

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Oregon Fish Screen Projects, Fields Creek Nos. 2 and 3

Project No.: 1993-066-00

Project Manager: Eric Leitzinger

Location: Grant County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B 1.20 Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat.

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to construct, fabricate, and install fish screens as per the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fish screen criteria. This project would occur on private land within the John Day River Subbasin.

New gravity fish screens would be installed in an irrigation ditch typically outside of the irrigation season, and/or the irrigation ditch is typically dewatered during construction. However, due to crop rotation, agriculture harvest, stock water needs, weather, site constraints, irrigation practices, etc., if there is a need to provide for irrigation or stock water, water would be bypassed around the construction site. Prior to diverting water, ODFW would install a temporary portable prefabricated fish screen. The temporary fish screens would ensure that fish would be protected during construction, and would keep fish from traveling down the irrigation ditch. The conveyance headgate and the bypass headgate would typically stay closed during replacement or maintenance. Once the project or task is complete, the headgate would be opened while keeping the bypass closed for a very short period which allows for the initial flush of sediment and debris to go down the conveyance ditch, while still providing fish protection from the installed fish screens.

Proposed gravity screen locations:

<i>Stream Name</i>	<i>Lat</i>	<i>Long</i>
Field's Creek #2	44.3971	-119.30749
Field's Creek #3	44.39778	-119.30673

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/ Catherine Clark

Catherine Clark
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting and Staffing, INC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: February 25, 2020

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: Oregon Fish Screen Projects, Fields Creek Nos. 2 and 3

Project Site Description

The project is located in Grant County, Oregon, approximately 10 miles west of Mount Vernon, Oregon on private property off of Forest Service Road Fields Creek-Murderers Creek. Township 13 South, Range 28 East, Section 35 and 36. The project area is within the John Day River Subbasin.

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> The BPA conducted cultural resources surveys and Section 106 consultation through the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). On January 21, 2020, BPA initiated Section 106 consultation with the SHPO and requested concurrence on BPA's determination that the implementation of the proposed action would result in no historic properties affected based on field survey results. The SHPO concurred with BPA's determination on February 21, 2020.</p>		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Removal and replacement of current fish screen would cause ground disturbance on approximately 0.72 acres; erosion control measures would be implemented to minimize impacts.</p>		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species are present. Approximately 0.72 acres of vegetation would be disturbed associated with the removal and replacement of the current fish screen.</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 or habitat would be impacted by the installation of the new fish screen. Wildlife may be temporarily disturbed by construction noise during implementation.</p>		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> This project would be exempt from the Department of State Lands removal of fill permit under the OAR 141-085-0530 Exemption: "Fish Passage and Fish Screening Structures in Essential Indigenous Anadromous Salmonid Habitat (ESH). Less than 50 cubic yards of removal-fill for construction or maintenance of fish passage and fish screening structures that are constructed, operated or maintained under ORS 498.306, 498.316, 498.326 or 509.600 to 509.645. This exemption includes removal of material that inhibits fish passage or prevents fish screens from functioning properly."</p> <p>Fish screens would be installed in an irrigation ditch typically outside of the irrigation season, and/or the irrigation ditch is typically dewatered during construction; therefore, no potential to effect special-status fish species.</p>		

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| 6. Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands would be disturbed. | | |
| 7. Groundwater and Aquifers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No new wells or use of groundwater proposed; spill prevention measures would be present on site to reduce the risk of groundwater contamination. | | |
| 8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No change to existing land use would occur. The project is on private land. | | |
| 9. Visual Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> New fish screen structure would be similar to existing structures and would not be noticeably different than existing structures. Would utilize already existing access roads to keep a tight footprint and minimize visual impacts. | | |
| 10. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary, small amounts of dust and vehicle emissions would be generated during implementation. | | |
| 11. Noise | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary construction noise would be generated during local approved daylight hours. | | |
| 12. Human Health and Safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <u>Explanation:</u> No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions, no adjacent CERCLA sites, and no changes to electric and magnetic fields. | | |

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: The project sponsor, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, would complete the project on private land with the cooperation of the land owner.

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

Signed: /s/ Catherine Clark

Date: February 25, 2020

Catherine Clark
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting and Staffing, INC