

memorandum

DATE: July 3, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cecilia Brown
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Hillside Road and Squeque Properties Acquisition Funding

Fish and Wildlife Project No. and Contract No.: 2002-003-00, BPA-007585

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: Lake County, MT

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the Salish and Kootenai Confederated Tribes for the purchase of properties referred to as Hillside Road and Squeque, in Lake County, MT.

- Hillside Road – T19N/R19W/Sec 6 - 10 acres of riparian habitat along Post Creek, Lake County, MT (near St. Ignatius, MT),
- Squeque – T17N/R20W/Sec 21 - 228 acres of riparian habitat along Jocko River, Lake County, MT (near Arlee, MT)

The Salish and Kootenai Confederated Tribes will own and manage the Hillside Road and Squeque properties 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. These land purchases would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the Hungry Horse hydroelectric facility on the South Fork of the Flathead River. Hillside Road and Squeque properties provide habitat as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout.

The Salish and Kootenai Confederated 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/ Dawn Boorse
Dawn Boorse
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *July 3, 2014*

Attachments:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions
Maps

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Hillside Road and Squeque Properties Acquisition Funding

Work Order #: Project 2003-003-00, Contract # BPA-007585

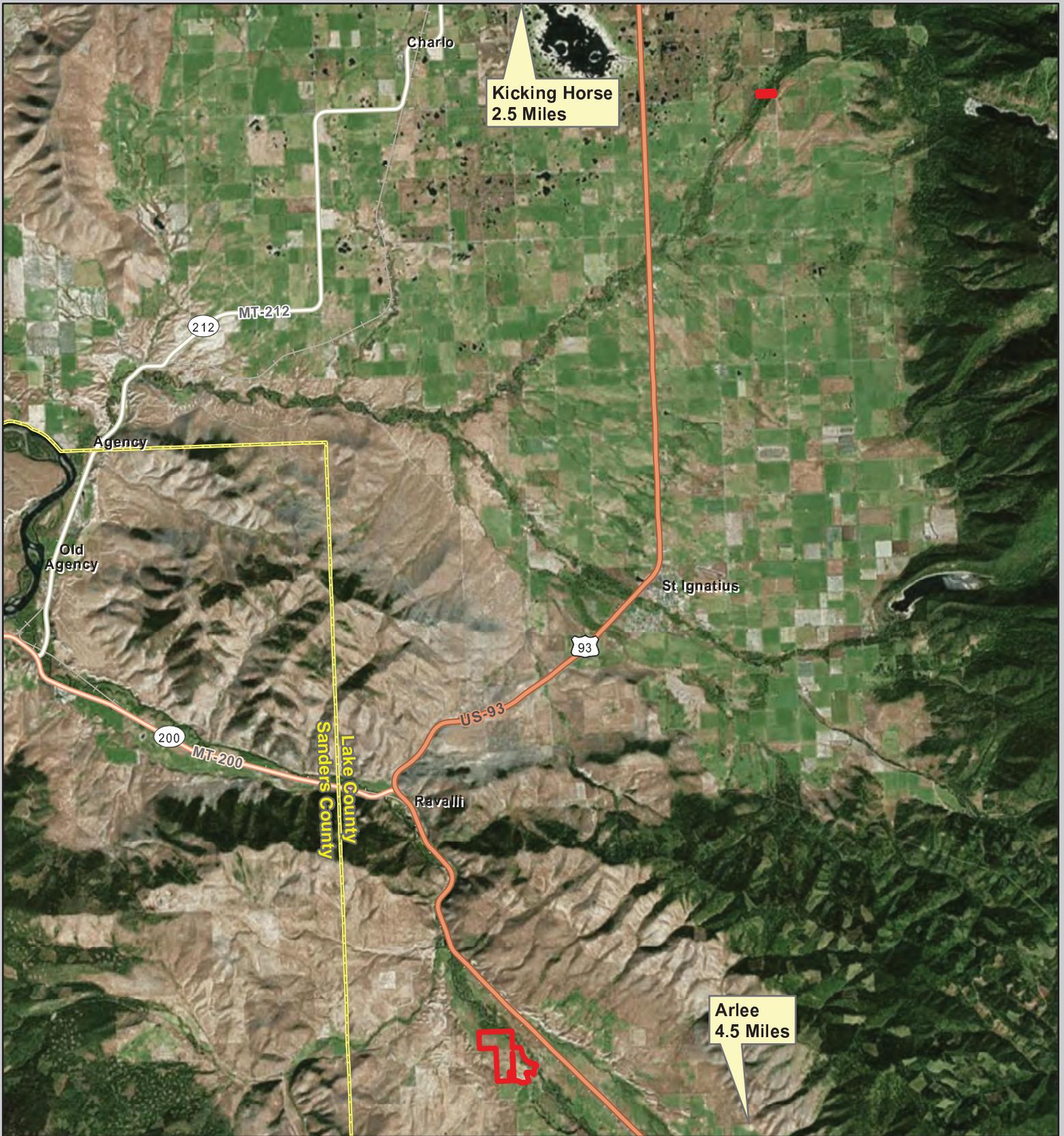
This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
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"/>

