



Department of Energy

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 Thorne Creek Land Acquisition under the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) Mitigation Program

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is providing funds to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to purchase 60 acres of land in Lake County, Montana, near the town of St. Ignatius. BPA is sending this letter to inform nearby residents and other interested parties of this land purchase.

The funding is being provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to assist with habitat protection and restoration activities to protect and enhance habitat for westslope cutthroat trout as mitigation for impacts to habitat from the construction and operation of the Hungry Horse Dam on the South Fork of the Flathead River. The property includes about .20 miles of Thorne Creek property, with about 27 acres of riparian and wetland habitat and about 33 acres of upland habitat. Currently, the property is used for grazing, but this action will not continue once the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are managing the land so that it can be strictly used for fish and wildlife habitat.

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 13, 2011, and has been posted on BPA's website at:

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

When the transaction is complete, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes will own and manage the property to maintain habitat for fish and wildlife. They will develop a management plan for the property and give the public the opportunity to review and comment on the plan prior to implementing new actions 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.

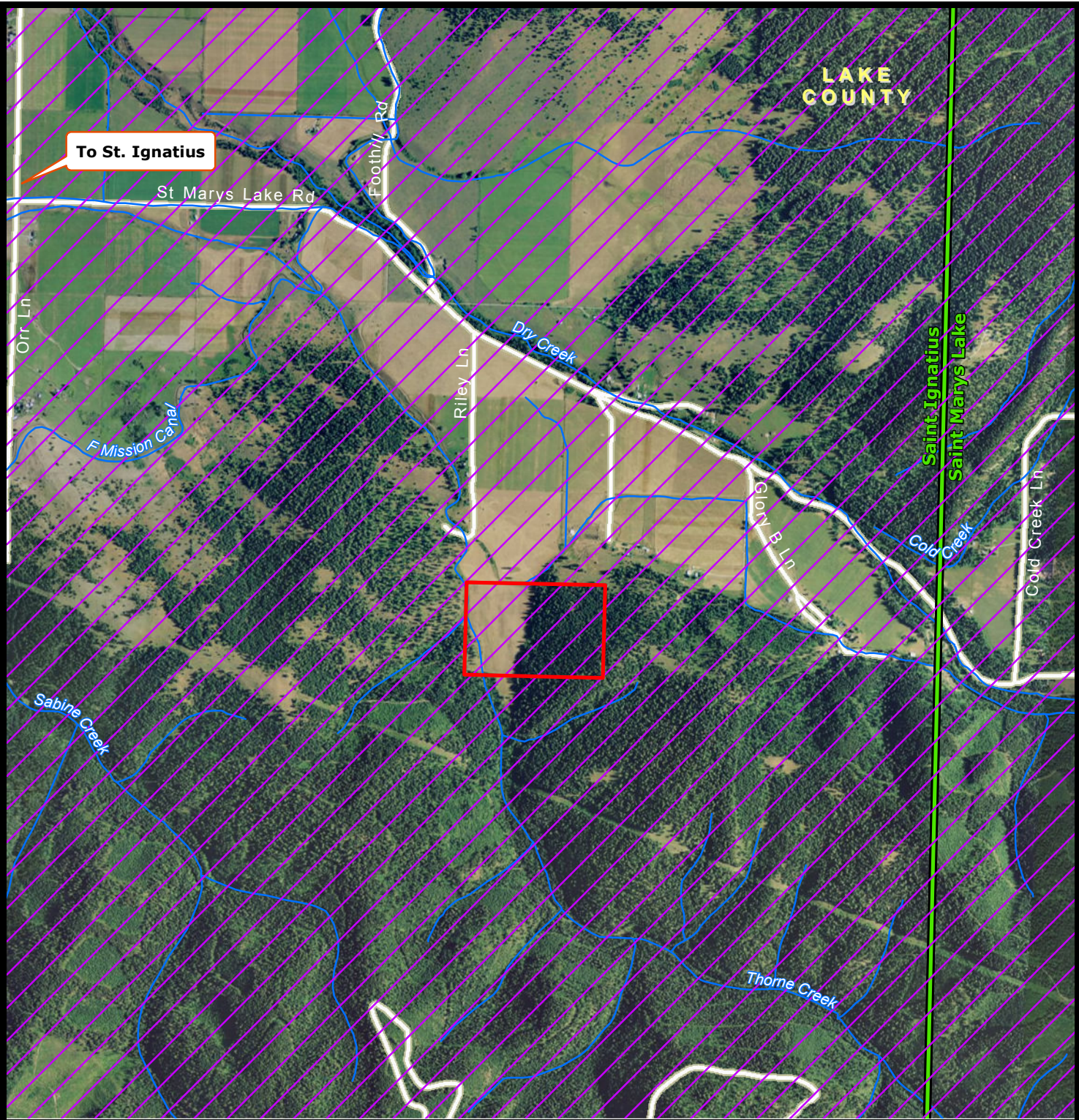
Lynn DuCharme of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes may also be contacted at 406-883-2701 or e-mail lynnd@cskt.org. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519—please refer to the Thorne Creek land acquisition.

Sincerely,





/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

Hannah Dondy-Kaplan
Environmental Protection Specialist - KEC-4

Enclosure:
Map



Thorne Creek Land Acquisition Map
 Lake County, MT - Saint Ignatius 24K USGS Quad
 (60 Acres)

-  **Subject Property**
-  **Flathead Reservation**
-  **USGS 24K Quad Perimeters**
-  **Roads**

