

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Building and Structure Removal on Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration property

Fish and Wildlife Project No. and Contract No. 2012-015-00; 67636

Project Manager: Jason Karnezis – KEWL-4

Location: Clatsop County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.23 Demolition and disposal of buildings

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund the Cowlitz Indian Tribe to remove abandoned and dilapidated structures on property that is currently being restored for tidal marsh habitat as part of the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project. Removal and demolition of the structures will help the increase the property's habitat quality and increase public safety.

Infrastructure to be demolished and removed is located in upland areas on the property and consists of two barns, a milking parlor, two grain silos, an abandoned camper, and three mobile style homes. The above ground portion of the structures will be demolished and salvaged or recycled to the extent practical. An empty concrete manure lagoon will also be demolished and if cost-effective removed. If not cost effective the concrete will be covered with clean fill and left onsite. Following the removal/demolition of these structures, the foundations (which will remain to prevent any ground disturbing activities) will be covered with native soils generated from the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project in the nearby floodplain and planted to prevent erosion.

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/ Jesse Wilson

Jesse Wilson – KEC-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
ACS Professional Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ Donald Rose

Donald Rose – KEC-4
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 1, 2015

Attachment(s): 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.

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Project Site Description

The project site is located in Clatsop County approximately 3 miles southeast of Astoria, Oregon (T08N, R09W, Sec. 28). The structures to be removed are situated on knoll above a large floodplain area adjacent to the Youngs and Wallooskee Rivers.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resource consultation was conducted for the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration project that included the structure removal and it was determined that the structures are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. OR SHPO concurrence on no effect determination on June 13, 2013. The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, the Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde were also consulted and one response was received requesting the incorporation of an inadvertent discover plan. Due to the potential to encounter buried cultural resources mitigation will include leaving the structure foundations in place to limit ground disturbance and covering them with cultural devoid material generated by the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project, An inadvertent discovery plan will also be implemented.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There will be minimal soil disturbance due to equipment movement and debris removal. Foundations will be left in place which will limit impacts to soils and geology and the foundations will be capped with soil generated from the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project. Following the structure removal the impact area will be seeded and planted with native vegetation to limit erosion.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special status plant species occur within the structure removal impact area. No trees will be removed; shrubs and grasses in the vicinity would be disturbed. The area would be replanted with native vegetation.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special status wildlife species occur within the structure removal impact area.</p>		

The area of the existing structures provides limited habitat. The buildings and structure will be removed during the winter to limit impacts to nesting migratory bird species such as the swallows.

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish**
(including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)



Explanation: The structures are not located within a floodplain. A vegetated buffer (75 foot minimum) exists between the structures and nearby waters and floodplains. The vegetated buffer is sufficient distance and density to assure that waterbodies, floodplains, and fish will not be impacted by the structure removal or any associated construction related storm water runoff.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: The structures are not located within a wetland. A vegetated buffer (75 foot minimum) exists between the structures and nearby wetlands. The vegetated buffer is sufficient to assure that wetlands will not be impacted by the structure removal or any associated construction related storm water runoff.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The structure removal will have no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: No specially designated areas present; land use has already be converted from farmland use to fish and wildlife habitat.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: Views of the structures from offsite locations are limited and the removal of the abandoned and dilapidated structures will have no impacts on visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: Small amounts of dust and vehicle emissions would be generated due to construction; structure removal will not include burning.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Noise generated during the structure removal will be short in duration, limited to daylight hours, and isolated from nearby residences (over 250 feet to nearest light industrial area, and over 1,600 feet to nearest residence). The short duration noise will have a minimal impact to wildlife.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: The structures were inventoried by an asbestos building inspector and do not contain asbestos containing materials. The structures will be removed in the safest manner possible.

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: The structures were inventoried by an asbestos building inspector and do not contain asbestos containing materials.

- 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: Astoria Wetlands, LLC, an environmental restoration company, currently owns the property and approves of the structure removal. Adjacent landowners were informed of the potential structure removal through the Wallooskee-Youngs Confluence Restoration Project.

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

Signed: /s/ Jesse Wilson

Date: /s/ December 1, 2015