

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Holcomb-Naselle No. 1 Access Road Bridge Replacement

PP&A No.: 3969

Project Manager: Rick Ross – TELF-TPP-3

Location: Pacific County, Washington

| Township | Range | Section | County, State | Ownership |
|----------|-------|---------|--------------------|-----------|
| 13N | 7W | 30 | Pacific County, WA | Private |

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

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to replace the existing bridge over Green Creek and perform routine road maintenance along the access road for the Holcomb-Naselle No. 1 Transmission Line, between structures 1/2 and 1/3. Proposed work includes removing the existing bridge and replacing it with a new, pre-cast, single-span, 16-foot by 60-foot bridge; and straightening, regrading, and shaping approximately 100 feet of access road northeast of the bridge. In addition to graders, general equipment used for this type of project includes a crane, excavators, and large trucks.

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/ Kevin George

Kevin George – EPI-4

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *June 4, 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: Holcomb to Naselle No. 1 Access Road Bridge Replacement

Project Site Description

The bridge to be replaced is located in a segment of access road for the Holcomb-Naselle No. 1 Transmission Line, between structures 1/2 and 1/3, near Green Creek Road, approximately 1.6 river-miles east of the Green Creek and Willapa River confluence. The project area is privately owned and used for timber production. Land use in the surrounding area primarily consists of tree farms, low-density residential and agriculture.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

| Environmental Resource Impacts | No Potential for Significance | No Potential for Significance, with Conditions |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|
| <p>1. Historic and Cultural Resources</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> A cultural resources review was conducted by Bonneville Power Administration on January 10, 2018; WA DAHP concurrence on a Determination of No Historic Properties Affected was received March 20, 2018. Consultation was initiated with the Shoalwater Bay Tribe and the Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation; no comments were received from the Shoalwater Bay Tribe.</p> | | |
| <p>2. Geology and Soils</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Minimal soil disturbance would occur within the existing road prism (90 feet) and at the bridge replacement location. In addition, approximately 100 feet of road, 16 feet in width, will be realigned east of the bridge replacement where a small amount of soil disturbance is expected. Erosion control measures would be used. Stabilization would include: roughening of soils, seeding with an appropriate native erosion-control seed mix, using slow release fertilizer, and mulch. Green Creek will be isolated and bypassed during construction to minimize turbidity.</p> | | |
| <p>3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> No mapped special-status species present; vegetation disturbance would encompass approximately 190 feet at a width of 16 feet for new roads, and new bridge construction would disturb approximately 4,300 square feet of vegetation. All areas of proposed vegetation removal include only low-growing shrubs or herbaceous species under the transmission line. Vehicles and equipment would be washed prior to entry into the project area to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.</p> | | |
| <p>4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)</p> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> No special-status species or designated critical habitat are present within the project footprint. However, mapped critical habitat for marbled murrelet is located 90 feet south of project footprint.</p> <p>Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc., biologists conducted a site visit August 24, 2016, to review potential habitat for marbled murrelet; all areas of critical habitat were immature second growth forests and do not support marbled murrelet within 0.25 mile of the project footprint. No impacts will occur to the primary constituent elements of the mapped critical habitat. The existing road prism and surrounding area under the transmission line are low</p> | | |

| Environmental Resource Impacts | No Potential for Significance | No Potential for Significance, with Conditions |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| quality wildlife habitat. | | |
| 5. Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Green Creek is mapped as a fish-bearing stream (WDNR Forest Practices water type = F). Proposed work will be performed during the dry season to limit turbidity and impact to fish. Temporary isolation will be installed upstream and downstream of the existing bridge. Impacts to the waterbody will be limited to the deconstruction and removal of the existing bridge. New abutments and riprap on both sides of the creek will be installed above the OHWM elevation. The proposed project has received authorization from the U.S. Corps of Engineers under Section 404 of the CWA Nationwide Permit (NWP), NWS-2017-600, NWP 14.</p> <p>Unlisted populations of steelhead, chum, and coho are known to occur within Green Creek. Construction below and in the vicinity of the ordinary high water mark (OHWM) of Green Creek will only be conducted after temporary isolation and bypass measures have been installed and fish salvage has been conducted. The proposed 60-foot bridge span has been designed to exceed 1.5x the average active channel width of 23 feet. In addition, the proposed construction will occur during the approved in-water work window (August 1-September 30) in order to minimize impacts on fish species. An Erosion and Sediment Control Plan will be prepared and adhered to during construction. All disturbed areas will be restored post-project with native seed, and streambed gravels will be added within the disturbance footprint.</p> <p>This Project has been determined to be consistent with Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) prepared by the NMFS Standard Local Operating Procedures for Endangered Species to Administer Maintenance or Rebuild Projects for Transmission Line and Road Access Actions Authorized or Carried Out by the BPA (BPA SLOPES) (WCR-2014-1600) Description and Conservation Measures for a Bridge Removal and Replacement. Consistency includes but is not limited to appropriate design criteria, work procedures, restoration requirements, fish salvage, and project reporting requirements.</p> | | |
| 6. Wetlands | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> There are no National Wetland Inventory mapped wetlands or hydric soil units that overlap with project activities. In addition, wetland scientists from Mason, Bruce & Girard, Inc., conducted a wetland delineation August 24, 2016; no wetlands were identified within the project footprint.</p> | | |
| 7. Groundwater and Aquifers | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> Groundwater would not be affected by proposed road improvement activities; no new groundwater wells or use of ground water are proposed.</p> | | |
| 8. Land Use and Specially Designated Areas | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> All work would be consistent with existing land use; no specially-designated areas are located within the project site. No changes to land use are proposed.</p> | | |
| 9. Visual Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> All work would be at ground level and are limited to existing road prisms and the area immediately surrounding the transmission line.</p> | | |
| 10. Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions are expected for a short duration due to construction.</p> | | |

| Environmental Resource Impacts | No Potential for Significance | No Potential for Significance, with Conditions |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 11. Noise <u>Explanation:</u> Temporary noise is expected for a short duration from road improvement activities during daylight hours. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Human Health and Safety <u>Explanation:</u> No known soil contamination or hazardous conditions are known. No changes to electric and magnetic fields would result from the project. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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 project is located entirely on private land; BPA is coordinating with the landowner.

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

Signed: /s/ Kevin George
Kevin George – EPI-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date: June 4, 2018