

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Eightmile Creek Campground Fish Screen Fencing Project

Project No.: 1993-066-00

Project Manager: Allan Whiting, EWL-4

Location: Wasco 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 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to upgrade a fence around an existing fish screen on Forest Service land in Wasco County, Oregon. The fencing upgrade would allow for the entire existing screen flume to be within the fence line and continue to keep the public from accessing the screen.

ODFW would extend the previously installed fence around the Eightmile Creek Campground Fish Screen on the downstream side to fully encompass the existing screen flume. The proposed fence replacement, including the proposed extension of fence, would occur within the original area of disturbed soils from the original screen construction. Construction would take approximately one week to complete. Fencing materials and design are as follows:

- Steel six foot high cyclone/chain link fence
- Poles would be spaced approximately ten feet apart and at a depth of 30 inches
- Holes would be dug using a hand post hole digger or a gas-powered auger

Funding the proposed activities would support BPA's ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System 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.

Catherine Clark
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Sarah T. Biegel
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: Eightmile Creek Campground Fish Screen Fencing Project

Project Site Description

The Eightmile Creek Campground fish screen is located 17.5 miles west of Dufur, Oregon. The project site is surrounded by Mount Hood National Forest land and directly adjacent to Dufur Valley Road and Eightmile Creek Campground. This area is primarily a mixed conifer and pine forest. The fence upgrade is intended to protect the fish screen due to its high visibility and proximity to an area of public recreation.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: In coordination with BPA, USFS took the lead for Section 106. On October 16, 2023, USFS utilized their 2004 Programmatic Agreement among the USFS Region 6, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and Oregon State Historic Preservation Office to complete National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. USFS determined that this Project meets the criteria under Appendix A; therefore, it can be cleared as a “no potential to cause effect” via Stipulation III (A)1.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Digging at the estimated depth of 30 inches would cause minor ground disturbance at the site. Ground disturbance would occur only at post locations, approximately ten feet apart from each other.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ESA-listed or special-status plant species are known to exist on the site. All areas disturbed during construction would be within the footprint of the proposed fence line. Any vegetation disturbed outside of the footprint of the fence line would be reestablished by reseeded.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ESA-listed or special-status species or habitat are known to exist on the project site; therefore, there would be no impact from the expansion of the fence line and its associated parts. Wildlife may be temporarily displaced by construction noise during

implementation but would return to the project area once there is no more human presence.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Fence installation activities would occur above the ordinary high water mark and within the uplands. Therefore, fence installation activities would have no potential to cause effect to water bodies, floodplains, and ESA-listed or special-status fish species or their habitats.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no designated wetlands located in the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground-disturbing activities are not likely to intersect groundwater and would have no impact on aquifers. Infiltration to groundwater and aquifers would not be adversely impacted by the construction as runoff and erosion at the site would be controlled.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project is located on Forest Service land. No change to land use, including recreation, would occur.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be limited visual changes to the project area. The completed work with the expanded fence may be noticeable but would constitute a small overall change to the current visual state.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary increase in emissions and dust from vehicles accessing the site during construction would occur.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary increase in ambient noise during construction would occur. Any noise emitted from construction would be short term and temporary during daylight hours and would cease following project completion.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed activities are not considered hazardous nor would result in any health or safety risks to the general public.

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: Activities would be implemented on public land. ODFW would coordinate with the Mt. Hood National Forest to obtain permission to install all project components.

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

Signed:

Catherine Clark
Environmental Protection Specialist