

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Rattlesnake Butte Phase 3 property funding

**Project No. (if applicable):** 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-008415

**Project Manager:** Dorie Welch – KEWM-4

**Location:** Monroe Quadrangle, in Lane County, Oregon (near Junction City, Oregon).

**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.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to fund the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde's purchase of the Rattlesnake Butte Phase 3 property (Property), a 172.49-acre parcel of land located to the north of Eugene in Lane County, Oregon.

The Property consists of approximately 172 acres of Willamette Valley upland habitat. Once the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde acquires the property they will develop a management plan for long-term stewardship of the land and BPA will receive a conservation easement to ensure that the wildlife habitat values on the property are always protected. The management plan will be reviewed by BPA and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and approved by BPA. Prior to funding any management activities on the property, BPA will conduct further environmental review.

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. Placing this property in a conservation easement would provide long-lasting wildlife benefits as part of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley that are preventing the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat to other land uses.

**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 B 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  
CRGT

Reviewed by:

/s/ Donald Rose

Donald Rose  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 6, 2015

Attachment(s):

Environmental Checklist  
Public Notification Map

## 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.

**Proposed Action:** BPA is proposing to fund the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde’s purchase of the Rattlesnake Butte Phase 3 property (Property), a 172.49-acre parcel of land located to the north of Eugene in Lane County, Oregon.

### Project Site Description

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) intends to fund the purchase of the 172-acre Rattlesnake Butte Phase 3 property, currently under private ownership and consisting of upland habitat located in Lane County, Oregon by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde. When the purchase is complete, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde will own and manage the property for multiple purposes, primarily wildlife conservation and including recreation.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land has been determined to have no potential to affect historic and cultural resources. No historic properties are known to occur within the acquisition parcels.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No soil disturbance will occur as a result of the financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase these parcels of land.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes will have no effect on plants.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes will have no effect on wildlife.</p>		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is located on upland habitat in Lane County, Oregon. The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes will have no effect on fish, water bodies, or floodplains.</p>		

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation:

The project area is located on upland habitat in Lane County, Oregon. The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes will have no effect on wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

No ground disturbance proposed. The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes will have no effect on ground water and aquifers.

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



Explanation:

As a result of the transaction, ownership would remain private (to be held by the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde) and BPA would gain a conservation easement over the property, establishing protection of 172 acres of upland habitat in Lane County, Oregon.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes will have no effect on visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation:

The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes will have no effect on air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation:

The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes will have no effect on noise quality.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation:

The financial transaction of providing funding to a Fish and Wildlife project sponsor to purchase a parcel of land for wildlife habitat conservation purposes will have no effect on human health and safety.

### 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

**Description:**

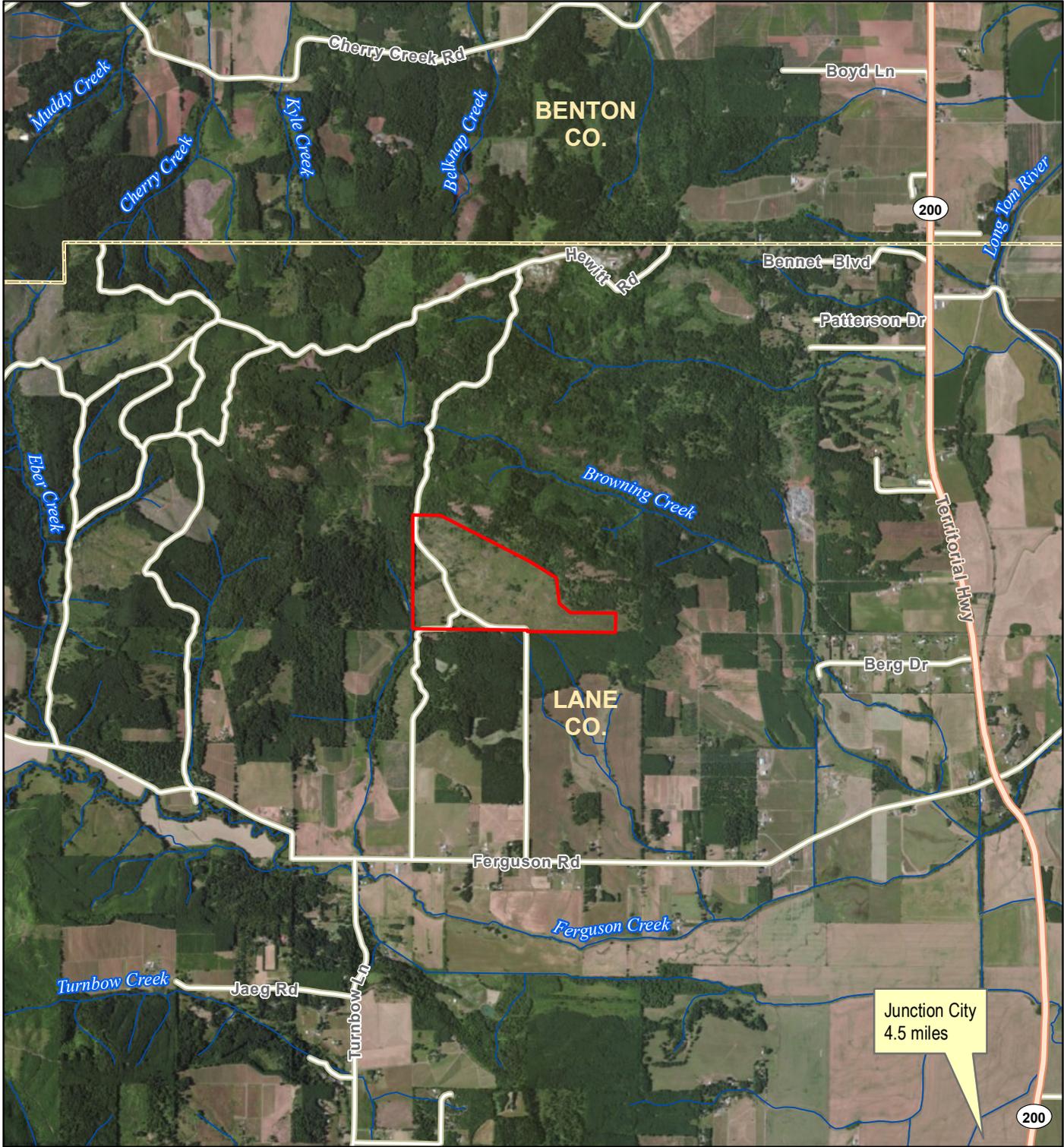
Notification letters will be sent to adjacent landowners and other interested parties at a minimum of 15 days before the closing date (proposed closing date 1/30/15) of the sale. Ads will also be posted in local newspapers, and information will be posted on BPA's public website prior to closing.

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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

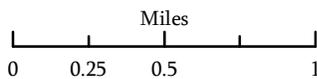
Date: January 6, 2015



### Rattlesnake Butte Phase 3 Public Notification Map

Lane County, OR - Monroe 24k USGS Quad  
(172.49 Acres)

 Subject Property



December 18, 2014

