

memorandum

DATE: September 5, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cecilia Brown
Project Manager - KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Provision of funds to Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) for purchase of Skidoo Creek, Post Creek, and Bird's Eye View properties

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2002-003-00, contract 55869

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

B 1.25 Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management.

Locations:

Skidoo Creek Property	Township 23 North, Range 19 West, Section 22	Lake County, MT	112 Acres
Post Creek Property	Township 19 North, Range 19 West, Section 7	Lake County, MT	5 Acres
Bird's Eye View	Township 23 North, Range 18 West, Section 13	Lake County, MT	400 Acres

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to provide funds to CSKT for fee-simple title acquisitions of three properties, totaling about 517 acres, in Lake County, Montana. BPA would be granted perpetual conservation easements over the properties as a condition of funding the acquisitions. The properties are being acquired because they provide the opportunity to protect and enhance the habitat for important resident fish species including bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. In funding CSKT's purchase of the properties, BPA would be provided with partial mitigation credits for the construction and operation of the the Hungry Horse Dam on the South Fork Flathead River.

The purchases would protect the conservation values for which the properties are being acquired by restricting activities such as residential, non-agricultural commercial and industrial development. The CSKT would provide long-term stewardship for the land and would develop management plans to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the properties. The management plan would be developed in coordination with BPA. Prior to funding any management activities, BPA would 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, 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/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 6, 2012

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

3 Maps

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Birds Eye View, Post Creek, and Skidoo Creek Land Acquisitions. Project 2002-002-00

