

Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



Proposed Action: Centipede Creek Property Acquisition Funding

Project No.: 2002-003-00

Project Manager: Cecilia Brown

Location: Lake County, Montana

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.25 Real property transfers for cultural resources protection, habitat preservation, and wildlife management

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund the purchase of the Centipede Creek Property, a 6-acre parcel of land located 2.35 miles east of Polson in Lake County, Montana. The property would be owned and managed by the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes and BPA would hold a conservation easement to prevent the conversion of fish and wildlife habitat on the property to other land uses.

Funding for the purchase of the property would partially fulfill BPA's commitments to mitigate for impacts to fish and wildlife from the Federal Columbia River Power System in the Columbia River Basin.

The property consists of palustrine scrub-shrub wetland, riparian forest, and forested upland along Centipede Creek. The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes would develop a management plan to guide the protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat on the property. BPA would review the plan for consistency with the conservation easement and the purpose of the acquisition. If BPA proposes to fund any further activities, additional environmental review may be conducted.

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/ Jennifer Snyder

Jennifer Snyder

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Kevin Cannell

Kevin Cannell

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: April 20, 2016

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.

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Project Site Description

The project site includes approximately 6 acres of palustrine scrub-shrub wetland, riparian forest, and forested upland along a 0.13-mile reach of Centipede Creek. The site is an undeveloped tract of land that has been managed as open space by the current owner. A steep, glacial outwash terrace located in the southwest portion of the property was once used as a source for gravel and cobble, but seems to have not been used for this purpose in decades. A road accessed this gravel source from the west and continued towards the northeast corner of the mitigation property. Again, this road has not been used for vehicular traffic for many years, given that small to medium-sized trees and shrubs have colonized the margins of the former road bed. The only present day evidence of the former road is several revegetated road cuts along its length and a foot-path that now exists along the old road bed. A spur of this road once existed that headed to the south of the parcel. This road crossed Centipede Creek, where a failing 20-foot culvert still exists in the channel. As with the main road that once traversed the property, this secondary road seems to have not been used for decades.

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> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.		
2. Geology and Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.		
3. Plants (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.		
4. Wildlife (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.		

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



Explanation: There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.

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



Explanation: There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: There would be no effect due to the land acquisition which includes the transfer of title and the creation of a conservation easement.

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: Notification letters will be sent to adjacent landowners and other interested parties at a minimum of 15 days before the closing date of the sale. Advertisements will also be posted in local newspapers, and information will be posted on BPA's public website prior to closing.

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

Signed: /s/ Jennifer Snyder
Jennifer Snyder ECF-4

Date: April 20, 2016