



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

June 7, 2012

In reply refer to: KEW-4

To: People Interested in the Proposed Idaho Department of Fish and Game land acquisitions under the Federal Columbia River Power System Mitigation Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the purchase of two properties, totaling approximately 810 acres, in Ada and Payette Counties, Idaho. When the transactions are complete, the properties will be owned and managed for bird and wildlife habitat conservation purposes by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), as agreed upon between the two agencies in a Memorandum of Agreement. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of these proposed land purchases.

The funding would be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for wildlife in southern Idaho. Purchasing these lands would partially mitigate for the construction and operation of the Palisades, Anderson Ranch, Black Canyon and Minidoka dams on the Snake River. The Hammer Flat parcel in Ada County would provide important winter habitat for mule deer, pronghorn, and elk, and provides additional habitat for golden eagles, bald eagles, coyotes, long-billed curlews, Say's phoebes, bluebirds, lizards and snakes. The parcel would become part of the Boise River Wildlife Management Area. The Payette River parcel in Payette County would provide nesting and brooding habitat for upland birds and waterfowl, and would become part of the Birding Islands Segment of IDFG's Payette Wildlife Management Area.

Enclosed you will find maps describing these land transactions. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the purchase of these properties 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 April 25, 2012, and is posted on BPA's website: http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categoricalexclusions.aspx

The IDFG would provide long-term management for the land and would develop management plans to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the properties. IDFG would provide the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the plans. BPA must review and approve the plans before they are implemented on the properties.

If you have any questions regarding these acquisitions, please contact David Byrnes, BPA project manager, at 503-230-3171 or dmbyrnes@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519—please refer to the IDFG land acquisitions.

Sincerely,

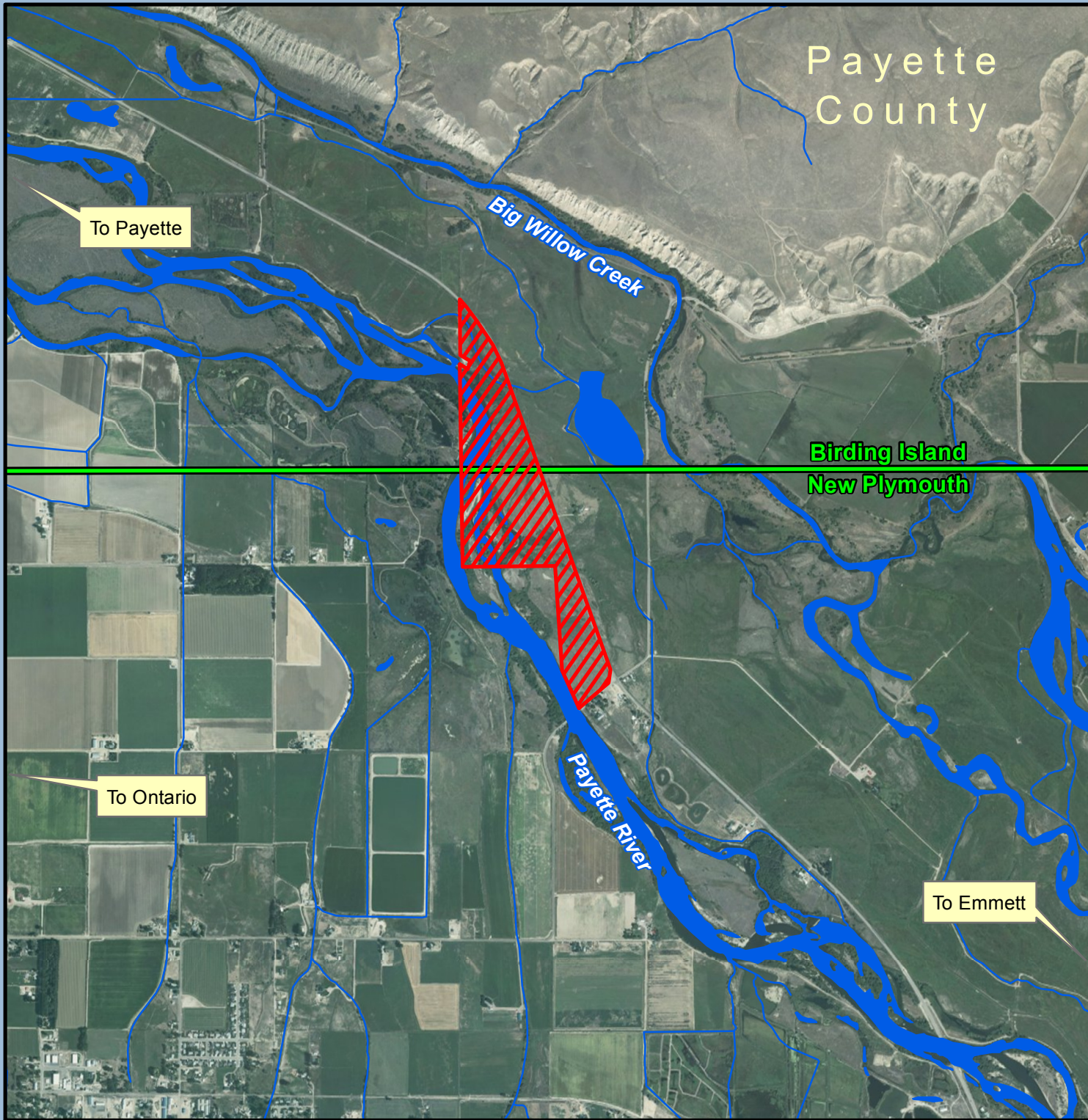
/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

