

memorandum

DATE: June 4, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Emanuel Jaramillo
Project Manager – TEP-TPP-1

Proposed Action: Memaloose Meadows Land Acquisition

Project Work Order No.: Work Order #327332

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: Township 12 North, Range 12 East, Section 6; Tax Lots 100 and 200, Wasco County, Oregon

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of two contiguous parcels consisting of a total of 14.07 acres in Wasco County, Oregon. The funding would be provided to the Columbia Gorge Land Trust (Gorge Land Trust) to acquire these parcels, which are known as Memaloose Meadows. These parcels are developable lots located within the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (National Scenic Area), which was established in 1986 by the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act (16 U.S.C. 544-544p). The parcels are located approximately two miles east of the city of Mosier, north of and adjacent to the Historic Columbia River Highway.

The Memaloose Meadows parcels are both currently zoned as agriculture and function as open space. The parcels provide habitat for wildlife species and are vegetated with native plant communities. The property is visible from the Historic Columbia River Highway and from Highway 84 in Oregon and from Highway 14 and County Road 8 in Washington. These roads are designated as key viewing areas under the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan (Management Plan).

The Gorge Land Trust's purpose in acquiring the Memaloose Meadows parcels is to manage them for scenic resource preservation and plant and wildlife habitat protection and provide long-term stewardship, consistent with the Management Plan. Accordingly, these parcels would be managed to continue to function as open space. As part of this management, in the future the Gorge Land Trust also may propose trails on the property to connect to existing trails on adjacent U.S. Forest Service and Oregon State Parks property. The Gorge Land Trust would ensure any necessary environmental reviews, such as a consistency determination with the Management Plan, are conducted for any such proposed trails.

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/ Kimberly R. St.Hilaire
Kimberly R. St.Hilaire
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *June 4, 2013*

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Project Vicinity Map

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Memaloose Meadows Land Acquisition

Work Order #: Work Order #327332

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 Because there will be no ground disturbance, change of use, and there are no existing structures, there is no potential to affect 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 Based on review of existing resources and a field visit on April 4, 2013, the property is upland with no existing wetlands. The property does not include mapped 100-year floodplains.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation The U.S. Forest Service does not require consistency review with the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Management Plan where the proposal only involves acquisition of land with no development proposal (pers. Comm. Lynn Oliver, US Forest Service, March 25, 2013).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was conducted for the Memaloose Meadows property; it did not reveal evidence of Recognized Environmental Conditions in connection with the property.	<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"/>

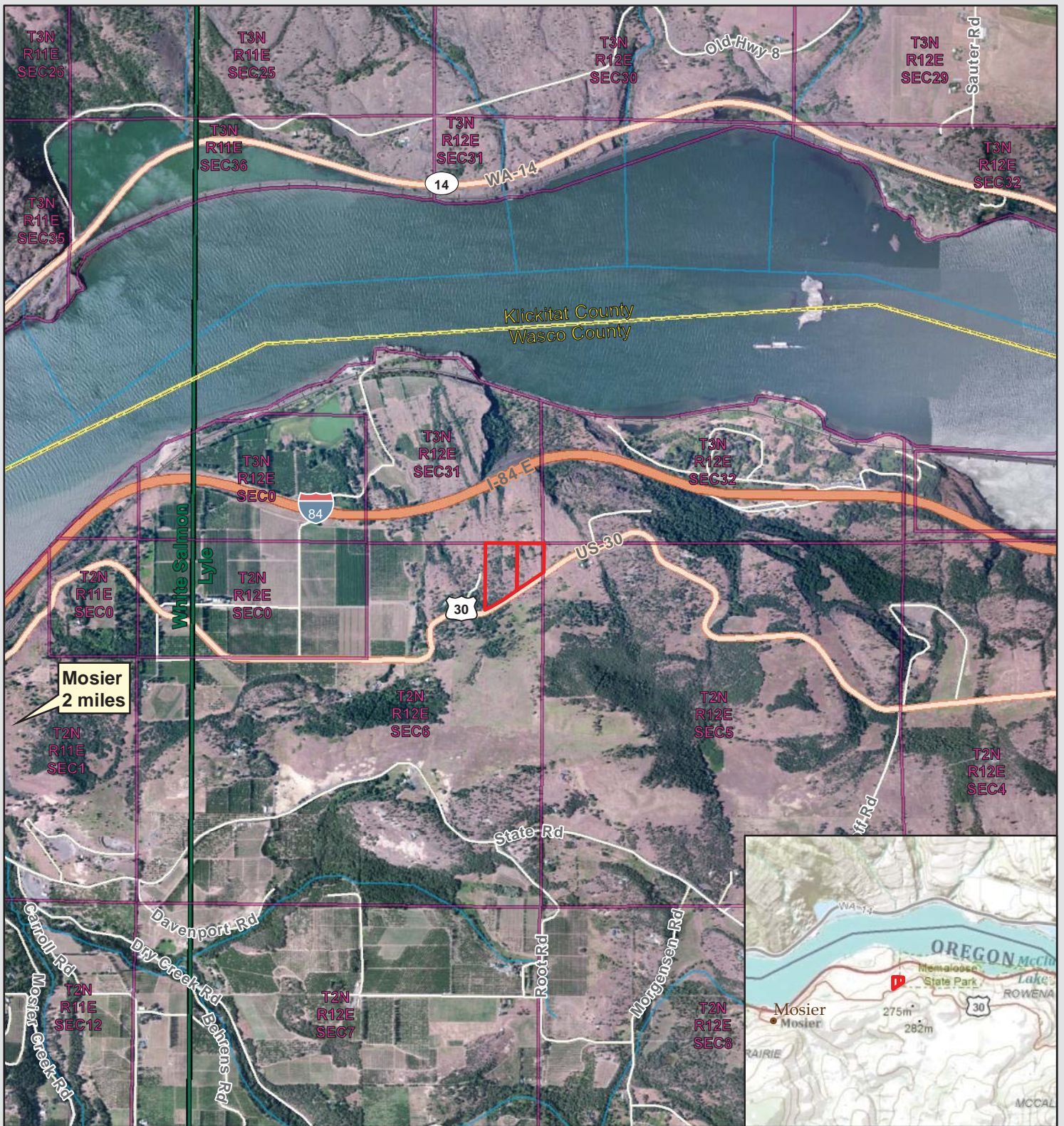
Supporting documentation in the official project file:

Project Vicinity Map

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, HAI Hahn and Associates, Inc., May 28, 2013




Signed: /s/ Kimerly R. St.Hilaire

Date: June 4, 2013



Memaloose Meadows Land Acquisition

Lyle Quadrangle
Wasco County, OR
(5 and 9.07 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  Township, Range and Section Boundary
-  USGS 7-5minute Quad Perimeter

0 0.5 1 Mile 5/29/2013

