

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Melvin R. Simpson Coho Facility Landscaping and Fencing Maintenance

Project No.: 2008-465-00

Project Manager: Amy Mai - EWU

Location: Ellensburg, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to provide funding to the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nations to conduct annual routine maintenance activities at the Melvin R. Simpson Coho Facility, located near Ellensburg, Washington. Activities would include maintaining landscaping around existing buildings by mowing, weeding, planting, and pruning vegetation; cleaning and maintaining existing underground irrigation lines; and maintaining fencing. Limited amount of herbicide treatment would be applied around facility buildings (typically spot spraying within the hatchery grounds). The Melvin R. Simpson Coho Facility is used as part of the Mid-Columbia coho salmon artificial production program.

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/ Robert W Shull

Robert W Shull
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
CorSource Technology Group

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange June 27, 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: Melvin R. Simpson Coho Facility Landscaping and Fencing Maintenance

Project Site Description

Landscaping and fencing maintenance activities would take place at the Melvin R. Simpson Coho Facility, which is operated and maintained by the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nations. This facility is a fully functional fish hatchery consisting of hatchery grounds, buildings, structures, and equipment necessary for reproducing and rearing coho salmon. The hatchery grounds are flat, and the majority of the surfaces around the facility are paved. The property is adjacent to the Yakima River.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Routine maintenance activities would take place at an existing facility on a property determined by the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer and Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to be not listed on, nor eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places (State of Washington project tracking code 2016-03-01461).

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No previously-undisturbed soils are present within the action area. There would be limited disturbance of previously-disturbed soils from landscaping and irrigation line maintenance.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All maintenance activities would take place within existing hatchery grounds, which contain no natural, previously unmodified, native habitats. There are no known ESA-listed plant species or special-status species within the action area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All maintenance activities would take place within existing hatchery grounds, which contain no natural wildlife habitats. There would be no effect on ESA-listed critical habitats or species, or other special-status species, as there are none within the affected area. There would be only temporary disturbance of wildlife common to landscaped habitats (small mammals, songbirds, etc.).

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All maintenance activities would take place within existing hatchery grounds, which contain no water bodies, nor are within the Yakima River Floodplain. There would be no effect on ESA-listed critical habitat or species, or on other special-status species, as none are present within the affected area. Herbicide application would be conducted according to state application regulations and follow herbicide label directions.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are small wetlands adjacent to the hatchery grounds, but no maintenance actions would be taken within them nor would they be altered by proposed activities.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance sufficient to affect groundwater or aquifers is proposed

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All maintenance activities would take place within existing hatchery grounds.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All maintenance activities would take place within existing hatchery grounds. The impacts of this maintenance work would not result in a noticeably different facility.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All maintenance activities would take place within existing hatchery grounds, as part of routine work conducted by hatchery staff. This action would not require the use of additional equipment or result in an increase of vehicle emissions.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All maintenance activities would take place within existing hatchery grounds as part of routine work conducted by hatchery staff. Any increase in noise (for example use of a mower) would be short-term and temporary.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All maintenance activities would take place within existing hatchery grounds. Herbicide application would be conducted by a licensed applicator who would follow state application regulations.

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: The Melvin R. Simpson Coho Facility is located on lands owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Yakama Nations who operates and maintains this facility and who would be conducting the actions described here. No notification is required.

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

Signed: /s/ Robert W Shull

June 27, 2022

Robert W Shull

Date

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

CorSource Technology Group