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**United States Government** **Department of Energy**

**Bonneville Power Administration**

# memorandum

**DATE:** June 12, 2012

**REPLY TO ATTN OF:** KEC-4

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Clearance Memorandum

**TO:** Jay Marcotte
Project Manager KEWU-4

**Proposed Action:** Poorman Ponds Property Funding

**Fish and Wildlife Project No.:** 2009-003-00

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.25** Transfer, lease, disposition, or acquisition of interests in land and associated buildings for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, or fish and wildlife management provided that there would be no potential for release of substances at a level, or in a form, that could pose a threat to public health or the environment.

**Location:** Twisp, Okanogan County, WA

**Proposed by:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BPA proposes to fund the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation (MSRF) to acquire approximately 22.1 acres of land and 1,455 feet of the Twisp River, a tributary of the Methow River. The land would be acquired in fee simple title with a permanent conservation easement to be granted to BPA. The acquisition would facilitate restoration and enhancement of riparian and in-stream habitat by the Yakama Nation. MSRF will work with BPA and the Yakama Nation to develop a management plan that will be completed as part of the conservation easement process and will allow for restoration activities consistent with the riparian habitat goals of the conservation easement. BPA and MSRF agree the property can be sold in the future as long as the fish habitat is protected as described in BPA's conservation easement.

MSRF and the Yakama Nation will complete a management plan that identifies restoration activities and future productive uses allowed to occur on the property. MSRF will provide an opportunity for public review and comment on the plan once it has been drafted. BPA will review and must approve the plan before it is implemented.

**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, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). 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, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, 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, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) 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.

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/ Ted Gresh*
Ted Gresh
Environmental Project Manager

Concur:

*/s/ Katherine S. Pierce* Date: *June 12, 2012*
Katherine S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment:
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusion

# Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

**Name of Proposed Project:** Poorman Ponds Property Acquisition

**Work Order #:** BPA-006207

**This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.**

| Environmental Resources | No Potential for Significance | No Potential, with Conditions (describe) |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources | x | |
| 2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) | x | |
| 3. Floodplains or wetlands | x | |
| 4. Areas of special designation | x | |
| 5. Health & safety | x | |
| 6. Prime or unique farmlands | x | |
| 7. Special sources of water | x | |
| 8. Other (describe) | x | |

Signed: */s/ Ted Gresh* Date: *June 12, 2012*