

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Klickitat Basin Salmonid Monitoring and Evaluation Program Funding

Project No.: 1995-063-35

Project Manager: Mary Todd Haight

Location: Klickitat County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources.

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to fund the [Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation](#) for ongoing salmonid monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities in the Klickitat Basin as part of the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project.

BPA funding for Klickitat Basin M&E would help to address actions outlined in the NOAA Fisheries 2008 Biological Opinion for the Federal Columbia River Power System, specifically fish population and habitat status monitoring for salmonids in the Klickitat Basin.

The activities to be funded include generation, collection, analysis, and validation of field and lab data. More specifically, the activities include:

- Juvenile salmonid out-migration monitoring at existing rotary screw traps upstream of Lyle and Castile Falls.
- Juvenile and resident salmonid population surveys using electrofishing and snorkel surveys.
- Monitoring to determine abundance and distribution of adult spring Chinook, fall Chinook, coho, and steelhead using spawning ground surveys, capture and tagging at existing traps, and use of existing PIT tag detectors.
- Genetic sampling of juvenile and adult salmonids using capture at Lyle Falls, rotary screw traps, and electrofishing.
- Sediment, streamflow, and water temperature and quality monitoring.
- Habitat inventories.

In the event that BPA proposes to fund any new facilities (e.g., new PIT tag detectors) for the M&E program, further environmental review may be conducted as appropriate.

Aspects of the monitoring and evaluation actions proposed have been considered in previous environmental reviews. Monitoring at Lyle Falls was previously discussed in the Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project EIS (DOE/EIS-0397). The Final EIS was published in November 2008, and the Record of Decision was published in February 2009. Section 2.2.2.5 in the EIS described proposed modifications that would make monitoring easier and safer for fish and biologists and the monitoring activities associated with the Lyle Falls Fish Passage Project.

The Categorical Exclusion on the Castile Falls enumeration facility (1/20/2009) says: "This categorical exclusion does not provide environmental compliance coverage for the physical collection of fish or fish management aspects of the trap, but does cover collection of fish data from PIT tagging, video monitoring, and visual observations."

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 A of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D;
- (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/ Judith L. Woodward

Judith L. Woodward
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
MBO Partners

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 5, 2017

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

Juvenile and adult salmonid monitoring would be done at existing facilities in the Klickitat basin. Other monitoring, including water temperature and quality, sediment levels, and habitat inventories, would take place throughout the Klickitat basin.

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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground-disturbing activities are proposed, so historic and cultural resources would not be affected.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance would be required.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground disturbance that would affect plants, including any Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed plants, would be required.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Work would be conducted at existing locations and would be passive in nature. No wildlife or wildlife habitat, including ESA-listed wildlife, would be disturbed.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Capture of ESA-listed steelhead for M&E activities in the Klickitat Basin is covered under NMFS's Mitchell Act Biological Opinion, dated January 15, 2017. Incidental capture of ESA-listed bull trout is covered under USFWS permit TE-05166B-0, which expires 3/16/2019.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No ground-disturbing activities would be required; therefore, wetlands would not be affected.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No new sources of groundwater would be required. No ground disturbance or excavation that would disturb groundwater or introduce contaminants into groundwater would be required.		

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



Explanation: All fixed monitoring locations have been previously established and continued use would not alter existing land uses.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All fixed monitoring locations have been previously established and continued use would not alter existing visual quality of the area.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: The program would not require ground disturbance or use of heavy equipment that would produce increased dust or emissions. Use of vehicles to access data collection sites would remain similar to ongoing activities, with no change from existing low emissions.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: Activities would not generate noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: Appropriate safety measures would be employed for staff working near the water.

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.

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

- 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.

- 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.

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Coordination with NMFS, USFWS, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and other regional partners is ongoing and part of the regular annual planning process.

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

Signed: /s/ Judith L. Woodward
Judith L. Woodward – ECF-4

Date: July 5, 2017