

memorandum

DATE: December 18, 2013

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Anne Creason
Project Manager – KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Crooked Creek 3 and Deep River Mouth 2 property funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2010-073-00, BPA-007491

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

Locations:

Crooked Creek 3	Township 9 North, Range 8 West, Section 3	Wahkiakum County, Washington	18 acres
Deep River Mouth 2	Township 10 North, Range 8 West, Sections 30 and 31	Wahkiakum County, Washington	78 acres

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of two properties, totaling 96 acres, by the Columbia Land Trust. The Columbia Land Trust would own and manage the properties for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA would receive a conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected.

The properties provide habitat for fish and wildlife species in the Columbia River estuary including coho and chinook salmon, steelhead, blackbear, elk, river otter, and other wildlife.

Columbia Land Trust will provide long-term stewardship for the land and would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. Upon the completion of the acquisition BPA would make a one-time payment to Columbia Land Trust for stewardship actions. Stewardship actions may include public outreach, site monitoring, habitat mapping, encroachment monitoring, invasive species monitoring and control, and annual maintenance of boundary fences, signage, and gates. If large scale restoration activities are proposed for the property those activities would be funded with sources other than stewardship funds. Prior to funding any proposed restoration actions, 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, 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/ Jesse Wilson

Jesse Wilson

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 18, 2013

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Crooked Creek 3 and Deep River Mouth 2 property funding

Work Order #: Project 2010-073-00, Contract # BPA-007491

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 funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition. BPA Archeologists completed a literature search and the area is in a very high probability area for pre-contact resources. There will be no adverse effect from funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands The properties contain soil types identified as farmlands of statewide importance and prime farmland if drained. These soil types are currently dominated by herbaceous and forested wetlands or forested uplands. Significant changes or land development would not occur and there will be no effect to these mapped farmlands as this is strictly funding a title transfer for land acquisition.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) No effect as this is strictly funding a title of transfer for a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Jesse Wilson
Jesse Wilson/KEC-4

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