

memorandum

DATE: July 16, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cecilia Brown
Project Manager - KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Little Shell Property funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No. and Contract No.: 2002-003-00, BPA-007168

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: Township 29 North, Range 20 West, Section 6, Flathead County, MT

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the Salish and Kootenai Tribes for the purchase of 59 acres of property, referred to as the Little Shell Land Acquisition in Lake County, MT. The Salish and Kootenai Tribes will own and manage the Little Shell property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA will receive a conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected.

BPA is funding this land acquisition as part of ongoing efforts to mitigate for the impacts of Hungry Horse hydroelectric facility on the South Fork of the Flathead River. The property includes riparian and wetland habitat along the Flathead River. Habitat protected by this purchase will primarily benefit bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout, but will also benefit native wildlife.

The Salish Kootenai Tribes will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will 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 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.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Kimberly Johnson
Kimberly Johnson
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 16, 2013

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Maps

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Secure and Restore Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Montana - Little Shell Acquisition

Work Order #: 2002-003-00 Contract # BPA-007168

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.

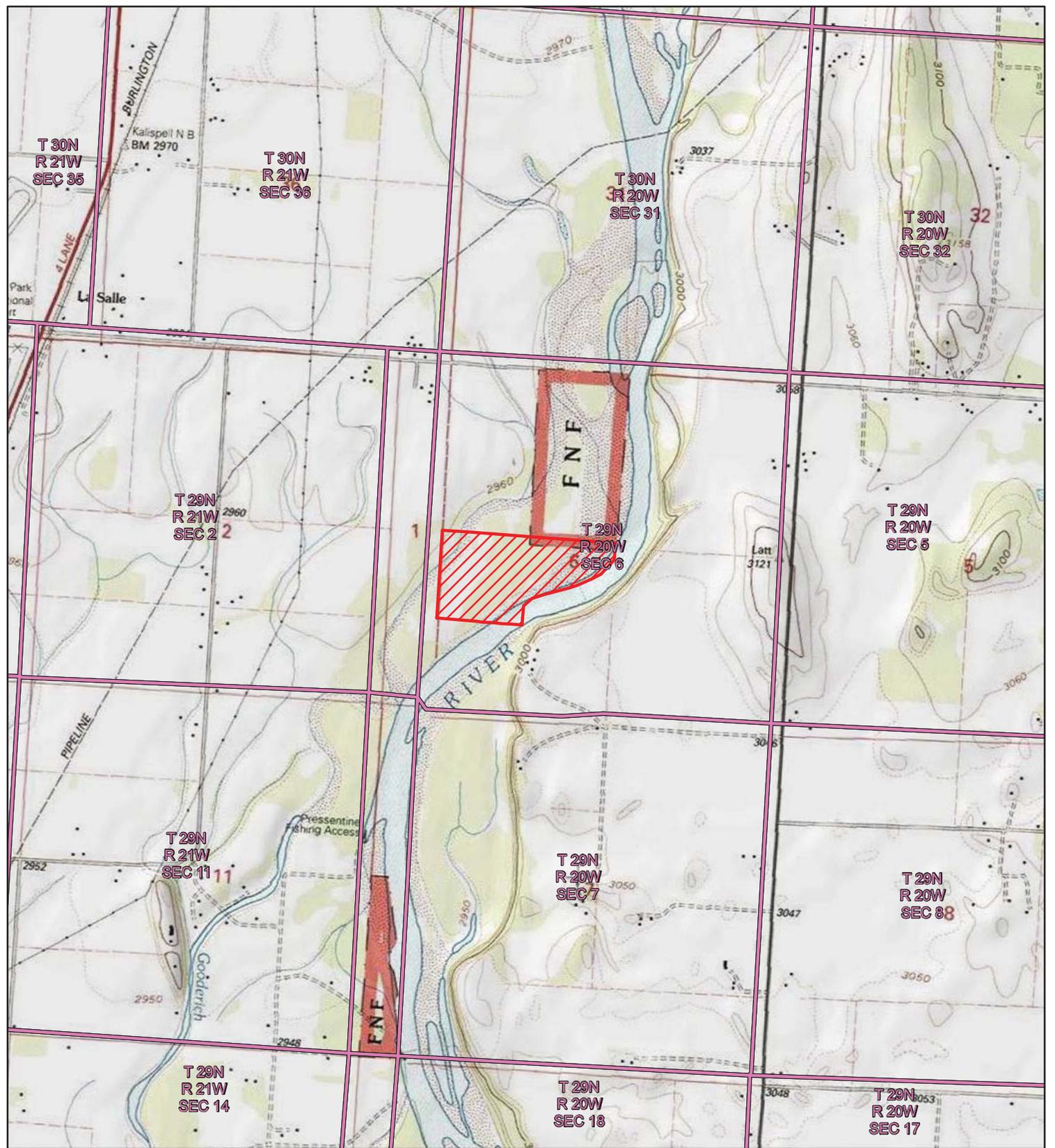
<u>Environmental Resources</u>	<u>No Potential for Significance</u>	<u>No Potential, with Conditions (describe)</u>
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) 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 or unique farmlands 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. Other (describe) No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List any additional supporting documentation in project file.
For example,

