

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Glen Tana Conservation Easement Acquisition Conservation Easement Acquisition

**Project No.:** 2028-002-00

**Project Manager:** Victoria Bohlen – EWU-4

**Location:** Spokane, WA

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.25 Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to reimburse the Spokane Tribe of Indians (Spokane Tribe) to purchase a conservation easement on the Glen Tana Conservation Easement Acquisition property, which is a 79-acre parcel of land located in Spokane, WA. BPA would hold a conservation easement to permanently protect, mitigate, and enhance fish and wildlife and their habitat.

This action supports ongoing efforts to mitigate for effects of the Federal Columbia River Power System (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. 839 et seq.) and goals of restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of waters regulated under the Clean Water Act.

The property consists of sparsely forested upland, dense riparian zone, floodplain with wetlands, and instream habitat of the Little Spokane River. The Spokane Tribe would develop a land management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of habitat and other resources on the property. The land management plan would be drafted within 18 months of closing. The management plan would be reviewed by BPA for consistency with the conservation easement and the purpose of the acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any additional activities on the property, further environmental review may be conducted.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.102 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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025 [Interim Final Rule]) and the current *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures*, BPA has determined the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
- 2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and

- 3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

Daphne Day  
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange  
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Evaluation

# Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

This evaluation 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: Glen Tana Conservation Easement Acquisition Conservation Easement Acquisition

### Project Site Description

The Glen Tana Property consists of two parcels occupying 79 acres, situated within the larger 1,000-acre Glen Tana area which was originally purchased by the Inland Northwest Land Conservancy (INLC) in 2023. Soon after, these two parcels were transferred to the Spokane Tribe. While private properties border the immediate south, the Spokane Tribe owns the parcel to the north and Kalispel Tribe of Indians lands are located to the east. INLC-managed lands are located to the west. These parcels contribute to a landscape-scale expanse of protected lands by connecting through these western INLC lands, which will eventually be acquired by Washington State Parks, to the 10,000-acre Riverside State Park.

The Little Spokane River flows through the property, which is comprised of mostly vacant land. The property is zoned RCV – Rural Conservation and is designated tribal use land owned by the Spokane Tribe. The northwest portion of the site was developed circa 1892 and has been used as a dairy, a dog breeding kennel, and farmland/pasture. There has been limited use since the 1990s, with relic infrastructure remaining, including fence lines and unimproved roadways. In addition, there is one, single story barn in the northern parcel and an abandoned pumphouse (hidden by trees) along the north shoreline of the Little Spokane River. There is evidence of a well/pump house for surface water from the river, which has not been used in several decades but was originally used in the operation of the dairy and was pumped up to the barns with a gravity flow return.

The majority of the site is wetlands, along with sparsely forested upland, dense riparian zone, and instream habitat; all habitats are intact and functioning. The riparian zone consists of black cottonwood (*Populus trichocarpa*), aspen (*P. tremuloides*), dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*), spirea (*Spiraea splendens*), ocean spray (*Holodiscus discolor*), and serviceberry (*Amelanchier* spp.). Invasive plants such as reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) and Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*) are present along the perimeters of the agricultural fields.

Present fish species in the area include natives such as redband trout (*O. mykiss gairdneri*), mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), suckerfish (*Catostomus* spp.), pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus* spp.), dace (*Rhinichthys* spp.), and sculpin (*Cottus* spp.), and non-natives such as rainbow trout (*O. mykiss*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*), yellow perch (*Perca flavescens*), black crappie (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*), and brown bullhead (*Ameiurus nebulosus*).

The site supports a variety of wildlife species that utilize the river and riparian area. Elk, white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and moose frequent the parcel and adjacent areas. The area is a potential travel corridor for several other species that include black bear (*Ursus americanus*), mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), and gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). Historically this area would have supported beavers (*Castor canadensis*), however many have been previously removed due to the nature of their dams causing flooding and potential to block fish passage. Bird species include a variety of ducks and geese, great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*), and bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). Back channels in the river are ideal habitat for a variety of amphibians.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

### **1. Historic and Cultural Resources**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect due to conservation easement acquisition. To the extent that future activities on the property may have an effect, it is expected that the Spokane Tribe would comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

### **2. Geology and Soils**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

### **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

### **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

### **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

### **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

## 11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

## 12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: See explanation for #1 above.

### 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: Prior to closing, notice of the acquisition would be mailed to nearby landowners and interested parties. Additionally, BPA would run advertisements in local area newspapers for at least two weeks to inform the public of the pending acquisition.

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

Signed:

Daphne Day  
Environmental Protection Specialist