



## 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/ clarifications have been incorporated into the 2016 programmatic CE and Superintendents Compendium:

- Included a provision that idling is discouraged.
- Clarified information regarding pets.
- Added 'commercial restrictions summary table' from the GMP/DEN and included a note that it is in addition to the recurring CUA with Reds Meadow.
- Per the need to do a MRA for CUAs/SUPs, included the following: Requests for commercial and/or special uses within wilderness that are inconsistent with the 2015 DEN (GMP) may require additional and/or separate compliance and review including a Minimum Requirements Analysis.
- Clarified names of berries (36 CFR 2.1)
- Clarified accessibility language regarding visitors with disabilities.
- Defined "Exception vehicles to the mandatory shuttle for parking at Devils Postpile."
- Added stock-related mitigation measures to prevent the introduction and/or spread of non-native plants.
- Added that the Devils Postpile Road could be closed at times for utility repairs and maintenance projects.
- Added "Collection of firewood within the Monument is prohibited.
- Added that, in the B campground loop "vehicle height is limited to a maximum of 10 feet including a camper shell over the roof of the vehicle."

- Added that “Arranging, assembling, and rigging of ropes and/or hanging devices in campsites is not allowed. Ropes and hanging devices may damage trees and prevent safety hazards to humans and wildlife.”
- Added “Insect traps are not allowed. Insect traps may kill a variety of wildlife.”
- Regarding smoking, clarified that the area open to the public is the “day use area that contains cigarette butt disposal container and smoking area sign.” Also, clarified that for employees, volunteers, and contractors that the only designated area within the administrative area is “located in the boneyard area by the cargo containers that is cleared of all vegetation and has a sign that identifies as a smoking area.”

The final 2016 Superintendent's Compendium is 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:

Compliance Specialist 	Date 5-17-16
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Approved:

Superintendent	Date
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