

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Chinook and Steelhead Genotyping

Project No.: 2010-026-00

Project Manager: Brady Allen

Location: Ada and Idaho counties, Idaho

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 (BPA) proposes to fund the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to develop and evaluate Genetic Stock Identification (GSI) technologies to estimate genetic stock contributions of wild Snake River steelhead and Chinook salmon as they are sampled during migration at Lower Granite Dam. This project also provides several measures of genetic diversity and life history characteristics for adult steelhead and Chinook salmon detected at PIT tag arrays in the Snake River basin. This would allow the integration of sampling programs at Bonneville Dam and Lower Granite Dam and in Columbia River and Snake River mainstem fisheries such that any sampled wild adult can be included in mixture analyses to determine stock composition and any sampled Snake River hatchery adult can be assigned to a stock and cohort. Incorporating age and sex information collected simultaneously from migrating adults and juveniles would provide data on abundance and biodiversity of Snake River Chinook salmon and steelhead that have previously been unavailable for managing wild stocks in the basin.

Actions to be conducted under this project:

1. Genotype adult and juvenile wild Chinook salmon and steelhead collected at Lower Granite Dam during normal fish sampling operations.
2. Genotype previously collected samples.

All work would occur in existing buildings at the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery and Eagle Fish Genetics Laboratory. All genetic samples would be provided by other programs that would be collecting fish regardless of the GSI project.

The actions would specifically satisfy some of BPA's Columbia River hatchery mitigation commitments begun under the 2008 NMFS' Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion (as supplemented in 2010 and 2014) (2008 BiOp) and ongoing commitments under the 2019 NMFS' Columbia River System BiOp (2019 CRS BiOp).

Actions proposed would be reviewed by the BPA environmental compliance lead to ensure that the activities fall within the range of those described in this Categorical Exclusion prior to initiating work.

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
Salient/CRGT

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 30, 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: Chinook and Steelhead Genotyping

Project Site Description

The project would be located at the Sawtooth Fish Hatchery and Eagle Fish Genetics Laboratory in Ada and Idaho counties, Idaho.

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> The proposed activities would occur within the confines of the existing structures, and would not require any ground-disturbing activities for the completion of this work.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would be confined to existing structures and there would be no ground-disturbing activities required for the completion of this work. Ground disturbance or activities external to the existing structure are not planned.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would be within existing structures; no habitat present. There are no anticipated impacts to any sensitive plant species.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would be implemented within existing structures; no species or habitat present.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would occur in the footprint of existing structures, and would not require any ground-disturbing activities for the completion of the work. All genetic samples are provided by other programs and no fish are handled specifically to facilitate work.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would occur in the existing structures and wetlands would not be impacted.		
7. Groundwater and Aquifers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would occur in existing structures, and no ground excavation is planned.		
8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> All work would occur in existing structures, and would not impact or change land use.		

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: All work would occur in existing structures, and would not impact visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: All work would occur in existing structures and would not impact air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: All work would occur in existing structures and would not affect noise levels.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: All work would occur in existing structures, and 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, 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: This work would be implemented in existing facilities owned by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game.

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
Israel Duran ECF-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Salient/CRGT

Date: June 30, 2020