

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Cayuse Goat Ranch Property Acquisition

**Fish and Wildlife Project No. and Contract No. :** 2008-207-00 BPA-007173

**Project Manager:** Hannah Dondy-Kaplan - EWM-4

**Location:** Umatilla, County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.25 Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) to purchase the Cayuse Goat Ranch, a 76.47 acre parcel of land located approximately 10 miles east of Pendleton, Umatilla County Oregon. The USA would hold a conservation easement, which BPA would manage, to permanently protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat. This purchase will be made using 2008 Accord dollars committed to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation for the protection of habitat for fish species listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

The funding will be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore and enhance habitat for threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead. The acquisition would support efforts to mitigate for the effects of development and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System which includes dams on the main stem Columbia River and its tributaries for fish and wildlife under the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 in a manner consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. In addition, this land purchase would help satisfy some of BPA's commitments made under the 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords Memorandum of Agreement between the Three Treaty Tribes and the FCRPS Action Agencies (BPA, The US Army Corps, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. The management plan would be reviewed by BPA for consistency with the conservation easement and the purpose of the acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any additional activities on the property, further environmental review may be conducted.

**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 (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/ Luca De Stefanis

Luca De Stefanis  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
MOTUS

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: August 21, 2018

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:** Cayuse Goat Ranch Land Acquisition

---

### Project Site

The Cayuse Goat Ranch property comprises approximately 76.47 acres including approximately 0.3 miles mainstem Umatilla River, 12.73 acres of upland pasture and home site, 63.74 acres of forested, shrub-scrub, emergent riparian and wetland habitat, floodplain meadow grassland habitat and south facing cliff and arid grasslands.

The property consists of mixed conifer forest, native grasslands, and riparian/wetland habitat, located along Umatilla River that will protect, restore and enhance habitat important to ESA-listed fish species, spawning and rearing habitat for re-introduced spring Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and summer steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and passage and winter rearing for Threatened fluvial bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*).

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. To the extent that stewardship activities may have an effect, it is expected that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) would comply with all applicable laws and regulations. If any ground-disturbing activities or modifications to the built environment are planned within the area of the acquisition, the Section 106 process would need to be completed prior to implementation. This would include consultation, survey, recordation of resources, and a determination of effect for both archaeological resources and built environment resources.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition. To the extent that stewardship activities may have an effect, it is expected that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) would comply with all applicable laws and regulations.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #2 above.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #2 above.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #2 above.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: See explanation for #2 above.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: See explanation for #2 above.

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

Explanation: See explanation for #2 above.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: See explanation for #2 above.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: See explanation for #2 above.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: See explanation for #2 above.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: See explanation for #2 above.

### **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: A public notification letter and map of the property will be mailed to neighboring landowners, stakeholders, and relevant elected officials and other interested parties prior to site closing. Advertisements will also be placed in local newspapers, and information will be posted on Bonneville Power Administration's public website

---

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

Signed: /s/ Luca De Stefanis  
Luca De Stefanis ECF-4  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
MOTUS

Date: August 21, 2018