Supporting documentation in the official project file:
Effects Determination for Threatened and Endangered Species

Signed: /s/ Kimberly Johnson

Date: July 16, 2013

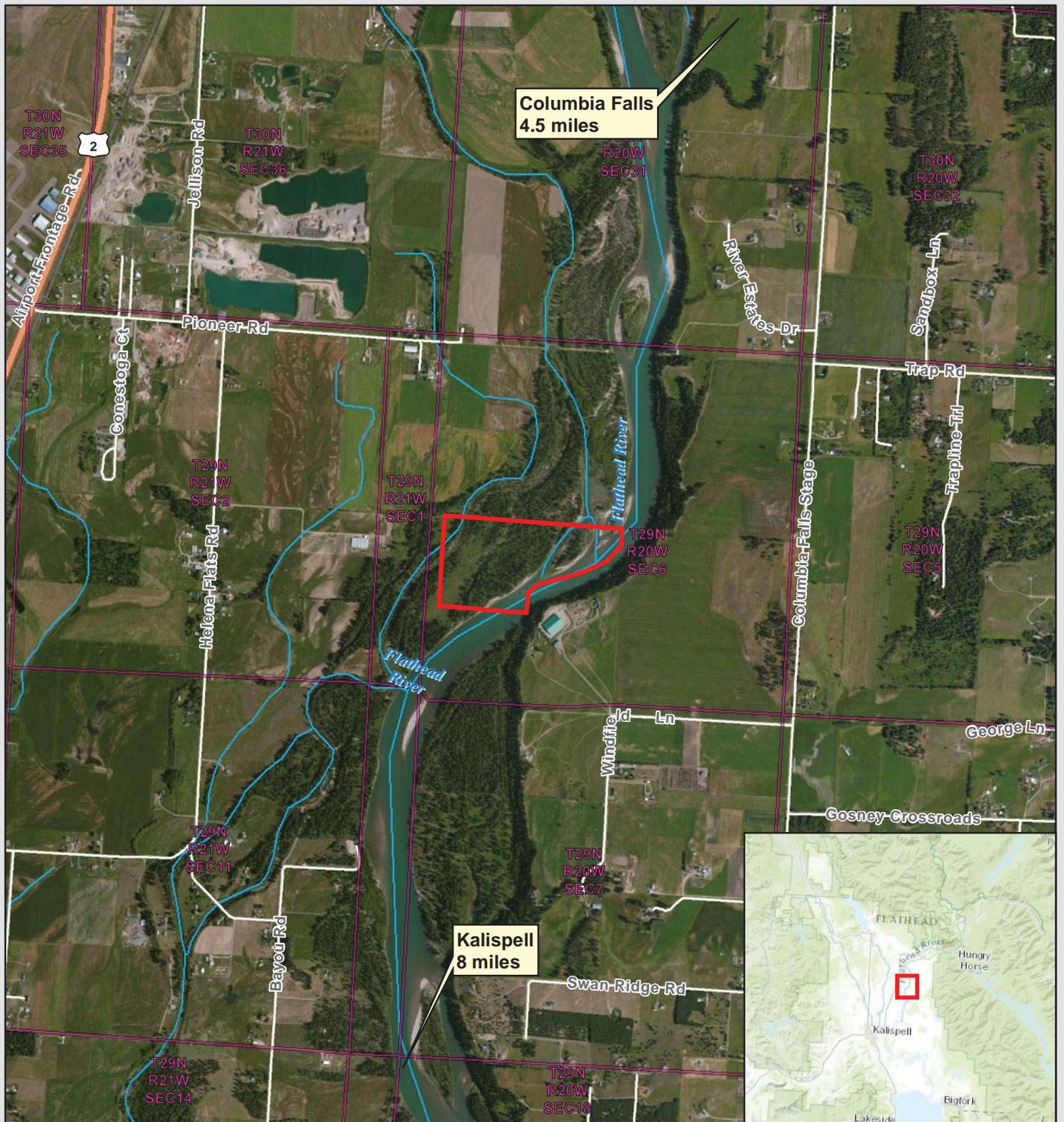


**Little Shell Land Purchase
Area of Potential Effect Map**
Flathead County, MT
Columbia Falls South Quadrangle

-  Area of Potential Effect
-  PLSS Section

June 10, 2013





Little Shell Land Purchase Public Notification Map

Columbia Falls South Quadrangle
Flathead County, MT
(60 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  TRS Boundary



0 0.5 1 Mile 6/10/2013

