

# memorandum

DATE: June 10, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dorie Welch  
Project Manager – KEWM-4

**Proposed Action:** Mt. Richmond property funding

**Fish and Wildlife Project No.:** 2011-003-00, 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:** Fairdale and Yamhill quadrangles, in Yamhill County, Oregon (near Yamhill, Oregon).

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to fund the Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District's (YSWCD) purchase of the Mt. Richmond property (Property), a 284.66-acre parcel of land located west of the City of Yamhill in Yamhill County Oregon.

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 would 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 consists of approximately 284.66 acres including oak woodlands, grasslands, wet prairie, and riparian habitat supporting Endangered Species Act-listed species Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*), Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus ssp. kincaidii*), Nelson's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea nelsoniana*), and steelhead (*Ortherhynchus mykiss*, Upper Willamette ESU), in lower portions of Hawn Creek. The Property includes other important habitat and ecosystem attributes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has identified the Oak Ridge area that includes the Property as a key element for the recovery (down listing or de-listing) of the Fender's Blue butterfly and represents a potential subpopulation to contribute to the recovery of Kincaid's lupine. Additionally, the Property's native riparian areas and wetlands protect water quality and some of the soils found on the property have been classified as soils of statewide importance. Species that are currently found on the Property include, but are not limited to, Roemer's fescue (*Festuca roemerii*), Oregon sunshine (*Eriophyllum lanatum*), rose checkermallow (*Sidalcea virgata*), Western pond turtles (*Actinemys marmorata*), beaver (*Castor canadensis*), and cutthroat trout (*Ortherhynchus clarkii*), in lower portions of Hawn Creek.

Once YSWCD acquires the property they will develop a management plan for long-term stewardship of the land. The management plan will be reviewed by BPA, YSWCD, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and approved by BPA. 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/ Katherine S. Pierce*

Date: *June 12, 2013*

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Willamette Wildlife Fund: Mt. Richmond 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

Date: June 10, 2013