



Department of Energy

Official File Copy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 30, 2012

In reply refer to: Lee Watts – KEWM-4

To: People Interested in the Proposed Indian Creek Land Purchase under the Federal Columbia River Power System Mitigation Program

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to provide funding to the Kalispel Tribe to purchase a 556-acre parcel of land in Pend Oreille County, Washington for fish and wildlife habitat conservation purposes. The property is located approximately eight miles southeast of the town of Usk, Washington and eight miles northwest of the town of Newport, Idaho. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this proposed land purchase. Additional information is available online at www.efw.bpa.gov.

When the transaction is complete the Kalispel Tribe will own and manage the land. BPA will ensure that the habitat is protected in perpetuity. The Kalispel Tribe will provide long-term stewardship and develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the management plan before BPA approves it. The plan will prevent activities from occurring on this land that could damage fish and wildlife habitats. The purchase is expected in fall of 2012.

BPA proposes to fund the purchase of this property as part of ongoing efforts to mitigate for fish and wildlife habitat losses due to the construction and inundation of Albeni Falls Dam. The Pend Oreille River watershed supports populations of resident fish, migratory waterfowl, neotropical birds, raptors, elk, deer and moose. After purchase, the property will be restored to forested and grassland habitats that will benefit many of these species. Indian Creek, a tributary to the Pend Oreille River crosses the property. Fish habitat in Indian Creek would benefit from restoration actions.

Enclosed you will find a map that details the boundaries of the parcel. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of 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 August 14, 2012 and has been posted on BPA's website at: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorical_exclusions.aspx

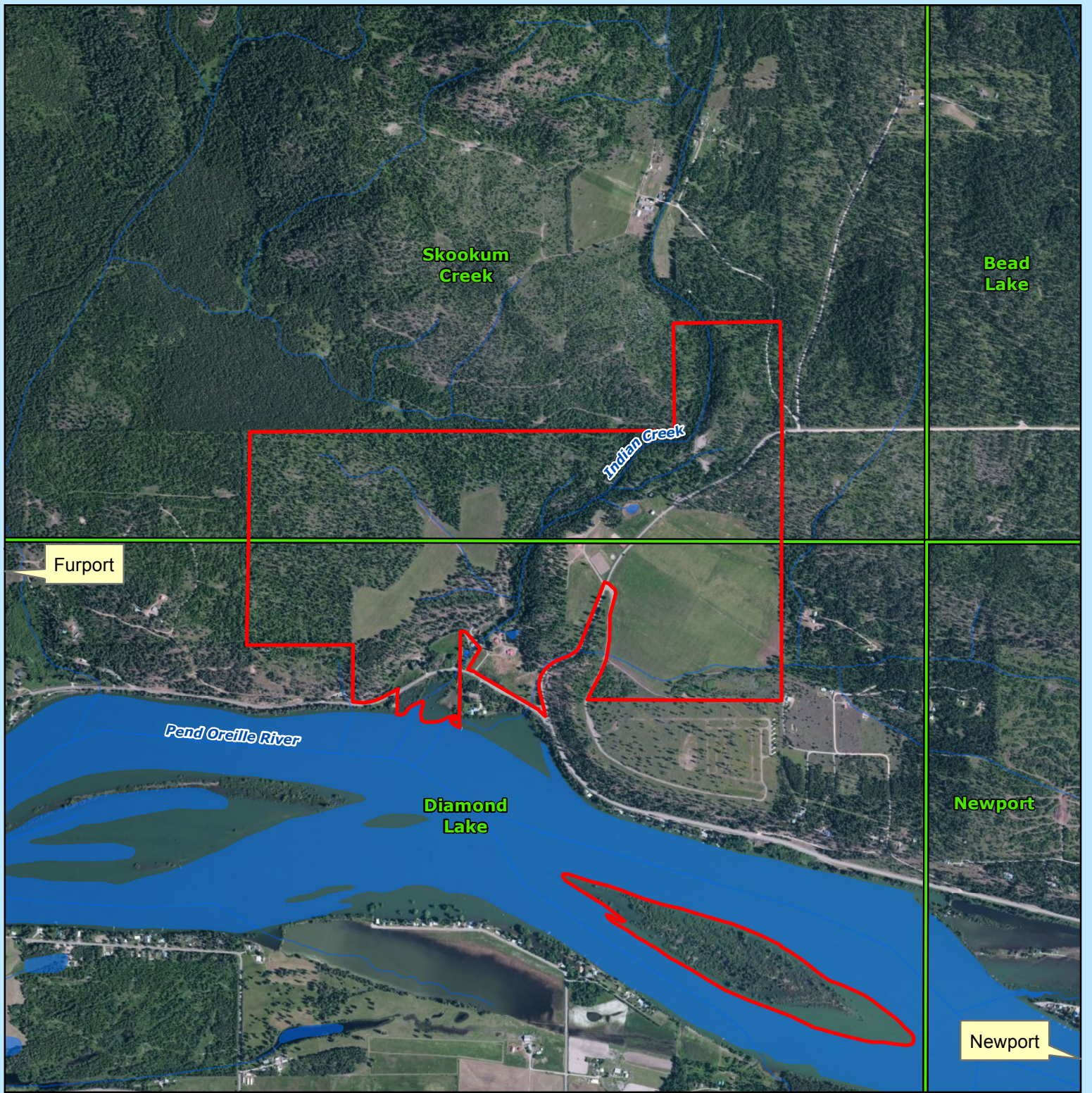
If you have any questions regarding purchase of this property, please feel free to contact Lee Watts, BPA Project Manager, at (503) 230-4625, or vlwatts@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free (800) 622-4519; be sure to reference the “Indian Creek Land Purchase” in your message.

Sincerely,

/s/ Katey Grange, August 30, 2012

Katey Grange
Environmental Project Manager

Enclosure: Map



Indian Creek Property
 Pend Oreille County, WA
 556 acres

- Subject Property
- USGS 24K Quad Perimeters

