



## Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 2, 2011

In reply refer to: KEW-4

**To: People Interested in the Proposed Columbia River Estuary land acquisitions under the Federal Columbia River Power System Mitigation Program**

The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund the purchase of three properties totaling approximately 613 acres in Pacific and Wahkiakum Counties, Washington. When the transactions are complete, the properties will be owned and managed for fish and wildlife habitat conservation purposes by the Columbia Land Trust. To ensure that the habitat values are protected in perpetuity, BPA will receive a conservation easement for each property. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of these proposed land purchases.

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 acquisitions 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. These land acquisitions would satisfy some of BPA's mitigation requirements specifically 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 these land transactions. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of these properties 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](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 management plans to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the properties. Columbia Land Trust will provide the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the plans. BPA will review and must approve the plans before they are implemented.

If you have any questions regarding these acquisitions, please contact Marcy Foster, BPA project manager, at 503-230-3446 or [mmfoster@bpa.gov](mailto:mmfoster@bpa.gov). You can also call toll free 800-622-4519—please refer to the CLT land acquisitions.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan, December 2, 2011*

Hannah Dondy-Kaplan  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures: (4) Maps