

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration
Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Partial Funding of Weyerhaeuser Bridge Installation

Project Manager: Chad Caldwell—TPCV-OLYMPIA

Location: Grays Harbor County, Washington

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.3 Routine Maintenance

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to partially fund a Weyerhaeuser project, in which Weyerhaeuser would remove three existing culverts along BPA's Raymond-Cosmopolis-1 transmission right-of-way easement on Weyerhaeuser property. The access road would be realigned to the east of the existing road. A new 50-foot by 16-foot pre-fabricated, concrete-deck bridge would be assembled and installed onsite. After the culverts would be removed, six habitat logs (large woody debris) would be installed along the new embankments, after the stream channel was excavated and re-established.

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, July 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/ Beth Belanger

Beth Belanger
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Reviewed by:

/s/ Dave Kennedy FOR

Nancy Wittpenn
Acting Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy L. Mason

Stacy L. Mason

NEPA Compliance Office

Date: August 3, 2018

Attachment: 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 project location is along BPA's Raymond-Cosmopolis No. 1 transmission line right-of-way, in Grays Harbor County, Washington (Section 5, Township 16 North, Range 8 West). The subject parcel is owned by Weyerhaeuser and is used for timber production.

The vegetation in the project area consists of Western hemlock (*Tsuga heterophylla*), Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), salmonberry (*Rubus spectabilis*), elderberry (*Sambucus racemosa*), Indian plum (*Oemlaria cerasiformis*), cow parsnip (*Heracleum maximum*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), swordfern (*Polypodium munitum*), bleeding heart (*Dicentra formosa*), Scotch broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), and others.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. Historic and Cultural Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Weyerhaeuser completed an archaeological survey of the project area and recommended that the project would have no effect on historic properties. The Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) accepted this recommendation when issuing a determination of effect. BPA Cultural staff reviewed the archaeological report and determined that BPA's action would have no effect on historic or cultural resources. On June 25, 2018, a determination letter was sent to DAHP, Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Hoh Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation. DAHP concurred with the determination on June 25, 2018. The remaining consulting parties did not respond.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> Weyerhaeuser would be responsible for implementing best management practices to prevent erosion and sedimentation. Weyerhaeuser has submitted a Forest Practices application to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for this project and has received an approval, with conditions from DNR. The conditions require that an erosion control and re-vegetation plan be developed for the proposed project. Additionally, any work below the ordinary high-water mark (OHM) would occur only between July 15 th and September 30 th , to prevent sedimentation of streams.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There are no special-status plants in the project area. After project implementation, Weyerhaeuser would restore the vegetation at the site.		

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



Explanation: Per relevant Washington Administration Codes, DNR requires that Weyerhaeuser avoid working during the marbled murrelet critical nesting period (April-August 31). The project is proposed to occur in September 2018. There are no other special-status wildlife concerns.

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



Explanation: DNR requires that Weyerhaeuser develop a fish capture plan during dewatering of the stream. Overall, the project would improve fish passage and restore the natural stream channel. The project is not in a designated floodplain.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There are no wetlands at the site that would be impacted by the project.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The project would not impact groundwater or aquifers.

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



Explanation: There would be no changes to the land use at this location and there are no specially designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: The site is on private property and would not impact the visual quality of the location.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: A small amount of dust and vehicle emissions would occur during construction; however, there would be no significant changes to air quality during or after construction.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: The nearest residence is approximately 700 feet from the project location. Construction noise would be temporary and would occur during daylight hours. Operation noise would not change.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: There would be no impact to 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, if necessary:

- ☒ Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- ☒ 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, if necessary:

- ☒ 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, if necessary:

Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination

Description: Weyerhaeuser owns the land that the project would occur on.

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

Signed: /s/ Beth Belanger
Beth Belanger—ECT-4
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist
Motus Staffing & Recruiting

Date: August 3, 2018