

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Jocko Hollow Property Acquisition Funding

**Project No.:** 2002-003-00

**Project Manager:** Cecilia Brown

**Location:** Lake County, Montana

**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 is proposing to fund the purchase of the Jocko Hollow Property, an approximately 1.5-acre parcel of land located just over a mile northwest of the town of Arlee, in Lake County, Montana. The property would be owned and managed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and BPA would hold a conservation easement to prevent the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat on the property to other land uses.

Funding for the purchase of the property would partially fulfill BPA's commitments to mitigate for impacts to fish and wildlife from the Federal Columbia River Power System in the Columbia River Basin.

The property consists of riparian forest and upland grassland along the Jocko River. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on the property. BPA would review the plan for consistency with the conservation easement and the purpose of the acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any further activities, additional environmental review may 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/ Jennifer Snyder

Jennifer Snyder  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Kevin Cannell

Kevin Cannell  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 22, 2016

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 includes approximately 1.5 acres of riparian forest and upland grassland along a 0.04-mile reach of the north bank of the Jocko River. The Jocko Hollow site is a small tract of land that is bordered to the north and west by transportation rights-of-way (ROW), to the south by the Jocko River, and to the east by private land and the Felsman BPA mitigation parcel. The property is mostly undeveloped; however, an old garage/outbuilding and crumbling root cellar are located on the west side of the property. A few piles of concrete, soil, wood debris and trash are located throughout the property. It seems that the current owners were potentially planning to construct a primary residence or a vacation home on the property, although no construction of any newer buildings has been started.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.		

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|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. <b>Wetlands</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. |                                     |                          |
| 7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. |                                     |                          |
| 8. <b>Land Use and Specially Designated Areas</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. |                                     |                          |
| 9. <b>Visual Quality</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. |                                     |                          |
| 10. <b>Air Quality</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. |                                     |                          |
| 11. <b>Noise</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. |                                     |                          |
| 12. <b>Human Health and Safety</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. |                                     |                          |

### 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: Notification letters will be sent to adjacent landowners and other interested parties at a minimum of 15 days before the closing date of the sale. Advertisements will also be posted in local newspapers, and information will be posted on BPA's public website prior to closing.

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

Signed: /s/ Jennifer Snyder  
Jennifer Snyder, ECF-4

Date: April 22, 2016