

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration

Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Agricultural Lease Renewal at Parkdale Substation

**LURR No.:** 20160141

**Project Manager:** Laura Loop – TERR-3

**Location:** Hood River County, OR

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B4.9 Multiple use of powerline right-of-way

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to renew an existing agricultural lease for purposes of grazing at Parkdale Substation in Hood River, Oregon. The lease would allow the applicant to continue to use approximately 11 acres of BPA's fee-owned right-of-way (ROW) that surrounds the fenced yard of Parkdale Substation. The applicant allows approximately 20 cattle to graze intermittently at the site.

**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/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping

Contract Environmental Protection Specialist

Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ Gene Lynard

Gene Lynard

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Sarah T. Biegel

Sarah T. Biegel

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: June 21, 2016

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.

**Proposed Action:** Agricultural Lease Renewal at Parkdale Substation - LURR 20160141

---

### Project Site Description

The site is located at BPA’s Parkdale Substation on fee-owned ROW in Hood River County, Oregon. The applicant proposes to graze cattle on approximately 11 acres of fenced land that is vegetated with grasses, shrubs, and sparse trees. Parkdale Substation is located in a rural area near Mount Hood National Forest with scattered residences, farms, and orchards.

### Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

Environmental Resource Impacts	No Potential for Significance	No Potential for Significance, with Conditions
1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The lease renewal would have no potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources. No consultation required.		
2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The lease renewal would allow the applicant to continue to graze cattle, which would cause minimal disturbance to surface soils.		
3. <b>Plants</b> (including federal/state special-status species)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The lease renewal would allow the applicant to continue to graze cattle, which would cause minimal disturbance to plants. No federal or state special-status species requiring protection are known to occur at the site. The applicant is responsible for eradication and control of noxious weeds as a condition of the lease.		
4. <b>Wildlife</b> (including federal/state special-status species and habitats)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> The lease renewal would allow the applicant to continue to graze cattle, which would cause minimal disturbance to wildlife. Approximately 11 acres of fenced land would continue to be used by the cattle on a rotational basis. No federal or state special-status species requiring protection are known to occur at the site.		
5. <b>Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish</b> (including federal/state special-status species and ESUs)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> No waterbodies are present within the project area. There is a canal running through BPA fee-owned property; however, existing fencing prevents the cattle from approaching the canal.		
6. <b>Wetlands</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Explanation:</u> A few small patches of low quality wetland are located at the site. The continued, intermittent		

presence of cattle would have minimal disturbance to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: No new wells or use of groundwater is proposed.

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



Explanation: No change to land use is proposed.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No change to appearance is proposed.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No change to the project site is proposed.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: No impact.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: No impact.

### **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: No notification. The site subject to lease renewal is BPA fee-owned property.

---

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

Signed: /s/ Elizabeth Siping

Elizabeth Siping  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: June 21, 2016