



### Project Information:

**Project Title:** License Renewal for Grant County Mosquito Control District #1

**Date:** 3/13/2025 **Office:** Ephrata Field Office

**Proposed Action:** The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to renew the Grant County Mosquito Control District #1 (GCMCD1) 5-year term license. Mosquito surveillance, abatement, and monitoring would occur from late March through October of each year during the license period. The license enables GCMCD1 to control mosquitos by applying larvicide and adulticide in select areas of Reclamation-owned property within the GCMCD1 boundary. The renewal is subject to annual review.

**Location:** The GCMCD1 boundary lies in central Washington state. Major geographical features include the town of Moses Lake and Interstate 90. Reclamation-owned property encompasses approximately 25% of the GCMCD1, with the majority located in the southern half of GCMCD1. Select areas of Reclamation-owned property for mosquito control are primarily proximate to Potholes Reservoir but include other supplementary portions of Reclamation property. Please see Figure 1 and Figure 2 below.

**Exclusion Category Part 516 Chapter 14:** ((D)(10) *Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action; and*

**Exclusion Category Part 516 Chapter 15.6:** (A)(1) *Restoration of noncontroversial native species into suitable habitats within their historic range and elimination of exotic species*

### Background, Maps, Sketches, Drawings:

*Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy (Jan. 20, 2025), and a Presidential Memorandum, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity (Jan. 21, 2025), require the Department to strictly adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. Further, such Order and Memorandum repeal Executive Orders 12898 (Feb. 11, 1994) and 14096 (Apr. 21, 2023). Because Executive Orders 12898 and 14096 have been repealed, complying with such Orders is a legal impossibility. Reclamation verifies that it has complied with the requirements of NEPA, including the Department's regulations and procedures implementing NEPA at 43 CFR Part 46 and Part 516 of the Departmental Manual, consistent with the President's January 2025 Order and Memorandum.*



Figure 1. GCMCD1 boundary (with Reclamation-owned property identified).