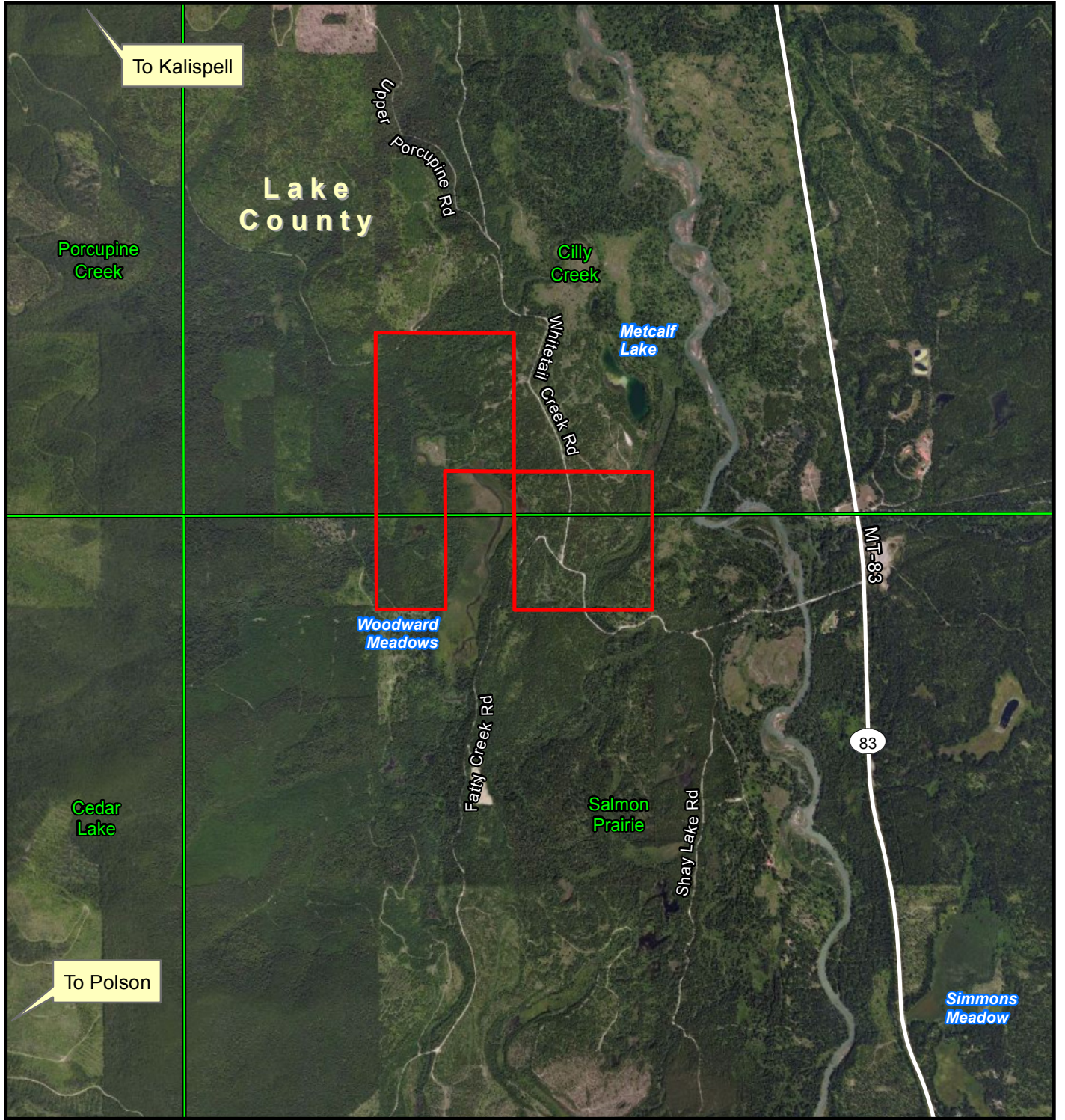
Work Order #: #BPA- 266311

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 adverse effect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities No effect as these are strictly land acquisitions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other Only BPA approved herbicides will be applied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Signed: /s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

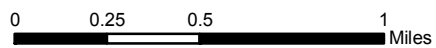
Date: September 5, 2012

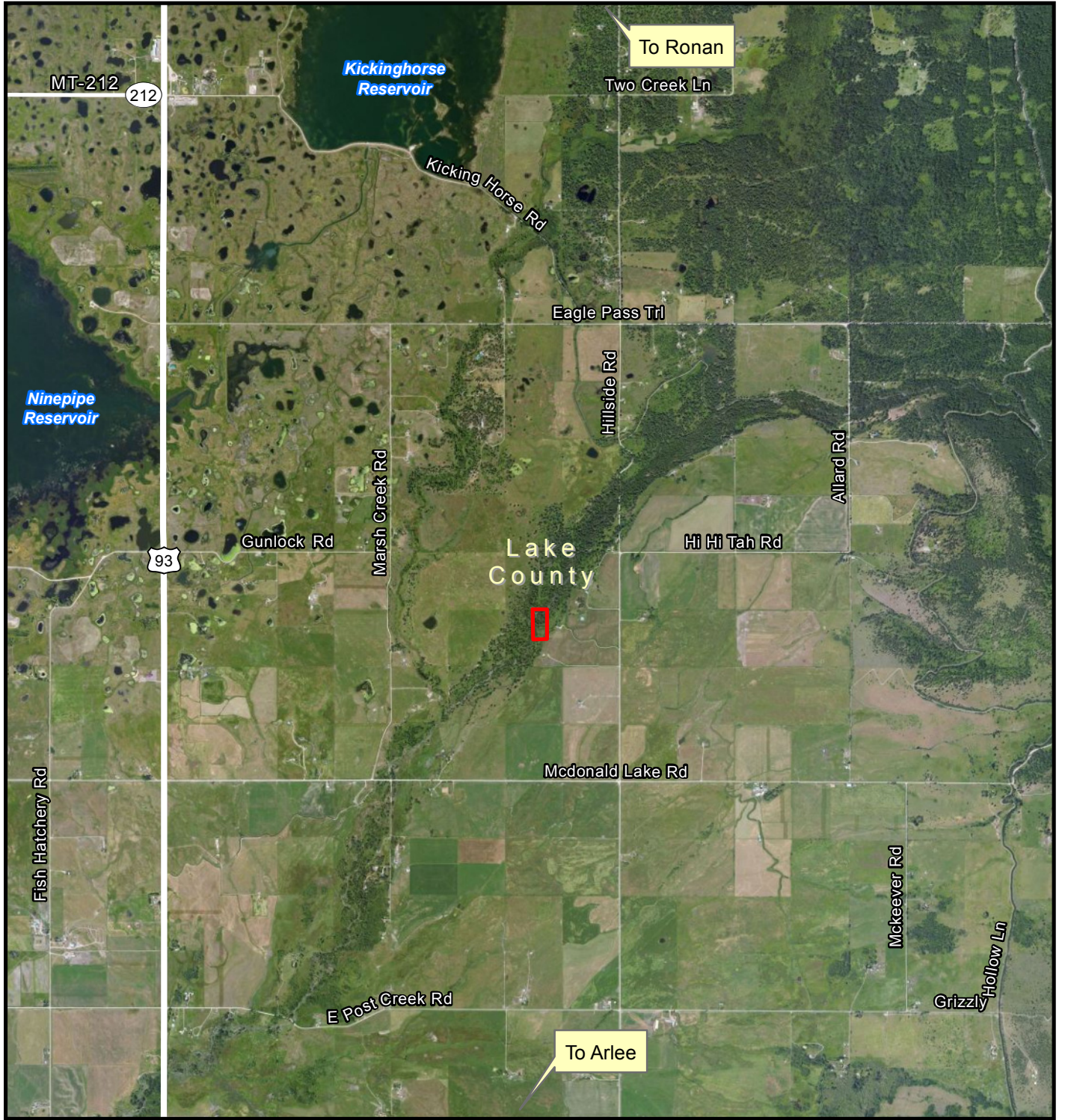


Bird's Eye View Land Acquisition
Cilly Creek and Salmon Prairie Quadrangles
 (Approx. 400 Acres)




