



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: ERFO Reconstruct Company Creek Road WA2025-NPS-1

PEPC Project Number: 135298

Description of Action (Project Description): BACKGROUND:

On December 11, 2025, the Stehekin River experienced what will likely be classified as the 2nd largest flood of record. The high flow event shifted the Stehekin River channel alignment within the floodplain and eroded approximately 400 feet of Company Creek Road (route 100B) and the adjacent levee. The road and levee were constructed by local landowners and NPS crews in 1971 adjacent to the Stehekin River. The site at road milepost 2 has the most significant damage and impacts have severed vehicle access to the year round and seasonal residents and property owners of land beyond the damaged areas. The multiple branches of floodwaters which diverged from the main river channel caused minor damage in multiple areas. Currently, the loss of the road impacts 21 private property owners, 10 of whom have completely lost vehicle access. An additional 11 temporarily lose vehicle access at flows above 3,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). This is expected to occur in the spring for roughly 55 days. Spring runoff starts in April and there is reasonable chance (~8%) of flows above 3,000 cfs during this month. The road repairs must be completed under rapid contracting and construction as the damage to park roads and access will increase with impending spring runoff and additional flooding. The road to be built is intended to last at least through the 2026 spring runoff season, minimize avulsion risk, and minimize negative effects on the downstream Battalion Creek culverts.

PROJECT:

The NPS will provide funding to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Omaha District Rapid Response Team to survey and construct a road segment connecting the remaining portion of Company Creek Road to the NPS boundary to enable access to the private property. NPS will not fund any construction on private property. USACE will conduct field scoping, preliminary engineering design, hydrologic analysis and repair work. This project area is approximately 1 mile of Company Creek Road (Route 100B), from approximately 1 miles north of its intersection with Stehekin River Road to its terminus. The reconstruction will include approximately 1,300 linear feet (lf) on ground recently disturbed by flooding, but otherwise undisturbed, and an additional 1,000 lf along the current Company Creek Road alignment. The remainder of work will include raising the elevation of the remaining road and replacing the driving surface aggregate where missing.

The scope of construction will include emergency repairs and reconstruction / realignment of the damaged portions of Company Creek Road due to the migration of the Stehekin River and Battalion Creek. The goal of the construction work will be to restore access to vehicular traffic to the extent that can be feasibly constructed before the spring river runoff increases flows above the flood stage again, anticipated to be April 1.

The project will be funded through the Federal Lands Transportation Program (FLTP) Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO). This is an emergency reconstruction of Company Creek Road where it was washed away by flooding and other repairs as needed to the remaining portion of the road to facilitate construction.

The scope of the project includes rebuilding the road outside of the river channel to restore vehicular access. Since Company Creek Road is an unpaved, dead-end, low volume local road, it should be reconstructed to the minimum necessary standards to convey traffic and reduce impacts of future flood events. Construction will include importation of rock and aggregates, clearing of trees and vegetation, grading, placement of culverts, riprap, and driving aggregate surfaces. The USACE will

provide construction recommendations, alternatives for road alignments, cost estimates and expected schedule information to NPS. Using available background information including GIS resource mapping and hydrologic studies, LiDAR topographic information, previous flood data, stream gauge information, environmental engineering recommendations, and information gathered at the site, the USACE will perform the work with the least possible damage to natural and cultural resources.

NPS has been working in partnership with Chelan County and private consultants on potential road alignments (see files "NSD_StehekinCompanyRd_Alts_REM_030926.png" and "NSD_StehekinCompanyRd_Alts_Aerial_030926.png") and evaluations of the environmental impacts and is providing this information to USACE for incorporation into the project. To minimize environmental impacts, a hybrid alignment, "A Plus," was selected (see file "NSD_Stehekin_Road_Realignment_REM_20260317.png"), and later refined (see "20260324_NPS_CCNRD Mtg.pdf"). Staging areas were selected in previously disturbed areas and are represented in "Staging Areas.pdf". Staging areas will be used for vehicles, equipment, and rock stockpiles. The road may be constructed at a height of up to a 10-yr flood event specification with a 12 foot road top width and 3:1 side slopes. Two 24-foot-wide turnouts may also be constructed for traffic flow. Sections of the road prism may be as wide as 80 feet in total at the widest/highest points.

There will be a pre-construction site visit with the successful contractor during the week of March 24, 2026, and construction will begin as soon as possible afterwards, with the goal of completing construction by spring runoff (on or around April 1, 2026). NOCA resource management staff will be onsite to ensure USACE and its contractor implement and record conservation measures, mitigations, and certain natural resources metrics (detailed later in this text).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

The park's Chief of Resource Management, Biologist, Plant Ecologist, Aquatic Ecologist, Cultural Resources Project Manager/Archaeologist, and Geologist; the Regional Hydrologist and Environmental Protection Specialist; and assigned DOI Fire Management Specialists have walked the project site to assess resource impacts associated with different alignment possibilities and documented level of impact in an impact matrix (see file "Options_Matrix_2026MAR03 v.2.docx"). The NPS has selected the alignment which creates the least overall negative impact on natural and cultural resources, while also minimizing the risk of downstream flooding and road avulsion. See ESF and Mitigations tabs for specific issues, but the below provides more general discussion about the thought process behind minimizing impacts.

