BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Reliance on Another Agency's Categorical Exclusion Determination

Humbug Creek Fish Habitat Restoration

ED Tracking #CGB-ED-2025-096

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Proposed Action

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to award $216,083.29 of Klamath River Coho Restoration Grant Program funding to the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Department (YTFD) to implement instream restoration work within the Humbug Creek watershed, in Siskiyou County, California.

The YTFD proposes to use the funding to augment planning, implementation, and monitoring efforts associated with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Klamath National Forest's (KNF) and Shasta Valley Resource Conservation District's McKinney Burned Area Recovery (BAR) Habitat Restoration Project (Project), which targets select stream reaches of the Humbug Creek watershed that were severely damaged by the McKinney Fire of 2022.

The proposed work includes direct in-stream felling of standing dead wood in several McKinney fire-affected tributaries. Trees greater than 24 inches diameter at breast height will be dropped into the stream channel or at an upstream angle across the stream channel to restore riparian and instream habitat for coho salmon by reducing channel downcutting, trapping sediment, providing slow water velocity, and maintaining channel characteristics and stability within tributaries of the Klamath River. Targeted reaches include Sucker Creek, Rider Gulch, and Clear Creek.

The YTFD would support the McKinney BAR Habitat Restoration Project by providing technical field and GIS support during scoping and planning, guidance and assistance with permits and compliance, technical guidance and assistance during implementation, and assistance with as-built documentation and post-implementation monitoring.

