

memorandum

DATE: June 4, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Greg Baesler
Project Manager - KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Provision of funds to Idaho Department of Fish and Game for purchase of 72.53 acres known as the Crystal Springs Trout Farm property under the Snake River Sockeye Captive Propagation Program.

Fish and Wildlife Project Number: 2007-402-00, Contract # BPA-005203

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):

A.7 - Transfer, lease, disposition or acquisition of interests in personal property (e.g., equipment and materials) or real property (e.g., permanent structures and land), if property use is to remain unchanged i.e., the type and magnitude of impacts would remain essentially the same.

Location: Springfield, Bingham County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to provide funding to IDFG to purchase the existing Crystal Springs Trout Farm situated on 72.53 acres of land in Bingham County, Idaho. IDFG will have ownership of the property; BPA will not hold the title to this property at any time. IDFG plans to use this existing facility for the rearing of Snake River sockeye salmon – a Federally-listed salmonid species.

The Snake River Sockeye Captive Propagation Program is a priority under the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008 Biological Opinion on the operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System. This Biological Opinion addresses expansion of production for Snake River Sockeye to increase total smolt releases to between 500,000 and 1,000,000 fish. In addition, in the Columbia River Fish Accords Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Idaho, BPA has provisionally (contingent on project-specific environmental review) agreed to provide the funding necessary for the acquisition, planning, construction, and operation and maintenance of a conservation hatchery facility for the production and conservation of Snake River sockeye.

This categorical exclusion is for the acquisition of the property, which currently is operated as a private fish hatchery. IDFG is proposing to redevelop and upgrade the hatchery facilities to be capable of rearing up to 1,000,000 full-term sockeye salmon smolts annually. As part of the planning process and prior to funding any construction or expansion of the sockeye program, BPA will conduct further environmental review.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix A of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources. Based on the provision that a cultural resource survey will be conducted prior to any ground disturbing activities, this proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Andrew Montano

Andrew M. Montano

Environmental Protection Specialist, KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

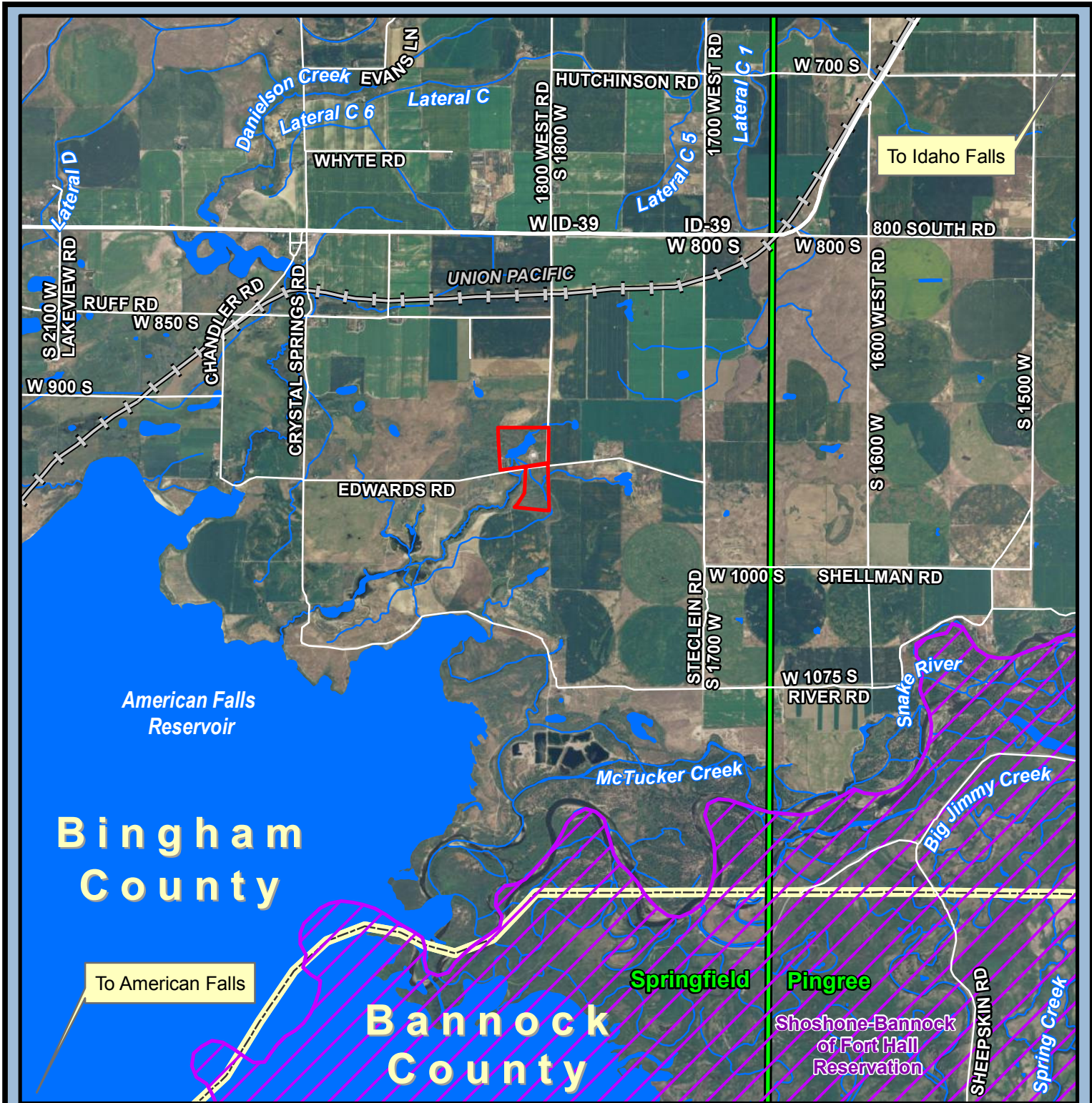
Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer, KEC-4






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Attachment:

Map of Property Location



Springfield Hatchery Acquisition
 Springfield Quadrangle
 (72.53 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  County
-  Quad Name and Boundary
-  Indian Reservation
-  Railroads

