

United States Government

Department of Energy  
Bonneville Power Administration

# memorandum

DATE: September 8, 2010

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Lee Watts  
Project Manager – KEWM-4

**Proposed Action:** Provision of funds to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians (Kalispell) for purchase of Priest River (Flesher) property.

**Fish and Wildlife Project No.:** 1992-061-00, Contract # BPA-004991

**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 59 North, Range 5 West, Section 20 of the Galena Point and Outlet Bay 7.5' USGS quadrangles in Bonner County, Idaho (near the town of Priest Lake).

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Kalispel

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund the acquisition of the 168.70-acre Flesher property by the Kalispel. BPA will be granted a perpetual conservation easement over the entire property as a condition of funding the acquisition. The property is being acquired because of its outstanding riparian natural resource value. The acquisition provides an opportunity to enhance, restore, and manage high quality wildlife habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed grizzly bear, gray wolf, and bull trout. Other species that will benefit include white-tail deer, mallard, Canada goose, yellow warbler, black-capped chickadee, and muskrat, as well as other species dependent on riparian habitat for their survival. The easement will protect the conservation values for which the property is being acquired by restricting activity such as residential, non-agricultural commercial and industrial development.

BPA is funding the Kalispel's acquisition of the property and is receiving a conservation easement. Prior to 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.

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/ Jenna Peterson

Jenna Peterson

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

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Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** FY 10 Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation – Priest River (Flesher)

**Project #:** 1992-061-00 Contract # BPA-0044991

**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 No effect as this is strictly a land acquisition	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Jenna Peterson

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