CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST FOR NEPA COMPLIANCE

Proposed Action:

The Willapa National Wildlife Refuge proposes to remove and dispose of dilapidated and unnecessary infrastructure at the Wheaton Unit, including:

- debris from a former road bridge that collapsed into Mill Creek and was transported onto a neighboring property by stormwater,
- remaining bridge components (e.g., wood abutments, pilings, and an asphalt approach slab),
- a metal clad building and concrete foundation (~936 sq. ft.),
- and a concrete mobile home pad (~2,340 sq. ft.)

This proposed action is covered by the following categorical exclusion: <u>516 DM 8.5 B (2)</u> (see Attachment 1).

The bridge spanning Mill Creek was acquired with the property but was unusable due to its poor structural integrity. In Fall 2021, the bridge collapsed and was subsequently transported by a storm surge onto a neighboring property. Remaining bridge components are unusable and create a public safety concern. We propose to remove the bridge debris and the remaining components, thereby restoring the riverbanks to a more natural condition. Additional facilities at this location include a metal clad shop building and a mobile home pad, which have not been maintained or used for several years. We propose to remove these facilities as well.

Categorical Exclusion 516 DM 8.5 B (2) is appropriate for this proposed action in that the removal of these existing facilities: 1) will not change refuge management or operations at the site, 2) will not change the use of facilities that are currently unusable, and 3) will have no or negligible environmental effects on-site or in the vicinity of the site.

<u>Extraordinary Circumstances (43 CFR 46.215)</u> :
Could This Proposed Action (*check (✓) yes or no for each item below)*:

Yes	No		
☐	☒	a.	Have significant adverse effects on public health or safety?
☐	☒	b.	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 (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?
☐	☒	c.	Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?

☐ ☒ d. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?

☐ ☒ e. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?

☐ ☒ f. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?

☐ ☒ g. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau?

☐ ☒ h. Have adverse effects 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?

☐ ☒ i. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?

☐ ☒ j. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898).

☐ ☒ k. 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 (EO 13007).

☐ ☒ l. 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 EO 13112).

☐ ☒ m. Have material adverse effects on resources requiring compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act?

(If any of the above exceptions receive a "Yes" check (✓) , an EA/EIS must be prepared.)

Within the spirit and intent of the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other statutes, orders, and policies that protect fish and wildlife resources, I have established the following administrative record and have determined:

☒ **The proposed action is covered by a categorical exclusion as provided by 43 CFR §46.210 or 516 DM 8.5. No further NEPA documentation will therefore be made.**

☐ **An Extraordinary Circumstance (43 CFR 46.215) could exist for the proposed action and, so an EA/EIS must be prepared.**

Service signature approval:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Title: _____

Signature: JACQUELINE FERRIER Digitally signed by JACQUELINE FERRIER Date: 2022.04.28 09:21:33 -07'00' Date: _____

Title: _____