

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Chinook Valley Road Property Removal

Project No.: 2010-070-00

Project Manager: Anne Creason, EWL-4

Location: Pacific County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.23 Demolition and disposal of buildings.

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for the removal of a house, outbuildings, and debris at the existing Chinook Wildlife Area. Building removal would allow future fish and wildlife habitat restoration of the site.

The proposed project would be the complete removal of the about 1300-square-foot, single-story home, about 700 square-foot, single-story two-car garage, and about 1000 square-foot, single-story shop. The associated 20-foot by 60-foot concrete slab in front of the garage and the gravel driveway leading up to the garage would be removed along with the house. Miscellaneous debris on the project site would also be removed, including multiple car bodies and parts.

The house is a post and beam construction, while the garage and shop is a slab construction. Demolition would include complete removal of structures, foundation, utility piping, and septic from the project site. The demolition contractor would be responsible for obtaining a demolition permit from Pacific County. If asbestos is found on site, the contractor would hire an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)-certified hazardous material abatement contractor who would be required to file an abatement plan with the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency verifying all air quality requirements would be met.

A large excavator would be used to break apart the house from top to bottom, the excavator would then stockpile or directly load debris into dump trucks to be hauled off-site. The excavator would then break apart all concrete slabs and foundation materials. Trenching would then take place using an excavator to track power, water, and septic line from the house. Trenches would be 3 feet wide and 3 feet deep. The complete removal of the septic system and all piping up to 15 feet from the adjacent county road and 15 feet from the edge of the water would be removed.

Upon project completion, WDFW would create a planting plan for the demolition area. WDFW would revegetate the site with native plants, potentially including willows (*Salix spp.*), nootka rose (*Rosa nutkana*), spirea (*Spirea douglasii*), and twinberry (*Lonicera involucrata*). This would be included to minimize and control the remaining invasive plants that would regrow in the structures' absence. Mechanical and chemical removal is proposed for invasives regrowth.

Funding the proposed activities is consistent with BPA's 2020 Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Washington and would support BPA's ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System on fish and wildlife in the mainstem Columbia River and its tributaries pursuant to the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. 839 et seq.).

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/ Catherine Clark

Catherine Clark
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting and Staffing

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange June 16, 2021

Katey C. Grange Date
NEPA Compliance Officer

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: Chinook Valley Road Property Removal

Project Site Description

The Chinook Estuary site is located on the Chinook Wildlife Area, approximately 1500 acres in size, which is owned and operated by WDFW. The lands surrounding the wildlife area are privately owned. The wildlife area is used for various recreational activities including hunting, fishing, kayaking, and bird watching. Vegetation type is predominately reed canary grass, with scattered smaller groves of red alder and spruce in some riparian zones bordering tidal channels. Wetlands on the site are currently inundated as tidal regimes fluctuate, though the tide gates can be closed to provide flood protection to near by private homes.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: A BPA Archeologist conducted National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 consultations with the Washington State Department of Archeology and Historic Presentation (WA DAHP), the Cowlitz Tribe, and the Shoalwater Bay Tribe. BPA conducted background research and a field survey of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), and determined that the implementation would result in no historic properties affected (WA 2019 162). WA DAHP concurred with BPA's determination on March 3rd, 2020. No comments were received from any of the other consulting parties; therefore, BPA assumed concurrence with its no effect determination.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Heavy equipment that is utilized in the demolition of the property would access the property via already existing travel routes, including a paved county road. Soil disturbance would stay within an area that is approximately 3 acres in size and be limited to removing the septic system, the associated piping/wiring for the house, the concrete pads, and the buildings. All debris would be hauled off-site to the proper disposal facilities in the county.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status plant species are present within the proposed project site. The vegetation that would be removed to access the buildings or debris is considered invasive. Native trees or shrubs may be trimmed back for access purposes but would not be removed. Post-demolition, WDFW would implement a native planting plan for the site in order to inhibit the regrowth of invasives.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No special-status wildlife species or habitat would be impacted by the proposed demolition activities. Wildlife may be temporarily disturbed by demolition noise during implementation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The demolition activities would occur upland of all water bodies and floodplains in the area. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to these resources or listed fish species.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands would be disturbed by the proposed activities.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No groundwater or aquifers would be impacted by the proposed activities.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project area would continue to be owned and operated by WDFW as a wildlife area. With the demolition of the house and its associated structures, the project area would no longer be a residential location and would be converted into wildlife habitat post-demolition, which is consistent with the purpose of the property.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed activities of structure demolition and native planting would add visual diversity to the overall wildlife area landscape. These activities would not negatively impact the visual quality of the area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: The proposed demolition activities have the potential to emit loosened asbestos into the air. In general, single-family residential structures contain only small amounts of asbestos insulation, as found in the pre-demolition inspection.

Notes:

- WDFW's contractor would hire an OSHA certified hazardous material abatement contractor who would be required to file an abatement plan with the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency verifying all air quality requirements would be met.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary increase in ambient noise may occur during demolition activities. Any noise emitted from equipment would be short term and temporary during daylight hours.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed demolition has the potential to emit loosened asbestos into the air. The contractors would be required to follow OSHA certified hazardous material abatement protocols and regulations in order to mitigate for the risk of exposure.

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: N/A

Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation: N/A

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: WDFW's contractor would hire an OSHA certified hazardous material abatement contractor who would be required to file an abatement plan with the Olympic Region Clean Air Agency verifying all air quality requirements would be met.

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: N/A

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is the manager of the property with the proposed demolition and is responsible for the actions considered in this CX.

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

Signed: /s/ Catherine Clark June 16, 2021
Catherine Clark, ECF-4 Date
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Recruiting and Staffing, Inc.