

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Newport Modular Office Trailer and Parking Pad Installation on U.S. Forest Service Property Project

**Project No.:** NWF-2018-USK-1

**Project Manager:** Paul O'Dell, NWF-1

**Location:** Pend Oreille County, Washington

**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 install a modular office trailer and parking area at the United States Forest Service (USFS) Newport Ranger District's administrative site, located in Newport, Washington. The installation would involve the following actions:

- Blade an area approximately 1,000 sq. ft. in size to prepare the soil for construction
- Install approximately 440 sq. ft. of separation fabric and install 1¼ inch minus gravel at a depth of 4 inches on top of the separation fabric
- Install a 44 ft. by 10 ft. long modular office trailer on top of the gravel pad
- Apply approximately 480 sq. ft. (20 ft. by 24 ft.) of 1¼ inch minus gravel at a depth of 4 inches to serve as a vehicle parking pad on the north side of the office trailer
- Remove an existing water hydrant near the proposed location of the modular office trailer
- Connect the office trailer to existing services onsite
  - Install approximately 50 ft. of new water and sewer lines at a depth of 2-3 ft. deep
  - Install a new sewer clean out approximately 2-3 ft. away from the office trailer
  - Excavate a new trench (approximately 2 ft. wide by 2 ft. deep by 120 ft. long) for underground electrical power lines and fiber optic cable service
  - Backfill the trenches with gravel and original material
- Install a new electrical pedestal and grounding materials approximately 10 ft. south of the new office trailer

**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, July 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/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Nancy Wittpenn

Nancy Wittpenn  
Acting Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Office

Date: August 16, 2018

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.

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## Project Site Description

The project area is within an 8-acre parcel of USFS land on the north side of Newport, in Pend Oreille County, Washington. This USFS property is located in T31N R45E Section 13, Willamette Meridian. Newport is on the Idaho-Washington border, which is separated by the Pend Oreille River. The USFS property is an administrative site that contains several office buildings and vehicle parking lots on the eastern half of the 8-acre parcel. The western half of the parcel appears to be undeveloped and dominated by mature coniferous trees and does not contain the infrastructure that the eastern half has. Urban residences of variable lot sizes surround this USFS property. Large parcels of undeveloped, public and private forested lands surround Newport on the north, west and south, while the Pend Oreille River provides Newport's eastern boundary line.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The BPA archaeologist examined the proposed project area on July 26, 2018 and determined that the work being proposed by BPA has no potential to impact historic properties. No Section 106 consultation was initiated.</p>		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> Soil disturbance during construction activities would be in previously disturbed area.</p>		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no documented occurrences of any plant species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the project area or within a 1-mile radius of the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed plant species. The site is mostly bare soil, but some native and non-native grasses and weedy herbaceous plant species would be disturbed during the installation.</p>		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><u>Explanation:</u> The project area is located within a USFS administrative site that contains several office buildings, vehicle parking lots and human foot traffic areas with frequent disturbances and human activity. Wildlife species found in this project area would already be habituated to the frequent human disturbances, and the addition of the BPA office trailer would not significantly increase those disturbances to wildlife species.</p> <p>There are no documented occurrences of any wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in the project area or within a 1-mile radius of the project area; therefore, the proposed project would not have an effect on ESA-listed wildlife species.</p>		

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

Explanation: A freshwater pond is located approximately 700 ft. west of the project area. Best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to control any temporary erosion or sediment resulting from project activities. There are no other water bodies or floodplains present within 3,000 ft. of the project area; therefore, water bodies, floodplains, and fish habitat would not be impacted as a result of this project.

6. **Wetlands**

Explanation: Other than the freshwater pond mentioned above, there are no wetlands within 500 ft. of the project area; Therefore, no wetlands would be impacted as a result of this project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**

Explanation: The project area is not located within an Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Sole Source Aquifer, and the trenching depth would not reach groundwater depths below the ground's surface. Therefore, no potential to affect groundwater or aquifers as a result of this project.

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

Explanation: The addition of a modular office trailer and vehicle parking pad to an administrative site with existing office buildings and vehicle parking areas would not change the current land use. This area is not a specially designated area.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The addition of a modular office trailer and vehicle parking pad to an administrative site with existing office buildings and vehicle parking areas would not significantly change the current visual quality of the site.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Temporary dust and vehicle emissions during construction activities.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Temporary increase in ambient noise levels during construction activities.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: No impact to human health or safety.

### 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:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA has been coordinating with the USFS Colville National Forest Newport Ranger District Office on this project; the USFS issued a Categorical Exclusion on July 23, 2018 for their actions associated with the project.

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

Signed: /s/ Becky Hill  
Becky Hill, ECT-4  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: August 16, 2018