



Department of Energy

Official File

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

August 27, 2012

In reply refer to: KEWM-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 the 137 acre Sandy Point property in Ada County, Idaho. When the transaction is complete, the property will 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 land purchase.

The funding would be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for wildlife in southern Idaho. Purchasing the land would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the Palisades, Anderson Ranch, Black Canyon and Minidoka Dams on the Snake River. The property provides 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.

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

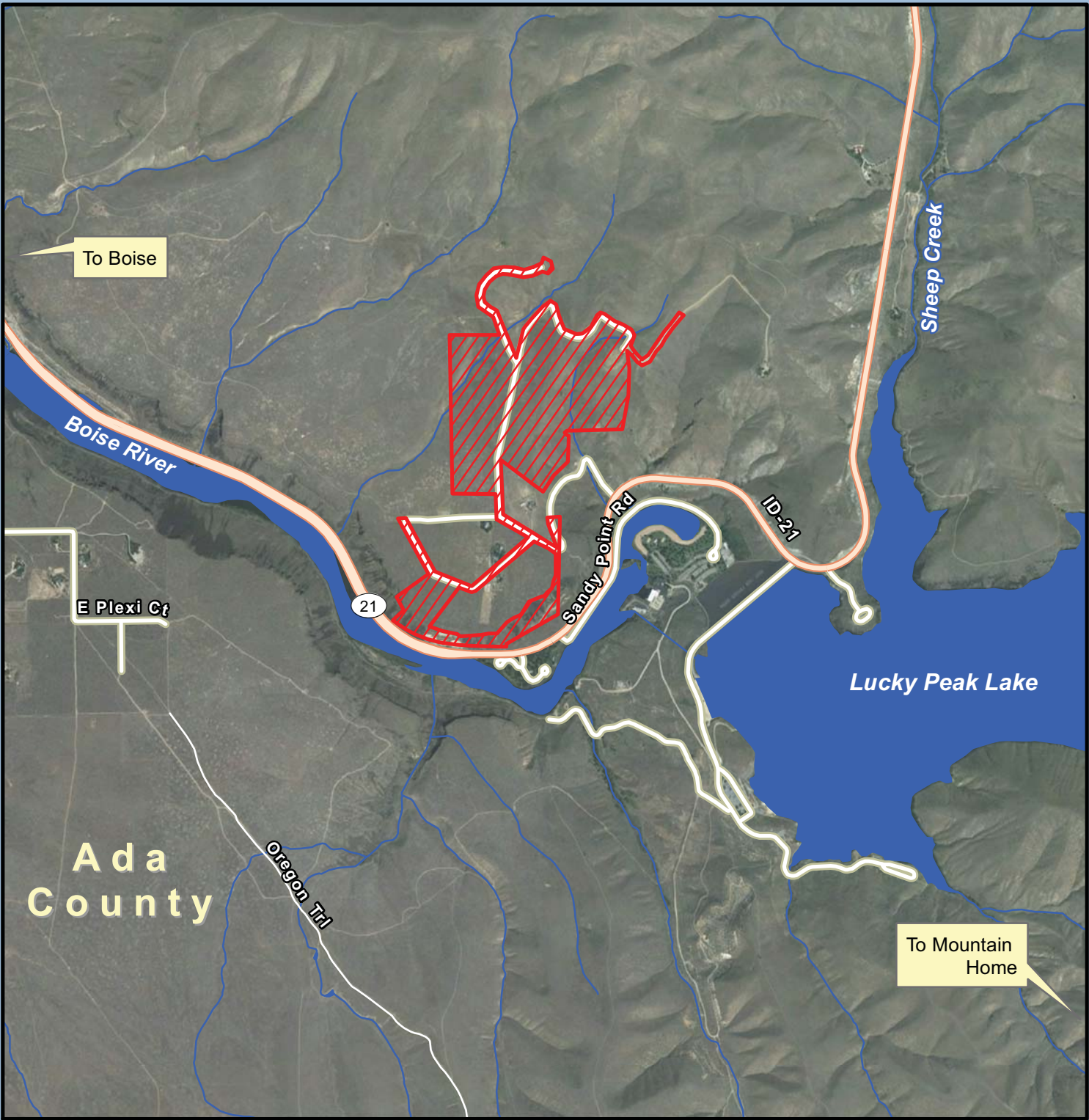
The IDFG would provide long-term management for the land and would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat resources. IDFG will provide the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the plan. BPA must review and approve the plan before it is implemented.

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

Sincerely,


/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan, August 27, 2012
Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Enclosure:
Maps



Sandy Point Acquisition
 Lucky Peak Quadrangle
 (137 Acres)



 Subject Property