-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary

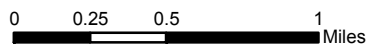


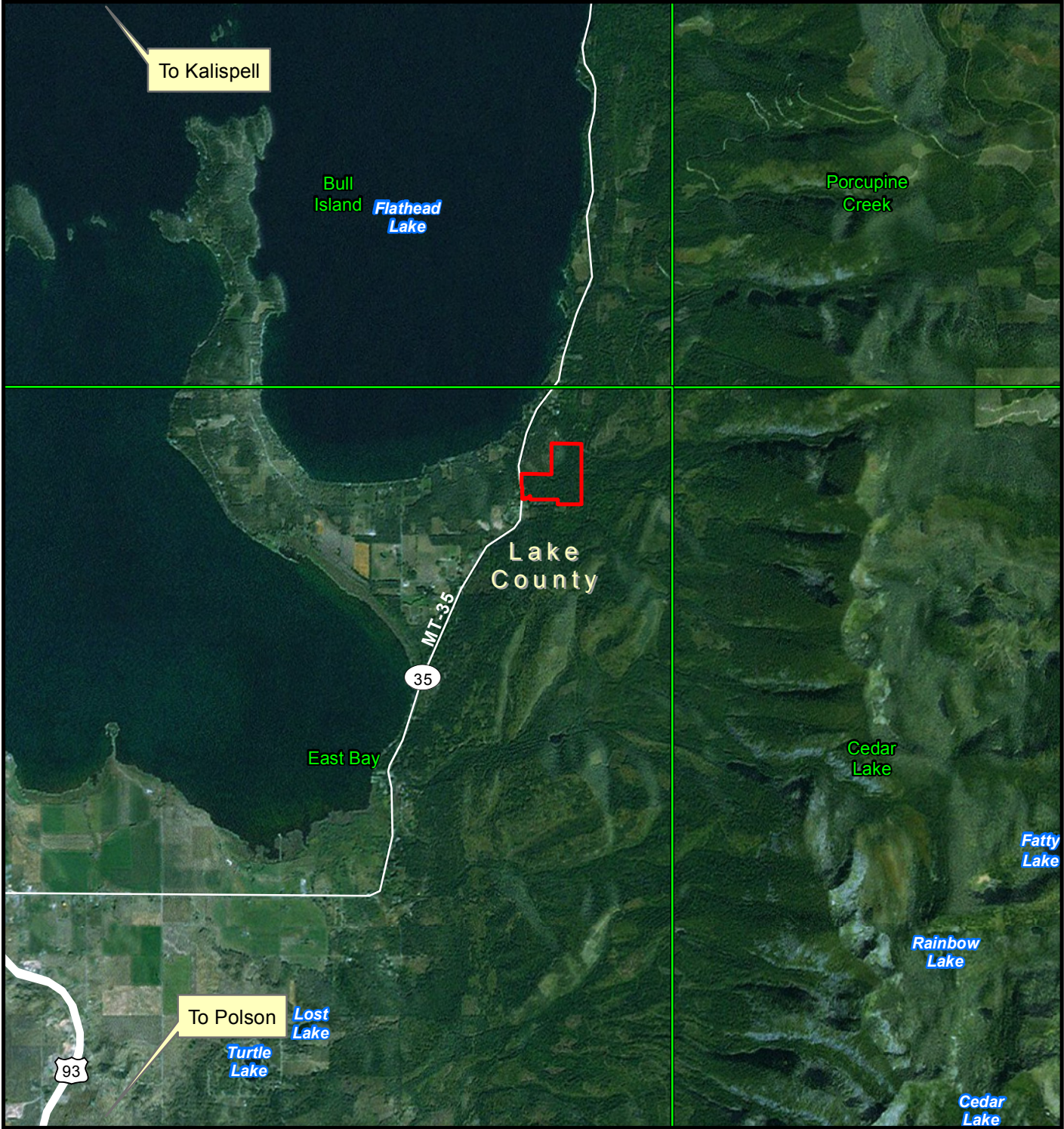


Post Creek Land Acquisition
 Fort Connah Quadrangle
 (Approx. 5 Acres)





 Subject Property

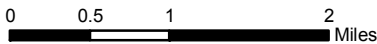




Skidoo Creek Land Acquisition
East Bay Quadrangle
(Approx. 112 Acres)



-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary



MONTANA