

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Chinook Trail Association Trail Expansion at Ross Substation

**LURR No.:** 20160407

**Project Manager:** Dawneen Dostert, TERR-3

**Location:** Clark County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow the Chinook Trail Association (Trail Association) to install a segment of trail adjacent to an existing trail on BPA fee-owned land in Vancouver, Washington.

The approximately 640 foot-long trail would parallel NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street between NE 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue (to the east) and the BPA Ross Substation (to the west). Pedestrians and cyclists use an existing trail on BPA property as part of the Ellen Davis Trail system, which receives relatively frequent traffic. Currently users travel on portions of a BPA gravel access road that parallels NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street, which puts them at risk of vehicle collision. Where the BPA gravel access road does not exist, users travel through the open field, and have created a narrow, rutted, dirt trail that is 3 to 5 feet from NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street, putting users near vehicles traveling at high rates of speed.

The Trail Association would create a new and improved foot and cycling trail to ensure users have a dedicated and safe route of travel for this segment of the Ellen Davis Trail. The new trail would be approximately 4 feet wide and 640 feet long, and would be surfaced with 1/4-inch minus or 5/8-inch minus crushed rock. To install the trail, a Hawthorne tree and some ornamental shrubs may need to be removed; depressions in the ground from remnant driveways may need to be filled with dirt and gravel to create relatively flat surfaces for trail users.

**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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: November 21, 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 area is located immediately north of NE 54<sup>th</sup> Street, between the BPA Ross Substation and NE 22<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, in Vancouver Washington. The BPA Ross Complex is located to the east of the project area. A BPA gravel access road, a small BPA storage building, and a 2-acre field are located north of the project area. The surrounding area is primarily residences with some open fields.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
<b>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> On November 2, 2016, the BPA archaeologist determined that this undertaking would not have the potential to cause adverse effects to historic properties. Therefore, Section 106 consultation was not initiated. Should cultural deposits be encountered during construction activities, work shall halt immediately, and the BPA archaeologist and EC lead should be notified.</p>		
<b>2. Geology and Soils</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Some soil disturbance is expected with the Hawthorne tree and shrubbery removal and the low depression filling with soil and gravel. Erosion is not anticipated, however if erosion becomes a concern during project activities best management practices (BMPs) to prevent erosion and sediment control would be implemented.</p>		
<b>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status plant species are present in or near the project area. A lawn of native and non-native grasses and weeds, a Hawthorne tree and some ornamental non-native shrubs would be removed during project activities.</p>		
<b>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status wildlife species or designated critical habitats are present in or near the project area. Approximately 0.14 acre of low quality habitat would be altered as a result of this project.</p>		
<b>5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No water bodies, floodplains, or fish bearing aquatic habitats are located within or near the proposed project area.</p>		

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|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6. <b>Wetlands</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are located within or near the proposed project area; therefore, they would not be impacted by the proposed project activities.             |                                     |                          |
| 7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no underground disturbances (i.e. grading, new well, or trenching) or groundwater usage; groundwater and aquifers would not be impacted. |                                     |                          |
| 8. <b>Land Use and Specially Designated Areas</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> There would be no changes to land use; the area would continue to be used as part of the Ellen Davis Trail system.                                      |                                     |                          |
| 9. <b>Visual Quality</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Visual impacts of developing and gravelling the trail would be consistent with surrounding visual quality of the area.                                  |                                     |                          |
| 10. <b>Air Quality</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No impact to air quality would be expected as a result of this proposed project.  |                                     |                          |
| 11. <b>Noise</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No noise impacts expected.  |                                     |                          |
| 12. <b>Human Health and Safety</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No impact to human health and safety would be expected.   |                                     |                          |

### 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: Project area is located on BPA fee-owned property with little potential to affect adjacent landowners. BPA is coordinating with the Trail Association.

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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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: November 21, 2016