

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Reedsport-Fairview No. 1, North Bend District, Access Road Maintenance Project

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 replace the wood decking on an existing bridge located east of pole # 21/3 on Kentuck Creek in rural Coos County, OR. The existing decking is failing and may be impassable to vehicles. The bridge is utilized by BPA to access the transmission line and by adjacent landowners.

All proposed work would occur within the existing bridge decking platform and would not result in ground disturbance outside of the bridge surface. The existing bridge decking would be removed and replaced by hand. No other bridge work or project elements are proposed. The proposed work occurs directly above Kentuck Creek, a tributary to Coos Bay. Oregon Coast coho salmon and steelhead salmon have been documented to occur within Kentuck Creek. To contain any debris that may dislodge and fall into the creek during removal or replacement of the decking, plastic sheeting would be installed immediately under the bridge deck. The plastic sheeting would be removed in a manner that ensures no debris enters the waterway, and disposed of at an approved facility after construction is complete.

The above described road maintenance activities are proposed to be conducted during 2016. If prior to or during construction activities the proposed action may result in adverse impacts to resources that are not described within this categorical exclusion, coordination with the appropriate agencies and a reevaluation of effects may be warranted.

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/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 16, 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

BPA proposes to replace the wood decking on an existing bridge located east of pole # 21/3 on Kentuck Creek. The proposed work occurs directly above Kentuck Creek, a tributary to Coos Bay. Oregon Coast coho salmon (NMFS threatened) and steelhead salmon have been documented to occur within Kentuck Creek.

The above described road maintenance activities are proposed to be conducted during the summer of 2016.

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>The project is limited to just the redecking of an existing bridge and will require no ground disturbance. Based on a desktop review, no sites or previous investigations have been reported in the immediate vicinity of the APE. No sites have been recorded within a mile of the site. Based on this information, BPA has determined that this proposed undertaking has no potential to impact cultural resources. 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. Work will not commence until the SHPO has cleared the area. (Pers. comm. Brian O'Donnchadha, June 9, 2016)</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>The project would require no ground-disturbing activities and would be limited to the existing bridge decking proposed for replacement. No prime or unique farmlands would be affected. Therefore, the proposed action would have no impacts to geology or soils.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u></p> <p>No trees would be removed and there would be no disturbance of vegetation. The western lily has been documented to occur in Coos County, OR, though the immediate project area is not suitable habitat for this species. No special-status plant species or their habitats were observed during the field</p>		

survey, and no vegetation would be disturbed as part of the proposed action. Therefore, the proposed action would have no impacts to vegetation.

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



Explanation:

A biologist from Otak, Inc., conducted a site visit on March 3, 2016, to field verify habitat conditions for listed species and to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed project within the project vicinity. No suitable habitat for special-status wildlife species was documented to occur within the project area. An official federally-listed species list was requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (IPaC) on June 8, 2016, for species that occur within two miles of the proposed project site. The IPaC list indicated that the marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, western snowy plover, and western lily have the potential to occur within two miles of the project area. The field evaluation determined that there is no suitable habitat within the project vicinity for the marbled murrelet and western snowy plover. Suitable habitat for the northern spotted owl (dispersal and foraging) may be present to the south of the project on the northern valley wall slopes. However, 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 the northern spotted owl. The project actions would not result in any impacts to any wildlife species or their habitats given the nature of the proposed construction (hand removal and replacement of bridge decking). Therefore, the project would have no impacts to federally-listed wildlife or other wildlife species.

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



Explanation:

The project proposes to replace the existing bridge decking over Kentuck Creek. Kentuck Creek is a first order tributary to Coos Bay. Oregon Coast coho salmon (NMFS threatened) and steelhead salmon (not federally listed) are documented to occur in Kentuck Creek. Other resident fish and aquatic species presence in Kentuck Creek is assumed. Work would be limited to the existing bridge surface and no work would be conducted below OHW. Plastic sheeting would be installed under the bridge decking prior to construction to capture any debris that may be dislodged during removal and installation of the decking. Although no in-water work is proposed, as contingency the project would be completed in the summer during the ODFW in-water work window (July 1-September 15). Therefore, the proposed action would have no impacts to water bodies, floodplains or fish. The work as proposed is exempt from Corps Section 404 and DSL permit applications.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation:

NWI coverage maps indicate that wetlands are present within the immediate vicinity of Kentuck Creek, though test pits indicated presence of upland soils within immediate project vicinity. This reach of Kentuck Creek is in an historical intertidal reach. A tidegate is present on Kentuck Creek approximately 1.2 miles downstream of the bridge that limits or excludes intertidal flow. Work would be limited to the existing bridge surface; therefore, the proposed action would have no impacts to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation:

The proposed work is limited to the bridge decking. There would be no impacts to groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation:

No change in land use and no specially designated areas were identified within the project limits. There would be no impacts to land use or specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation:

There are no residences within visual range of the work limits. The proposed project feature is consistent with existing roads. There would be no impacts to visual resources.

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
John Wiley - EP-4
Physical Scientist (Environmental)

Date: June 16, 2016