



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

November 28, 2011

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: Parties Interested in the Proposed Harkens Lake Conservation Easement Acquisition

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), in partnership with the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), is proposing to fund the purchase of three conservation easements on approximately 371 acres in Benton County, Oregon for the purposes of fish and wildlife habitat conservation. When the purchases are complete, the Greenbelt Land Trust (GLT) will hold the conservation easements and manage the properties as a single unit. Bonneville Power Administration and OWEB will hold conservation easement interests on the properties to ensure that the habitat values are protected in perpetuity. This letter is being sent to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this proposed conservation easement.

By funding this purchase, BPA partially fulfills commitments made 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", which is a part of ongoing efforts to mitigate for the impacts of the construction and operation of federal flood control facilities in the Willamette River Basin. The 371.43 acre property is partly within the 100-year Willamette River floodplain, and includes a major remnant side channel called Harkens Lake, which contains water year-round, and frontage along the Willamette River. The property will provide long-lasting habitat benefits as part of a growing network of conservation lands in the Willamette Valley by allowing wildlife access to native bottomland hardwood habitats. Numerous wildlife species use this habitat, including spring Chinook salmon, which are listed under the Endangered Species Act. The acquisition will prevent habitat conversion and secure rights to restore and maintain habitat that benefits focal species.

The acquisition prevents the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat on this property to other land uses, ensuring long term benefits for many focal fish and wildlife species. When the properties/easements have been acquired, GLT will develop a management plan in coordination with BPA, OWEB, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Greenbelt Land Trust will give the public an opportunity to review and comment on the plan. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, OWEB, and BPA will review and must approve the plan before it can be implemented. It is anticipated that GLT will restore and enhance habitat and provide long-term stewardship of the land according to the actions defined in the management plan. BPA will conduct further environmental review before funding additional land management activities outside of the purchase of the conservation easement.

Enclosed you will find a map that describes the location and the purpose and benefits of this conservation easement purchase. BPA has prepared an environmental clearance memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the conservation easement on this property is categorically excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act, and that further environmental review of this funding action is

therefore not required. This categorical exclusion was approved on November 3, 2011 and has been posted on BPA's website at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorialexclusions.aspx

If you have any questions regarding purchase of this conservation easement, please feel free to contact Dorie Welch, Bonneville Power Administration, at (503) 230-5479 or dwwelch@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free (800) 622-4519; be sure to reference the "Harkens Lake conservation easement" in your message.

Sincerely,

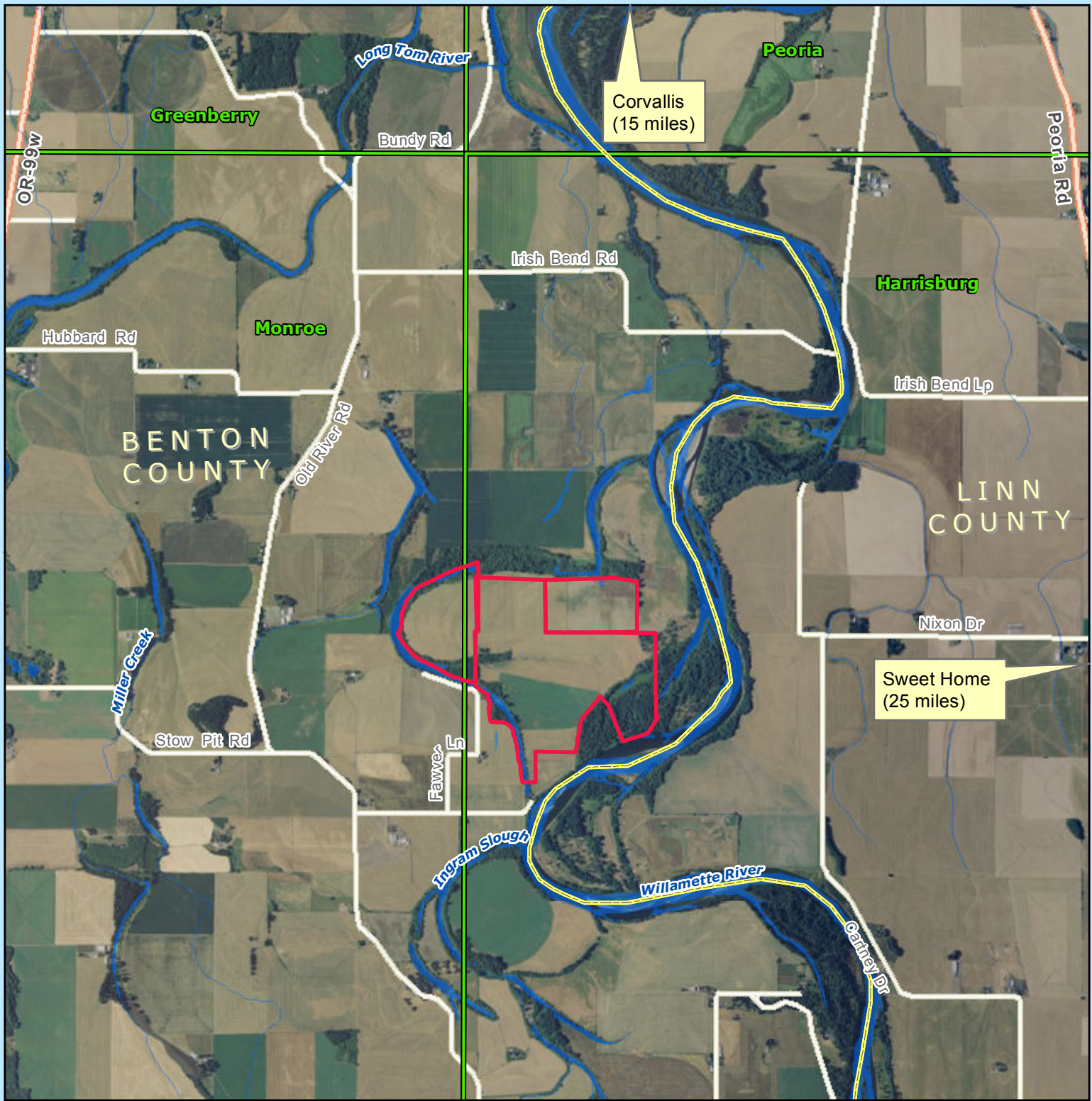
/s/ Israel Duran - November 28, 2011

Israel Duran

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:

Map



Harkens Lake Acquisition
(371.43 Acres)

- Subject Property
- County Boundaries
- USGS 24K Quad Perimeters

1 inch = 1 miles

