

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: King City Trail and Parking Lot Project

Project No.: LURR 20240285

Project Manager: Darin Smith, TERR-CHEMWA

Location: Washington County, Oregon

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B4.9 Multiple use of powerline rights-of-way

Description of the Proposed Action: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to allow the City of King City to construct a concrete trail and an overflow parking area on BPA's fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) between the Tualatin River and structure 18/1 on the Keeler-Oregon City No. 2 and structure 19/1 on the Oregon City Stub transmission line ROW. The project is located in King City, Washington County, Oregon.

The concrete trail would be about 12 feet wide and approximately 500 feet long covering approximately 6,000 square feet (0.14 acre).

A paved overflow parking lot would be constructed south of structure 19/1 on the Oregon City Stub transmission line. Permanent impacts would be approximately 10,350 square feet (0.24 acre). All stormwater treatment for the parking lot would be conveyed and treated off of BPA fee-owned property.

BPA authorizes the use of and manages its fee-owned lands pursuant to its authority under sections 2(e) and 2(f) of the Bonneville Project Act. 16 U.S.C. § 832a(e)-(f).

Findings: In accordance with Section 1021.102 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; 89 FR 34074, April 30, 2024; 90 FR 29676, July 3, 2025 [Interim Final Rule]) and *DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Implementing Procedures* (dated June 30, 2025), BPA has determined the following:

- 1) The proposed action fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021;
- 2) The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion; and
- 3) There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposed action that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal (see attached Environmental Evaluation).

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.¹

Jeremy Doschka
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

Katey C. Grange
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment(s): Environmental Evaluation

¹ BPA is aware that the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), on February 25, 2025, issued an interim final rule to remove its NEPA implementing regulations at 40 C.F.R. Parts 1500–1508. Based on CEQ guidance, and to promote completion of its NEPA review in a timely manner and without delay, in this CX BPA is voluntarily relying on the CEQ regulations, in addition to the interim final rule to revise DOE NEPA regulations implementing NEPA at 10 C.F.R. Part 1021 and NEPA Implementing Procedures (dated June 30, 2025), to meet its obligations under NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 *et seq.*

Categorical Exclusion Environmental Evaluation

This evaluation 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 area is located on BPA fee-owned property in Township 2 South, Range 1 West, Section 16. The project area is flat and consists of maintained grasses and weeds. Residential development is located on either side of the ROW. There are no wetlands located in the project site; however, there is a wetland located east of the BPA ROW. The Tualatin River is located immediately adjacent to the BPA ROW south of the project site.

Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

1. Historic and Cultural Resources

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: BPA sent out an initiation and determination letter on October 15, 2025 (BPA CR Project No.: OR 2024 207; SHPO Case No.: 25-2241) to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with a determination of no historic properties affected. No responses were received.

Notes:

- In the unlikely event that cultural material is inadvertently encountered during the implementation of this project, BPA would require that work be halted in the vicinity of the finds until they can be inspected and assessed by BPA and in consultation with the appropriate consulting parties.

2. Geology and Soils

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Grading and excavation activities would permanently impact approximately 0.4 acre from trail and parking lot construction. Temporarily disturbed areas would be reseeded and would stabilize as vegetation is reestablished following completion of construction.

The applicant would implement all applicable regulations and guidance and install and maintain erosion control BMP's including spoils pile management and final deposition of excess material. The applicant would be responsible for management and disposal of any excess material (soil) generated from the project. Excess soil may not be placed elsewhere on BPA property without BPA approval. If hazardous materials are identified in excavated soils, they would be disposed of off-site according to all local, state, and Federal regulations. The proposed action would not impact the current geology.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: There are no documented occurrences of any special-status plant species present within or near the project area, and no suitable special-status species habitat is present. Impacts to existing vegetation would include the removal, covering, or crushing of mostly non-native grasses and forbs in the project area. Temporary disturbed areas would be

stabilized and reseeded with regionally-appropriate native seed mixes, and standard construction best management practices would minimize vegetation impacts, including the spread of noxious weeds.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Minor and temporary disturbance of normal wildlife behavior and wildlife displacement could occur from elevated noise and human presence during construction. Approximately 0.4 acre of low-quality wildlife habitat would be converted to a parking lot and concrete trail. There are no documented occurrences of any special-status wildlife species near the project site, and no suitable special-status species habitat is present.

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

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed project includes work adjacent to the Tualatin River as well as in the floodplain. King City would be responsible for ensuring standard construction best management practices, such as appropriate erosion and stormwater control, would prevent indirect impacts to the Tualatin River, floodplains, and fish. Approximately 350 feet of the south end of the ROW is located within a regulatory floodway.

6. Wetlands

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Based on a 2024 wetland delineation within the BPA ROW (Oregon Department of State Lands WD#2024-0294), no wetlands were delineated in the project site. However, one wetland was delineated approximately 75 feet east of the project site. Standard construction best management practices, such as erosion control measures, would prevent indirect impacts to off-site wetlands. Therefore, the proposed action would not impact wetlands.

7. Groundwater and Aquifers

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: Excavation could reach depths to groundwater given the presence of wetlands east of the project site. However, the proposed action would not generate or use hazardous materials that would contaminate groundwater or aquifers. No new wells or other uses of groundwater or aquifers are proposed.

8. Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: The proposed action would convert an undeveloped ROW area to include a concrete trail and parking area. There would be no impact to adjacent land uses and the project area is not located in a specially-designated area. The land would remain BPA fee-owned land.

9. Visual Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During implementation, the presence of equipment and general construction activities would cause temporary visual impacts. The parking lot and trail would permanently change the appearance of the ROW; however, it would be consistent with the surrounding residential neighborhood and nearby community park.

10. Air Quality

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, there would be a temporary increase in dust and vehicle emissions in the local area. Vehicles using the parking lot could lead to a slight increase in vehicle emissions in the immediate area from the parking lot.

11. Noise

Potential for Significance: No

Explanation: During construction, use of vehicles and equipment and general construction activities would create noise above current ambient conditions. Construction-related noise would be audible to private residences near the project site. Construction noise impacts would be temporary and intermittent and would only occur during daylight hours (approximately 7 AM to 7 PM). There would be a slight long-term change in ambient noise following completion of the proposed action from vehicles using the parking lot and increased recreation in the immediate area.

12. Human Health and Safety

Potential for Significance: No with Conditions

Explanation: Standard construction best management practices would minimize risk to human health and safety. Therefore, the proposed action would not be expected to impact human health and safety.

Notes:

- The Applicant shall notify BPA in a timely manner for any reportable releases of hazardous substances or breaches of environmental requirements and shall mitigate and abate adverse environmental impacts.
- The applicant shall not use or store any hazardous materials on BPA property (i.e., fuels, herbicides, solvents, paints, etc.).

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 proposed work would occur on BPA fee-owned property. No landowner notification, involvement, or coordination would be required.

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

Signed:

Jeremy Doschka
Environmental Protection Specialist