

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Umatilla Yurt Property Acquisition Funding

Project No.: 2008-207-00 BPA-010609

Project Manager: Hannah Kaplan-Dondy

Location: Umatilla County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.25 Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) to purchase the Umatilla Yurt Property, a 76.94 acre parcel of land located 19 miles east of Pendleton, in Umatilla County, Oregon. BPA would hold a conservation easement to permanently protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat.

The funding would be provided as part of BPA's ongoing efforts to protect, restore, and enhance habitat for threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead. The acquisition would support efforts to mitigate for the effects of development and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System, which includes dams on the main stem Columbia River and its tributaries for fish and wildlife under the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 in a manner consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. In addition, this land purchase would help satisfy some of BPA's commitments made under the 2018 Columbia Basin Fish Accords Memorandum of Agreement between the Three Treaty Tribes and the FCRPS Action Agencies (BPA, The US Army Corps, and the Bureau of Reclamation).

The CTUIR would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. The management plan would be reviewed by BPA for consistency with the conservation easement and the purpose of the acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any additional activities on the property, further environmental review may be conducted.

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/ Luca De Stefanis

Luca De Stefanis
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
MOTUS

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: July 23, 2019

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: Umatilla Yurt Property Acquisition

Project Site Description

The Umatilla Yurt property comprises approximately 76.94 acres including approximately 0.32 miles along the mainstem Umatilla River. The property is transected generally west to east by the Umatilla River and Bingham Road along its northern half. All lands north of the Umatilla River are comprised of floodplain while all lands to the south are forested uplands. A home site and an access road are on the northern floodplain and a natural surface road leads into the property west of the Umatilla River Bridge to access the forested uplands to the south.

The property consists of mixed conifer forest and riparian/wetland (forest/scrub-scrub/emergent) habitat. The property includes habitat important to ESA-listed fish species including spawning and rearing habitat for re-introduced spring Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), and summer steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and passage and winter-rearing habitat for threatened fluvial bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*).

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition, which includes transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement. To the extent that future activities on the property may have an effect, it is expected that the CTUIR would comply with all applicable laws and regulations.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		
3. Plants (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		
4. Wildlife (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		
5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		
6. Wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> See explanation for #1 above.		

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

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

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

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, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

- 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, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: A public notification letter and map of the property would be mailed to neighboring landowners, stakeholders, and relevant elected officials and other interested parties prior to site closing. Advertisements would also be placed in local newspapers, and information would be posted on Bonneville Power Administration's public website.

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

Signed: /s/ Luca De Stefanis
Luca De Stefanis ECF-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
MOTUS

Date: July 23, 2019