Proposed Action: Smithfield Oaks Property Acquisition and Stewardship Funding

Project No.: 2011-003-00; BPA-10616

Project Manager: Sandra Fife – EWM-4/Hannah Dondy-Kaplan – EWM-4

Location: Polk County, Oregon

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (PSWCD) to purchase the Smithfield Oaks property, which is a 179-acre parcel of land located 9 miles north of Monmouth, in Polk County, Oregon. BPA would hold a conservation easement to permanently protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat. BPA would also provide stewardship funds toward maintenance of the property to the landowner, PSWCD.

Funding for this conservation easement partially fulfills commitments made by BPA 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 ongoing efforts to mitigate for the impacts to fish and wildlife from the construction and operation of Federal flood control and hydroelectric facilities in the Willamette River Basin. If the transaction is completed, this property would become one of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley providing important and long-lasting fish and wildlife habitat benefits. Conserving habitat on the property also partially fulfills BPA’s habitat restoration and protection responsibilities under the Willamette Project Biological Opinions (NMFS 2008, USFWS 2008).

The property consists of oak woodland and oak savannah habitats. The PSWCD would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. The management plan would be reviewed by BPA for consistency with the conservation easement and the purpose of the acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any additional activities on the property, further environmental review may be conducted.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) 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, Jul. 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

1. fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
2. does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
3. has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.
Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Israel Duran  
Israel Duran  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Salient/CRGT

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel  
Chad Hamel  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel  
Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist
Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

**Proposed Action:** Smithfield Oaks Property Acquisition and Stewardship Funding

---

**Project Site Description**

The 179-acre Smithfield Oaks property located Polk County, Oregon is currently privately owned and BPA would fund its purchase by Polk Soil and Water Conservation District at closing; oak dominates the wooded and grassland habitats located on the property.

---

**Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Resource Impacts</th>
<th>No Potential for Significance</th>
<th>No Potential for Significance, with Conditions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition, which includes transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. To the extent that future activities on the property may have an effect, it is expected that the PSWCD would comply with all applicable laws and regulations.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Geology and Soils</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> See explanation for #1 above.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. <strong>Plants</strong> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> See explanation for #1 above.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. <strong>Wildlife</strong> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> See explanation for #1 above.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. <strong>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</strong> (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)</td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> See explanation for #1 above.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Wetlands</strong></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> See explanation for #1 above.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>Groundwater and Aquifers</strong></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> See explanation for #1 above.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas</strong></td>
<td>✔</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Explanation:</strong> See explanation for #1 above.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9. **Visual Quality**

   **Explanation:** See explanation for #1 above.

10. **Air Quality**

    **Explanation:** See explanation for #1 above.

11. **Noise**

    **Explanation:** See explanation for #1 above.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

    **Explanation:** See explanation for #1 above.

---

**Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- **Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.**

  **Explanation, if necessary:**

- **Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.**

  **Explanation, if necessary:**

- **Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.**

  **Explanation, if necessary:**

- **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, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.**

  **Explanation, if necessary:**

---

**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

**Description:** Notification letters would be sent to adjacent landowners and other interested parties at a minimum of 15 days before the closing date (proposed closing date 7/31/19) of the sale. Advertisements would also be posted in local newspapers, and information would be posted on BPA’s public website prior to closing.
Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed:  /s/ Israel Duran  
         Israel Duran EC-4  
         Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
         Salient/CRGT  

Date:  June 3, 2019