

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Basinwide Supplementation Evaluation Project

**Project No.:** 2009-009-00

**Project Manager:** Brady Allen

**Location:** Multiple counties, Idaho, Oregon, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B3.3 Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration proposes to fund the Columbia River Inter-tribal Fisheries Commission to use genetic analysis techniques to evaluate the relative reproductive success of tribal hatchery programs and provide personnel to assist sampling efforts. This project would not require the take of wild fish, the collection of additional broodstock, or the release of additional hatchery fish.

The proposed actions would include:

1. Genotyping tissue samples collected as part of tribal monitoring programs for supplemented spring Chinook salmon in the upper Yakima River and in Johnson Creek.
2. Genotyping tissue samples collected in Lookingglass Creek by tribal Chinook salmon reintroduction/supplementation programs and perform associated relative reproductive success analyses.
3. Providing assistance to Yakima Nation personnel in collection of tissue samples (primarily carcass sampling during spawning ground surveys) and field biodata, and perform genotyping of samples provided by tribal co-managed sockeye salmon reintroduction programs.
4. Minijack studies: Rear and sample Cle Elum hatchery spring Chinook and perform associated laboratory analyses to assess factors affecting precocious maturation.

**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/ Israel Duran

Israel Duran  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Salient/CRGT

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel  
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: May 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.

**Proposed Action:** Basinwide Supplementation Evaluation Project

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## Project Site Description

All work would occur within the Columbia River Basin. Genetic and data analysis and mini-jack studies would be conducted at existing facilities, such as hatcheries, and laboratories; field work assistance would occur at locations operated by tribal hatchery programs.

## 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 actions proposed by this project would not impact historic or cultural resources		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Geology and soils would not be impacted by the proposed activities.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no anticipated impacts to any plant species.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The actions would not impact sensitive (including Endangered Species Act-listed) wildlife within the project area and there would be no effect.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The project would supply personnel to assist in collecting tissue samples for the genetic work as part of other ongoing projects under existing contracts, for which environmental compliance and permits have been obtained. No additional fish are collected to support the project. Samples would be processed in existing labs and facilities and would not impact water bodies, floodplains or fish.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The activities would not impact wetlands.		
7. <b>Groundwater and Aquifers</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The activities would not impact or change groundwater or aquifers.		
8. <b>Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The activities would not impact or change land use.		

9. **Visual Quality**

Explanation: The activities would not impact visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**

Explanation: Some emissions from travel are expected, however, the work would not impact air quality.

11. **Noise**

Explanation: The work would not impact noise quality

12. **Human Health and Safety**

Explanation: Safety regulations would be followed as necessary.

### **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: This work would be implemented in and at existing facilities.

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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/ Israel Duran  
Israel Duran ECF-4  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Salient/CRGT

Date: May 11, 2020