

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Coos Bay Fiber Stub Access Road Maintenance

Project No.: 395562

Project Manager: Clint Stanton, Access Road Engineer – TFLF-TPP-3

Location: Coos County, OR

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to perform routine maintenance activities on the access road serving the right-of-way of the Coos Bay Fiber Stub, from structure 28/2 to 28/3. The proposed work is necessary to preserve and repair the existing road, maintain roadway safety, and manage storm water run-off. The work would include the following:

- 4,235 lineal ft of roadway improvement (gravel road improvements);
- 31 water bars;
- 1 4,235 ft² landing;
- 1 gate repair;
- 1 36" culvert in-kind replacement at 40' in length on an intermittent waterbody;
- 1 18" cross-drain culvert in-kind replacement at 30' in length.

The project would include reshaping, grading, and compacting existing road surface as well as hauling, placing, and shaping of crushed rock. In addition, two culverts are proposed for replacement (one 36" corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert at 40' in length and one 18" CMP culvert at 30' in length) are proposed to be replaced in-kind. The above described road maintenance activities are proposed for construction in 2016.

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/ John Wiley

John Wiley

Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Date: July 1, 2016

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

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 proposed project is located in rural Coos County, OR, approximately 2-miles southeast of the City of Coos Bay, OR (Township: 26S, Range: 13W, Section 1,6). The access road crosses private land with surrounding forested hillslopes, grasslands/pasture, and a grass-dominant riparian corridor of Ross Slough. The approximate site elevation is 40'-280' above sea level.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<p>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Based on the results of a desktop analysis of the proposed undertaking which considered the nature of the proposed action, its location and setting, relatively small portions of each segment, previous archaeological inventories conducted and archaeological features recorded in that area, as well as on-going consultations with OR SHPO discussing when Section 106 consultation is appropriate; BPA determined that this proposed undertaking has no potential to impact cultural resources.</p> <p>In the event that archaeological or historical materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity must stop, the area would be secured, and the SHPO and the environmental project lead must be notified..</p>		
<p>2. Geology and Soils</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project would require some ground-disturbing activities for roadway improvements and culvert replacement, but would be generally limited to the existing road prism. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected. Appropriate erosion control measures would be implemented.</p>		
<p>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No trees have been identified for removal. Some herbaceous and scrub/shrub vegetation may be disturbed or removed to construct new road elements or during replacement and cleaning of the culverts. The western lily (endangered) is documented to potentially occur within suitable habitats within 2-miles of the project area; no suitable wetland habitats are present within the project footprint and therefore, the project will have no effect on the western lily. No other special-status plant species or their habitats were documented to occur within the vicinity or were observed during the field survey conducted by an Otak biologist on March 3, 2016.</p>		

4. **Wildlife** (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: An official federally-listed species list was requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Information, Planning and Conservation database (IPaC) on March 1, 2016 and updated on June 19, 2016. The IPaC list indicated that the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, and western snowy plover have the potential to occur within two miles of the project area. The field evaluation conducted by an Otak biologist on March 3, 2016 determined that there is no suitable habitat within the project vicinity for these species. The project would not remove suitable habitat and would not produce noise above ambient background levels, create visual disturbances outside of normal conditions, or otherwise affect these species or their habitats. Therefore, the project would have no impacts to federally-listed wildlife. See the Endangered Species Act Letter of No Effect for this project for further details.

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



Explanation: The project proposes to replace two culverts in kind; one 36" corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert at 40' in length and one 18" CMP culvert at 30' in length. Both culverts are located on unnamed drainages that may eventually flow or disperse and infiltrate into Ross Slough. These tributaries flow seasonally and do not have defined channels. The connection of these drainages to Ross Slough across Ross Slough Road could not be determined and may not occur directly (culverts across this road may be blocked or obstructed, or the flows may be directed further along a roadside ditch. It is possible that these tributaries infiltrate the substrate prior to entering Ross Slough, or reach Ross Slough via surface flow only during higher flows. The USGS 7.5-minute topographical map does not indicate tributaries or clear drainage pathways in this area. A query of the StreamNet database made in June of 2016 documents Oregon Coast coho (threatened) and unlisted runs of steelhead present in Ross Slough. The likelihood that anadromous fish would utilize or could access these seasonal drainages is highly unlikely. Therefore, no ESA-listed fish or their designated critical habitats would occur within the project area.

Presence of resident fish and other aquatic species in both waterbodies is also unlikely. However, work proposed in water would be conducted during the ODFW in-water work window for this location (July 15-September 30) as a contingency to reduce the likelihood of turbid water entering a fish bearing waterbody during sensitive periods. It is very likely that these drainages are dry during the summer months. The work as proposed is exempt from Corps Section 404 and DSL permit applications.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: NWI coverage maps indicate that no wetlands are present within the project limits, and no wetlands were found during the field surveys.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The proposed work is limited to the ground surface.

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



Explanation: No change in land use and no specially designated areas were identified within the project limits.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The proposed project features are consistent with existing roads.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Dust generated from project activities is expected to be minimal and temporary in nature.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Noise generated from construction is expected to be localized and temporary in nature.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Project activities would not impact human health or safety.

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: Land ownership within the project limits is privately held. The Access Road Engineer would contact adjacent and potentially affected landowners prior to project construction.

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

Signed: /s/ John Wiley

Date: July 1, 2016

John Wiley EP -4

Physical Scientist (Environmental)