

memorandum

DATE: August 25, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cecilia Brown
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Woodward Meadows Property Acquisition Funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2002-003-00, BPA-007585

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: Lake County, MT

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes for the purchase of property referred to as Woodward Meadows – T23N/R18W/Sec 13 – 79.74 acres of riparian habitat along Woodward Creek, Lake County, MT.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes would own and manage the Woodward Meadows property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA would receive a conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected. This land purchase would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the Hungry Horse hydroelectric facility on the South Fork of the Flathead River. Woodward Meadows property provides habitat as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes would provide long-term stewardship for the land and would 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 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/ Dawn Boorse
Dawn Boorse
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

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

Date: *August 25, 2014*

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Map

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Woodward Meadows Property Acquisition Funding

Work Order #: Project 2003-003-00, Contract # BPA-007585

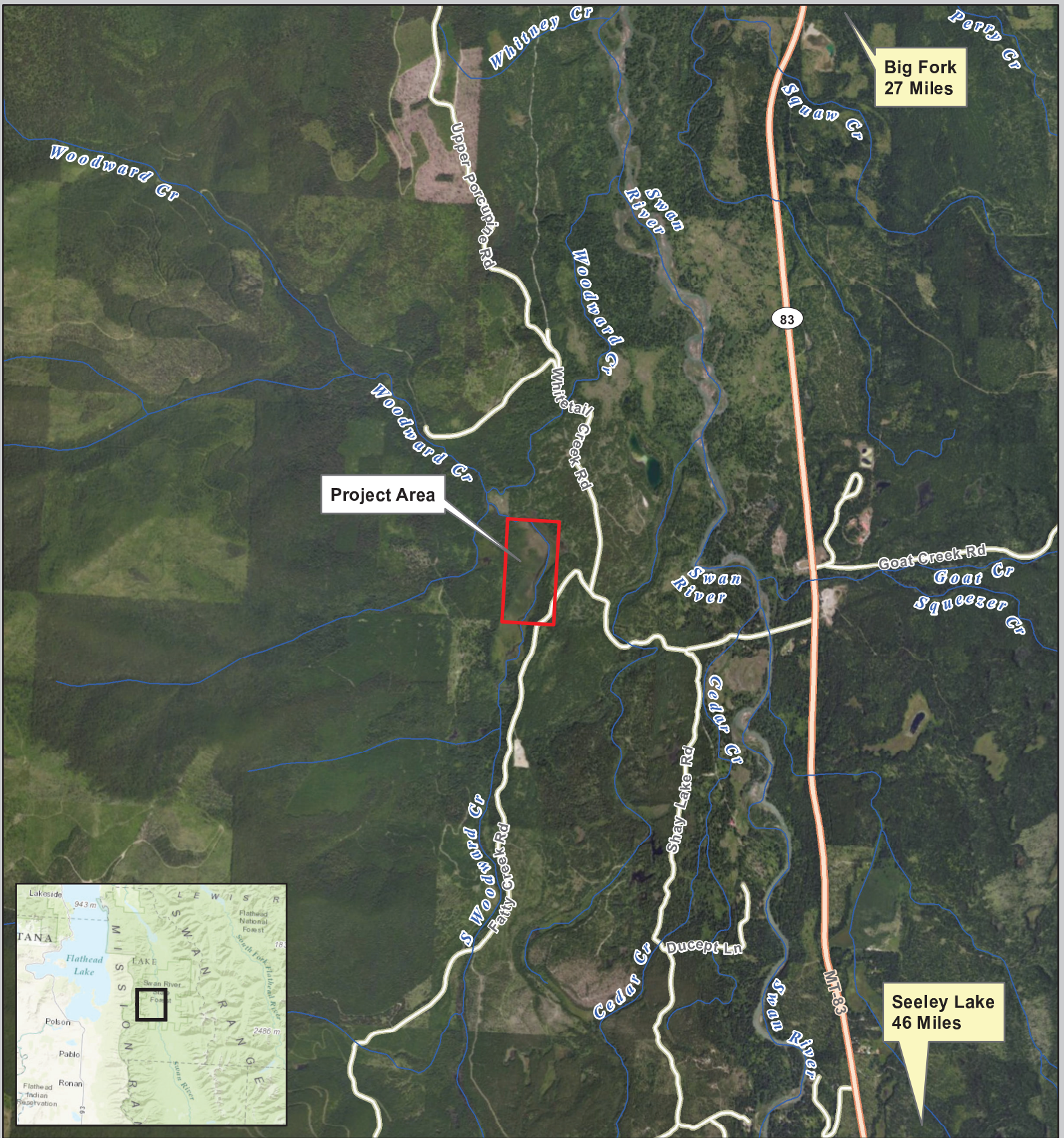
This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical 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"/>

Supporting documentation in official project file:
Effects Determination for Historic Properties and Cultural Resources

Signed: /s/ Dawn Boorse

Date: August 25, 2014

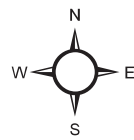


Woodward Meadow Land Purchase Public Notification Map

Lake County, MT
79.74 Acres

 Subject Property

8/11/2014



0  1 Miles

