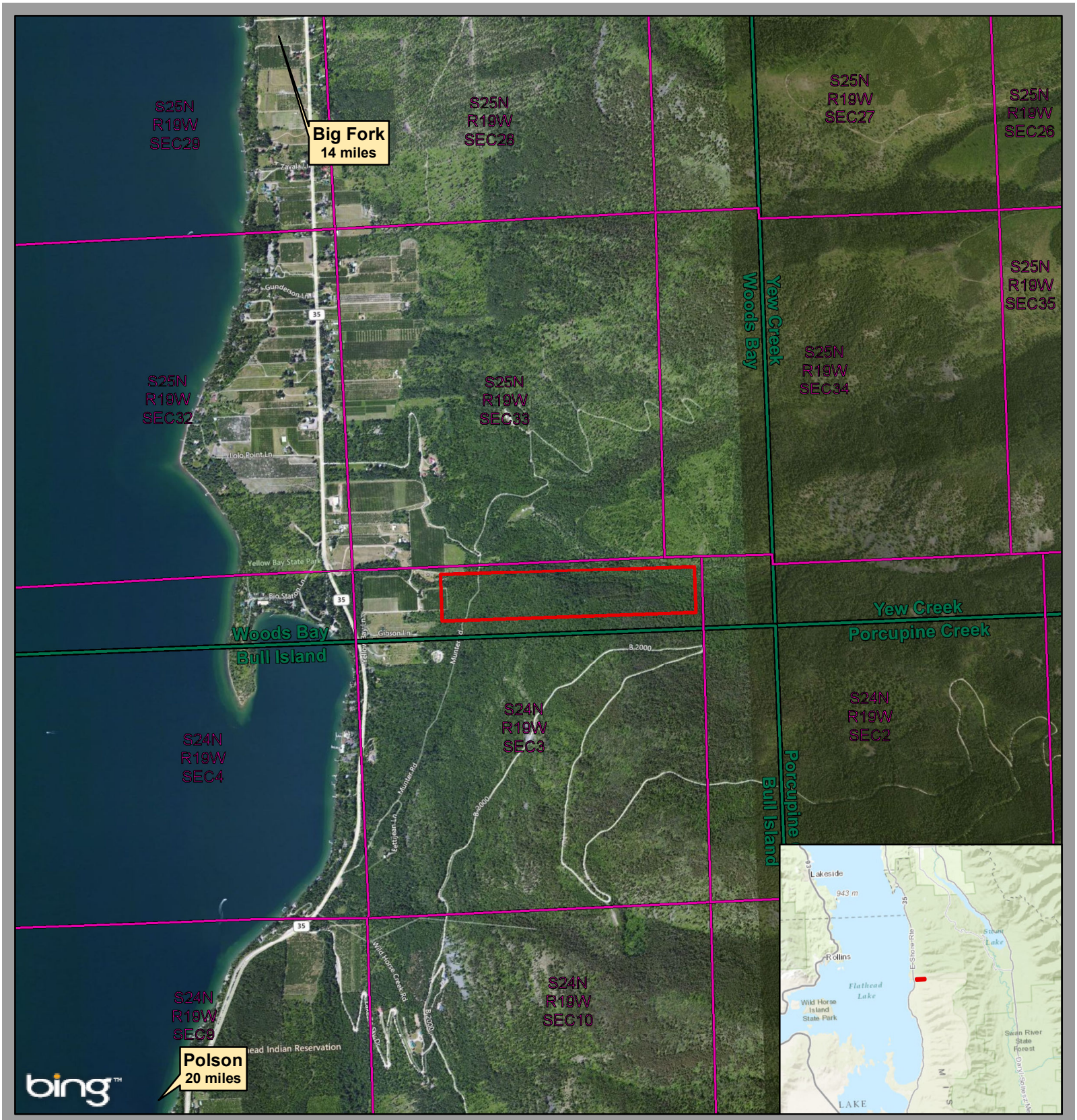
The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will provide the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the draft plan. BPA will review the plan and must approve it before it is implemented. Management actions may include fencing repair or construction to protect the land from livestock grazing. If BPA proposes to fund any of these 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, Cecilia Brown at 503-230-3462 or ckbrown@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the "Yellow Bay Creek Land Acquisition."

Sincerely,

/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan, March 4, 2013
Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure: Vicinity Map



Yellow Bay Creek Land Acquisition

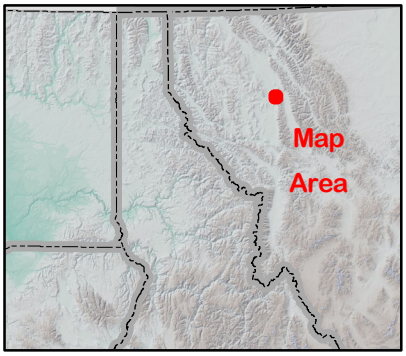
Lake County, MT
(64 Acres)

- Subject Property
- TRS Boundary
- Quad Name and Boundary

0 0.5 1 Mile

N W E S

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION



2/27/2013