

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Kalispel Tribe Resident Fish Hatchery Operations and Maintenance

Project No.: 1995-001-00

Project Manager: Lee Watts, EWM - 4

Location: Pend Oreille, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine maintenance, B1.20 Protection of cultural resources, fish and wildlife habitat

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the Kalispel Tribe (the Tribe) to continue the rearing of triploid rainbow trout (TRBT) at the Kalispel Tribal Fish Hatchery, to conduct routine maintenance at the hatchery, and to transport and stock hatchery-raised TRBT for harvest at Indian Creek Pond. BPA funding would be provided to mitigate for effects of the Albeni Falls Dam and the ongoing loss of wildlife habitat from the reservoir pursuant to Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act of 1980 (Northwest Power Act) (16 U.S.C. (USC) 839 et seq.).

The Tribe would conduct routine hatchery operations and maintenance throughout the year. This would include ensuring that water pumps are working properly, repairing and replacing pumps and piping as needed, taking daily measurements (e.g. water temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, fish health), and cleaning raceways, troughs, rearing ponds, filters, and disinfection units. No new construction or ground disturbance would occur and all repairs and replacements would be like-for-like.

The Tribe would obtain TRBT eggs from the Troutlodge Hatchery in Ephrata, Washington or from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Spokane Hatchery. A total of up to 10,000 eggs would be purchased at intervals throughout the year. The Tribe would hatch and rear fish from the eggs until large enough for harvest. Grown TRBT would be transported from the hatchery to Indian Creek Pond and stocked for tribal member harvest and activities. The Tribe would maintain existing facilities (public restrooms, picnic tables) at the Indian Creek Pond for member use during harvests. No new construction or habitat changes at the Indian Creek Pond would occur under this contract.

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/ Thomas DeLorenzo

Thomas Delorenzo

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.

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Project Site Description

The Kalispel Tribe Hatchery is located in northeastern Washington on the Kalispel Indian Reservation in Pend Oreille County. The hatchery complex is roughly 0.5 miles inland from the eastern bank of the Pend Oreille River and 6 miles north-northeast of Cusick, Washington. The hatchery is surrounded to the south by forest and to the north by grass- and shrub-land. The western side of the hatchery complex is bordered by a wetland that runs to the bank of the Pend Oreille River. The eastern side of the complex borders LeClerc Road, from which the complex can be accessed. The hatchery complex was originally constructed in the late 1990s and retrofitted for rearing TRBT between 2017 and 2020.

The Indian Creek Pond is located roughly 16 miles southeast of the hatchery and sits approximately 0.75 miles inland of the northern bank of the Pend Oreille River. The pond covers approximately 0.8 acres of area and does not have a natural outlet into other water bodies. Visitor facilities (restrooms, picnic benches) were constructed by the Tribe at the pond for use by tribal members while visiting and fishing. The surrounding area is a mixture of fallow grassland and forest, along with some rural residences and agricultural fields. The Kanisku National Forest lies directly north of the pond.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: BPA reviewed the proposed activities and determined that there would be no potential to affect historic properties (BPA CR Project Nos. WA 2022 81, WA 2023 026).

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no ground-disturbing activities proposed by this action. All access and transport would be along previously established roadways. As a result, there would be no impacts to soils from these actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed are present in the project area (US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)). No Washington state-listed plant species are present in the project area (Washington State

Department of Natural Resources). All hatchery maintenance would take place within the existing building footprints. Aside from regular mowing and trimming of grass in the surrounding area, there would be no impacts to plants from these actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: ESA-listed Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Canada lynx (*Lynx Canadensis*) and grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos horribilis*) have the potential to occur in this area of Pend Oreille county (IPaC). No Washington-state listed wildlife is present at the proposed work sites (Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife). There are no construction or habitat modification activities proposed. All operations and maintenance would take place within the existing facility's footprint and be typical operations at the hatchery complex. All access and transport would be along previously established roadways. To the extent that wildlife would be disturbed by these activities, it would be no more than from typical human activity in the area. As a result, there would be no impacts to wildlife from these actions.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All hatchery maintenance would take place within the existing building footprints and no new construction in water bodies is proposed. TRBT raised at the hatchery would be stocked solely at the Indian Creek Pond, which has no outlet into other water bodies. ESA-listed Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) and Bull Trout critical habitat are present in the nearby Pend Oreille River (IPaC); however, no work is proposed that would interact with this habitat.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Mapped wetlands exist to the west of the hatchery complex running to the bank of the Pend Oreille River (USFWS National Wetlands Inventory). No activities are proposed in these wetlands. No wetlands are present at Indian Creek Pond.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No new wells or groundwater use are proposed by these actions. The local water table would not be affected by project activities.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no changes in existing land use proposed.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no new construction or habitat modification activities proposed. As a result, there would be no changes to visual quality from these actions.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be minor emissions generated from machinery at the hatchery complex. These emissions would be typical of ongoing operations at the hatchery. Additionally, there would be a minor amount of vehicle exhaust from transporting adult fish from the hatchery to the pond. However, all transportation would be limited in duration and scope. As a result, there would be no to minimal impacts to air quality from these actions.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor increases in ambient noise would occur during some maintenance activities. However, these effects would be temporary, limited in scope, and typical of operations at the hatchery complex.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: All personnel would use best management practices to ensure human health and safety.

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: All project activities would take place on property owned by the Tribe. Transportation would be along public highways and require no outside coordination.

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

Signed: /s/ Thomas DeLorenzo March 30, 2023

Thomas DeLorenzo, ECF-4
Environmental Protection Specialist

Date