



Categorical Exclusion Determination

Western Area Power Administration

U.S. Department of Energy



Proposed Action Title:	Trinity Combined Off-ROW Hazard Trees
WAPA Region:	Sierra Nevada Region
Location (County/State):	Trinity County, California
CX Determination Number:	2026-SNR-011
CX Determination Expiration Date*:	12/31/2028

**CX is valid until the date above (no longer than five years from when document was signed) or completion of work started prior to the expiration of the CX Determination, unless there are substantial changes to the scope of work, location, or applicable regulations. If such changes occur prior to the expiration of the CX, the Region Environmental Program will review the analysis to ensure the CX is still applicable.*

Proposed Action Description:

Western Area Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region (WAPA) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of several federally owned and operated transmission lines throughout California, including Trinity Weaverville 60-kV (TNI-WEA), Lewiston Tap (LWN-LWNT) 60-kV, and Lewiston Substation-Lewiston Hatchery (LEW-HTR) located in Trinity County, California. This responsibility includes ensuring WAPA maintains reliable access to transmission towers and other facilities to comply with the National Electric Safety Code, Western States Coordinating Council, and WAPA directives for protecting human safety and maintaining the reliable operation of the transmission system.

WAPA proposes to remove up to 115 trees outside the TNI-WEA 60 kV transmission line rights of way (ROWs), 1 tree outside the LWN-LWNT 60 kV transmission line, and 1 tree outside the LEW-HTR distribution line. The land is owned by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and private landowners. The hazard trees are located outside, but adjacent to the right of way (off-ROW) and have the potential to fall on, grow into, or otherwise compromise the integrity of the transmission line. WAPA Order 450.3A dictates the removal of trees in compliance with the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC) Standard FAC-003-1. WAPA has limited what meets hazard standards. Trees will be felled and left onsite, limbs will be chipped and broadcast. Lop and scatter debris will not exceed 12 inches in height. Trees will be removed November 1– December 31, which is outside of northern spotted owl breeding and nesting season.

Environmental Requirements during Project Implementation:

- Cultural Resources
 - Monitor required.
 - Directional falling required.
 - If cultural or paleontological materials are identified during implementation, halt work within a 100-foot buffer of the discovery and contact the SNR Archaeologist immediately.



WAPA would apply the following Air Quality SOPs and Biological Conservation Measures:

AQ-SOP-1: The Contractor will adhere to all applicable requirements of those agencies having jurisdiction over air quality matters, and any necessary permits for O&M will be obtained.

AQ-SOP-2: Machinery and vehicles will be kept in good operating condition, and older equipment will be replaced with equipment meeting applicable emission standards; appropriate emissions-control equipment will be maintained for vehicles and equipment, per EPA and/or WAPA air-emission requirements.

AQ-SOP-3 Idle equipment shall be shut down when not in active use; visible emissions from stationary generators shall be controlled.

AQ-SOP-4 There shall be no open burning of construction trash.

AQ-SOP-5 Grading activities shall cease during periods of high winds (as determined by local air quality management districts).

AQ-SOP-6 Major operations shall be avoided on days when the local Air Quality Index is expected to exceed 150.

BIO-CM-1: Breeding season avoidance from January 1 – September 15.

BIO-CM 2: Vegetation removal is limited to manual methods.

BIO-CM 3: No ground disturbance, road construction, grading or in-water work is permitted.

BIO-CM 4: All locations shall be accessed by established ROWs.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied (Number and Title):

B1.3 Routine maintenance

Findings:

For the DOE procedures regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see 10 CFR 1021.102 and Appendix B to [10 CFR Part 1021](#), and also Section 5.4 (Applying one or more categorical exclusions to a proposal) and Appendices B and C of [DOE's National Environmental Policy Act Implementing Procedures](#) (July 13, 2026).

Requirements and guidance in 10 CFR 1021.102 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures: (See full text in regulation and in Implementing Procedures)



The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021 or Appendix B or C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in Appendix B to 10 CFR Part 1021, or Appendix B of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, a proposal must satisfy the conditions that are integral elements of the classes of actions in Appendix B of both 10 CFR Part 1021 and DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures. Additionally, for CXs adopted pursuant to NEPA



Section 109 (see DNIP, Appendix C), the originating Federal agency's integral elements or extraordinary circumstances must be in accordance with the applicable requirements.

- ☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. DOE or an applicant may modify the proposal to avoid reasonably foreseeable adverse significant effects such that the categorical exclusion would apply.
- ☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

[Note: For proposals that fit within the categorical exclusions listed in Appendix C of DOE's NEPA Implementing Procedures, see DOE's notice of adoption for the subject Appendix C categorical exclusion for additional considerations. DOE notices of adoption for other agency categorical exclusions may be found on [DOE's Section 109 webpage](#).

Determination:

Based on my review of the proposed action, I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other requirements and guidance set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

WAPA Authorized Official Signature:

KRISTEN DALLDORF Digitally signed by KRISTEN DALLDORF
Date: 2026.10.21 17:23:34 -06'00'

Title: Sierra Nevada Region Environmental Manager