

bc : YAK-5000
 YAK-5007
 YAK-5610
 CCA-1603

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Roza, Naches-Cowiche, Town and Sunnyside Fishway Sediment Removal

DATE: December 30, 2019

EXCLUSION CATEGORY: 516 DM 6, Appendix 9.4.C.3 - Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement or are enclosed within existing facilities.

NATURE OF ACTION:

Reclamation crews will remove up to:

- 1,500 cubic yards of sediment at Roza Dam’s fishway
- 100 cubic yards at the Naches-Cowiche fishway
- 100 cubic yards at Town Dam’s fishway
- 250 cubic yards at Sunnyside Dam’s fishway.

This work is intended to ensure unimpeded passage at Reclamation facility fishways.

EVALUATION OF EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (516 DM 2 Appendix 2: 43 CFR 46.215)

Extraordinary Circumstances Exist For This Action Which May:		No	Uncertain	Yes
1.	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.	X		
2.	Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	X		
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	X		
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	X		
5.	Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	X		
6.	Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	X		
7.	Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.	X		
8.	Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.	X		
9.	Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	X		
10.	Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	X		
11.	Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	X		
12.	Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).	X		

Yes Uncertain No

This action will affect Indian Trust Assets (ITAs).

— — X

This action will adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat.

— — X

NEPA ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- Categorical Exclusion
- Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Impact Statement

Location and Site Description: The project sites are as follows:

- Roza Diversion Dam on the Yakima River is about 12 miles north of the city of Yakima in Kittitas County, Washington. The legal description for the project site is Section 32, T15N, R19E, W.M. and the 6th Field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) identification is #170300010407-Roza Creek
- Naches-Cowiche fishway (Nelson Diversion Dam) is located on the Naches River approximately 2 miles northwest of the city of Yakima, Washington. The legal description for the project site is Section 9, T13N, R18E, W.M. and the 6th Field HUC identification is #170300020307, Lower Naches River
- The Town Diversion Dam is on the Yakima River, approximately 7 miles northwest of Ellensburg, in Kittitas County, Washington. The diversion dam is located in the center of Section 12, T18N, R17E, W.M. and the 6th Field HUC identification is #170300010507, Robinson Creek-Yakima River
- Sunnyside Diversion Dam is on the Yakima River about 8 miles south of Yakima, Washington (Figure 1). The legal description for the project site is Section 21, R21N, 19E, W.M. and the 6th Field HUC is 170300030501, Wapato Dam-Yakima River.

Scope of Work:

Roza Diversion Dam Fishway

Reclamation is proposing to dredge up to 1,500 cubic yards of sediment from the Roza Pool, during a January 1 - 31 work window in order to provide better migration conditions for adult salmonids. This project will occur while Roza Pool is at its lowest elevation of the year (1207 feet). An excavator or backhoe will walk on the accumulated sediment and remove most of the material in the dry. All dredged/excavated materials that are removed from the Roza Pool will be loaded into dump trucks using an existing access road and disposed of in an existing spoil disposal site that is located on Reclamation property approximately ¼ mile upslope from the Roza Pool.

Naches-Cowiche Fishway (Nelson Diversion Dam)

To keep the fish passage facilities operational and within established flow criteria, Reclamation maintenance crews need to move or remove about 100 cy³ of gravel deposits that have accumulated near these structures after depositional flow events occur. To perform this operation, heavy equipment needs to enter the Naches River through existing access routes both upstream and downstream of the nearby dam. These access points are established rock rip-rapped portions of streambank that Reclamation has used in the past to walk tracked excavators into the stream channel. Once in the Naches River, the excavator works from within the river channel or from a dry gravel bar to cut a channel through the accumulated depositional material that is deep and wide enough to provide sufficient water flow to successfully pass adult fish from the fish ladder exit to the main channel of the Naches River during the lowest expected streamflow levels in the river. The gravel will not be removed from the river channel but will be spread downstream of the fish ladder and bypass outfall pipe locations. This activity will be completed from July 15th to August 31 when streamflows are sufficiently low to allow machinery access into the river channel. Work is expected to take 2 days within this work window and will need to be completed every 3 years.

Town Diversion Dam Fishway

Reclamation will remove 150 cy³ of material in order to restore fish passage during a work window of September 1 - 30. This is expected to take 3 days to complete within this work window and will need to be completed every 3 years. The work will be performed with an excavator and/or backhoe with most of the work being performed from the bank or on the gravel bar at the edge of the bank. The rock and cobble that is removed from upstream of the ladder will be dispersed in the river, downstream of the fish ladder.

Sunnyside Diversion Dam Fishway

Gravel and sediment frequently deposit on the downstream side of an existing island, causing this material to encroach on the left bank side of the river (Photo 4). This deposition has inhibited function of the fish ladder. To correct this problem, 250 cy³ of gravel and sediment must be removed from the left bank fish ladder to help ensure

that flows are sufficient for maintaining flow and attraction water criteria (Figure 3). This operation occurs during a low-flow period in the summer (July 15 – August 31) when a flow restriction is apparent. The work is accomplished during a time when a backhoe or excavator can be walked to the island and can be operated safely in the river channel during low flow conditions. Any woody debris that must be removed will be placed in the river, downstream of the dam. Sediment removed will be placed downstream in an area of slack water to allow for any potential lamprey to survive. Work is expected to take no more than 3 days within this work window and will need to be completed every 3 years.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TRUST ASSET COMMITMENTS, EXPLANATION AND/OR COMMENTS:

Bull trout and steelhead are listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and occur within the project action area. Due to the specific work timing and environmental conditions for the work proposed, Reclamation has determined that the proposed activity will be likely to adversely affect steelhead and their critical habitat and may affect, but is not likely to affect, Bull Trout and their critical habitat. Reclamation has also determined that the project may adversely affect steelhead EFH. These effects are expected to be localized and temporary but will overall improve conditions for aquatic species by allowing passage during various flow conditions. Consultation with NMFS and USFWS has been completed.

Cultural Resources: This federal action meets the definition of an undertaking as defined in 36CFR800 but will not affect historic properties per the *No Potential to Cause Effects List* (issued by the Office of Program and Policy Services, Sept. 2007) criteria no. 15: "Clearing of sediments or debris from stilling basins, forebays, ...and other constructed features where the clearing occurs in previously disturbed areas, and the sediment or debris is placed in previously disturbed areas." Likewise, sediment clearing from the riverbed should also not affect cultural resources, due to the dynamic, high-energy environment of the river itself. However, should cultural resources be discovered during project implementation, all ground-disturbing activities in the immediate area of the find will cease and the Area Office Environmental Program Manager will be contacted at (509) 573-8020. Construction will not resume until all mitigative measures developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer and any other consulting parties have been completed.

In evaluating environmental justice, there would be no adverse or significant impacts to minority or low-income populations or communities.

This Federal action will not adversely impact access to or ceremonial use of any identified Indian sacred sites and will not adversely affect the physical integrity of any such sacred sites.

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Approved: **CAROLYN CHAD** Digitally signed by CAROLYN CHAD
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Area Office Manager

Categorical Exclusion No. **PN-CCA-CE-2020-028** Date: **1/06/2020**