

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** YTAHP Manastash Creek Fish Screens Maintenance

**Project No.:** 2007-398-00

**Project Manager:** Jennifer Lord - EWU

**Location:** Kittitas County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine Maintenance; B 1.20 Protection of Cultural Resources, Fish and Wildlife Habitat.

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) to conduct ongoing maintenance activities at three fish screens that were previously installed, and funded by BPA, at three Manastash Creek irrigation diversions within the Yakima River basin. The project would benefit Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Middle Columbia River steelhead, Chinook and coho salmon, and a suite of resident fishes. Specifically, BPA would provide funding for activities such as the replacement of compressors and associated compressor appurtenances for air burst cleaning systems at the Manastash Water Ditch Association (MWDA)/Consolidated Irrigation Diversion, Keach/Jensen Irrigation Diversion and Barnes Road Irrigation Diversion on Manastash Creek.

The proposed activities would occur in the buildings that house the air compressors, air tanks and controls for the fish-screen cleaning systems at all three diversion locations. These Manastash fish screens and buildings were constructed at the diversions in 2010 and 2011 and would not require any additional ground disturbance to replace the proposed components. KCCD would replace the existing duplex 7.5 Horsepower (HP) piston compressor with a 15 HP rotary compressor and add a variable frequency drive to the compressor at MWDA and replace the existing 7.5 HP piston compressors with 7.5 HP rotaries compressors at Keach Jensen and Barnes. All installations, and future maintenance, would be conducted by hand and would not involve any in-water work. The sites, which are located on private lands, would be accessed using rights-of-way held by BPA and any staging would occur in the gravel areas around the sites and within BPA easements. At Barnes, the land is owned fee-title by BPA. Implementation would occur in spring of 2025.

These actions would support conservation of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species considered in the 2020 ESA consultation with the National Marine Fisheries 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.

Brenda Aguirre  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange  
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:** YTAHP Manastash Creek Fish Screens Maintenance

## **Project Site Description**

Fish screen maintenance activities would take place within existing buildings that house the air compressors, air tanks and controls at all three diversion locations. The fish screens are owned by BPA and operated and maintained through agreements with KCCD and the Kittitas Reclamation District (KRD). The surrounding areas are flat, and land use is primarily farmland and rural residential.

## **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Routine maintenance activities would take place within existing buildings less than 50 years old and use existing access and staging areas. There would be no ground disturbance. A BPA Archaeologist determined that the proposed activities do not have the potential to cause effects to historic or cultural resources.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Continued maintenance within existing buildings and use of existing access and staging areas. No new ground disturbance.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Continued maintenance within existing buildings and use of existing access and staging areas. No new ground disturbance. No known ESA-listed plants or special-status species or habitats within the project areas.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary displacement of wildlife due to noise and human presence from maintenance activities could occur. No long-term effect on wildlife or their habitat. No known ESA-listed wildlife or special-status species or habitats within the project areas.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Continued maintenance within existing buildings and use of existing access and staging areas. No new ground disturbance and no in-water work. No water bodies, floodplains, or fish present within the project areas.

**6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands present, therefore, no impact to wetlands

**7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No change to land use or specially designated areas (farmlands) is proposed.

**9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary changes to visual quality could occur in the immediate project areas due to maintenance activities and equipment occurring in the project areas.

**10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor, temporary generation of emissions associated with increased vehicle traffic would occur during maintenance activities.

**11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary intermittent noise would be generated during implementation.

**12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No known hazardous materials in the project areas.

### **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: Maintenance of mechanical equipment at existing fish screens would not cause impacts to surrounding landowners. KCCD/KRD would work with landowners to maintain equipment at irrigation fish screens on private lands (MWDA/Consolidated and Keach/Jensen irrigation diversions).

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

Signed:

Brenda Aguirre  
Environmental Protection Specialist