

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Lamprey Holding Infrastructure Modifications and Upgrades at Minthorn Springs

Project No.: 1994-026-00

Project Manager: Deborah L. Docherty, EWM-4

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon

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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) to modify and upgrade lamprey holding infrastructure at Minthorn Springs located on the Umatilla Indian Reservation approximately 10 miles east of Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon (township 2 North, Range 34 East, Section 7). These actions would support ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System (FCRPS) on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. (USC) 839 et seq.) and would fulfill commitments begun under the 2008 Columbia Basin Fish Accords and the 2020 Accord Extension Memorandum of Agreement.

Existing lamprey holding tanks are being relocated because they are at risk of Umatilla River floods. To maximize use of existing infrastructure (e.g., generator, pumps, and holding ponds), CTUIR would outfit the existing northern hatchery pond (the upper most and highest elevation above flood level) with new freestanding lamprey holding tanks. Additional modifications to the existing pond would include:

- Installing aboveground PVC piping to extend the existing intake line down the length of the pond and to route water to individual lamprey holding tanks (water is already supplied to the pond)
- Installing a roof over the lamprey holding tanks that is secured to the existing concrete walls of the pond
- Installing security measures, including cameras, minor lighting, alarms, and perimeter fencing secured to the existing concrete walls of the pond
- Replacing outdated pump controls

All work would be completed within an existing hatchery pond, and no ground disturbance or vegetation removal would be required.

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/ W. Walker Stinnette

W. Walker Stinnette

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Salient CRGT

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad J. Hamel

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

April 5, 2021

Sarah T. Biegel

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.

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Project Site Description

Minthorn Springs is an existing fish facility located on the Umatilla Indian Reservation approximately 10 miles east of Pendleton, Umatilla County, Oregon (Township 2 North, Range 34 East, Section 7). Although the facility is situated near the confluence of Mission Creek and the Umatilla River, the area is not located within a FEMA-designated floodplain. Modifications would be made to an existing concrete hatchery pond that was originally constructed to hold salmonids. All project activities would be carried out within the existing facility, which is paved and graveled.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not require any ground disturbance that could potentially impact archaeological resources. No modifications to existing built historic resources are proposed. Therefore, the proposed undertaking would have no potential to cause effects to historic properties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not require any ground disturbance and all work areas are paved or graveled. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact geology and soils.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not require any ground disturbance, and no tree or vegetation removal or management is proposed. The project would not result in adverse modification to suitable protected plant habitats. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on protected plant species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary disturbance of normal wildlife behavior could occur from elevated noise during construction. However, project activities would be temporary and largely consistent with the level of human activity that typically occurs at the site. Wildlife species

that could be present in the area would likely be habituated to this level of human activity. No protected wildlife species are expected to occur in the project area, and the project would not result in adverse modification to suitable protected species habitat. Therefore, the proposed project would have no effect on protected wildlife species or habitats.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not require any ground disturbance or in-water work, and no tree or vegetation removal or management is proposed. Although the current lamprey holding area has flooded in the past, the area is not located within a FEMA-designated floodplain. The project would not result in adverse modification to suitable protected species habitat. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact water bodies or floodplains and would have no effect on protected fish species.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not require any ground disturbance, and no tree or vegetation removal or management is proposed. No wetlands are present within the project site. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not require any ground disturbance. The existing water intake would be used, and no new wells or other uses of groundwater or aquifers are proposed. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact groundwater and aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not require a change in land use and would not impact specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The final buildout of the lamprey holding facility would be largely consistent with the existing appearance of the site. The project site is not located in a visually sensitive area. Therefore, the proposed project would not impact visual quality.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary and minor dust and vehicle emissions would increase in the local area during construction. Following completion of the proposed project, there would be no long term change in air quality.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary and minor noise from vehicle and equipment use would occur during construction. There are no noise sensitive receptors near the project site. Following completion of the proposed activities, there would be no long term change in ambient noise.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Individuals carrying out proposed project activities would be trained in proper techniques and equipment use. The project would not generate or use hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed project would not be expected to impact human health and safety.

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: Minthorn Springs is owned and operated by the CTUIR. No landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed: /s/ W. Walker Stinnette April 5, 2021
W. Walker Stinnette, EC-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Salient CRGT