



# U.S. Department of Energy Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Proposed Action Title: Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization (CRESO): A Student Driven Education/Research Program for 2013-2015 (CX-CRESO-2013-001)

Program or Field Office: Oak Ridge Reservation

Location(s) (City/County/State): Oak Ridge, Tennessee



Proposed Action Description:

The Clinch River Environmental Studies Organization (CRESO) is an education/research program with a mission of: (1) providing middle, high school, and undergraduate students opportunities for unique field research and extended learning experiences in areas of data management and analysis; research design and protocols; ecology and related sciences including resources conservation and management strategies, and (2) promoting community outreach and education through student driven presentations and publications (for additional information pertaining to CRESO, visit the website at <http://www.cresosnake.com/>). CRESO is supported by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Anderson County Schools (ACS), and Oak Ridge Schools (ORS). The University of Tennessee Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center became a primary partner in 1997. The primary research site would be at the University of Tennessee Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center located in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The area is approximately 2,300 acres, and the portion used for CRESO research projects is approximately 800 acres.

This categorical exclusion would be for research during 2013-2015 which focuses on inventory and long-term monitoring of the population status and activity patterns of selected species in Anderson County, TN. Examples include bird banding of breeding migrants, monitoring terrestrial and aquatic amphibians and reptiles, including radio-telemetry of turtles, and using trained canines for determining population densities, age structure, and health status of the Eastern Box Turtle, the TN state reptile. Students share their project findings and conservation ideas at science fairs, professional meetings, in scientific journals, the CRESO website, and through outreach workshops including K-12 classrooms and community groups such as Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning (ORICL). The proposed activities would be conducted following all Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) requirements, and results of the research data would be provided in annual reports to the TWRA.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.3 - Research related to conservation of fish, wildlife, and cultural resources

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

The above description accurately describes the proposed action, which reflects the requirements of the CX cited above. Therefore, I recommend that the proposed action be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

**Program Point of Contact:** Susan Borthwick

**Date Determined:** 1/18/2013

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

**NEPA Compliance Officer:** Gary S. Hartman

**Date Determined:** 1/18/2013