



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

October 19, 2012

In reply refer to: KEC-4

Dear Landowner/interested party,

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the purchase of 106 acres near the town of Cathlamet in Wahkiakum County Washington. When the purchase is complete, the Columbia Land Trust will own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA would receive a conservation easement to protect the habitat values on the property in perpetuity. 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, mitigate and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife species, such as coho, Chinook, steelhead, Columbia white-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, and river otter. The acquisition would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the dams on the main stem Columbia and Snake Rivers, referred to as the Federal Columbia River Power System. This land purchase would satisfy some of BPA's Columbia River estuary mitigation requirements as identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008/2010 Biological Opinion that guides BPA's protection of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Enclosed you will find a map describing this land transaction. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of this 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 May 2, 2012, and has been posted on BPA's website at:

http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/pdf/CLT_Lower_Elochoman_LandAcq_CX_and_Checklist.pdf

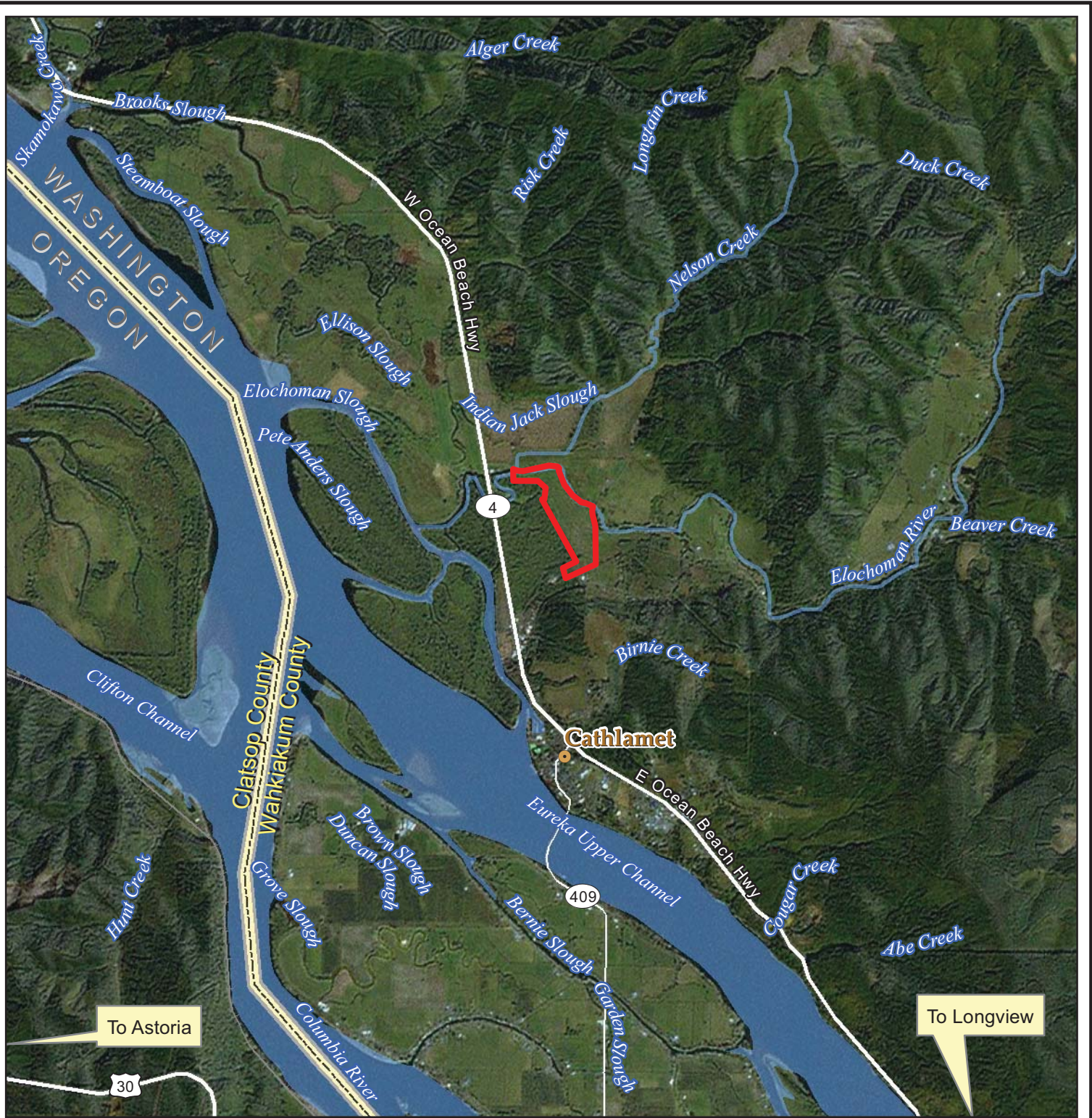
The Columbia Land Trust will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. Columbia Land Trust will provide the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the plan. BPA will review the plan, and the plan must receive BPA's approval before it is implemented. The management actions could include restoring estuary wetlands, floodplains and side channels to their historical condition, as well as controlling invasive plants and planting native vegetation. If BPA proposes to fund any of these activities, we will conduct additional environmental review under NEPA.

If you have any questions regarding this land purchase, please feel free to contact the project manager, Jason Karnezis, at 503.230.3098 or jpkarnezis@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the "Lower Elochoman Land Acquisition."



Sincerely,

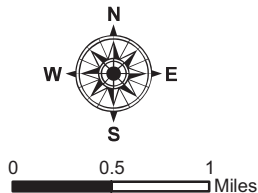
/s/ Michelle O'Malley, October 19, 2012
Michelle O'Malley
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosure: Vicinity Map



**Lower Elochoman River Land Acquisition
Cathlamet Quadrangle**

-  Subject Property
-  County Boundary



June 18, 2012

