

memorandum

DATE: July 10, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cecilia Brown

Project Manager - KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Kokanee Bend South Conservation Easement funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No. and Contract No.: 2008-800-00, BPA-006863

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 30 North, Range 20 West, Section 30, Flathead County, MT

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA intends to fund Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (MFWP) for the purchase of a conservation easement, on approximately 70 acres of property, referred to as the Kokanee Bend South Conservation Easement in Flathead County, MT. Flathead Land Trust will hold the conservation easement and the landowner will manage the Kokanee Bend South property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. BPA will hold a third party right of enforcement on the property to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected.

BPA is funding this conservation easement as part of ongoing efforts to mitigate for the impacts of Hungry Horse hydroelectric facility on the South Fork of the Flathead River. The property includes about 0.32 mile of riparian and wetland habitat along the Flathead River. Habitat protected by this conservation easement will primarily benefit bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout, but will also benefit native wildlife.

Prior to any actions, MFWP will develop a management plan that will be approved by BPA for the property. MFWP will provide long-term stewardship under guidance of the management plan to protect and enhance 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/ Kim Johnson
Kim Johnson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: July 10, 2013

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Maps

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Montana Resident Fish Habitat Acquisition – Kokanee Bend South Conservation Easement

Work Order #: 2008-800-00 Contract # BPA-006863

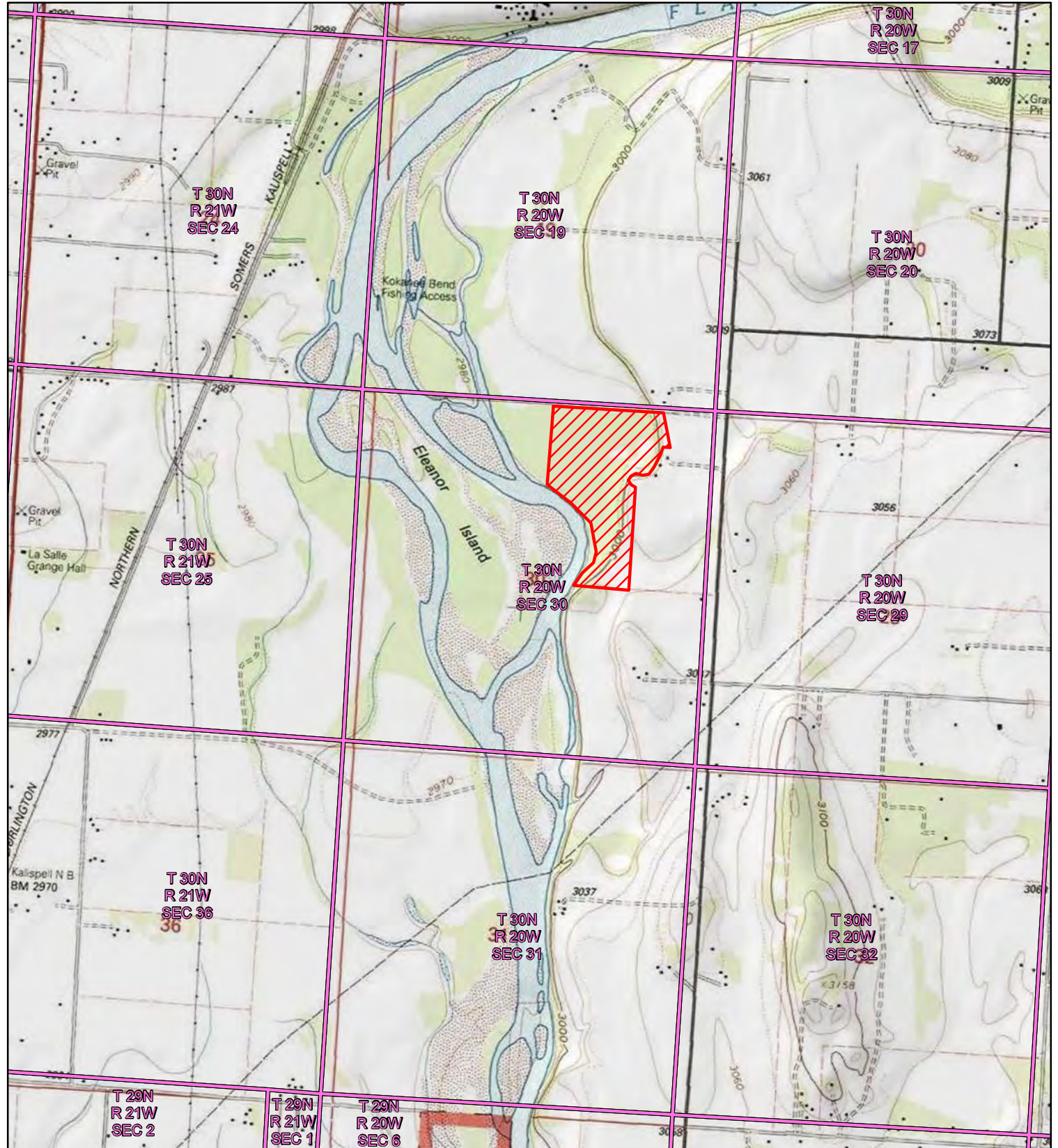
This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical 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 No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Supporting documentation in the official project file:
Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species

