

# memorandum

DATE: Sept 26, 2013

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cecilia Brown  
Project Manager - KEWM-4

**Proposed Action:** North Shore Wildlife Management Area property funding

**Fish and Wildlife Project No. and Contract No.:** 2008-800-00, BPA-007509

**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 27 North, Range 20 West, Section 21, Flathead County, MT

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

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) for the purchase of 189 acres of property, referred to as the North Shore Wildlife Management Area in Flathead County, MT. Montana FWP will own and manage the 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. As a condition of the proposed acquisition, the landowner will complete needed repair and maintenance of a historic barn (the McClarty-Worm Barn) located on the property. Because the repair is necessary to keep the historic integrity of the structure, BPA determined and the MT SHPO concurred that this project will have no adverse effect to historic properties.

BPA is funding this land acquisition 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 riparian and wetland habitat near the north shore of Flathead Lake. Habitat protected by this purchase will primarily benefit bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout, but will also benefit native wildlife.

Montana FWP 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/ Kimberly Johnson*  
Kimberly Johnson  
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Stacy Mason*  
Stacy Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: September 26, 2013

Attachment(s):  
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions  
APE Map

## Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: North Shore Wildlife Management Area property funding

Work Order #: 2008-800-00 Contract # BPA-007509

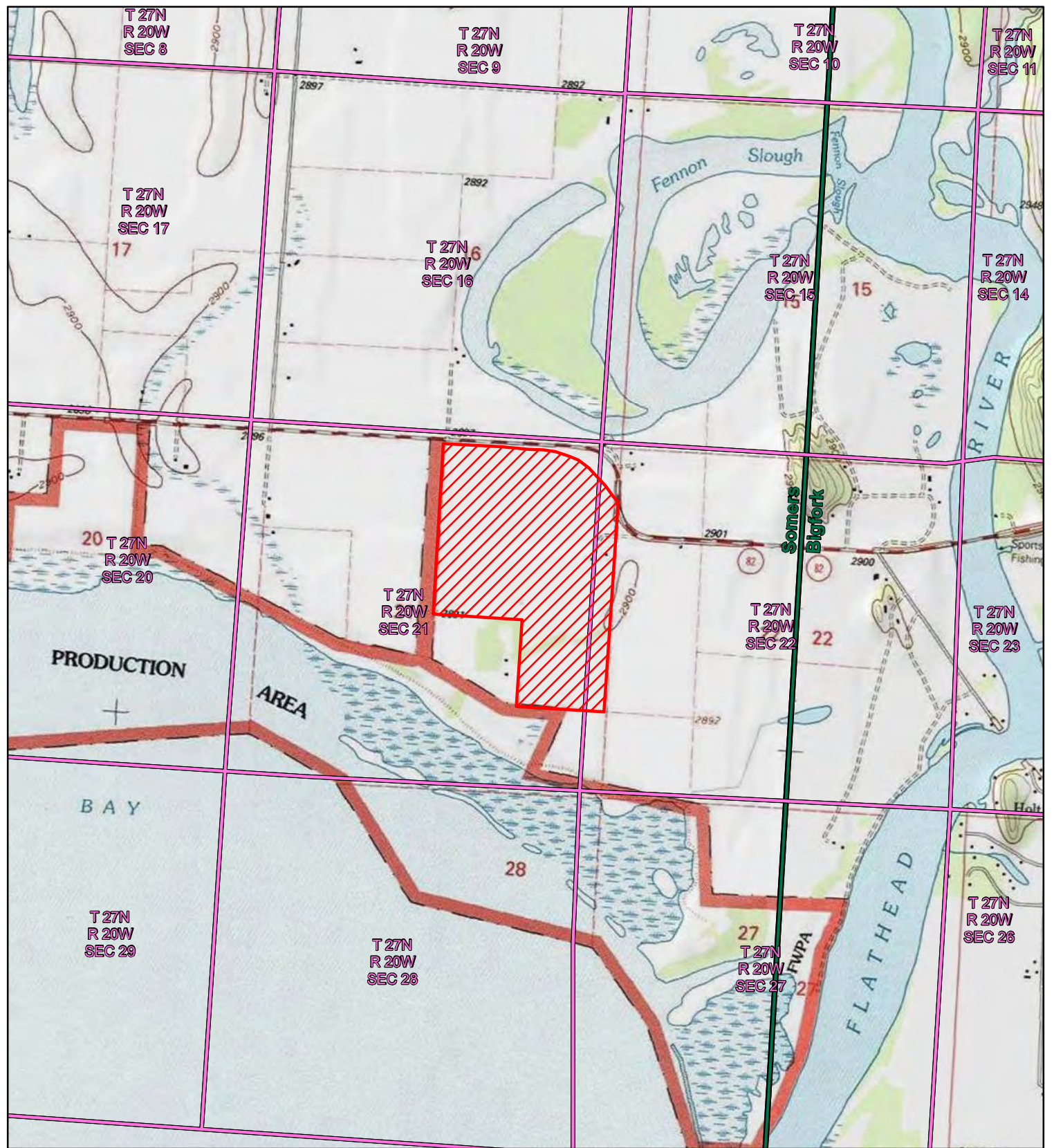
**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical 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 SHPO concurred on Sept 23, 2013 - no adverse effect	<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/ Kimberly Johnson

Date: September 26, 2013



**North Shore WMA Property Land Purchase**  
**Area of Potential Effect Map**  
 Flathead County, MT  
 Somers Quadrangle

-  Area of Potential Effect
-  PLSS Section

September 18, 2013

