

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Chahalpam 3 Property Acquisition and Stewardship Funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No. and Contract No. : 2011-003-00; BPA-009235

Project Manager: Sandra Fife – EWM-4

Location: Linn County, OR

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde to purchase the Chahalpam 3 property, which is a 33-acre parcel of land located 2 miles SW of Stayton in Linn County, OR. BPA would hold a conservation easement to prevent the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat on the property to other land uses. BPA would also provide stewardship funds toward maintenance of the property to the landowner, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

This funding partially fulfills 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 of the construction and operation of Federal flood control facilities in the Willamette River Basin.

This is an opportunity to expand the conservation protection of the Chahalpam Wildlife Area to include both banks of the North Santiam River. The proposed acquisition consists of intact riparian hardwood forest which is highly connected with the North Santiam River floodplain with numerous backwater and off-channel habitats. Additionally, this is an excellent example of dual benefits to listed and non-listed fish and wildlife species, including, but not limited to Oregon chub, winter steelhead, spring Chinook, Pacific lamprey, western pond turtle, pileated woodpecker, little willow flycatcher, kestrel, black tail deer, and beaver.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. The management plan would be reviewed by BPA for consistency with the conservation easement and the purpose of the acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any additional activities on the property, further environmental review may be conducted.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix A of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist;
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Israel Duran

Israel Duran
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Salient/CRGT

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 16, 2018

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

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Project Site Description

The 33-acre Chahalpam 3 property is currently privately owned and BPA will fund its purchase by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde at closing; forested riparian habitat is dominant, providing benefits for fish and wildlife, and located in Linn and Marion counties, Oregon.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition, which includes transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. To the extent that stewardship activities may have an effect, it is expected that the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde would comply with all applicable laws and regulations.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- 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, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Notification letters will be sent to adjacent landowners and other interested parties at a minimum of 15 days before the closing date (proposed closing date 02/18/17) of the sale. Advertisements will also be posted in local newspapers, and information will be posted on BPA's public website prior to closing.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

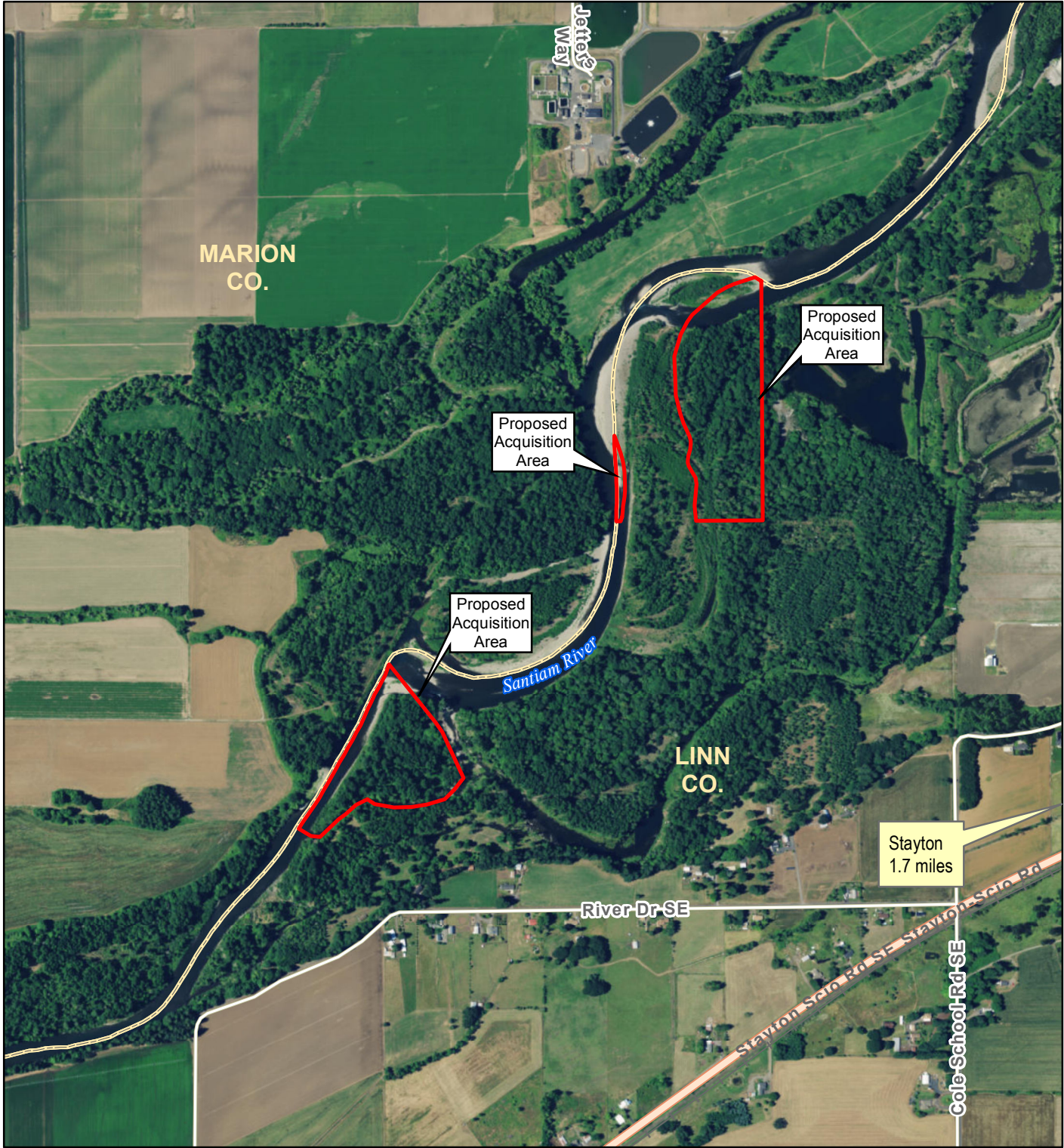
Signed: /s/ Israel Duran

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Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

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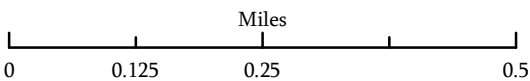
Date: January 16, 2018



Chahalpam 3 Public Notification Map

Linn & Marion Counties, OR - Stayton 24k USGS Quadrangle
(33.26 Acres)

 Proposed Acquisition Area



January 08, 2018