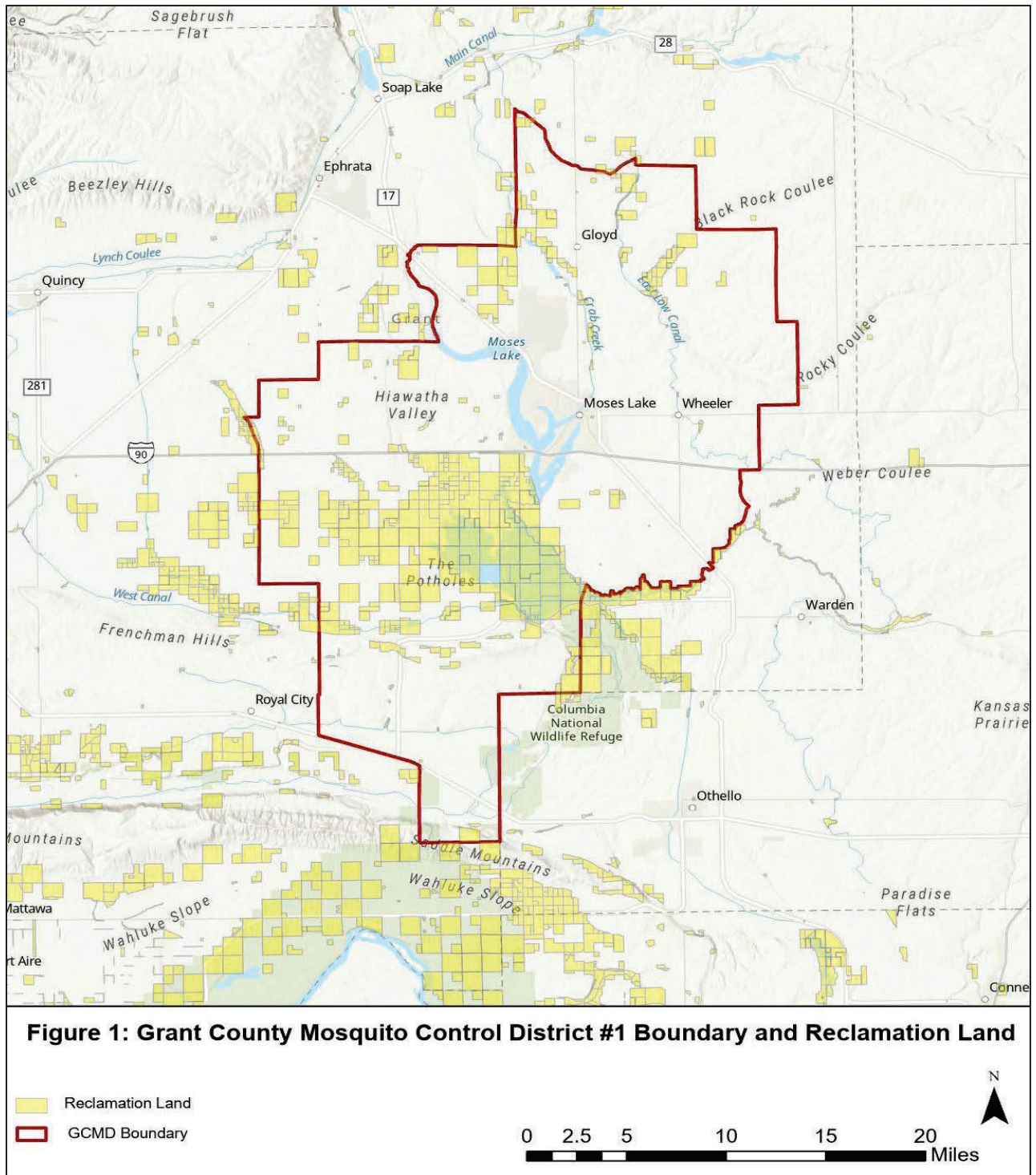
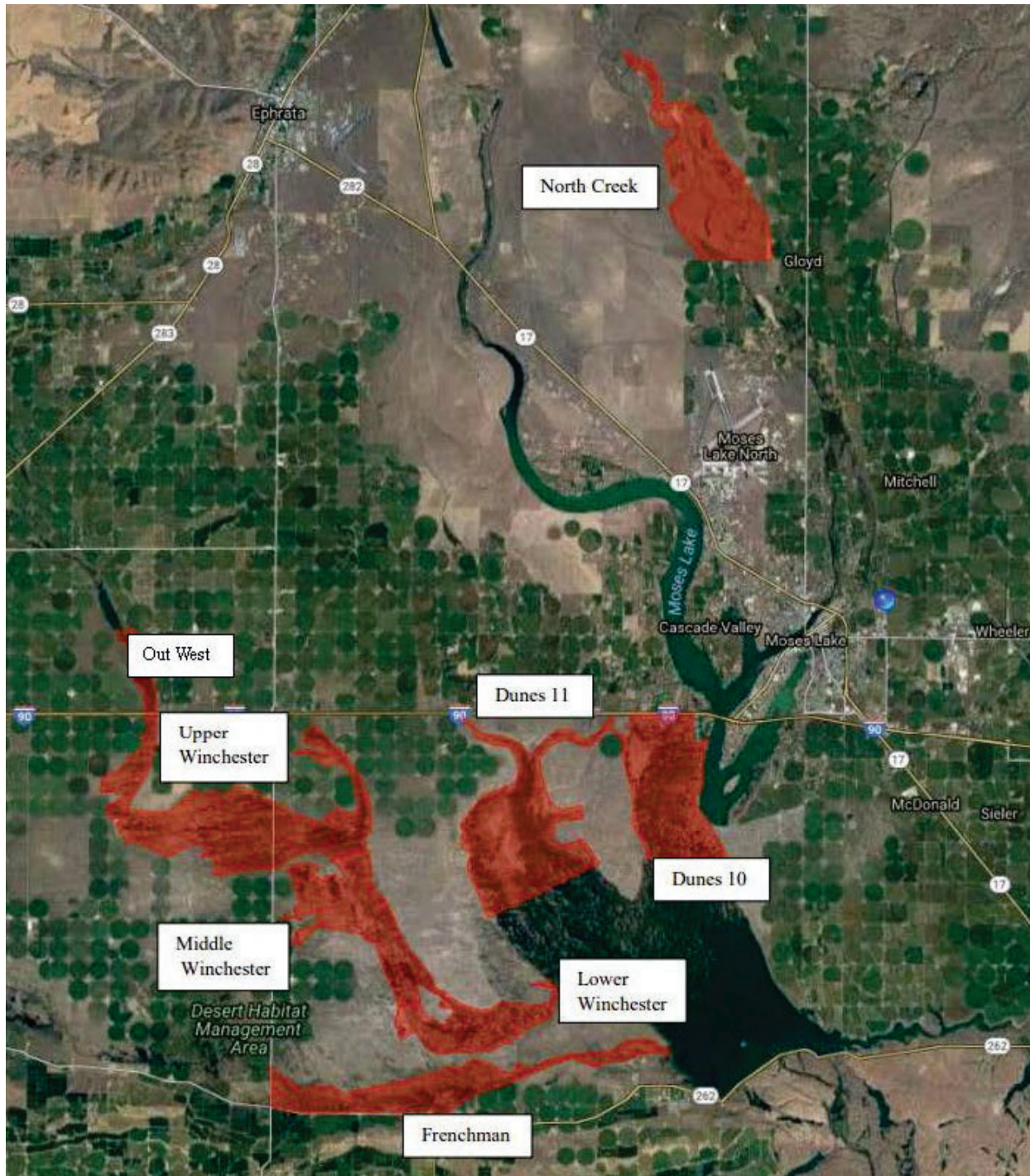






Figure 2. Mosquito treatment areas on Reclamation-owned lands within the GCMCD1.



