

memorandum

DATE: May 20, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dorie Welch
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Flight's End property funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-007071

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: Saint Helens quadrangle, in Columbia County, Oregon (near Scapoose, Oregon)

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund the Greenbelt Trust's purchase of the Flight's End property (Property), a 100-acre peninsula located at the north end of Sauvie Island in Columbia County, within/adjacent to the Sauvie Island Wildlife Area (SIWA), an 11,543 acre wildlife area owned and managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The property is bordered by Multnomah Channel on the west, Crane Slough on the east and SIWA to the north, south, and east. Flight's End is uniquely situated in proximity to a complex array of wildlife and wetlands-focused management areas including Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS), Shillapoo Wildlife Area (WDFW) in Washington, Deer Island (Columbia Land Trust), Multnomah Channel wetlands (Metro), Palensky Wildlife Mitigation Area (BPA and ODFW), and Wapato Greenway Access (Oregon State Parks) in Oregon.

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 will provide long-lasting wildlife benefits as part of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley by preventing the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat to other land uses.

The Multnomah Channel has been identified as a priority habitat for restoration of ESA listed salmonid species (Chinook and coho salmon and steelhead). Multnomah Channel is also an important site for public recreation including fishing, boating, and wildlife viewing. Crane Slough borders the east side of the site and is also important habitat for salmon and steelhead as well as numerous species of birds such as bald eagle, great blue heron, great egret and osprey. Other wildlife species documented at the site include several Oregon Conservation Strategy priority status species: Northern red-legged frog and willow flycatcher. Additional wildlife species that use the habitats on site include migrating waterfowl, neotropical migratory songbirds, raptors, amphibians, wading birds, and mammals such as black-tailed deer and river otters.

Once the property has been acquired by ODFW, they will develop a management plan for long-term stewardship of the land. The management plan will be developed in coordination with and approved by BPA prior to implementation. Prior to funding any management activities on the property, 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.

/s/ Israel Duran

Israel Duran

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Date: May 20, 2013

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Willamette Wildlife Fund: Flights End Property Funding

Work Order #: Project 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-007071

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

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