

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Road 12 Partial Closure

DATE: 12/12/18

EXCLUSION CATEGORY: 516 DM 14.5 C. (4) Approval of land management plans where implementation will only result in minor construction activities and resultant increased operation and maintenance activities.

NATURE OF ACTION: Reclamation and WDFW propose to gate and permanently close the final half mile of Road 12 NE to the west of Stratford Road NE in early 2019, in response to ongoing public safety concerns. This action is in cooperation with WDFW, who are responsible for gate installation.

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 land by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	X		

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Road 12 Partial Closure

DATE: 12/12/18

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		
----	---	---	--	--

Additional compliance reviews	No	Uncertain	Yes
This action will affect Indian trust assets (ITAs) To be completed by ITA designee	X		
This action will adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat. Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation And Management Act	X		

NEPA ACTION RECOMMENDED:

- Categorical Exclusion
- Environmental Assessment
- Environmental Impact Statement

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

Location

T20N R28E Section 4, Grant County, WA. The project is located on Road 12 NE to the west of Stratford Road NE.

T&E Species Review

Reclamation concludes that a Biological Evaluation, under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), is not required for this proposed action. Reclamation determines that this action will have no effect on Threatened or Endangered species.

Environmental Justice

There would be no adverse or significant impacts to minority or low-income populations or communities.

EO 13007

This 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.

National Historic Preservation Act

This action is exempt from case-by-case review because it only involves ground disturbance within previously disturbed areas and had no potential to cause effects to historic properties. The WDFW must ensure that all project impacts remain within existing disturbed areas. Should cultural resources be discovered during project implementation, all ground disturbing activities in the area of the archeological resource will stop and the Ephrata Field Office Archeologist will be contacted at (509)-754-0213. Construction will not resume until all mitigative measures developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer have been completed.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

PROJECT: Road 12 Partial Closure

DATE: 12/12/18

Preparer's Signature: Julie McPherson Date: 2/5/19

Concurrence with Item No. 7: Kara M. Bryan Date: 2-5-19
Ephrata Field Office Archeologist

Concurrence: **ACTING FOR** [Signature] Date: 2-5-19
Manager, Ephrata Field Office, Ephrata WA

Concurrence: _____ Date: _____
ITA designee

Approval: _____ Date: _____
Manager, Environmental Programs, Yakima WA

Categorical Exclusion No. _____ Date: _____

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
EPHRATA FIELD OFFICE

BOR Cultural Report No.:
EPH-2019-010

TO: Marc Maynard, Ephrata Field Office Manager
FROM: Karina Bryan, Ephrata Field Office Archaeologist
DATE: December 18, 2018
SUBJECT: Results of a Cultural Resource Inventory for the **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**.

In December of 2018, **BOR** conducted a Class I inventory of the proposed **Road 12 NE Closure Project, Grant County, Washington** (Report No. **EPH-2019-010**).

Justification for level of inventory conducted: This action is exempt from case-by-case review under the Bureau of Reclamation's *Historic Preservation: No Potential to Cause Effects List*, which was finalized in September of 2007. The project area has not been previously inventoried, but the proposed project is entirely within existing disturbance and no new disturbance will occur. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to close a portion of Road 12 NE to vehicle access in order to reduce unauthorized activities that are damaging public resources. The road closure involves the installation of a swing gate within the existing gravel road, placement of barrier rocks along the edge of the southern existing gravel parking area, and eventual rehabilitation of the northern existing gravel parking area. Holes for the gate posts and rehabilitation of the northern parking area are unlikely to impact any intact soils due to the depth of previous ground disturbance. The barrier rocks will be placed within existing disturbance and no new ground disturbance will occur. A file search of the project area revealed no known historic properties within or near the APE. As a result, this project will have No Effect upon historic properties.

Recommendations: Because this project only involves ground disturbance within previously disturbed areas, it qualifies for a Finding of No Potential to Cause Effects to Historic Properties. Therefore, I recommend that you authorize the proposed project with the stipulations listed below attached.

Legal Description: **T20N R28E Section 4**
T21N R28E Section 33

Quad(s): **Gloyd 7.5'**

Cultural resources found? No // Yes / /, #'s: _____

N.R. Eligible resources found? No // Yes / /, #'s: _____

N.R. Eligible resources affected? No // Yes / /, #'s: _____

SHPO Concurrence with above granted?

Not necessary // No / / Yes / /, SHPO Ref. #: _____

Cultural clearance recommended? No / / Yes, with stipulations //

Recommended Stipulations:

1. **CULTURAL RESOURCES, SITE AVOIDANCE.** Due to the potential for encountering significant cultural resources, the WDFW must ensure that all project impacts associated with this authorization remain within existing disturbed areas and that no new ground disturbance will occur. If the WDFW finds that new ground disturbance is required during project implementation, they must consult with Reclamation to determine if further archaeological measures, including cultural resources inventories, are necessary. If the potential for affecting cultural resources is high, Reclamation may formulate further stipulations to prevent the loss of significant cultural values.
2. **CULTURAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES STIPULATION.** The WDFW must immediately report to Reclamation's authorized officer any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site, object, human remains, funerary object, artifact, or fossil) discovered on the area of use by the WDFW, or any person working on their behalf. The WDFW must suspend all activities in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The WDFW is responsible for the cost of evaluation. The authorized officer will make any decision as to proper mitigation measures after consulting with the WDFW.

KARINA
BRYAN

Digitally signed by
KARINA BRYAN
Date: 2018.12.18
17:30:56 -08'00'

Archaeologist, Ephrata Field Office