



Department of Energy

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

ENVIRONMENT, FISH AND WILDLIFE

December 7, 2012

In reply refer to: KEW-4

Dear Landowner/interested party:

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the purchase of approximately 41 acres of historic Columbia River floodplain in Columbia County, Oregon. When the purchase is complete, the Columbia Land Trust would own and manage the property for fish and wildlife conservation purposes and BPA would receive a conservation easement to ensure that the habitat values on the property are always protected. 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, mitigate and enhance habitat for fish and wildlife species in the Columbia River estuary including coho and chinook salmon, steelhead, Columbia white-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, and river otter. This land purchase would serve as partial mitigation for the construction and operation of the dams on the main stem Columbia and Snake Rivers. It also satisfies some of BPA's mitigation requirements for the Columbia River estuary as identified in the National Marine Fisheries Service 2008/2010 Biological Opinion that guides BPA's protection of salmon and steelhead listed under the federal Endangered Species Act.

Enclosed you will find a map describing this land transaction. BPA has prepared a memo and environmental checklist documenting that no further environmental review of this funding action is required under the National Environmental Policy Act. This documentation, known as a categorical exclusion, was approved on November 8, 2012, and has been posted on BPA's website at http://efw.bpa.gov/environmental_services/categoricalexclusions.aspx.

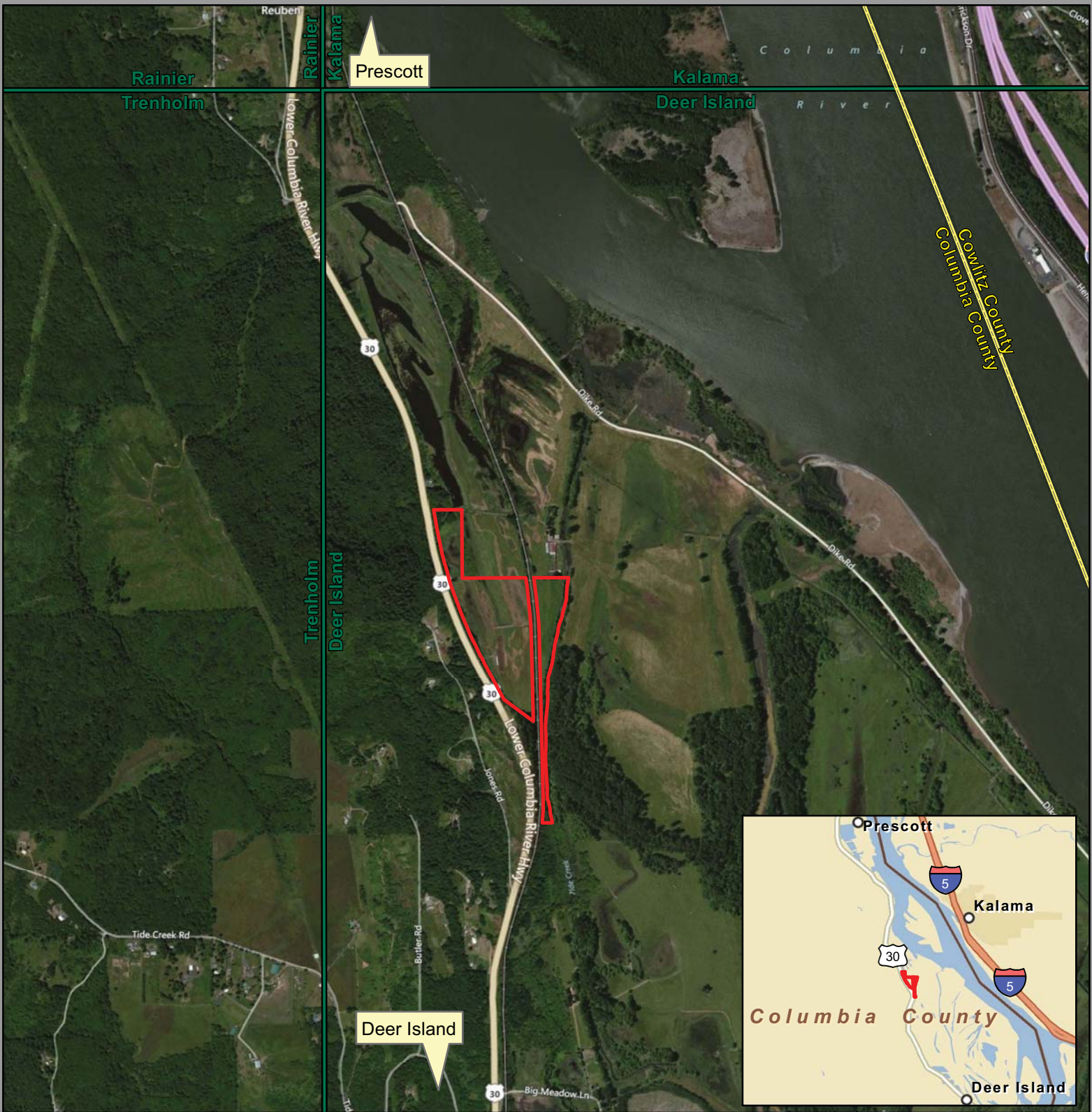
The Columbia Land Trust will provide long-term stewardship for the land and will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. Columbia Land Trust will provide the opportunity for the public to review and comment on the draft plan. BPA will review the plan, and the plan must receive BPA's approval before it is implemented. The management actions could include restoring estuary wetlands, floodplains and side channels to their historical condition, as well as controlling invasive plants and planting native vegetation. If BPA proposes to fund any of these activities, we will conduct additional environmental review under NEPA and other statutes as appropriate.

If you have any questions regarding this land purchase, please feel free to contact the project manager, Jason Karnezis, at 503-230-3098 or jpkarnezis@bpa.gov. You can also call toll free 800-622-4519. Please refer to the "Tide Creek Land Acquisition."

Sincerely,




/s/ Michelle O'Malley, December 7, 2012
Michelle O'Malley
Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

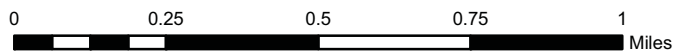
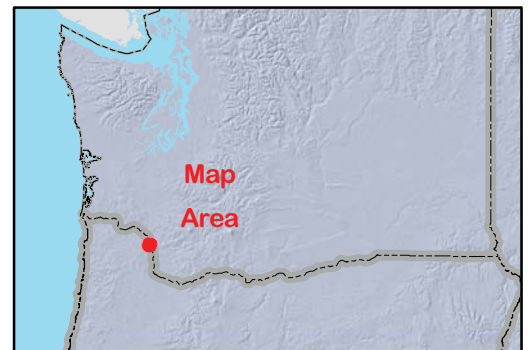
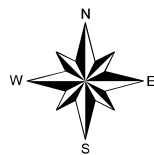
Enclosure: Vicinity Map



TIDE CREEK LAND ACQUISITION

COLUMBIA COUNTY, OR
(41 ACRES)

-  Subject Property
-  County Boundary
-  Quad Name and Boundary



11/6/2012