

memorandum

DATE: July 8, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Dorie Welch
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Thurston Hills Property Phase 2 Acquisition Funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2011-003-00, BPA-007521

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: Springfield quadrangle, in Lane County, Oregon (near Springfield, Oregon).

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the Willamalane Park and Recreation District to purchase a 210-acre parcel of the Thurston Hills property located southeast of Springfield in Lane County, Oregon. The purchase is the second phase of Thurston Hills property purchases—BPA funded Willamalane to purchase 106 acres in this location in August 2013.

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 from 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, by preventing the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat to other land uses.

The property consists of Willamette Valley prairie and forest habitats. It includes prairie, mixed conifer-oak woodland and forest, and mixed conifer-hardwood forest habitats. Species listed by the Endangered Species Act on the site include Kincaid’s lupine (*Lupinus sulphureus* ssp. *Kincaidii*), Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens* var. *decumbens*), and Fender’s blue butterfly (*Icaricia icarioides fenderi*).

The Willamalane Park and Recreation District will provide long-term stewardship of the land in conjunction with the initial property acquisition and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. BPA and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will review the plan. 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/ Stacy Mason

Date: July 8, 2014

Stacy Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Map

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Thurston Hills Property Phase 2 Acquisition Funding

Work Order #: Project 2011-003-00, Contract # BPA-007521

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

Date: July 8, 2014

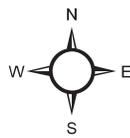


Thurston Hills 2 Public Notification Map

Lane County, OR
210 Acres

 Subject Property

6/9/2014



0 1 Miles

