

# memorandum

DATE: May 2, 2012

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jason Karnezis  
Project Manager – KEWL-4

**Proposed Action:** Provision of funds to the Columbia Land Trust for the purchase of five parcels of land located near the Lower Elochoman River

**Fish and Wildlife Project No.:** 2010-073-00, Contract # 52484

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

**B1.25** Real property transfer for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management.

**Location:** The project is located along the lower Elochoman River in western Wahkiakum County in Township 9 N, R 6 W, Sections 26, 35, and 36 near Cathlamet, Washington.

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is funding the Columbia land Trust's (CLT's) fee title purchase of a 106-acre property. The property is located alongside the Lower Elochoman River off of Foster Road near the town of Cathlamet, Washington in Wahkiakum County. This funding is being provided as part of BPA's efforts to assist with restoration activities for threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead in the region. Purchase of the property will allow CLT to undergo activities intended to restore estuarine wetlands and floodplains to their historical condition. Activities are likely to include: removing ditches, restoring side channels, placing large woody debris habitat structures, controlling invasive plants, and planting native vegetation. The overall goal is to improve habitat for migratory fish, such as coho, chum, Chinook, and steelhead.

At present, BPA's tie to the project is through funding only. However, if BPA proposes to fund any restoration activities, BPA will conduct additional environmental review under a separate NEPA process.

**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, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

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/ Michelle Guay

Michelle Guay

Environmental Project Manager - KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer - KEC-4

Date: May 2, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusion

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Lower Elochoman Land Acquisition

Work Order #: 2010-073-00, 52484

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Michelle Guay

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