

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Coleman Creek - Olmstead State Park Fish Screening and Passage Project

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

**Project Manager:** Michelle O'Malley, EWU-4

**Location:** Kittitas County, Washington

**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 Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD) of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) work group to implement the Coleman Creek – Olmstead State Park Fish Screening and Passage Project on state land in Kittitas County, Washington. BPA's proposed funding for this project would fulfill ongoing commitments under the 2020 National Marine Fisheries Service Columbia River System Biological Opinion (2020 NMFS CRS BiOp) and the 2020 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service CRS BiOp (2020 FWS CRS BiOp). It also assists BPA in mitigating for effects of the development and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the Columbia River and its tributaries, under the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. (USC) 839 et seq.).

The KCCD would replace an existing dual-gravity irrigation diversion that is unscreened and creates a passage barrier for all fish including Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed Mid-Columbia River Steelhead, as well as Chinook and coho salmon. A new, consolidated single diversion would be constructed upstream at a more suitable location in the stream and screened with a National Marine Fisheries Service and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife compliant fish screen.

At the existing diversion location, the concrete dam would be removed and a roughened channel fishway would be constructed to allow unimpeded year-round fish passage for all life stages of salmonids. At the new diversion location, a roughened channel fishway would also be constructed to allow year-round fish passage and aid in operation of the new diversion.

KCCD would also enhance instream and riparian habitats at the project site through the installation of instream wood habitat structures and the planting of a robust riparian buffer using native trees and shrubs. All access and staging would occur via existing roads and on previously disturbed areas. KCCD would implement the project during the fall and winter of 2020.

**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/ Brenda Aguirre

Brenda Aguirre

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

October 9, 2020

Date

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:** Coleman Creek - Olmstead State Park Fish Screening and Passage Project

## **Project Site Description**

The project is located on Coleman Creek at Olmstead State Park near Ellensburg, Washington. This area is in the upper Yakima River Basin in central Washington. Coleman Creek is a tributary in the Wilson-Naneum Subbasin in the Kittitas Valley. The project site is 6 miles from the Yakima River at River Mile 147. The surrounding area is used for agricultural crop production and livestock grazing, including at Olmstead State Park. The project site is in a riparian area and consists of a mix of native and non-native trees, shrubs, forbs, and grasses.

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

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA Archaeologist conducted National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultations with the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (WA DAHP), Washington Parks and Recreation Commission, and Yakama Nation. BPA made a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties, July 29, 2020. No responses were received from the consulting parties within the 30-day determination consultation period.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The project would disturb instream and riparian soils during construction activities. BPA's HIP general and activity-specific conservation measures for erosion control would be used throughout project implementation (PNF 2020101).

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The project would have an effect on plants due to equipment crushing some plants while accessing work areas and removal of riparian vegetation at the existing and new diversion sites while removing and constructing the diversions, and constructing the fishways. BPA's HIP general and activity-specific conservation measures to avoid and minimize impacts to plants would be used throughout project implementation (PNF 2020101). Federal/state special-status species and habitats are not present in the project areas.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The project would temporarily disturb/displace area wildlife due to increased noise and vehicle traffic, operation of heavy equipment, and human presence during project implementation. BPA's HIP general and activity-specific conservation measures to avoid and minimize impacts to wildlife would be used throughout project implementation (PNF 2020101). Federal/state special-status species and habitats are not present in the project areas.

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

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Coleman Creek would be placed in a stream bypass during construction, allowing work to occur in isolation from flowing water during the approved fish window to minimize impacts to aquatic life and water quality. The project may generate turbidity and remove and add sediments and soils while working in Coleman Creek. KCCD obtained and would follow all terms and conditions in their Clean Water Act Section 404 and 401 Water Quality Certification coverages under Nationwide Permit 27 for aquatic habitat restoration activities authorized by the Corps of Engineers on September 1, 2020 (NW-2020-500).

There would be no net rise in floodplain elevations.

The project would have an effect on fish and their habitats during the in water work activities. ESA-listed Middle Columbia River steelhead and their designated critical habitat are present in the project area. BPA's HIP general and activity-specific conservation measures to avoid and minimize impacts to fish would be used throughout project implementation (2020101).

#### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: None present in the project area.

#### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project activities do not propose new wells or use of groundwater; spill prevention measures would be present on site during use of heavy equipment.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project activities do not propose changes to land use; designated farmlands would not be taken out of production.

#### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The new diversion and fishways would not be noticeably different than the existing diversion and channel way; removed riparian vegetation would be replanted.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would generate small amounts of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be short-term construction noise during daylight hours. Construction noise would not be noticeably different than the agricultural production noise.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project sponsor is required to use best management practices to protect worker health and safety. Any activities involving hazardous materials would be disposed of at a designated hazardous waste facility.

### **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: Implementation of project activities would not cause impacts to surrounding landowners. The project sponsor has coordinated with the underlying landowner (Olmstead State Park) and irrigation water users and has permission to conduct project activities.

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

Signed: /s/ Brenda Aguirre October 9, 2020  
Brenda Aguirre Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist