

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 21, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Sandra Fife
Project Manager – KEWU-4

Proposed Action: Acquisition of properties near the Naches River in Yakima County, Washington for fish and wildlife habitat mitigation.

Budget Information: Work Order #00191727

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 1997-051-00, BPA-005578

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):

B1.24 Transfer, lease, disposition or acquisition of interests in uncontaminated permanent or temporary structures, equipment therein, and only land that is necessary for use of the transferred structures and equipment, for residential, commercial, or industrial uses (including, but not limited to, office space, warehouses, equipment storage facilities) where, under reasonably foreseeable uses, there would not be any lessening in quality, or increases in volumes, concentrations, or discharge rates, of wastes, air emissions, or water effluents, and environmental impacts would generally be similar to those before the transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests. Uncontaminated means that there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that would pose a threat to public health or the environment.

B1.25 Transfer, lease, disposition or acquisition of interests in uncontaminated land for habitat preservation or wildlife management, and only associated buildings that support these purposes. Uncontaminated means that there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that would pose a threat to public health or the environment.

Location: Township 13 North, Range 18 East, Section 9 of the Selah USGS topographic quadrangle, in Yakima County, Washington. The properties are located approximately 0.3 mile north of Yakima, Washington.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA, with the Yakama Nation, is proposing to acquire two properties for fish and wildlife habitat mitigation in Yakima County, Washington. BPA would own the two properties, comprising approximately 7.3 acres, and the Yakama Nation would manage the properties through a land use agreement. One of the parcels (approximately 1.1 acres) is currently developed for residential purposes, while the other property (approximately 6.2 acres) is currently in an undeveloped condition. The two properties are adjacent to the Naches River and contain tributaries to the Naches River in addition to riparian and floodplain habitat.

Acquiring the lands would provide BPA and the Yakama Nation with important fish and wildlife habitat as part of BPA's environmental stewardship and mitigation responsibilities for fish affected by the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS). The acquisition of these parcels would be the total extent of the undertaking and no ground disturbing activities are proposed. The purchase of these properties would ensure that the properties would be retained in perpetuity in a natural condition, to protect riparian and fish habitat, and to prevent any use of the properties that would significantly impair or interfere with the properties' conservation value. In addition, the properties are adjacent to an existing BPA-owned hatchery and research facility. Protection of these properties would reduce the threat of future residential development encroachment on the hatchery facility and would contribute to hatchery operations security.

BPA would facilitate the purchase of and be the owner of the properties. The Yakama Nation would be responsible for managing the properties. Prior to any management activities beyond maintenance of existing habitat conditions, 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). 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, 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, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Katey C. Grange

Katey C. Grange

Environmental Protection Specialist –KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 21, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Naches River Land Acquisition

Project #: 1997-051-00, BPA-005578

This project has been found to **not** adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. Cultural Resources No potential to cause effects.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Katey Grange

Date: July 21, 2011