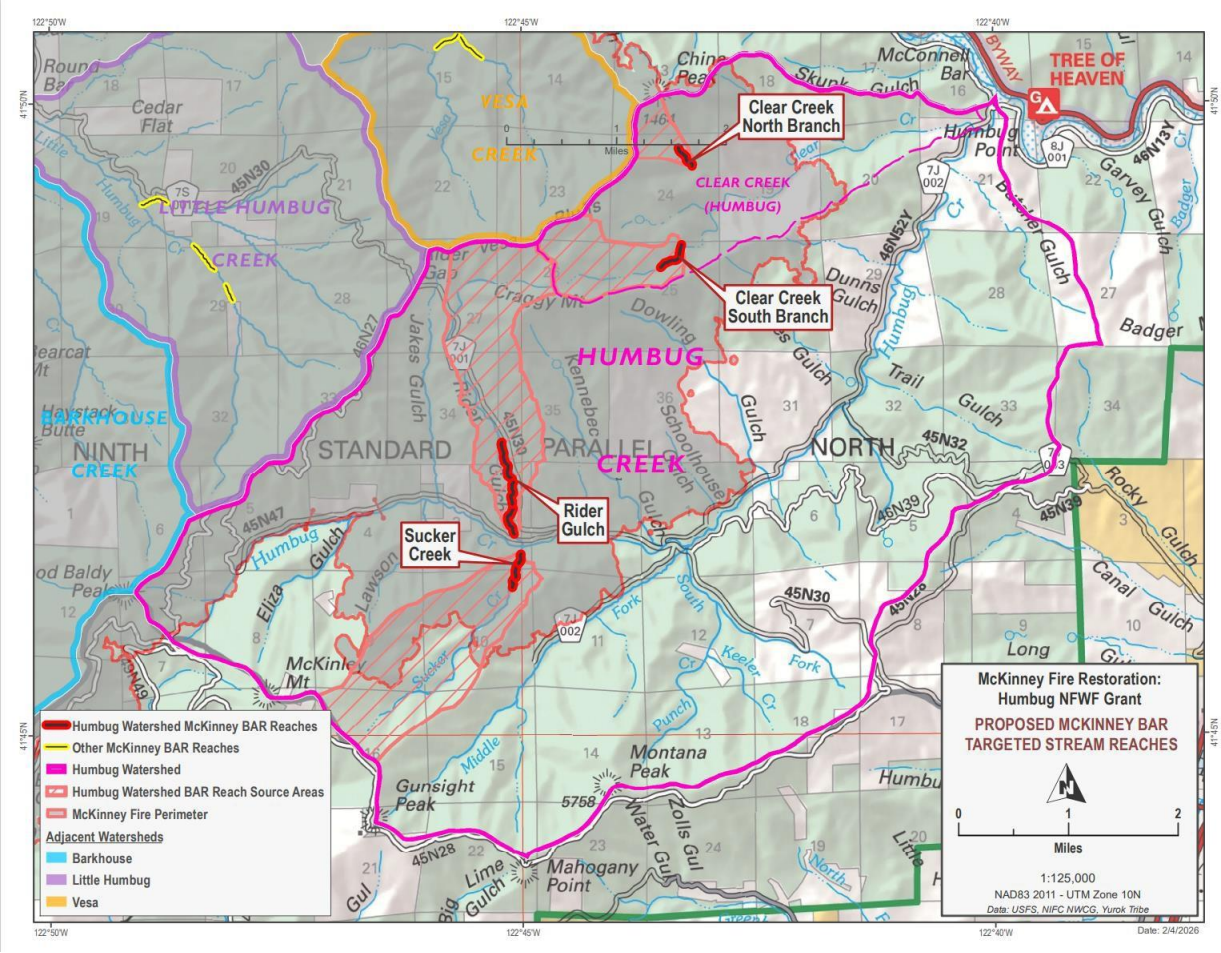


Figure 1. Proposed targeted stream reaches.

Exclusion Category

Reclamation is relying on the USFS KNF determination, dated March 21, 2025, that categorical exclusion 36 CFR 220.6(e)(19) applies to this proposed action.

In accordance with 43 CFR 46.205(e) and 516 DM 1 – Appendix 3 – Using Existing NEPA, the proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under NEPA and a review of extraordinary circumstances is not required.

Consultation and Coordination

No consultations were required.

The USFS conducted Section 106 compliance pursuant to the U.S. Department of Agriculture USFS Region 5 Programmatic Agreement (R5 PA) for their McKinney BAR Habitat Restoration

Project in 2025, the purpose of which is to accelerate recovery of riparian conditions and recovery of south facing upland soils within the McKinney Fire (2022) perimeter. The Project is located on property owned by USFS KNF. On April 27, 2026, Reclamation designated the USFS as the lead federal agency to act on behalf of Reclamation for the purposes of compliance with Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the NHPA, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. Reclamation will fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities through the R5 PA which will be documented in the USFS' annual report to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), pursuant to the PA. Reclamation also notified the CA SHPO on April 27, 2026 of its undertaking to award grant funding to the Yurok Tribe and that Reclamation intends to fulfill its Section 106 responsibilities through the R5 PA. This intention will be documented in the USFS' annual report to SHPO pursuant to the PA. Reclamation's compliance responsibilities for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act have been fulfilled.

The proposed action described above complies with the National Historic Preservation Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and other applicable laws and does not require mitigation measures.

The USFS McKinney BAR Restoration Project was published to the schedule of proposed actions in December of 2024, and no public interest concerning the Project has been received.

NEPA Action Recommended

The USFS Responsible Official has determined that its proposed action is categorically excluded from further review under NEPA (dated March 21, 2025). Reclamation's Responsible Official has reviewed Reclamation's and the USFS' proposed actions, determined that they are substantially the same[1], and approves reliance on the USFS CE determination. In accordance with 516 DM 1 – Appendix 3 – *Using Existing NEPA* and 43 CFR 46.205(e), the proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under NEPA, and a review of extraordinary circumstances is not required.

[1] "Substantially the same" means that the bureau's proposed action and the other agency's proposed action are for the same project or activity (not simply the same type of project or activity) and the bureau's proposed action and the other agency's proposed action would result in similar non-significant effects. (516 DM 1 – Appendix 3 – Using Existing NEPA).