



Department of Energy

Official File Copy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

July 27, 2011

In reply refer to: KEC-4

To: People Interested in the Proposed Pistol Creek Land Acquisition under the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Mitigation Program

The Bonneville Power Administration is providing funds to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to purchase 20 acres of land in Lake County, Montana, near the town of Arlee. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this proposed land acquisition and explain the purposes for it.

The funding would be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout as mitigation for the construction and operation of the Hungry Horse Dam on the South Fork of the Flathead River. The subject property is approximately 20 acres including approximately a quarter mile of land adjacent to Pistol Creek

Enclosed you will find a map describing this land transaction. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that our funding of the purchase of this property is 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 July 26, 2011, and has been posted on BPA's website at:

http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorical_exclusions.aspx

When the transaction is complete, the Tribes will own and manage the property to maintain important fish and wildlife habitat. If the transaction is completed a conservation easement would be placed on the property and held in perpetuity by BPA to ensure that the fisheries values and habitat are protected. The Tribes would provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources on the property.

Pending BPA's approval of the management plan, any activities that could damage habitat (such as harvesting of wood products, grazing or livestock or construction of buildings) would be prohibited from occurring on the property. Short-term planned management activities on the property include maintenance of current fencing. The property has no associated water rights.

If you have any questions regarding this land purchase or the pending management plan, please feel free to contact Cecilia Brown, BPA Project Manager, at 503-230-3462 or ckbrown@bpa.gov.

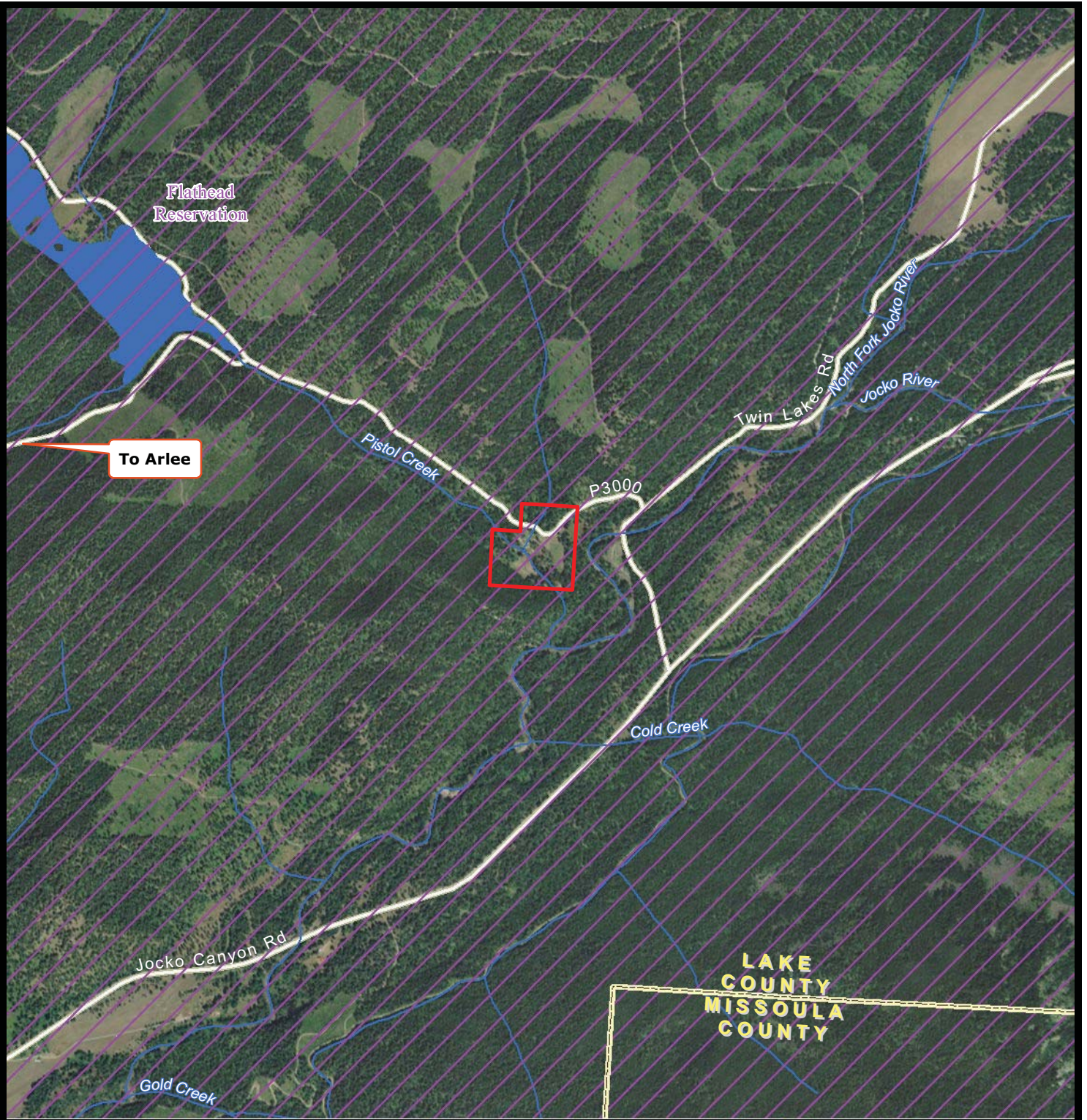
Lynn DuCharme of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes may also be contacted at 406-883-2701 or e-mail lynnd@cskt.org. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519—please refer to the Pistol Creek land acquisition.

Sincerely,







Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:
Map



Pistol Creek Land Acquisition Map
 Lake County, MT - Gold Creek 24K USGS Quad
 (20 Acres)

-  **Subject Property**
-  **Flathead Reservation**
-  **County Boundary**
-  **Roads**