The GCMCD1 was formulated in the 1960's to address the rise, and future risk, of mosquito-borne diseases identified in the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 17:28 for Mosquito Control and RCW 70:22 for Public Health. Mosquito-borne diseases of concern in Grant County include West Nile Virus, St. Louis Encephalitis, and Western Equine Encephalitis. The focal area for mosquito control is in the vicinity of Potholes Reservoir, with supplementary areas that include the Winchester Wasteway, Frenchman Hills Wasteway, and the North Creek Area of Grant County, WA (See Figure 2 above). Two of the species that carry these diseases are non-native to the area. These species are *Culex pipiens* and *Culex tarsalis*. *Culex pipiens* is not native



to the United States and *Culex tarsalis* is non-native to the Pacific Northwest. These two species are considered exotic to the ecosystem and can be managed under Exclusion Category Part 516 Chapter 15.6. (A)(1).

To control mosquitos, the GCMCD1 applies pesticides through an Integrated Mosquito Management Plan (IMMP). The IMMP is vetted and approved for use by the Washington Department of Ecology under an Aquatic Mosquito Control General Permit (which includes State Environmental Policy Act). The GCMCD1 also holds a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit to allow pesticide applications to surface water. This IMMP is also reviewed and approved by Reclamation during each license renewal application. Pesticides applied for mosquito control are classified as larvicides and adulticides. Larvicides are applied to water or periodically flooded areas and adulticides are applied to the atmosphere.

The work proposed under this renewed license entails surveillance, sampling, and monitoring for mosquito larvae within the GCMCD1 boundary to formulate the timing for application of larvicide and adulticide to abate mosquitos. Four-wheeled all-terrain vehicles would be driven on existing roads to access the sampling locations.

Larvicides would be applied via hand, backpack sprayer, and/or pump sprayer. A truck mounted fogger and/or by aircraft is used to apply adulticide, which is applied during mosquito breeding season. All application equipment is calibrated at the start of each season and as needed throughout the remainder of the season. All application of pesticide is made at, or below, established levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Larval Mosquito Treatment (Larvicides and other):**

- *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *israelensis*
- *Bacillus sphaericus*
- Spinosad
- Methoprene
- Mineral Oil

These applications will occur late March through October. These are applied during the day, in areas where mosquito larvae are present in areas of standing water. Spinosad and Methoprene may be applied to dry areas where larvae historically occur as a method to pretreat the area when these areas fill with water.

**Adult Mosquito Treatment (Adulticides):**

- Pyrethrins
- Prallethrin
- Sumithrin
- Etofenprox
- Organophosphate

Adulticides are used after other IMMP strategies are being implemented, or after declaration of a public health emergency by the State of Washington (Local Health Officer). These applications may occur from mid-April through mid-October, when action thresholds are met (e.g., trap counts, community complaints, or staff surveillance reports). Application occurs only after sunset (approximately 9:00 PM to 12:00 AM), in varied quantities (typically below recommended label use). Application methodology results in minimal droplet size (20-40 microns), which impinge on mosquitos in real-time (and minimizes residual pesticide deposits). Truck mounted application is conducted using Smart Flow Technology (to ensure uniform application rate via GPS monitored ground speed). Predetermined sensitive areas are excluded from application (e.g., bee keeping operations, WSDA registered organic farms, cannabis operations, open water, known milkweed distribution, open water, and riparian areas). Fixed-wing aircraft for pesticide application includes a wing mounted weather data probe provides wind speed and direction, a drift model is developed and compensates to minimize drift. No applications are made when wind speed at release height is greater than 15 miles per hour. Organophosphate will not be used unless a public health emergency is declared. No adulticide application via truck is permitted for use when air temperature is below 55 degrees



Fahrenheit, or above 90 degrees Fahrenheit. No adulticide via aircraft is permitted when air temperatures exceed 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

Extraordinary Circumstances Exist for This Action Which May:		No	Yes	Uncertain
1	This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (P.L. 91-190, as amended).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2	This action would have disputed environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4	This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215(b)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6	This action would establish a precedent for future action or present a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8	This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (in coordination with a Reclamation cultural resources professional, LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215(g)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	This action would 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 (43 CFR 46.215 (h)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10	This action would violate a Federal, tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	This action would affect ITAs (to be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITAs) (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12	This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low-income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)). <b>The President has revoked EO 12898.</b>	NOT APPLICABLE		
13	This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





	significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)).			
14	This action would 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, EO 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### NEPA Action Recommended

