Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy

Proposed Action: YTAHP Parke Creek 1.0 and 1.4 Fish Passage and Screening Project

Project No.: 2007-398-00

Project Manager: Michelle O'Malley - EWU-4

Location: Kittitas County, Washington

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: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to fund the Kittitas County Conservation District (KCCD), a member of the Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program (YTAHP) work group, to implement the Parke Creek 1.0 and 1.4 Fish Passage and Screening Project on private land near Ellensburg, Washington. Parke Creek is utilized by Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed steelhead, Chinook and coho salmon, and a suite of native resident fishes. ESA-listed bull trout are present in the Yakima River and may utilize the lower reaches of Parke Creek for overwintering habitat.

The project proposes to consolidate two gravity-irrigation diversions located at River Miles (RM) 1.0 and 1.4 on Parke Creek to a single pump diversion located at RM 0.8 on the stream bank. The project would also install a National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife compliant fish-screen on the intake hose, which would be situated on pontoons that sit on the surface of the water, install about 0. 5 mile (about 2,740 feet) of 4- to 10-inch-diameter pipelines to convey the irrigation water from the new pump diversion to the surrounding agricultural fields, remove the two existing channel-spanning concrete irrigation dams to restore fish passage into 2.8 miles of Parke Creek, and restore the channel at these two locations to a more natural condition. A stream bypass would be installed at each diversion site and work would occur in isolation from flowing water to minimize impacts to aquatic life and water quality. Diversion around the construction site may be accomplished with a cofferdam and a by-pass culvert or pipe, a screened pump system, or a lined non-erodible diversion ditch. For phases of construction that require pumping, an adequately sized pump screen would be attached to ensure fish protection. All access and staging would occur via existing roads and previously-disturbed areas. All areas disturbed during construction would be planted with native vegetation. KCCD would implement the work during the fall and winter of 2021-2022.

These actions would support conservation of ESA-listed species considered in the 2020 ESA consultations with NMFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the operations and maintenance of the Columbia River System, while also supporting 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/ Brenda Aguirre
Brenda Aguirre
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey C. Grange *November 22, 2021*
Katey C. Grange Date
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: YTAHP Parke Creek 1.0 and 1.4 Fish Passage and Screening Project

Project Site Description

The project sites are located on Parke Creek between RM 0.8 and 1.4 approximately 6 miles southeast of Ellensburg, Washington. Parke Creek is a tributary to the Wilson/Cherry Creek system, which is a tributary to the Yakima River at RM 147. This area is located within the Wilson Creek – Cherry Creek Subwatershed of the Upper Yakima River Subbasin. The legal description is T17N, R19E, Sec 22. The project site is irrigated commercial agricultural crop production (timothy hay) and the surrounding area is irrigated agricultural crop production and grazing.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: BPA consulted on determinations of eligibility and project effect under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act on August 3, 2021. Consulting parties included the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (Yakama Nation) and Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP). BPA received a response from the Yakama Nation on August 4, 2021, requesting revisions to the report and cultural resources monitoring during construction. BPA consulted on a revised report and proposal for monitoring on August 9, 2021. The Yakama Nation concurred with the monitoring proposal August 12, 2021. DAHP concurred with BPA's determinations of eligibility and project effect on August 17, 2021.

Note:

- A cultural resources monitor shall be present during installation of the pipelines and BPA would develop an unanticipated discovery plan.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary impacts to soil from increased erosion potential during dam removal, installation of pump station and pipelines, and regrading of the channel activities. Sediment control best management practices would be installed prior to project implementation to minimize potential for in-stream turbidity or excessive runoff during construction. Post construction planting with native vegetation would minimize long-term erosion potential.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No special-status, including ESA-listed, plant species are known to be present. Temporary impacts to existing vegetation from equipment crushing some plants while

accessing work areas. Post construction planting would re-establish areas of disturbed vegetation.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: No special-status, including ESA-listed wildlife species or habitats are known to be present. Temporary impacts to area wildlife would occur from increased noise and vehicle traffic during construction. Wildlife would likely avoid the area during this time and return once the project work is completed.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Temporary sedimentation would be generated with instream work. KCCD obtained Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 authorization under NWP 27 from the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (NWP-2021-722) to excavate and place material in Parke Creek, and would implement all terms and conditions of NWP 27. USACE also authorized that the work complies with the Washington State Department of Ecology's Water Quality Certification (CWA Section 401) requirement for NWP 27. There would be no net rise in floodplain elevations from implementation of the project activities. The project would have an effect on fish and their habitats during in-water work. ESA-listed Middle Columbia River steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and their designated critical habitat are present in the project area. ESA-listed bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) are present in the Yakima River and may utilize the lower reaches of Parke Creek for overwintering habitat. Project activities are covered under BPA's Habitat Improvement Program (HIP) Biological Opinion (BiOp), Project Notification Number 2021122. KCCD would follow HIP general and project-specific conservation measures to avoid and minimize impacts to fish throughout project implementation.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: None present in the project area.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project activities do not propose new wells or use of groundwater; spill prevention measures would be present on site during use of construction equipment.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project activities do not propose changes to land use; designated farmlands would not be taken out of production.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor change to visual quality from dam removal, regrading of channel, installation of pump station and pipelines, and plantings. The new conditions would be visually consistent with the topography of the existing channel and surrounding area and adjacent vegetation. Construction equipment would be visually consistent with area agricultural equipment. The project is not within a visually sensitive area.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project would generate small amounts of dust and vehicle emissions due to construction.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There would be short-term construction noise during daylight hours. Construction noise would not be noticeably different than the agricultural production noise.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The project sponsor is required to use best management practices to protect worker health and safety. Any activities involving hazardous materials would be disposed of at a designated hazardous waste facility.

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: Implementation of project activities would not cause impacts to surrounding landowners. The project sponsor, KCCD, has coordinated with the underlying landowner and irrigation water users and has permission to conduct project activities.

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

Signed: */s/ Brenda Aguirre* *November 22, 2021*
Brenda Aguirre, ECF-4 Date
Environmental Protection Specialist