Signed: /s/ Kim Johnson

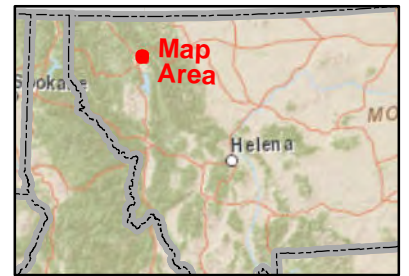
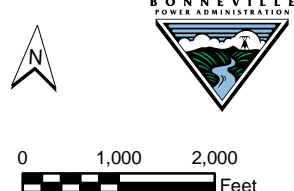
Date: July 10, 2013

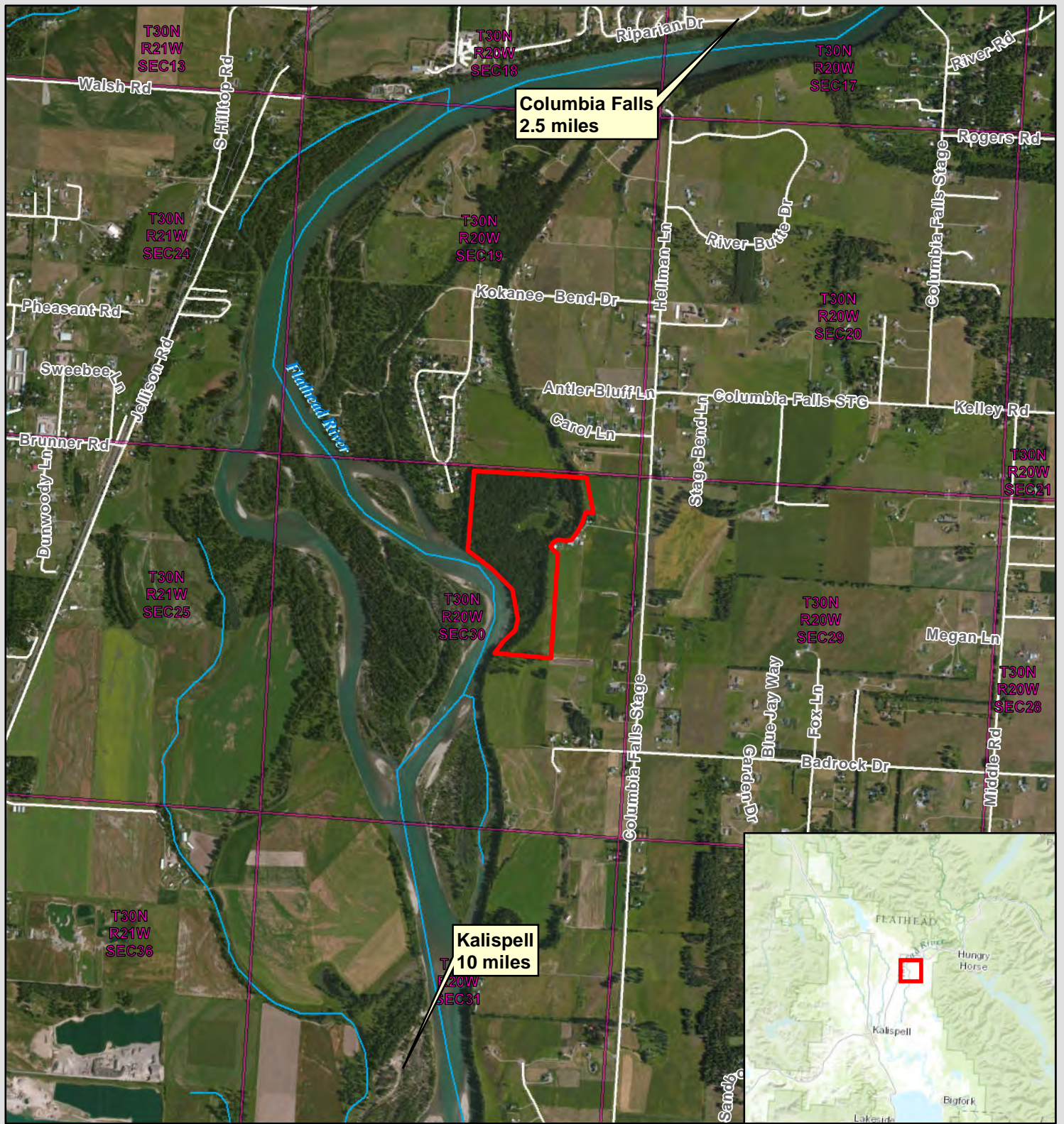


Kokanee Bend South Conservation Easement
Area of Potential Effect Map
 Flathead County, MT
 Columbia Falls South Quadrangle

-  Area of Potential Effect
-  PLSS Section



July 9, 2013





Kokanee Bend South Conservation Easement Public Notification Map

Columbia Falls South Quadrangle
Flathead County, MT
(68 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  TRS Boundary



0 0.5 1 Mile 7/9/2013

