

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Swanson Lakes Wildlife Mitigation Area Building Maintenance Funding

**Project No.:** 1991-061-00

**Project Manager:** Virgil Watts, III

**Location:** Lincoln, WA

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.3 Routine Maintenance

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to maintain the onsite building that is serving as office space for management of the Swanson Lakes Wildlife Mitigation area (SLWA). The largely agrarian SLWA covers over 19,000 acres and was acquired by BPA for WDFW in the early 1990's, in part to mitigate for effects to wildlife habitat caused by hydropower infrastructure development.

The existing structure, which is an old farmhouse built in the in the early 1900's, is 40 feet by 60 feet in size (3300 square feet), and has been modified over the years. The original building, which dates to the 1890's, was partially removed when a one and a half story addition was built in 1914. Since then, the foundation was replaced with concrete (1960's), vinyl siding was installed (1970's), and the roof was sheathed in metal. It has been determined by BPA that the building is not eligible as a historic structure due to the numerous alterations.

Ongoing routine maintenance of the structure and service utilities typically include the following types of actions:

- Routine inspection (throughout the year) and repairs as needed of the following: roofs, soffits, doors, locks, windows.
- Clean as needed (throughout the year): siding, doors, windows, walls, floors.
- Safety (throughout the year): keep eye wash station in shop stocked with fresh solution, change batteries in smoke detectors, have any electrical problems fixed.
- Sanitation (throughout the year): keeps sinks, toilet clean. Snake the pipe to septic tank as needed, pump septic tank as needed. Check well water for contamination on annual or biennial basis. Keep uncontaminated water in office drinking water dispenser. Have dumpsters emptied when full.
- Pest control (throughout the year): keep rodents and insects out of office and shop through sealing openings, traps, and prudent use of pesticides.
- Fuel (throughout the year): keep on hand reasonable supplies of propane for facility heaters, and gasoline and diesel for vehicles and equipment. Periodically check fuel tanks for leaks (both in and out), and filter, hose and nozzle serviceability.
- Winterizing/de-winterizing activities (spring and fall): check window and door insulation, replace as needed. Drain/open pipes for shower stall around back o f the office (spring to fall

use as emergency wash station for skin contamination from pesticide, fuel, or other potentially toxic spill). Install/remove window air conditioner for office.

- Grounds maintenance (spring to fall): water/mow/weed control of office lawn, trim office yard trees as needed. Watering includes maintenance of in-ground sprinkler system.

**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/ Jennifer Snyder

Jennifer Snyder  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad J. Hamel

Chad Hamel  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: January 2, 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.

**Proposed Action:** Swanson Lakes Wildlife Mitigation Area Building Maintenance Funding

### Project Site Description

The Swanson Lakes Wildlife Mitigation area is located west of Spokane Washington, 20 miles west of Davenport and 10 miles south of Creston. The refuge is comprised primarily of agricultural fields and shrub-grassland. Occasional pockets of trees are found in riparian areas featuring small ponds and lakes. The subject building is fenced and sits on an improved, graveled lot.

### 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"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The BPA historian reviewed the proposed activities and determined that they will not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties. The historic building is not eligible due to alterations to the resource.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No-to-minimal ground disturbance is expected as work would occur on an existing structure.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status plants are present.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No federal or state special-status wildlife species or habitat is present.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No waterbodies are present.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No wetlands are present.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No-to-minimal ground disturbance would be expected as work would occur on an existing structure.		

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

Explanation: No changes to land use are proposed.

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The proposed maintenance activities will not change the look or character of the site.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Any incidental dust or other particulates generated from maintenance activities will be minimal and temporary.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: Noise generated during maintenance will be localized and temporary.

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Conducting maintenance activities will not negatively impact 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:

---

**Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: The landowner is the State of Washington who proposed the subject maintenance on its SLWA refuge structure.

---

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

Signed: /s/ Jennifer Synder

Date: January 2, 2018