Cultural Resources

The closer the possible alignment is to the Stehekin River, the less the likelihood of impacting a never surveyed high probability landform for cultural resources. The landforms closer to the river are generally heavily impacted by the recent flooding and have less potential for in-situ archeological deposits. Additionally, the alignments closer to the river are shorter in length with a smaller footprint equating to reduced potential for an inadvertent discovery. Although the selected alignment is located closer to the river in order to minimize this risk, a qualified individual will monitor construction activities (archaeological monitor). There is an inadvertent discovery plan.

If there is an inadvertent discovery, work will be stopped until the item is recorded and its level of significance assessed. If the level of significance of the item(s) rises to significant (e.g. one-of-a-kind, unique or unknown), then work will be stopped until alternative arrangements for NEPA can be completed (1-2 weeks). However, if emergency circumstances occur and the Superintendent determines work stoppage may cause imminent threat to life or property, inadvertent discovery procedures pursuant to 36 CFR 800.12(b)(2) will be followed. Emergency archeological documentation will occur for a period of 1 hour at which time construction will proceed as planned.

Wildlife and Special Status Species

The various alignments being considered would have negatively affected anywhere from 9 to 31 acres of Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) (NSO) habitat classified as suitable or highly suitable. The selected alignment attempts to minimize the amount of affected habitat, with approximately 5 to 7 acres affected. Pre-construction surveys will be conducted to determine whether any owls are currently in the area.

The park biologist evaluated the possibility of effect to other special status species listed in IPaC for the project area. Bull

trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*) are believed to be extirpated from the Stehekin River; however, the area is still considered historic habitat and is accordingly protected as if they were present. There will be no work in the Stehekin River, but there will be work at the start of the Battalion Channel. The work therefore may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, the bull trout.

The road alignment selected minimizes disturbance to vegetation, ground cover, canopy cover, soil compaction, and avoids, as much as possible, cutting or removal of trees within riparian areas in a manner that will affect riparian function. The project will maintain large wood material and leave felled trees in the riparian areas to provide for future large instream wood and ensure riparian function is maintained.

Gray wolf (*Canis lupus*) pack areas are being avoided with the selected alignment. Additionally, the wolves heavily avoid roads. The project timing is outside of the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) sensitive denning period; the location is outside of its critical habitat; and the lynx also practice avoidance of roads. The North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*) is only present in the lower Stehekin Valley and avoid roads. The elevation of the project area is below that inhabited by Mt. Rainier white-tailed ptarmigan (*Lagopus leucura rainierensis*). There are no yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) or Suckley's cuckoo bumble bees (*Bombus suckleyi*) present at the park. There is no milkweed in the project area, and no monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) should be present. There should be no effect to these species.

The NPS had a call with USFWS on 3/11/2026 for emergency consultation on the project and sent a follow up email on the same day with a brief project description. The park Biologist will conduct a hoot survey for NSO to determine whether any nesting pairs or nests are in the project area. If a tree with a nest or nesting pair is found, all efforts will be made to avoid destroying the tree. USFWS advised that, once the project is finished and NPS knows exactly how much NSO habitat was removed, further consultation should be done.

To maintain floodplain utilization and protect existing fish and wetland habitat the NPS and USACE will ensure the road prism is porous allowing at least 20 cfs of flow to pass from the Stehekin River into the Battalion Creek floodplain behind the raised section of the road allowing flow to continue past the road alignment. Construction within the river itself will be avoided on NPS land.

Vegetation

The project area including the various alternative alignments includes five different vegetation classes including 75 acres of Bigleaf Maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) forest, 7 acres of broadleaf riparian swamp forest, and 5 acres of ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and douglas-fir woodland, 0.3 acres of lowland marsh and meadow and 3 acres of successional gravel bar shrubland. The various alignments being considered would have resulted in all vegetation (including tree) removal from 10 to 32 acres. The selected alignment will minimize vegetation removal, with approximately 5 to 7 acres affected.

Water Resources

The project area contains habitat that is highly likely to support Westslope Cutthroat Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Kokanee. Construction within the river will be avoided. To maintain floodplain utilization and protect existing fish and wetland habitat the NPS and USACE will ensure the road prism is porous allowing at least 20 cfs of flow to pass from the Stehekin River into the Battalion Creek floodplain behind the raised section of the road allowing flow to continue past the road alignment. Construction within the river itself will be avoided on NPS land.

Erosion control devices (e.g., silt fences, straw bales, fiber wattles) will be used as much as possible and will be installed prior to initiating any ground disturbing activities or vegetation removal. They will be maintained throughout the duration of the project or until the site is stabilized.

