

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Northern Pike Suppression Project

Project No.: 2017-004-00

Project Manager: Jamie Cleveland

Location: Okanogan County, WA

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.20 Protection of Cultural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Description of the Proposed Action:

The CCT would conduct the following actions and implement portions of the Northern Pike Suppression Plan:

1. Conduct Northern Pike suppression gillnetting, boat electrofishing, and set lining between February and November to remove adult and juvenile Northern Pike in Lake Roosevelt. All activities would occur in Lake Roosevelt between Grand Coulee Dam and China Bend boat launch.
 - a) 10 weeks of gillnetting February - November.
 - b) 2 weeks of set lining in June (when reservoir is refilling).
 - c) 2 weeks of boat electrofishing (Aug/Sept) for juvenile fish.
2. Assist, as needed, with the Northern Pike abundance surveys with the co-managers.
3. Coordinate activities with the co-managers of Lake Roosevelt.
4. Attend and participate in regional coordination meetings to ensure regional partners are up to date with the most current Northern Pike information.

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/ Ted Gresh

Ted Gresh ECF-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 13, 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: Northern Pike Suppression Project

Project Site Description

The reservoir behind Grand Coulee Dam, Lake Roosevelt, extends approximately 150 miles to the Canadian border with a total surface area of about 125 square miles.

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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> This project does not involve ground disturbance of any kind. If any new ground disturbance is proposed outside of disturbed areas, a cultural resource consultation would be initiated.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There is no ground disturbance associated with these actions. Therefore, there is no potential to affect geology and soils.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed action does not include any vegetation management, ground disturbance, or actions that would significantly impact vegetation. Therefore, there is no potential to affect plant communities.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The proposed actions would take place in the reservoir behind Grand Coulee Dam. There would be no actions that would occur on upland areas; therefore, there is no potential to affect wildlife or wildlife habitat.		
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> The capture of northern pike would be done using gillnetting, boat electrofishing, fyke netting, and set lining. Other native fish encountered during these activities would likely be red band trout, suckers, sculpins, whitefish, and yellow perch. All native live bycatch would be counted and released immediately to maximize survival. The area where activities would occur is not suitable for bull trout and they have not been captured in the past. No other ESA-listed fishes are present in project area. Activities would not result in any effects to water quality or floodplains.		

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: The project would not take place within or around wetlands and therefore, there is no potential to affect wetlands

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: There is no ground disturbance associated with this project and therefore, there is no potential to affect groundwater and aquifers

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

Explanation: There would be no changes to land use and no impacts to specially-designated areas and therefore, there is no potential to affect land use or specially-designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: There would be no changes to visual quality associated with this project and therefore, there is no potential to impact visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: A negligible amount of emissions would be generated by boats and other vehicles used for transportation.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: The project activities do not involve any new construction or new use of heavy equipment. A negligible amount of noise would be generated by boats and other vehicles used for transportation.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: All proposed actions involve working in and around water, which poses some risk to human health and safety. But all actions are standard and customary RM&E activities that follow specific guidance to ensure quality data and safe working conditions that would mitigate for that risk.

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: Project activities would occur on open water and no special permissions are required. If private lands are to be accessed, work would occur only after obtaining landowner approval.

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

Signed: /s/ Ted Gresh
Ted Gresh ECF-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: May 13, 2020