



**Department of Energy**  
Bonneville Power Administration  
P.O. Box 3621  
Portland, Oregon 97208-3621

Official File Copy

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

April 30, 2012

In reply refer to: Virgil Lee Watts – KEWM-4

**To: People Interested in the Proposed Rapid Lightning Creek Acquisition**

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the purchase of a 27-acre parcel of land adjacent to the Rapid Lightning Creek Habitat and Trout Creek Habitat Segments of the Pend Oreille Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Bonner County, Idaho. When the transaction is complete, the properties would be owned and managed for 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 this proposed property purchase.

Purchasing this property would provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of wildlife habitat losses due to the construction and inundation of Albeni Falls Dam and is consistent with goals IDFG outlined in the Albeni Falls Wildlife Protection, Mitigation, and Enhancement Plan. Purchasing this property would add to the land base of the Pend Oreille WMA and would protect a wetland area on the southern portion of the property. The wetland protection would provide waterfowl production habitat and hunting opportunities. Further, several non-game wildlife species would also benefit from the protection of this property.

Once the parcel has been purchased, which is expected in the spring of 2012, the property would be incorporated into the Pend Oreille WMA and the associated wildlife management and operations. Pending BPA's approval of the updated WMA management plan, any additional activities that could impair or damage fish and wildlife habitats (such as open pit mining, grazing, etc.) would be prohibited from occurring on this land. Upon acquisition, structures currently located on the property may be demolished and access roads may be improved.

Enclosed you will find a map that shows the property boundary. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that funding the property purchase 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 April 26, 2012 and has been posted on BPA's website at: [http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental\\_services/categorical\\_exclusions.aspx](http://www.efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categorical_exclusions.aspx)

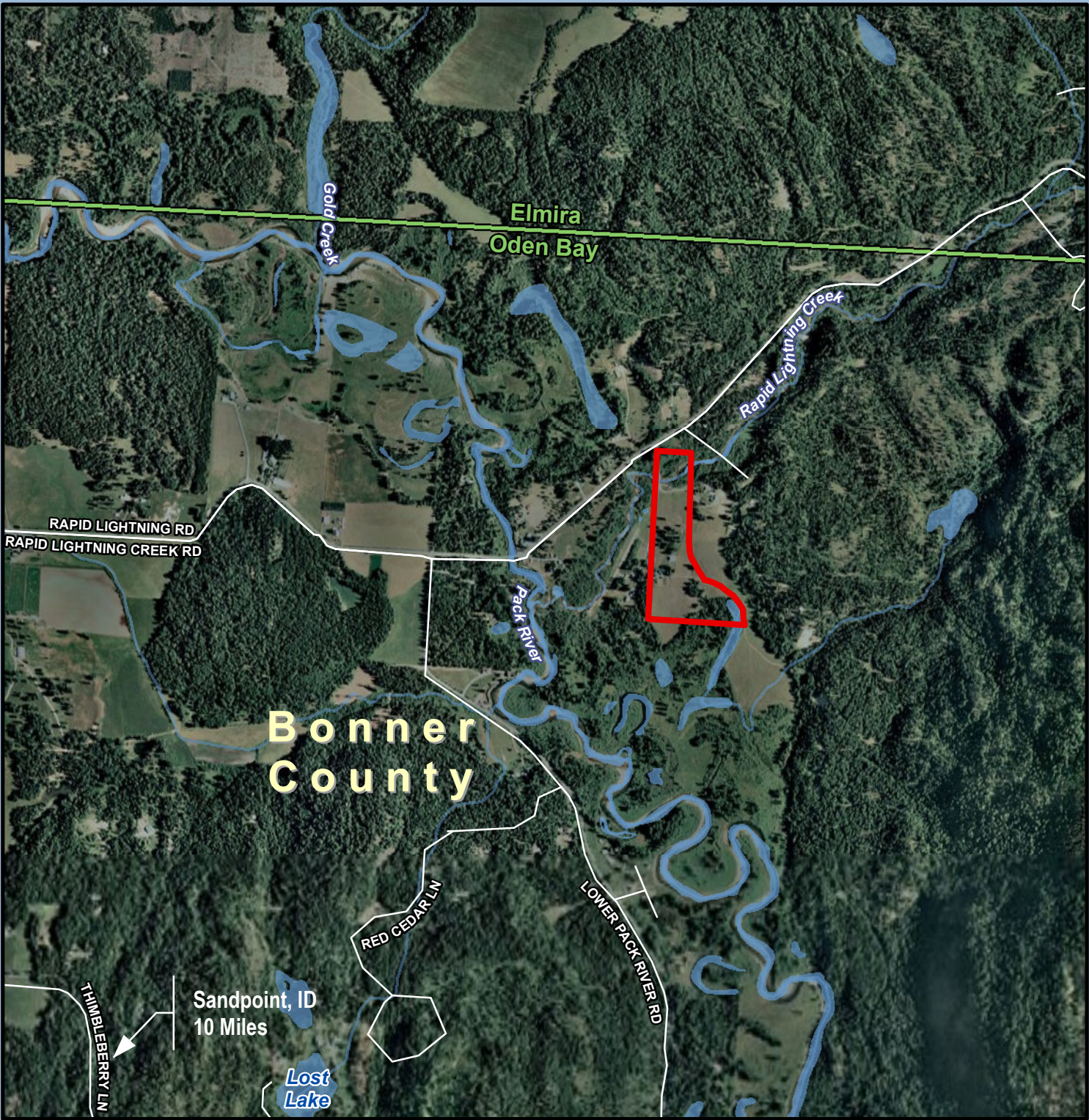
If you have any questions about this proposal or would like additional information, please contact Virgil Lee Watts, BPA, at (503) 230-4625, via e-mail at [vlwatts@bpa.gov](mailto:vlwatts@bpa.gov), or toll free at (800) 622-4519 (be sure to reference the "Rapid Lightning Creek Acquisition").

Sincerely,

*/s/ Katery Grange, April 30, 2012*



Katery Grange  
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure: Map



### Rapid Lightning Creek Land Acquisition

Oden Bay Quadrangle  
(27 Acres)

-  Subject Property
-  Quad Name and Boundary