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

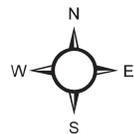
Signed: /s/ Dawn Boorse

Date: July 3, 2014



Map 1
Land Purchases Overview
 Lake County, MT

 Subject Properties



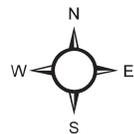
6/23/2014



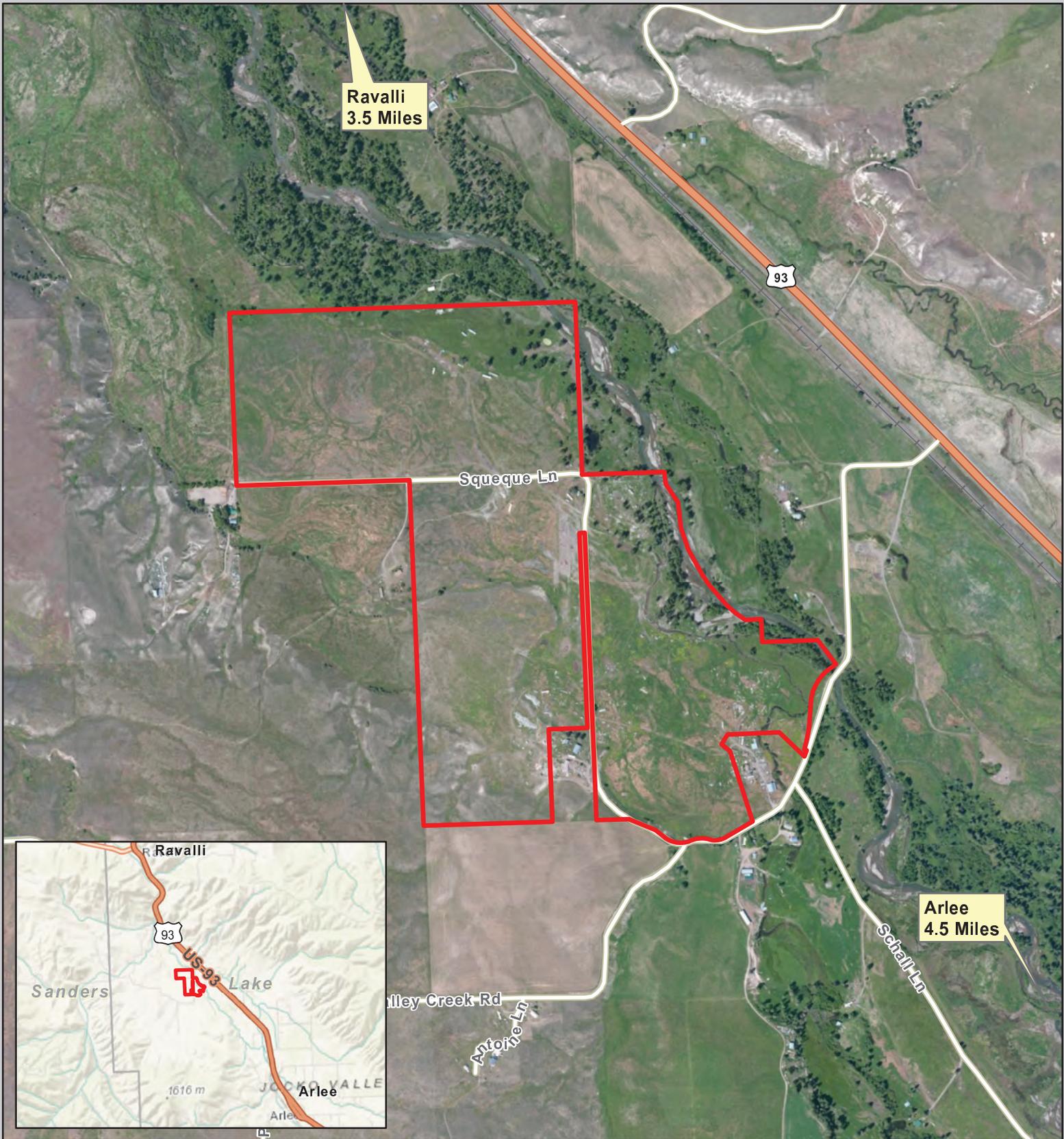
**Map 2
Hillside Road Land Purchase Public Notification**

Lake County, MT
(10 Acres)

 Subject Property



6/23/2014



Map 3
Squeque Land Purchase Public Notification

Lake County, MT
 (228 Acres)

 Subject Property

0 250 500 1,000
 Feet

6/25/2014

