

memorandum

DATE: May 15, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dorie Welch
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Luckiamute Meadows property funding.

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-007071

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

Location: Kings Valley quadrangle, in Benton County, Oregon (near Kings Valley, Oregon)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: The BPA is proposing to fund the Greenbelt Trust's purchase of the Luckiamute Meadows property (Property), a 73.6-acre parcel of land located just east of Kings Valley in Benton County, Oregon. This conservation Property is located within a priority conservation area for riparian and aquatic habitats identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, adopted by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in 2006. One of the goals of the Oregon Conservation Strategy is to protect and restore native Willamette River tributary habitats and the species that rely on them. In addition, the Property is contiguous with an existing conservation easement creating a conservation zone of nearly 225 acres adjacent to the Luckiamute River that includes the confluence of the Luckiamute River and Price Creek.

This funding partially fulfills commitments made in the 2010 "Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Habitat Protection and Enhancement between the State of Oregon and the Bonneville Power Administration". This is part of BPA's ongoing efforts to mitigate for the impacts to fish and wildlife of the construction and operation of federal flood control facilities in the Willamette River Basin. Placing this property in a conservation easement will provide long-lasting wildlife benefits as part of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley by preventing the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat to other land uses.

The Property contains habitat that will provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of wildlife habitat losses due to the construction and operation of the federal flood-control facilities on the Willamette River. As part of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley this acquisition will provide long-lasting benefits by allowing wildlife access to native Willamette Valley oak, riparian and floodplain habitats. This Property contains the confluence of the Luckiamute River and Maxfield Creek, a priority area in Kings Valley for the protection and enhancement of riparian and floodplain habitats and to improve water quality and habitat for coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) and cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*). The Property has important conservation value for the creek and river systems, riparian and oak forest, grassland and wetland habitats and associated species. Existing riparian and oak forests are comprised of native species including but not limited to Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), Pacific ninebark

(*Physocarpus capitatus*), and red osier dogwood (*Cornus sericea*). The grassland and wetland areas supports numerous species including elk (*Cervus canadensis*) and various waterfowl, shorebirds, and neo-tropical migrants.

Once the property has been acquired by Grenbelt Land Trust, they will develop a management plan for long-term stewardship of the land. The management plan will be developed in coordination with and approved by BPA and ODFW prior to implementation. Prior to funding any management activities on the property, 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.

/s/ Israel Duran

Israel Duran

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Date: May 15, 2013

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Willamette Wildlife Fund: Luckiamute Meadows Property Funding

Work Order #: Project 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-007071

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.

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

Signed: /s/ Israel Duran

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