

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Adult Upstream Migration Timing Monitoring at Bonneville Dam

**Project No.:** 2008-518-00

**Project Manager:** Christine Petersen

**Location:** Skamania County, Washington

**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:** Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) to collect Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), and steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*) at the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility in Skamania County Washington. Captured fish would then be PIT-tagged, sampled for biological information (length, weight, genetic samples), and released. All sampled fish would be collected from the existing adult fish facility. No changes in hydropower or adult fish facility operations would be required to support this work. This work provides genetic samples to CRITFC's genetic assessment program, (BPA contract #2008-907-00).

These actions would support conservation of ESA-listed species considered in the 2020 ESA consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service and maintenance of the Columbia River System and Bonneville's commitments to the CRITFC under the 2020 Columbia River Fish Accord Extension agreement, while also supporting ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the FCRPS on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. (USC) 839 et seq.).

**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, Jul. 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/ Israel Duran

Israel Duran  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
CorSource

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange                      January 21, 2022

Katey C. Grange                      Date  
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.

**Proposed Action:** Adult Upstream Migration Timing Monitoring at Bonneville Dam

## **Project Site Description**

All fish handling activities would occur within the Bonneville Dam Adult Fish Facility located adjacent to the second powerhouse at river km 235 of the Columbia River in Skamania County, Washington. The site had been heavily modified to accommodate the Bonneville Dam and related infrastructure, including the adult fish facility.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no ground disturbance proposed by this project and all action would occur at existing infrastructure. Therefore, actions proposed by this project would have no potential to impact historic or cultural resources.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no ground disturbance proposed by this project. Therefore, geology and soils would not be impacted by the proposed activities.

### **3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no ground disturbance proposed by this project and there are no anticipated impacts to any plant species, and none exist within the immediate area of impact.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no wildlife in the project area and there would be no effect.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Fish research on hatchery and wild-origin anadromous salmonids is a common and wide-spread activity within the Columbia River basin and these project activities would involve the direct take of several listed species (Chinook, steelhead, and sockeye). The

ESA coverage for handling listed fish would be secured through Section-10 permits from the National Marine Fisheries Service (Permit 1379) and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Recovery Permit TE-227268-4). There is no ground disturbance proposed by this project. Therefore, actions proposed would not impact waterbodies or floodplains.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no ground disturbance proposed by this project. Therefore, the activities would not impact wetlands.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There is no ground disturbance proposed by this project. Therefore, the activities would not impact or change groundwater or aquifers.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The activities would not impact or change land use.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The activities would not impact visual quality.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The activities would not impact air quality.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The activities would not impact aural quality.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Safety regulations would be followed as necessary.

### **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: N/A

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

Explanation: N/A

**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: N/A

**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: N/A

### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: This work would be implemented at Bonneville Dam on property managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

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

Signed: /s/ Israel Duran January 21, 2022  
Israel Duran, ECF-4 Date  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
CorSource