

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Idaho Department of Fish and Game Pole-Barn Storage Building

**Project No.:** 1990-055-00

**Project Manager:** Russell Scranton, EWP-4

**Location:** Lewis County, Idaho

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.15 Support buildings

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) to construct a pole-barn building for storage of equipment and supplies for the Idaho Salmon & Steelhead Monitoring and Evaluation Studies Project.

IDFG would construct a pole-barn storage building approximately 40 feet deep, by 72 feet long, by 16 feet high for equipment and other storage on property owned by IDFG. The proposed location of the pole barn would be graded to create a flat surface and then gravel or concrete would be placed over the graded ground surface. Construction work would be carried out with heavy equipment such as loaders, graders, and dump trucks. Access would be on existing roads, and all staging areas would be within the project area. The project would occur on an elevated level gravel fill landform that has been heavily modified from the construction of the adjacent storage shed, manufactured home, and underground utilities. Implementation would occur in 2023.

These actions support 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/ Brenda Aguirre

Brenda Aguirre  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel June 20, 2023

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:** Idaho Department of Fish and Game Pole-Barn Storage Building

### Project Site Description

The pole-barn site is located one mile southwest of Kamiah, Idaho in north central Idaho. This area is within the Lawyer Creek Watershed of the Clearwater River Basin. Lawyer Creek joins the Clearwater River at Kamiah and the two rivers cut narrow valleys through relatively flat, rolling prairie lands. The surrounding vegetation is mostly prairie grasses and shrubs with scattered stands of conifers and deciduous trees. Climate is relatively dry with cold winters and hot summers. Major land uses are agriculture, forestry, and rural residential. Infrastructure and water bodies in or near the project site include Idaho State Highway 162 north of IDFG's property, an existing storage building and residence for IDFG staff on the property, and Lawyer Creek. Lawyer Creek is a perennial, fish-bearing stream in the southern section of the property. The approximate location of the proposed pole barn is in the center of IDFG's property between the existing storage building and riparian vegetation along Lawyer Creek (Figure 1). The site has been entirely disturbed; it was developed into a graveled equipment storage area in approximately 2006.

**Figure 1. Approximate location of IDFG's proposed pole barn.**



## **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 consultation with the Nez Perce Tribe Tribal Historic Preservation Office (NPT THPO) and the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT). BPA determined that implementation of the proposed activities would result in no historic properties affected (ID 2022 020). NPT THPO concurred with BPA's determination on August 11, 2022. The NPT did not respond.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The site's soils have been entirely disturbed; the area has been a graveled equipment storage area since approximately 2006. The project does not propose disturbing previously undisturbed soils. The site is topographically flat and graveled; however, erosion control measures would be used adjacent to the riparian area to prevent erosion or off-site sediment delivery into the riparian area or Lawyer Creek.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No special-status species are present. The site is currently graveled and supports minimal low-quality vegetation consisting of non-native grasses and invasive species.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No special-status species or designated critical habitat present. The site is currently graveled and in an area with daily human activity.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Steelhead trout are present in Lawyer Creek immediately south of the project area. All work would be conducted in upland areas above Lawyer Creek. No in-water work would take place, and no removal of riparian vegetation would occur. Best Management Practices including silt fences and spill management would be implemented to prevent sediment and/or hazardous materials from reaching the creek or riparian area. There would be no effect on ESA-listed or sensitive fish species. The project site is not within a water body or the 100-year floodplain.

### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands present.

## 7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater proposed; maximum depth of disturbance would be 3 feet; spill prevention measures would be present on site.

## 8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no change in land use and no work in specially-designated areas.

## 9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: New pole-barn storage building would not be noticeably different than existing buildings.

## 10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction activities would generate a small amount of dust and vehicle emissions during construction.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary construction noise during daylight hours. There are no noise-emitting equipment operations associated with the use of this structure and thus, no potential for long-term noise impacts.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Construction workers would be trained in the proper use of equipment. 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: No neighbor engagement would be necessary. All activities would occur within IDFG-owned property and would be accessed using existing roads.

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 June 20, 2023  
Brenda Aguirre Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist