

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Southern Cross Fee Title Funding

Project No.: 2008-207-00

Project Manager: Dorie Welch – KEWM-4

Location: Union County, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.25 Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management

Description of the Proposed Action:

BPA proposes to fund the fee title on property referred to as Southern Cross. The property has 542 acres of riparian and upland habitat located along the main stem of Catherine Creek in Union County, OR – T4N/R40E/Sections 27-28, and 33-34. This purchase will be made using Accord dollars committed to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for the protection of habitat for fish species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation will develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat on the property. BPA will review the plan for consistency with the mitigation and conservation purposes of the acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any activities on the property, additional environmental review would be conducted.

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Dawn Boorse

Dawn Boorse

Environmental Protection Specialist

/s/ Donald Rose

Donald Rose
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 30, 2015

Attachment: Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

Proposed Action: Southern Cross Fee Title Funding

Project Site Description

Southern Cross – T4N/R40E/Sections 27-28, and 33-34 – 542 acres of riparian and upland habitat along located along the main stem of Catherine Creek in Union County, OR.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance proposed—fee title funding only.</p> <p>The fee title funding itself has no potential to impact cultural resources. However, BPA is currently uncertain how much restoration the CTUIR plan to do, if any, on this property. The land will currently remain in private ownership and restoration is generally less likely when there is a private landowner. If any funding is provided by BPA for restoration work then BPA will comply with NHPA Section 106 at the time of funding.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No soil disturbance proposed—fee title funding only.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No plant disturbance proposed—fee title funding only.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to wildlife—fee title funding.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance—fee title funding.</p>		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No disturbance to wetlands—fee title funding.</p>		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No change to groundwater or aquifer—fee title funding only.

8. **Land Use and Specially Designated Areas**

Explanation: No change to land use—fee title funding only.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: No change to visual quality—fee title funding only.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: No change to air quality—fee title funding only.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: No change to noise levels—fee title funding only.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No change to human health and safety—fee title funding only.

Evaluation of Other Integral Elements

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Public Notification letter and map will be sent to adjacent landowners and interested parties. Print notification in two Union County publications.

Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on any environmentally sensitive resources.

Signed: /s/ Dawn Boorse

Dawn Boorse

Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: April 29, 2015