

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: December 09, 2010

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cecilia Brown
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Provision of funds to Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) for purchase of the Conrad Drive Land Acquisition.

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 2002-003-00, Contract # BPA-44646

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.25 Transfer, lease, disposition or acquisition of interests in uncontaminated land for habitat preservation or wildlife management, and only associated buildings that support these purposes. Uncontaminated means that there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that would pose a threat to public health or the environment.

Location: Township 28 North, Range 21 West, Section 9 and 10 of the Kalispell Quad, in Flathead County, Montana

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and CSKT

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is providing funds to the CSKT to purchase 146.8 acres of land in along the Flathead River in Kalispell, Montana.

The property has nearly 3,340 feet of frontage on the main channel of the Flathead River, and similar frontage on a secondary channel. The Flathead River is home to native bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout that would benefit from riparian and stream bank protection. This project helps to protect and restore fisheries habitat, protects water quality in the river, and additionally maintains and enhances terrestrial wildlife habitat. Acquisition of this parcel will insure that activities on the land will not degrade this sensitive and important part of the main stem of the Flathead River. It will also provide the public with increased access to fishing along the river.

This acquisition is part of a larger program of land acquisitions and conservation easements funded by BPA and coordinated between Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the CSKT and BPA. CSKT's acquisition of these 146.8 acres would provide BPA with credit for partial mitigation of resident fish habitat losses due to the construction of Hungry Horse Dam, a federal dam located on the South Fork of the Flathead River, and inundation of portions of the South Fork Flathead River drainage.

After purchase of the property is complete, the CSKT will manage the property to maintain habitat for fish and wildlife. The CSKT will develop a management plan for the property and give the public the opportunity for involvement in developing the plan. Pending BPA's approval of the management plan, any activities that could damage habitat would be prohibited.

Prior to funding any 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). 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, 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, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

Based on the provision that a cultural resource survey will be conducted prior to any ground disturbing activities, 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/ Bruce Hollen

Bruce Hollen

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ James Kehoe for

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Date: December 9, 2010

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Conrad Drive Land Acquisition

Work Order #: #BPA-44646

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. 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 agricultural lands ----- 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. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations ----- No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities ----- No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other -----	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Bruce Hollen

Date: December 9, 2010