

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Parrot Creek Culvert Replacement

Project No.: 2010-032-00

Project Manager: Tim Ludington, EWM-4

Location: Benewah County, Idaho

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 Coeur d'Alene Tribe to replace an undersized culvert on Parrot Creek, an intermittent tributary of Hangman Creek approximately 13 miles east of Tensed, Idaho. The current culvert is undersized and creates a fish barrier at all flows due to an excessive drop at the culvert outlet. The culvert is highly degraded and has exceeded its life expectancy.

The culvert installation would be completed in one day (a requirement driven by road-use constraints). Vegetation would be cut on both sides of the existing culvert to provide visibility and unhindered mechanical access for installing the new culvert. An excavator would be used to remove the existing culvert and install the new pipe when the intermittent stream is dry. The excavator would operate from atop Sanders Road. The old culvert would be recycled at a local facility.

Rock rip-rap would be placed around the new pipe and at the pipe inlet and outlet to help protect the structure. Gravel would be placed in the pipe to create fish habitat. A trench compactor would be used to compact the bedding and backfill around the culvert. A bobcat skid-steer loader would be used to grade the road.

Two boulders (up to 2.5 feet in diameter) would be placed in the streambed to establish and maintain channel grade. These would be placed after the culvert is installed using an excavator that would operate from the road surface. There would be no excavation; boulders would simply be placed in the stream and placement would be below the high water line. Vegetation cutting would occur along the bank at this boulder-placement location to provide unhindered visibility and access.

This Proposed Action would support 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/ Robert W. Shull

Robert W. Shull
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
CorSource Technology Group

Reviewed by:

/s/ Chad Hamel

Chad Hamel
Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel
NEPA Compliance Officer

July 22, 2022

Date

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: Parrot Creek Culvert Replacement

Project Site Description

The project area reach of Parrot Creek is located within managed forest lands used primarily for timber production. Riparian vegetation is confined to the stream corridor and narrow inset floodplain. Outside of the stream and inset floodplain, the vegetation is primarily made up of conifer forest in various successional stages.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No previously undisturbed soils would be affected by this action. The project has been reviewed by a BPA archeologist who determined that this undertaking is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no disturbance of native soils in this action.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No special-status plants, including Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species, are known to be present. There would be temporary impacts to existing riparian vegetation from cutting and pruning on about 50 square feet to facilitate boulder placement within the stream bed below the high-water line.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Federal/state special-status wildlife species or habitats are within the project site. No habitats would be modified to any degree that might permanently displace resident wildlife, though some may be temporarily displaced by disturbance from construction activities. Human presence and activity associated with construction would temporarily disturb and displace nearby wildlife, but long-term displacement resulting in competition for nearby habitats is unlikely.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No ESA or state-listed fish species are present in the project area.

Parrot Creek is intermittent. Culvert replacement would occur when this stream is dry, eliminating any need for stream diversion or fish salvage.

A Clean Water Act Nationwide Permit 27 (NWS-2020-724) was obtained to ensure the project meets national water quality standards.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No wetlands are present in the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no groundwater withdrawal. There would be some miniscule potential for contamination of groundwater from fuel or fluid drips or spills from the equipment used for culvert replacement, but spills and drips with the volume necessary to contaminate groundwater are unlikely. Onsite spill kits would also minimize the potential for spills and drips to be of sufficient quantity to contaminate groundwater.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would not change the capability of the land to be used as it was prior to project actions. There would be no land use changes, and no impact to specially-designated areas.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No visually prominent vegetative, landform, or structural change would be made. Culvert replacement would not change the overall visual character of the landscape along, or as seen from, local roads.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be some exhaust and greenhouse gas emissions from the motorized equipment used for culvert replacement, but these are short-term actions, and no long-term source of emissions or exhaust is created. Vehicles used to transport workers, supplies, and equipment to the site would be another potential source of exhaust and greenhouse gasses, but this also would be minimal and short-term.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be some short-term (one day) noise impacts from the heavy equipment used for the culvert replacements, but this type of noise is not inconsistent with that of common logging, ranching, or farming operations in the surrounding areas.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Vehicle and excavator operation, and working with hand and power tools have their attendant risks to equipment operators, but there would be no condition created from this action that would introduce new human health or safety hazards or risk into the environment. No condition created by this action would increase the burden on the local health, safety, and emergency-response infrastructure.

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 Parrot Creek culvert replacement is on a private road and designed in cooperation with the private landowner, who would be notified prior to construction activities.

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

Signed: /s/ Robert W. Shull

Robert W. Shull
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CorSource Technology Group

July 22, 2022

Date