



Memo To File

To: Files
From: Superintendent, Deanna Dulen
Through: Environmental Compliance and Planning Division
Subject: Programmatic Categorical Exclusion Renewal

Annual Updates to the Superintendent's Compendium

A. Project Information

Park Name: Devils Postpile National Monument
PEPC Project Number: 46909
Project Location: Madera County, California
Project Leader: Deanna Dulen
Administrative Record Location: DEPO and SEKI
Administrative Record Contact: Deanna Dulen

B. Project Description- PROGRAMMATIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

This programmatic categorical exclusion (PCE) initiates annual review of the Superintendent's Compendium. Proposed changes to the existing compendium would be considered and the compendium updated annually per authorization by the Superintendent.

The following changes have been incorporated into the 2015 programmatic CE and Superintendents Compendium:

Mandatory Shuttle Bus:

- When the intervalley shuttle runs during shoulder seasons between bus stop #10 and bus stop #6, visitors will be required to ride the shuttle (rather than parking at bus stop #6 and the day use parking area) during designated times unless they have a handicapped display cards.

Camping:

- The B loop is designated for walk-ins, tents, and car camping in vehicles not exceeding 20 feet. No generators are permitted. (Note: This is the first step in implementing in the GMP preferred alternative decision to design the B loop as walk in sites only to improve riverbank condition, access for day users, and improve quality of the camping experience).
- The A loop is designated for walk-ins, tents, car camping, and small to mid-size recreational vehicles. There are only 6 sites that can safely accommodate a recreational vehicle of a combined length of 30 feet length. The accessible campsite can accommodate a combined length of 37 feet, and those with accessible needs will always have priority for this site. When vehicles are too large for available sites they will not be able to access the campground. (Note: This is the beginning of phasing in GMP preferred alternative to re-design the campground to accommodate vehicles of an appropriate size for the site. This will improve the safety of campers and drivers of

vehicles, as there are tight turns in a narrow dirt road that have resulted in vehicles jackknifing around corners and extensive backing to realign with roadway).

- An administrative group site may be temporarily established adjacent to the Day Use Comfort Station and B loop to accommodate staff from other NPS units conducting work at the monument: work groups including SCAs, CCCs, ACE, fire crews; educational groups; and tribal groups.

Pets:

- Pets on a leash are allowed on monument trails, roads and other developed areas. Pets are restricted to on-trail use, must not disturb people or wildlife, and must be leashed at all times. Pets are prohibited from the Soda Springs geologic site, any trail accessing the Soda Springs site, and the entire Soda Springs Meadow east and west of the river. (Note: Soda Springs, the associated flora/fauna, and the entire meadow system are sensitive and are identified as important ecological and geologic features of the monument).

The final 2015 Superintendent's Compendium will be posted in PEPC Step 1- Project Set-Up under "File List."

C. Required Mitigation

- As warranted, potential impacts to resources would be evaluated separately when implementation, updates, or modifications to the Superintendent's Compendium could affect them.

D. Description of Previous Compliance Documentation

This programmatic categorical exclusion has been in place since 2013 and was prepared to cover routine activities that occur on an annual basis. There are no substantial changes to the project description or program activities mentioned in the previous document and project locations have not changed. Impact topics were evaluated and there is no change in the context, duration, or severity. There are no modifications in the affected environment (no newly listed threatened or endangered species, or listing of a resource in the National Register of Historic Places, etc.). The Project Lead is responsible for ensuring that all mitigation measures are followed and to notify the Environmental Compliance Specialist if any alterations to the said document occur.

E. Categorical Exclusion Authority (Section 3-4 of DO-12)

A.8 Modifications or revisions to existing regulations, or the promulgation of new regulations for NPS-administered areas, provided the modifications, revisions or new regulations do not: a) Increase public use to the extent of compromising the nature and character of the area or causing physical damage to it, b) Introduce noncompatible uses which might compromise the nature and characteristics of the area, or cause physical damage to it, c) Conflict with adjacent ownerships or land uses, or d) Cause a nuisance to adjacent owners or occupants.

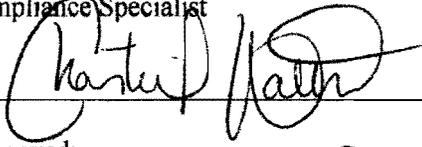
F. Conclusion

There are no substantial changes to project scope; project description, or project locations. The description of impacts (context, intensity, and duration) remains as described in the previous NEPA document, and site conditions have not changed. After careful review, I concur that the previous document adequately describes and analyzes the impacts for Annual Updates to the Superintendent's Compendium. On the basis of the environmental impact information in the statutory compliance file, with which I am familiar, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No

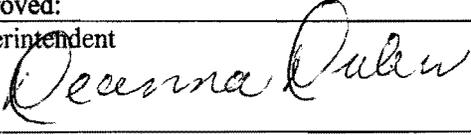
exceptional circumstances or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.

G. Signatory

Recommended:

Ad Compliance Specialist 	Date 5/18/2015
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Approved:

Superintendent 	Date 5/19/2015
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