

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Kalispel Tribe Resident Fish Program Operations and Maintenance

Project No.: 1995-001-00

Project Manager: Lee Watts

Location: Pend Oreille County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.20 Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) plans to fund the production and rearing of triploid rainbow trout (TRBT) at the Kalispel Tribal Fish Hatchery and the stocking of hatchery-raised TRBT for harvest at Indian Creek Pond.

The project consists of daily hatchery operations and maintenance; rearing TRBT to catchable lengths; transporting TRBT to Indian Creek Pond; stocking the pond with TRBT for Tribal member harvest; and maintaining the health of hatchery-raised fish.

Hatchery operations and maintenance would include ensuring that pumps are working properly, repairing and/or replacing pumps when needed, taking daily measurements (e.g. water temperature, dissolved oxygen), and cleaning the raceway, troughs, rearing ponds, bead filter, drum screen filter, and UV disinfection unit. No ground disturbance would occur for the ongoing hatchery operations and maintenance activities.

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/ Kelly Hope

Kelly Hope
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
ACS Professional Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ *Katey Grange*
Katey Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *March 11, 2020*

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 located in northeastern Washington on the Kalispel Indian Reservation at the border of the Kaniksu National Forest, at an elevation of 2,060 feet. The Kalispel Tribal Fish Hatchery is located at coordinates 48.439587, -117.279001, about 0.47 miles east of the Pend Oreille River. The hatchery property is bordered to the west by freshwater emergent and forested/shrub wetlands (as mapped by the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Inventory). This wetland area extends to the Pend Oreille River. The immediate area surrounding the hatchery buildings is comprised of gravel road, dirt, and grass. There is a fence just south of the hatchery building complex. A large forested area is present to the east and south; the area immediately north of the hatchery complex is flat grassland.

Indian Creek Pond is located about 14 miles south-southeast of the Kalispel Tribal Fish Hatchery, 0.63 miles north of the Pend Oreille River, at coordinates -117.147151 48.246758. It is approximately 0.8 acres in area. Indian Creek Road is 180 feet southeast of the pond. There are no wetlands near the pond. The closest wetlands are across Indian Creek Road to the south and are closely associated with the Pend Oreille River. The area is a mix of forest and cleared grassland. An agricultural field is present to the northeast, and there are residences along Indian Creek Road to the south and west of the pond.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
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1. **Historic and Cultural Resources**



Explanation: Ongoing routine maintenance of newer facilities (those built in the late 1990s) that are being modernized would have no potential to affect cultural resources. Tribal member harvest activities would use only existing maintained access roads to harvest TRBT from the existing hatchery holding ponds. There is no potential to affect cultural resources; therefore, NHPA Section 106 consultation and preparation of a cultural resources survey is not necessary.

2. **Geology and Soils**



Explanation: There are no ground-disturbing activities proposed with this action; thus, no potential to affect geology or soils.

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



Explanation: There are no ground-disturbing activities proposed with this action and all hatchery maintenance would occur within the existing building footprint; thus, there is no potential to affect plants.

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



Explanation: There would be no ground disturbance, and no modification of habitat. Hatchery maintenance work would take place within the existing facility. Noise and disturbance would not exceed that of ongoing operations and use of the facility. The project would not involve any upland work and would, therefore, have no effect on Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed terrestrial species.

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



Explanation: The project area overlaps bull trout critical habitat; however, bull trout occur very infrequently in the Pend Oreille River and its tributaries, and any effect that the project may have on bull trout would be at such a small scale as to be considered insignificant and/or discountable. Therefore, the project would have no effect on ESA-listed species. This project would not adversely affect essential fish habitat. A No Effect memo dated 1/27/2020 has been prepared.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: All operation and maintenance work would occur within the hatchery facility and there would be no impact to wetlands as a result.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not involve ground disturbance; therefore, there would be no impact to groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: The underlying land use would not change as a result of this project.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The visual quality of the environment would not change as a result of this project.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: There would be minor increased air emissions as a result of routine hatchery operations and maintenance activities or transportation/stocking TRBT at Indian Creek Pond.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The noise generated by project implementation would be minor and would not affect the surrounding environment. Hatchery maintenance work would take place within the existing facility. Noise would not exceed that of ongoing operations and use of the facility.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: There would be no impact to human health and safety as a result of implementing the Proposed Action.

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: Project activities would take place on the Kalispel Indian Reservation. The Tribe owns the land and the buildings on which the project activities would be implemented.

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

Signed: /s/ Kelly Hope Date: March 11, 2020
Kelly Hope
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
ACS Professional Staffing