

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Umatilla and Grande Ronde Hatchery Ownership Transfers – Thornhollow and Imeqes Juvenile Acclimation Facilities

**Project No.:** 1998-007-02

**Project Manager:** Eric McOmie, EWU-4

**Location:** Umatilla County, Oregon

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 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) proposes to transfer ownership of several hatchery facilities within the exterior boundaries of the reservation of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). BPA provides funding for the Umatilla Basin Artificial Propagation Program, co-managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the CTUIR, as partial fulfillment of BPAs fish and wildlife mitigation responsibilities. BPA initially funded construction of the facilities with the intent to ultimately transfer ownership to CTUIR.

The following facilities would be transferred to CTUIR ownership:

- Imeqes Juvenile Acclimation Facility
- Thornhollow Juvenile Acclimation Facility

This proposal includes transfer of the underlying property ownership. No ground-disturbing activities are proposed as part of this undertaking.

**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/ Kristina E. Eilts

Kristina E. Eilts

Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

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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:** Thorn Hollow and Imeques Juvenile Acclimation Facilities

### **Project Site Description**

All facilities associated with existing hatchery acclimation facilities are located within fenced, graveled hatchery facilities in Umatilla County, Oregon. None of the facilities proposed for transfer were constructed prior to the 1980s.

### **Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources**

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, BPA engaged in consultation with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Tribal Historic Preservation Office. BPA identified an Area of Potential Effects and detailed proposed project activities. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation conducted a field survey of the Area of Potential Effects. BPA sent a determination letter on October 5, 2021, stating that the undertaking would result in no adverse effect to historic properties. No response to consultation was received.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to geology or soils in the project area, as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no ESA-listed plant species in the graveled facilities. There would be no effect to plants as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to wildlife as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to water bodies, floodplains, or fish as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

## **6. Wetlands**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to wetlands as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

## **7. Groundwater and Aquifers**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to groundwater or aquifers as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to land use or specially designated areas as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

## **9. Visual Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to visual quality as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

## **10. Air Quality**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to air quality as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

## **11. Noise**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to noise as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

## **12. Human Health and Safety**

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be no effect to human health or safety as the proposed action is an administrative process that requires no changes to current operations or activities at the hatchery sites.

### **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: BPA is the current landowner of these facilities, therefore no additional notification is required.

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

Signed: /s/ Kristina E. Eilts October 11, 2022  
Kristina E. Eilts, ECF 4 Date  
Environmental Protection Specialist