



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

September 10, 2012

In reply refer to: KEW-4

To: People Interested in the Proposed Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes land acquisitions under the Federal Columbia River Power System Mitigation Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the purchase of the 400 acre Bird's Eye View property in Lake County, MT. When the transaction is complete, the property would be owned and managed for fish and wildlife habitat conservation purposes by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT). To ensure that the habitat value is protected in perpetuity, BPA will receive a conservation easement for the property. 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 westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout habitat in Montana. Purchasing the land would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the Hungry Horse Dam on the South Fork Flathead River.

Enclosed you will find a map describing the land transaction. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of the 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 September 7, 2012 and is posted on BPA's website at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorical_exclusions.aspx

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

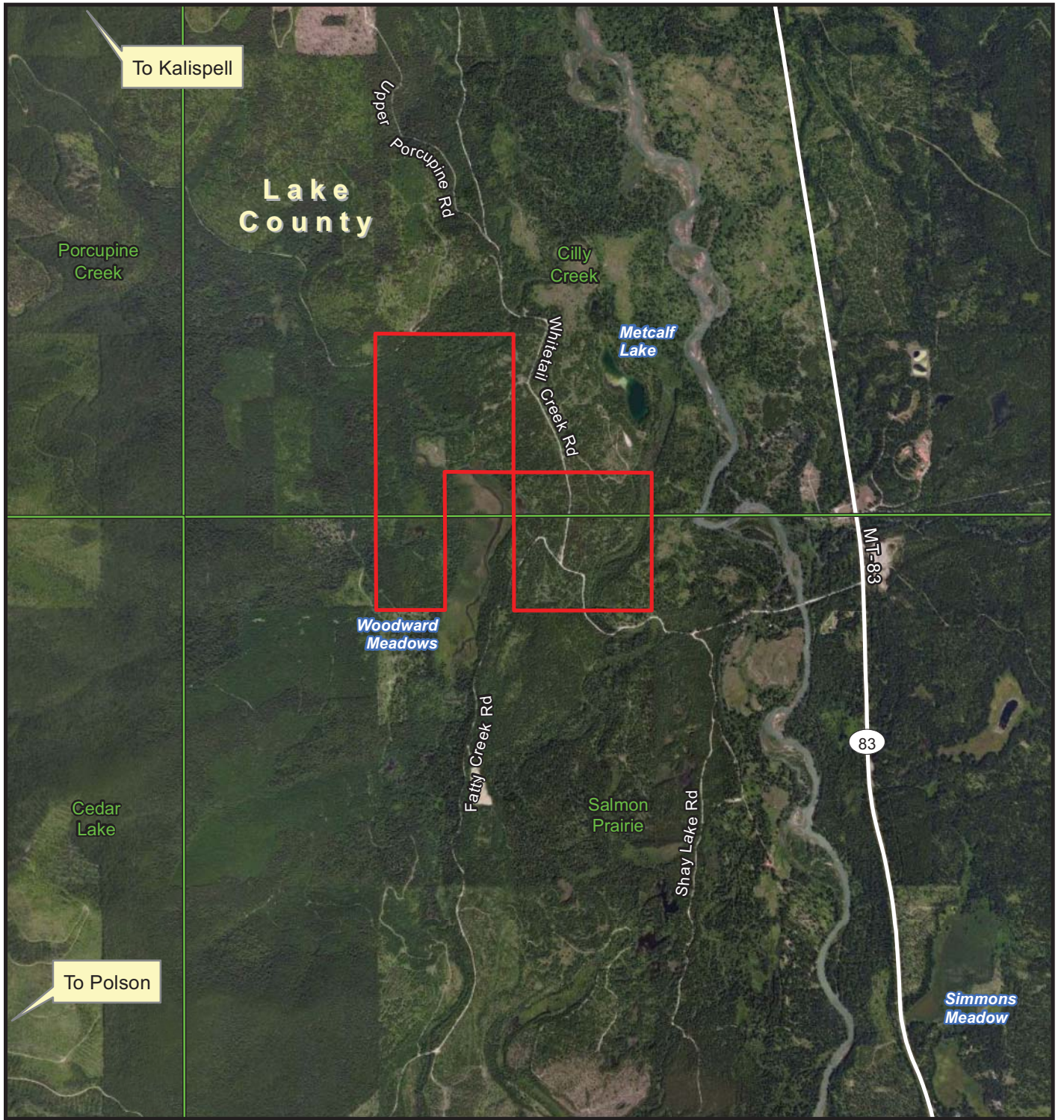
If you have any questions regarding these acquisitions, please contact Cecilia Brown, BPA project manager, at 503-230-3426 or ckbrown@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free: 800-622-4519—please refer to the Bird's Eye View land acquisition.

Sincerely,

/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan, September 10, 2012



Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:
Map



Bird's Eye View Land Acquisition
Cilly Creek and Salmon Prairie Quadrangles
 (Approx. 400 Acres)



-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary

