

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Sampson Barn Renovation

Project No.: 1997-051-00

Project Manager: Michelle O'Malley, EWU - 4

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance, B1.15 Support buildings

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the Yakama Nation (YN) to renovate the Sampson Barn in Kittitas County in Washington on a YN-owned property.

One of the remaining original barn structures on the YN property currently houses habitat tools, supplies, and habitat equipment. The proposed upgrades to the barn would include removing the current gravel flooring and replacing it with concrete slabs on both the interior of the barn and exterior lean-to attached to the barn, and fencing in the lean-to section of the barn. The proposed project would aim to improve storage conditions, reduce the impact of rodents on the supplies and equipment being stored at the barn, and create a safer work environment for YN staff. All concrete flooring and fencing would be implemented by a contractor.

Additionally, YN staff would construct a beaver housing facility in the lean-to portion of the building. This work would include adding the appropriate concrete base and installing a chain-link fence around the perimeter of the open portion of the building. The fenced in section would provide temporary housing for nuisance beavers captured as part of a relocation program. Beaver housing would use old metal raceways donated by other programs, with cinder block houses to allow for privacy and security for the captive beavers. These houses would be designed similarly to other successful beaver husbandry facilities in Washington State.

Other building improvements would include replacing or rebuilding current doors to help protect the building from rodents, repainting the exterior wooden siding, and new roofing material to reduce and prevent leaks onto stored materials. Building maintenance and ground maintenance would occur to prevent rodents and debris build up in the surrounding area (*i.e.*, interior of barn and exterior of barn). This work would be implemented by YN staff over multiple years.

All work would be conducted with the use of a mini-excavator to remove the existing gravel flooring, a dump truck to haul appropriate bedding materials, and a concrete truck to haul concrete. The concrete would be leveled by hand. Fence posts would be bedded into the concrete before hardening by hand. Once concrete is cured, the chain-link fencing materials would be attached to fence posts.

Funding the proposed activities is consistent with BPA's 2020 Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Washington and 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. 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/ Catherine Clark

Catherine Clark
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

June 1, 2023

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: Sampson Barn Renovation

Project Site Description

The Sampson Barn site is located approximately 5 miles west of Ellensburg, Washington. The project site is owned and operated by the Yakama Nation. The property was purchased by the Yakama Nation in 2005 and has been used as a coho-rearing facility since 2002. The closest waterbody to the project site is Yakima River approximately 110 feet from the Sampson Barn. The surrounding vegetation type is upland grasses; however, the barn is surrounded by parking lot.

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 Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Washington (WA) Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). BPA determined that the implementation would result in no historic properties affected (WA 2022 175). WA DAHP concurred with BPA's determination on April 18, 2023. No additional consulting parties responded

Notes:

- In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Heavy equipment that would be utilized in the renovation activities would access the property via already existing travel routes. Soil disturbance would stay within the footprint of the existing barn and be limited in removing old gravel flooring. All debris would be hauled off-site to the proper disposal facilities in the county.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status plant species are present within the proposed project site. No vegetation would be removed from the project site and all points of access are previously-disturbed routes.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status wildlife species or habitat would be impacted by the proposed renovation activities. Wildlife may be temporarily disturbed by renovation noise during implementation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The renovation activities would occur upland of all water bodies and floodplains in the area. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to these resources.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands would be disturbed by the proposed activities.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No groundwater or aquifers would be impacted by the proposed activities.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area would continue to be owned and operated by the Yakama Nation.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed renovation activities would add beneficial visual quality to the overall building appearance. Therefore, the activities would not negatively impact the visual quality of the area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed renovation activities could potentially cause an increase in dust due to excavation of gravel materials. This activity would be short term and temporary. If needed, dust abatement conservation measures would be put in place to keep dust to a minimum.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary increase in ambient noise may occur during renovation activities. Any noise emitted from equipment would be short term and temporary during daylight hours.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed renovation activities are proposed to improve human health and safety conditions of the barn. Improved flooring would ensure level footing for people utilizing the equipment storage and upgrading doorways would likely remove the potential for rodents to have access to the barn as easily.

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: Yakama Nation is the owner and operator of the property with the proposed barn renovation located on it and is responsible for the actions considered in this CX.

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

Signed: /s/ Catherine Clark June 1, 2023
Catherine Clark Date
Environmental Protection Specialist