

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Cultural Resources Management of Kalispel Tribe Fish and Wildlife Projects

Project No.: 2011-019-00

Project Manager: Sandra Fife, EWM - 4

Location: Pend Oreille County, WA; Bonner County, ID

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 the Kalispel Tribe to identify, manage, and report on their historic property obligations related to implementation of projects supported by BPA's Fish and Wildlife Program on Tribal properties in Washington and Idaho. Actions supported under this contract include periodic status reports to BPA; presentations at conferences, archaeological societies, and schools about cultural resources management; project administration; providing National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 support to BPA staff as needed by conducting surveys and monitoring projects; and salvaging roadkill and dead animals that are encountered in the field to be processed at the Indian Creek Archaeological Lab and placed in a zooarchaeological collection. The collection would be used as a reference for comparison of faunal or bone remains recovered in archaeological contexts. BPA would support cultural resources management for the following projects:

1. 2011-018-00 – Pend Oreille River Basin Initiative: Land Acquisitions, Watershed Restoration, Conservation Hatchery
2. 1995-001-00 – Kalispel Tribe Resident Fish Program
3. 1992-061-00 – Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation – Kalispel Tribe

These actions would support conservation of ESA-listed species considered in the 2020 ESA consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on the operations and maintenance of the Columbia River System, while also supporting ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the 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.).

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/ Mandy Hope

Mandy Hope
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
ACS Professional Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

<u>/s/ Sarah T. Biegel</u>	<u>April 13, 2021</u>
Sarah T. Biegel	Date
NEPA Compliance Officer	

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

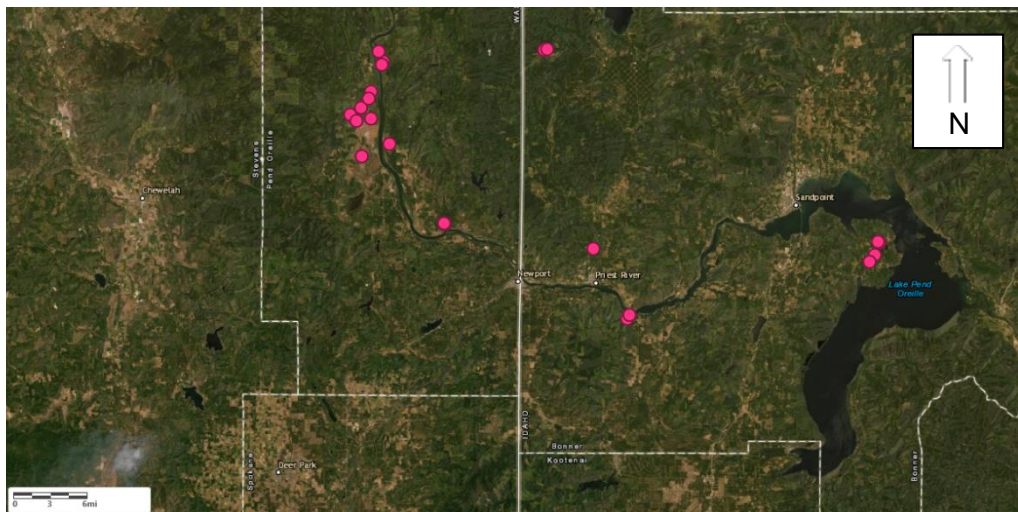
This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

Proposed Action: Cultural Resources Management of Kalispel Tribe Fish and Wildlife Projects

Project Site Description

The Kalispel Tribe manages wildlife on 3,510 acres in Washington and 1,724 acres in Idaho for a total of 5,234 acres. Site-specific project analysis for projects requiring Tribal support (surveys, monitoring) would be carried out under the applicable project/contract. Salvaging operations could occur anywhere on Kalispel land opportunistically.

Figure 1. Kalispel Tribe Land Holdings in Washington and Idaho



Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action does not have the potential to affect historic properties. This has been confirmed by a BPA archaeologist.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Salvaging activities could result in minor, short-term negative impacts to native plant species as a result of foot traffic during carcass collection. No long-term impacts are expected. The remaining actions would have no potential to affect plant species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: ESA-listed wildlife species in Bonner and Pend Oreille Counties include grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*), Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), and yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). Any impacts to listed or non-listed wildlife species would be limited to the immediate area where there would be a temporary, small decrease in available habitat and temporary elevated noise disturbance during salvaging activities. The remaining actions would have no potential to affect wildlife species.

Notes:

- Species collected may include raptors, non-raptor birds, mammals, and bats, including state and/or federally threatened or endangered species (fisher, gray wolf, grizzly bear, Canada lynx, sandhill crane, and woodland caribou). The Kalispel Tribe obtains collection permits from the USFWS for collection of migratory birds (every three years); Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for collection of fish, wildlife, and aquatic invertebrates (yearly); and the IDFG for collection of vertebrates (every six years).

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Salvaging activities could include collection of freshwater fishes. Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and its critical habitat are present in the Pend Oreille River and its tributaries. Any impacts to listed or non-listed fish species would be limited to the immediate area where there would be a temporary, small decrease in available habitat during salvaging activities. The Kalispel Tribe obtains yearly collection permits from WDFW for collection of fish. The remaining actions would have no potential to affect fish species.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Intermittent Freshwater Emergent and Freshwater Forested/Shrub wetlands are present along the Pend Oreille River and tributaries. Removal, fill, or disturbance of native vegetation within wetland areas is not anticipated through salvaging activities. The remaining actions would have no potential to affect wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The underlying land use would not change as a result of the proposed action.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no adverse effects to the visual quality of the environment as a result of the proposed action.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no significant changes to air quality as a result of the proposed action.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no significant changes to the noise environment as a result of the proposed action.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All personnel would use best management practices to protect worker 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: Areas where project implementation would occur are owned and managed by the Kalispel Tribe. No coordination is necessary.

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

Signed: /s Mandy Hope April 13, 2021
Mandy Hope, ECF - 4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
ACS Professional Staffing