

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Little Trout Creek Habitat Improvement Project

**Project No.:** 1998-028-00 (JCSWCD); 1994-042-00 (ODFW)

**Project Manager:** Jesse Wilson

**Location:** Jefferson County, OR

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** A11 Technical advice and assistance to organizations

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration proposes to contribute funding to the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (JCSWCD) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Little Trout Creek Habitat Improvement Project, a floodplain and habitat restoration project that would benefit Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Middle Columbia River steelhead in the Trout Creek watershed. The project would primarily be funded by Portland General Electric (PGE) and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) with an approximate anticipated contribution of \$195,000 and \$131,000, respectively. BPA funding for project implementation would be utilized to cover JCSWCD and ODFW staff time and approximately \$13,500 in fuel or equipment rental costs. The project has received ESA Section 7 coverage under BPA's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) (HIP No. 2020021) and consultation has been conducted pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (OR State Historic Preservation Office Case No. 14-1020).

**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 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/ Mandy Hope

Mandy Hope  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
ACS Professional Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel  
NEPA Compliance Officer

June 16, 2020

Date