

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 8, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dave Roberts
Project Manager – KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Provision of funds to the Colville Confederated Tribes (CCT) for purchase of the Okanogan County (Peterson, Harlan, King) Properties

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2008-104-00, Contract # BPA-004448

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

B1.25 Transfer, lease, disposition or acquisition of interests in uncontaminated land for habitat preservation or wildlife management, and only associated buildings that support these purposes. Uncontaminated means that there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that would pose a threat to public health or the environment.

Location:

Peterson Property - Township 35 North, Range 27 East, Sections 6 and 7; Township 35 North Range 26 East, Section 12 of the Keystone 7.5' USGS quadrangle map, in Okanogan County, Washington (near Barker, Washington)

Harlan Property – Township 34 North, Range 26 East, Section 36 of the Pothole 7.5' USGS quadrangle map, in Okanogan County, Washington (near Omak, Washington)

King Property – Township 29 North, Range 25 East, Section 9 of the Bridgeport 7.5' USGS quadrangle map, in Okanogan County, Washington (near Omak, Washington)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) CCT

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the acquisitions of the 72.86 acre Petersen property, the 4.35 acre Harlan property, and the 15 acre King property by the CCT. BPA will be granted a perpetual conservation easement over the entire three properties as a condition of funding their acquisitions. The properties are being acquired because of their outstanding riparian natural resource values. The acquisitions are an opportunity to enhance, restore, and manage high quality fish habitat for summer and fall Chinook and sockeye salmon, as well as ESA-listed upper Columbia River steelhead. This watershed was selected for restoration and preservation efforts because natural habitat is shrinking in the area, and development poses increasing risk that more habitat will be lost in the future.

The CCT agree that this acquisition and the permanent protection of the properties that will result are ultimately being undertaken for the benefit of the public. Ownership by the CCT and

the perpetual conservation easement to be held by BPA will ensure that the critical fish and wildlife habitat values present on the property will be protected forever.

BPA is funding the CCT acquisition of the properties and is receiving conservation easements. Prior to any management activities, BPA will conduct further environmental review.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B 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.

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/ Jenna Peterson

Jenna Peterson

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

DATE: Sept. 8, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY 10 Columbia Basin Fish Accords with Colville Confederated Tribes

Project #: 2008-104-00 Contract # BPA-004448

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. Cultural Resources No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Jenna Peterson

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