

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Rohlfig Acclimation Pond Maintenance

Project No.: 1996-040-00

Project Manager: Roy Beaty, EWU-4

Location: Chelan County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.20 Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to perform maintenance dredging of Rohlfig pond. Yakama Nation has been using the pond since 2004 to acclimate juvenile coho as part of the Mid-Columbia Coho Restoration Program. The pond is located on an intermittent, unnamed stream that connects to Nason Creek at approximately River Mile 12.

Sediment has accumulated in the pond over the years, reducing the area available for both resident fish and coho. The project would restore the pond to its original depth. An excavator operating from the bank would remove up to 50 cubic yards of accumulated sediment. The sediment would be placed immediately to the southwest of the pond, in a flat treeless area that is less than 0.1 acre in size. Native boulders will be added to the front of a small island in the pond to help prevent future bank erosion.

Work will begin after the outlet of the pond has gone dry in late summer, eliminating the potential for sediment to enter the stream. A snorkel survey will be conducted leading up to the dry period to ensure no fish are trapped in the pond. If fish are observed, they will be removed either by seining or dip netting and placed downstream into Nason Creek.

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/ Michelle Guay

Michelle Guay
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
CorSource Technology Group

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August, 16, 2017

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.

Proposed Action: Rohlfing Acclimation Pond Maintenance

Project Site Description

The site consists of a constructed pond, located in a rural residential yard, which has been used for coho acclimation since 2004. An intermittent stream feeds through the pond and empties into Nason Creek near river mile 12.

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><u>Explanation:</u> On June 29, 2017, Washington State Department of Historic Preservation concurred with BPA's determination of no potential to affect cultural resources. Yakama Nation and Colville Confederated Tribes were also consulted – no response.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soils would be removed only from the previously disturbed footprint of the constructed pond, restoring it to its as-built condition. The spoils deposition area would be enclosed by silt fence, leveled, and seeded to prevent erosion and sedimentation of surface water bodies.</p>		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> All work within the previously disturbed pond footprint and rural residential yard. Less than 0.1 acre of grasses and forbs would be disturbed. Special-status species are not present. Spoils deposition area will be seeded.</p>		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status wildlife species are present. U.S. Fish and Wildlife concurred with this determination on 2/28/2014.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Work would occur during the summer dry period when no water or fish are expected to be present in the pond. Because work would occur in the dry, sediments are not expected to become water-borne and enter any surface-water body.</p> <p>The action may have a long-term benefit to native fish by increasing the amount of off-channel habitat.</p> <p>The project area is not located in the floodplain of Nason Creek, but it is in the floodplain of a small unnamed</p>		

creek. Removal of material from the pond is expected to slightly increase flood storage capacity.

Spoils would be disposed of in an upland area. Silt fence would be installed to ensure that sediments do not become waterborne.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: None present.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: No groundwater would be used. The work would not change the hydrological regime and therefore would not affect groundwater recharge. Spill prevention measures will be present on site.

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

Explanation: Land use would not change. The project is not located in a specially designated area.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: Maintenance dredging would return the pond to its as-built condition. Spoils areas would be seeded to match the surrounding landscape. The project is located in a residential yard - not in a visually sensitive area.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A small amount of temporary dust and vehicle emissions would be generated during the work.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary construction noise would be generated during daylight hours.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: The work will restore the pond to its as-built condition, and is not likely to mobilize previously undisturbed soils. An on-site inspection uncovered no evidence of contaminated soils on the site (no signs of fuel or chemical leaks, no on-site fuel storage). The parcel does not appear on Washington State Department of Ecology clean-up site database. There is no evidence of previous agriculture, industry, or underground storage tanks on the parcel.

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: Yakama Nation has had extensive coordination with the land owner, including multiple phone conversations, in-person meetings, and gathering of signatures for local and federal permits.

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

Signed: /s/ Michelle Guay

Michelle Guay – ECF-4

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: August 16, 2017