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CE Checklist: The proposed action meets the criteria, as defined in 43 CFR 46.215, and qualifies as a categorical exclusion. The action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. It is excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
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The Proposed action does not meet the criteria for a categorical exclusion. Further environmental review and analysis is required. The following environmental documents should be prepared:

- ☐ EA  
☐ EIS

### Environmental and Trust Asset Commitments, Explanation, and/or Comments:

#### NHPA S.106, E.O. 13007:

On December 13, 2024, emails were sent to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Spokane Tribe of Indians, Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Nation and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, inviting them to attend an information meeting to share information with them on the proposed action. This email was sent 30-days before the meetings were held, to allow time for people to schedule one of the two meetings into their calendar.

The email notified the Tribes that two, one-hour meetings were scheduled. The first meeting was scheduled for January 15, 2025, and the second meeting for January 16, 2025. The email included a Teams link that worked for both meetings. The reason for scheduling two meetings was to provide an opportunity for people to attend. The meetings were held, but there was no participation from the Tribes. Reclamation kept the meeting open for the entire hour on both days with no attendance from any of the Tribes. Reclamation did not receive a response to the meeting invitation email.

This project is exempt from case-by-case review under the Bureau of Reclamation's *Historic Preservation: No Potential to Cause Effects* (NoPE) List, which was finalized in September of 2007, under NoPE #5; Rodent and pest control that does not involve ground disturbance. The proposed action will not adversely impact access to or ceremonial use of any identified Indian sacred sites, will not adversely affect the physical integrity of any such sacred sites, and will have no potential to effect historic properties. This project was logged as CCA-2024-057. Should cultural resources be inadvertently discovered on during the implementation activities, work would stop, and the CCAO Archaeologist will be contacted immediately at 509.573.8022. Implementation will not resume until all mitigative measures developed in consultation with the SHPO have been completed. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

#### T&E Species Review:

The Project Area contains no designated critical habitat for Threatened or Endangered Species, nor Essential Fish Habitat. The Project Area may contain one Threatened species, the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) and one Proposed Endangered species, the Suckley's Cuckoo Bumble Bee (*Bombus suckleyi*). Neither of these species have been documented in the Project Area since the 1990's. One Proposed Threatened species, the Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), is present in the Project Area. With the targeted application of mosquito control measures, following detailed and vetted procedures in the Background Section and IMMP, Reclamation concludes that a biological evaluation, under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), is not required for this action. The continuation of the license is subject to annual review. Reclamation determines that this Federal Action will not affect Threatened or Endangered species.



**Indian Trust Assets:**

There are no known assets held in Trust for American Indian Tribes or Individuals in the project location. Therefore, there will be no effect.

**Wetlands and Vegetation:**

Because no ground disturbance is proposed, the renewal of this license would not impact wetlands or wetland vegetation.

Project Title: GCMCD1 License Renewal CEC		
Concurrence and Approval	Name and Title	Signature
Prepared by	Rebecca Doolittle, Natural Resource Specialist	REBECCA DOOLITTLE Digitally signed by REBECCA DOOLITTLE Date: 2025.03.14 08:56:23 -07'00'
Concur with item #8	Mary Velazquez, Archaeologist	MARY VELAZQUEZ Digitally signed by MARY VELAZQUEZ Date: 2025.03.18 13:33:31 -07'00'
Concur with item #9	McLain Johnson, Fish Biologist	MCLAIN JOHNSON Digitally signed by MCLAIN JOHNSON Date: 2025.03.18 13:44:19 -07'00'
Concur with item #11	Jessica Asbill-Case, Native American Affairs Advisor	JESSICA ASBILL-CASE Digitally signed by JESSICA ASBILL-CASE Date: 2025.03.24 14:12:44 -06'00'
Concur: YRBWEP or Field Office Manager	Marc Maynard, Ephrata Field Office Manager	MARC MAYNARD Digitally signed by MARC MAYNARD Date: 2025.03.25 14:40:23 -07'00'
Recommended: Environmental Program Manager	Elizabeth Heether, Acting Environmental Program Manager	ELIZABETH HEETHER Digitally signed by ELIZABETH HEETHER Date: 2025.03.26 08:08:08 -07'00'
Approved: Area Office Manager	Wylie C. Duke, Columbia-Cascades Area Office, Area Manager	WYLIE DUKE Digitally signed by WYLIE DUKE Date: 2025.03.27 09:06:22 -07'00'

Categorical Exclusion Number and Date

CPN-CCA-CE-2025-055

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