



Department of Energy

Official File

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 3621
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 22, 2011

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Proposed Columbia River Stock Ranch land acquisition under the Federal Columbia River Power System Mitigation Program

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the purchase of approximately 885 acres in Columbia County, OR. When the transaction is complete the Columbia Land Trust will own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes. To ensure that the habitat values are protected in perpetuity, BPA will receive a conservation easement. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this proposed land purchase.

The funding would be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for coho, Chinook, steelhead and cutthroat trout, as well as for black bear, elk, and river otter and other species. The acquisition would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the dams on the mainstem Columbia and Snake Rivers--referred to as the Federal Columbia River Power System. This land acquisition would satisfy some of BPA's mitigation requirements for the Columbia River estuary as identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008 Biological Opinion that guides the protection of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Enclosed you will find a map describing this land transaction. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of this property would be categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that further environmental review of this funding action is not required. This categorical exclusion was approved on October 21, 2011, and has been posted on BPA's website at:

http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorical_exclusions.aspx

The Columbia Land Trust will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property. Columbia Land Trust will provide the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the plan. BPA will review and must approve the plan before it is implemented.

If you have any questions regarding this acquisition, please contact Marcy Foster, BPA project manager, at 503-230-3446 or mmfoster@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519—please refer to the “Columbia Stock Ranch land acquisition”.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan, December 21, 2011
Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:

Map