

memorandum

DATE: November 8, 2012

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Jason Karnezis
Project Manager – KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Tide Creek Property Funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No. & Contract No.: 2010-073-00, BPA-006247

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.25 Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management

Location: T6N, R2W, S25 in Columbia County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund Columbia Land Trust (CLT) for the purchase of approximately 41 acres of historic Columbia River floodplain in Columbia County, Oregon. The CLT will own and manage the Tide Creek property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA will receive a conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected.

This land purchase would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the dams on the main stem Columbia and Snake Rivers. It also satisfies some of BPA's mitigation requirements for the Columbia River estuary as identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008/2010 Biological Opinion that guides BPA's protection of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The Tide Creek property provides habitat for fish and wildlife species in the Columbia River estuary including coho and chinook salmon, steelhead, Columbia white-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, and river otter.

The Columbia Land Trust will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. Prior to any funding of 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, 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 O'Malley

Michelle O'Malley

Environmental Protection Specialist, KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 8, 2012

Attachment(s):

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusion

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Tide Creek Property Funding

Project No. and Contract No.: 2010-073-00, BPA-006247

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. BPA Archeologists completed a literature search and there are no previously recorded sites located on the property.	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Michelle O'Malley

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