

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: July 21, 2011

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Patricia Smith
Project Manager – KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Small-scale spring Chinook and coho reintroduction

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 1995-063-25

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.20 Small-scale activities undertaken to protect, restore, or improve fish and wildlife habitat, fish passage facilities (such as fish ladders or minor diversion channels), or fisheries.

Location: Cle Elum, Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA proposes to allow the use of excess Cle Elum Hatchery supplementation line (S-line) spring Chinook adults and coho adults in a reintroduction program in habitat above Cle Elum Dam. BPA currently funds the propagation of these spring Chinook and coho salmon. BPA's Yakima Fisheries Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (DOE/EIS - 0169, January 1996) anticipated that excess returning hatchery adults would be culled and landfilled or used as fertilizer. Instead, the returning adult hatchery-origin spring Chinook and coho salmon would be collected from the Roza Adult Trap facility.

The Yakama Nation (YN), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are implementing the reintroduction project to accelerate adult and juvenile salmon repopulation above Cle Elum Dam. The BOR has completed an EIS, the Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage Facilities and Fish Reintroduction Project (USDOI/BOR 2011), that documents the potential environmental effects of proposed fish passage facilities as well as a fish reintroduction program for multiple species (sockeye salmon, coho salmon, spring Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and Pacific lamprey). The fish would be collected by the YN and transported to Lake Cle Elum using BOR's equipment and funding.

As stated in the BOR EIS, the goal of the reintroduction project is to increase the life history diversity, geographic distribution, and abundance of spring Chinook and coho salmon to self-sustaining levels capable of supporting harvest. The goal would be achieved when at least 3,500 spring Chinook salmon and 1,600 coho salmon return annually to Cle Elum Reservoir. These goals would be met by initially releasing up to 2,500 pairs of excess S-line adult spring Chinook salmon and 100 to 200 pairs of adult coho salmon captured at Roza Diversion Dam. When returns are abundant, up to 1,000 pairs of coho salmon may be placed into the reservoir. The fish would be trapped at Roza Dam until completion of the adult collection facility at Cle Elum Dam. Any fish that enter the Cle Elum Dam fish trap would also be transported above Cle Elum Reservoir.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D 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, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or 10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, or (iv) adversely affect environmentally sensitive resources.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

Environmental Protection Specialist – KEC-4

Concur:

/s/ Katherine S. Pierce

Katherine S. Pierce

NEPA Compliance Officer – KEC-4

Date: July 21, 2011

Attachment:

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Documentation On File:

United States Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration (USDOE/BPA). 1996. Yakima Fisheries Project Final Environmental Impact Statement. DOE/EIS-0169. Portland, OR
United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (USDOI/BOR). 2011. Cle Elum Dam Fish Passage Facilities and Fish Reintroduction Project. 76 FR 20707. Yakima, WA.

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Small-scale spring Chinook and coho reintroduction

Work Order #: 37557

This project has been found to not adversely affect the following environmentally sensitive resources, laws, and regulations:

Environmental Resources	No Adverse Effect	No Adverse Effect With Conditions
1. Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There would be no ground disturbing activities associated with this action		
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There would be no adverse affect to T&E species. Consulation occurred concurrent with the EIS process.		
3. Floodplains or wetlands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime agricultural lands	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Consistency with state and local laws and regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Pollution control at Federal facilities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

List supporting documentation attached (if needed):

Signed: /s/ Hannah Dondy-Kaplan

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