

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: January 5, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Lee Watts
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Provision of funds to the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for purchase of the Tall Pines Property.

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 1992-061-00

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: Township 51 North Range 3 West Section 2 and Township 52 North Range 3 West Section 35, in Kootenai County, Idaho. Parcel is located on the northeastern shore of Hayden Lake, east of the town of Hayden, Idaho.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDF&G).

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of the 203-acre Tall Pines property by the IDF&G. BPA will be granted a perpetual conservation easement over the entire property as a condition of funding the acquisition. The property is being acquired because of its outstanding wetlands and upland forest natural resource values. The acquisition will provide an opportunity to enhance, restore, and manage high quality habitat for bird species such as turkey, grouse, woodpeckers, raptors, shorebirds, and song birds as well as other wildlife including elk, black bear, white-tailed deer, mountain lion, beaver, moose and Endangered Species Act-listed Canada lynx. 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 IDF&G agrees that this acquisition and the permanent protection of the property that will result is ultimately being undertaken for the benefit of the public. Ownership by the IDF&G 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 IDF&G acquisition of the property and is receiving a conservation easement. 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

Date: January 5, 2011

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: FY 11 IDF&G Tall Pines Land Acquisition

Project #: 1992-061-00 #BPA 005758

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"/>

Signed: Jenna Peterson

Date: January 5, 2011