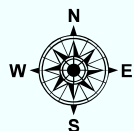
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:

Map



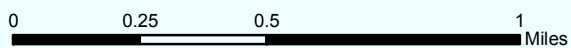
Payette River Acquisition
 Birding Island and New Plymouth Quadrangles
 (100 Acres)

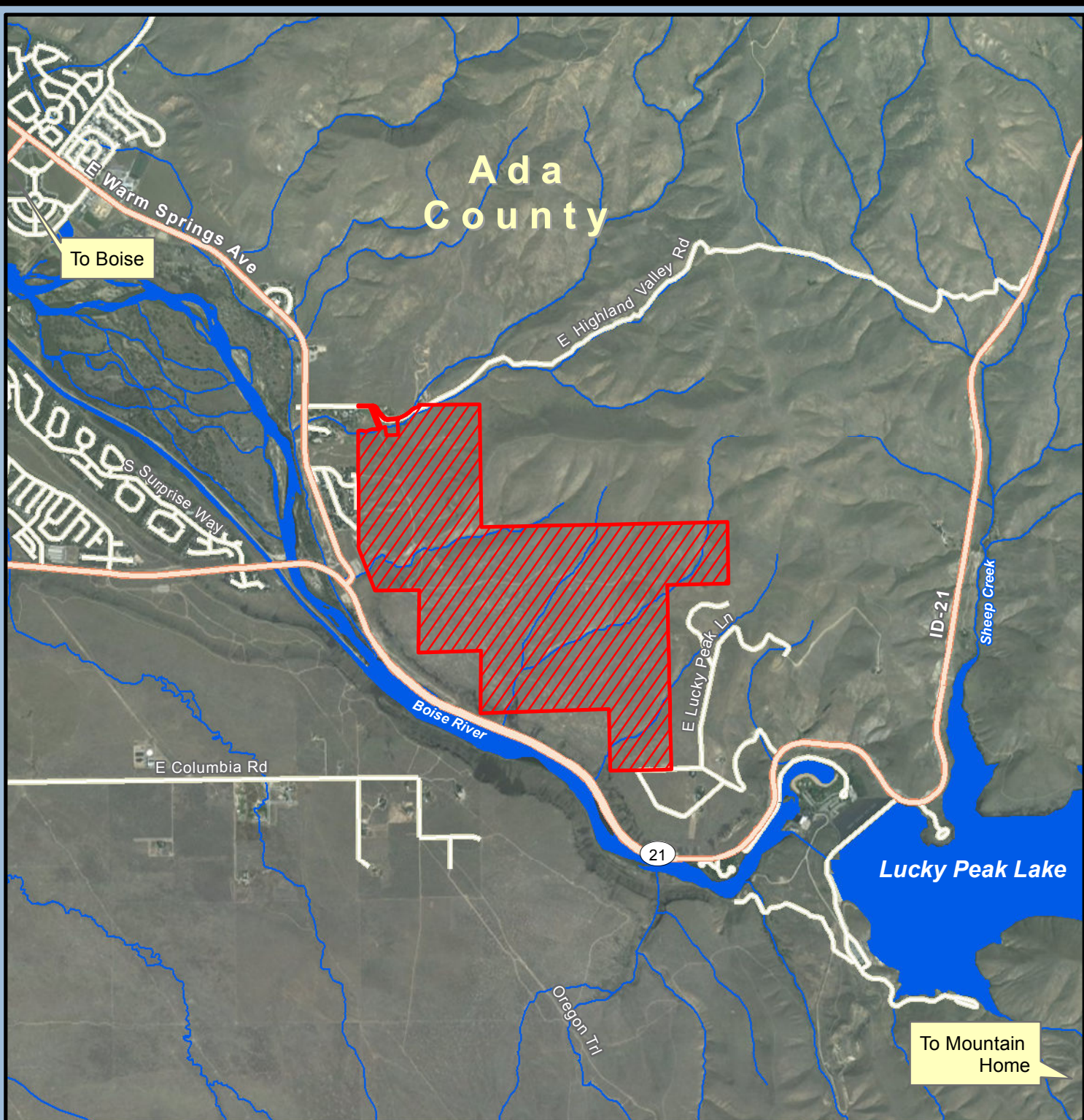


Subject Property
 Quad Name and Boundary

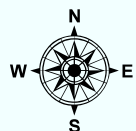



10/20/2011





Hammer Flat Acquisition
 Lucky Peak Quadrangle
 (710 Acres)



 Subject Property

