

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company (COIC) Irrigation Efficiency and Pump Exchange Project

Project No.: 2023-001-00

Project Manager: Virginia Preiss, EWM-4

Location: Chelan County, WA

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: BPA proposes to fund the Chelan County Department of Natural Resources (CCDNR) to implement improvements to irrigation infrastructure owned and operated by the Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company (COIC). The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is providing funding for a portion of the project through its WaterSMART grant program.

The present day COIC irrigation system delivers their 11.9-cubic-feet-per-second (cfs) water via about 2 miles of mostly unlined ditch to 235 households and is used for residential irrigation purposes. The proposed COIC improvement project would replace the existing delivery system by shifting the point of diversion from a gravity diversion on Icicle Creek to new intake and pumping facilities located closer to the confluence of Icicle Creek and the Wenatchee River. The new facilities would supply a completely closed, pressurized delivery system that would replace the existing open ditch delivery system. By relocating the COIC diversion, the Proposed Action would restore up to 11.9 cfs of streamflow in lower Icicle Creek and improve and modernize the COIC delivery system. The existing water intake is shared with the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery and would continue to provide water for the hatchery. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Reclamation are in the process of upgrading the diversion facilities on Icicle Creek to meet current fish passage and screening guidelines. Upgrades to the existing diversion are entirely funded by Reclamation.

The Proposed Action would involve the construction of an intake structure and screen in Icicle Creek, an intake pipeline, a settling basin and wet well structure, pump station and new lateral water delivery pipelines that would deliver water from the new intake and pumping facilities to existing water users along the COIC Canal. New lateral pipelines, 4 to 8 inches in diameter, would be buried parallel to existing lateral pipelines in county right-of-way and the existing lateral pipelines would be abandoned in place. Installation of the new lateral pipeline would require a 2-foot-wide excavation the entire length. The new intake and pumping facilities would require the construction of a 30-foot by 16-foot building to house the pumps and a 12-foot by 32-foot settling basin and wet well structure. The intake pipe connecting the pump station with an intake screen would be about 60 feet long and 30 inches in diameter.

BPA's funding of the COIC Irrigation Efficiency and Pump Exchange Project would support conservation of ESA-listed species considered in the 2020 ESA consultations with both NMFS and USFWS on the O&M of the Columbia River System. These actions also support Bonneville's ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the FCRPS 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. (USC) 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/ Ted Gresh

Ted Gresh

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
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: Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company (COIC) Irrigation Efficiency and Pump Exchange Project

Project Site Description

COIC operates a network of open ditches and pipelines that deliver water for irrigation to properties west of Icicle Creek and south of the Wenatchee River near Leavenworth, Washington. These facilities are supplied through a surface water diversion on Icicle Creek, which is shared with LNFH. The new pump station would be constructed in an empty/vacant lot adjacent to Icicle Creek. New pipelines would be installed in county-right-of-way, adjacent to existing open ditches in residential land uses.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with conditions

Explanation: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) was the lead Federal Agency for the Section 106 consultation. Reclamation submitted their determination of No Adverse Effects to Cultural Resources to Washington's Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) on November 18, 2021. DAHP concurred with this determination on November 29, 2021. The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT) were included in the consultation and the CCT concurred with the determination on February 1, 2022 and requested monitoring of some areas of the project during construction. BPA archaeologist reviewed Reclamation's (1/11/2023) consultation documents and determined they met BPA's requirements for Section 106.

Notes:

- Onsite monitors must be present during construction.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Ground-disturbing activities would temporarily disturb top soil in the excavation work areas. Although the project area is generally flat and would not carry high velocity erosive flows, Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be implemented to prevent soils from eroding outside of the work site. The project site is located in a residential area where previous impacts have disturbed the area.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed or sensitive plant species known to exist in the work areas. Any vegetative impacts that would occur on the work areas would be temporary and reseeded following the installation of the water line.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The minor ground disturbance that would occur from the installation of the pipes and pump station would not affect ESA- listed wildlife or wildlife habitat. There are no known nesting trees or priority wildlife habitat that would affect ESA-listed species. Construction activities would likely create minor noise impacts and wildlife near this area would temporarily avoid the elevated noises, but would return to the area once construction activities have ceased.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: ESA-listed fish in proximity to the project area include steelhead and bull trout. The project was reviewed and consulted on under the HIP Biological Opinion under Section 7 of the ESA. Effects from in-water construction, such as increased turbidity and fish handling during de-watering, would be minimized by site-specific conservation measures identified in the HIP consultation and approval, including turbidity monitoring requirements and in-water work timing. In the long term, the project would benefit fish species, including ESA-listed fish species by increasing water flows in Icicle Creek.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor ground disturbance would occur on uplands within the vacant lot and in the footprint of the existing irrigation system and would not impact any wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The minor ground disturbance that would occur from the installation of new pipes and pump facilities would not occur at a depth that would affect groundwater or aquifers.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The minor ground-disturbing activities proposed would not affect land use and specially designated areas. Access to the project site is on existing roads and all activities are compatible with local land uses.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work would have minor effect on visual quality during construction. Any change to the view shed from the new diversion and burial of the previous-open ditch

would be minor, consistent with the existing appearance of irrigation infrastructure, and would not drastically change the views in the project area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Any increase in emissions from vehicles accessing the project site would be minor and short term.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation The pump station would be inside a new structure so would not result in an increase in ambient noise. Any noise emitted from construction equipment would be short term and temporary and would cease following project completion.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed work is not considered hazardous nor does it result in any health or safety risks to the general public

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: N/A

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: The project would occur on private land. All land owners are members of the Cascade Orchard Irrigation Company and have agreed to implementation of the project.

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

Signed: <u>/s/ Ted Gresh</u>	<u>March 7, 2023</u>
Ted Gresh, ECF-4	Date
Environmental Protection Specialist	