

memorandum

DATE: June 25, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dorie Welch
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Coyote Creek Property Acquisition Funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-007521

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: Veneta and West Eugene quadrangles, in Lane County, Oregon (near Eugene, Oregon).

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) purchase of the Coyote Creek property, a 224-acre parcel of land west of the City of Eugene in Lane County, Oregon. The property is within the Coyote Creek drainage, which is part of the US Bureau of Land Management's West Eugene Wetlands Area of critical environmental concern. It is also within the 59,061-acre West Eugene Wetlands/Spencer Creek Conservation Opportunity Area, (COA) as identified in ODFW's Conservation Strategy. As part of the purchase agreement, BPA would get a conservation easement on the property, and ODFW would manage the property.

This funding would partially fulfill 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 from 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 by preventing the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat to other land uses.

Specifically, as part of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley, this acquisition would give wildlife access to native upland prairie, oak woodland, and Douglas fir habitats. This is considered important habitat because it is included in the forested Coyote Creek riparian (habitat relating to water) corridor and other wetland habitats. This project would provide an excellent opportunity to restore native wet prairie and enhance water fowl foraging. The project would also provide connectivity between the ODFW-managed Fern Ridge Wildlife Management aCOA, and the City of Eugene's Coyote Prairie mitigation bank.

Together, the West Eugene Wetlands/Spencer Creek and Fern Ridge Wildlife Management COA areas encompass 64,000-acres of habitat that supports valley bottom wetland, grassland, and riparian habitats with the highest remaining concentration of rare Willamette Valley at-risk endemic species. These include the federally-listed endangered Bradshaw's lomatium (*Lomatium bradshawii*), Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens* var. *decumbens*), and Fender's blue butterfly (*Icaricia icariodes fenderi*), and the federally-listed threatened Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *kincaidii*).

ODFW would develop a management plan for long-term stewardship of the land. Before funding any management activities, BPA would 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: *June 25, 2014*

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Coyote Creek Property Acquisition Funding

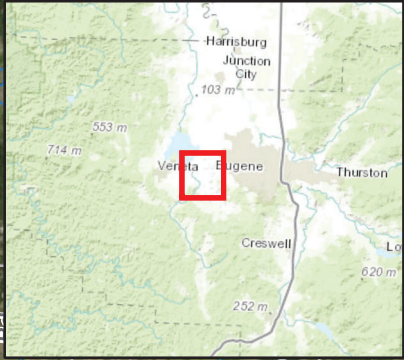
Work Order #: Project 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-007521

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 25, 2014



Coyote Creek NE - Public Notification Map

Lane County, OR
224 Acres

 Subject Property

6/9/2014