Other

Staging and material stockpile sites will be approved by NPS and the USACE and its contractors will incorporate compliance mitigation requirements during design and construction.

Staging areas, access routes, and stockpile areas should be located outside of riparian areas and be in areas that avoid the potential for sediment delivery or contaminants to water channels.

Store, fill, fuel, and service equipment in established staging areas.

The NOCA PM or a member of the NOCA natural resources team will record, daily, the following information:

- - The work that was accomplished
- - Duration of activities
- - What equipment was used, and
- - Any incidence of injury, harm, or observation of listed species (potential for occurrence in action area: spotted owl, gray wolf, Canada lynx, Cascade red fox, and wolverine).
- - How many and which species of trees over 18" diameter at breast height (dbh) are felled.

Project Location:

County, State: Chelan, WA

Mitigation(s):

- Avoid spreading laminated root rot (LRR) disease. This is a tree disease primarily targeting Douglas-fir and Grand fir that can cause green tree failure and create highly hazardous trees. It is a disease of the site and spread in the soil.

Suspected laminated root rot zone on the terrace running south of 16+00 to 18+00, potential for same issue on small terrace south of 20+00 but unable to confirm with visit. When soil disturbance within ~30 ft of the terraces or in the root zone of douglas-fir or grand fir on or immediately adjacent terraces (root zone is approximately 1 foot for every 1" of diameter), or removing trees in that same zone:

All trenching and falling equipment should be cleaned of visible soil and woody root material when moving from a location affected by LRR location to others. Root to root contact is primary means of LRR spread. Chemical sanitation of equipment is not required.

Avoid moving the butt and roots of potentially disease affected tree species from the LRR zone to other locations.

Avoiding damage and exposure of woody tissue on host trees that will be retained and are adjacent to LRR zones.

- Erosion control methods shall be used to prevent silt-laden water from entering the stream. These may include, but are not limited to, silt fencing, filter fabric, excelsior or fumigated straw filter logs or other material. This measure is designed to keep fine and coarse sediments from reaching flowing waters where they can be transported downstream and may affect spawning gravels, substrate embeddedness and pool frequency/quality. Erosion control devices will be maintained throughout the duration of the project or until the site is stabilized.
- Implement best management practices to avoid new introductions or expansions of invasive species. Before entering park and work zone: contractors and any staff are responsible for cleaning all project equipment and personal equipment and gear of visible debris. Clean truck beds, undercarriages and treads of mud, dirt and visible plant materials. Staff should brush clean personal gear from debris before entering park or work zone.

Use park-approved weed-free fill. Use already existing hardened surfaces for equipment storage whenever possible. Cover undeveloped, disturbed ground after construction with park-approved weed-free erosion control material (not straw, not plastic).

- To minimize the amount of ground disturbance, staging and stockpiling areas shall be located in previously disturbed sites, away from visitor use areas to the greatest extent possible. All staging and stockpiling areas shall be returned to pre-construction conditions following construction. This is a best management practice that minimizes ground disturbance.
- Implement this USFWS conservation measure: when practical, leave felled hazard trees in place to contribute to coarse woody debris on the ground.

- Ensure only USACE contracted employees participate in road construction activities to minimize hazards and risk to NOCA employees. USACE contractor should submit a health and safety plan to the park safety officer prior to start of construction.
- The project will not include any nighttime construction. However, best management practices will be implemented if lighting is needed: project shall comply with NPS and park lighting guidelines to reduce impacts to the night sky and wildlife. This will include, but is not limited to, low-level lighting, minimized glare, downward focused light fixtures, and energy efficient light sources such as low-pressure sodium lamps.
- The avulsion of the Stehekin River into the Battalion Creek side channel complex has created a significant amount of high quality spawning and rearing habitat for aquatic species, many of which are listed by Washington State as "Species of Greatest Conservation Need" (Columbia Spotted Frog, Western Toad, Pygmy Whitefish, Westslope Cutthroat Trout) or as "Vulnerable" (Cascades Frog).
The emergency road should include water conveyance structures at the head of the Battalion side channel to allow this habitat to remain wetted through the use of a hardened dip to allow channel maintenance flows and either corrugated metal culverts or a porous base layer to pass water. If this is not the case off-site mitigation or post-emergency adjustments to the road alignment should be implemented. Mitigations could include improvements of road stream crossings in the Stehekin Valley, development of groundwater spawning channels, aquatic invasive species management or wetland restoration.
- For trees not directly in path of planned construction, avoid removal and indirect impacts. Whenever possible, avoid soil disturbance and trenching within 6 ft or 2 m (structural root zone estimated) of trees greater than 18' in diameter. Avoid damaging greater than 25% of a tree's likely structural root zone. Always try to avoid work that encircles 50% or more of a tree's ground radius to avoid creating a hazard tree. For very large (>40' diameter) or if there are few remaining living trees, preserve as much of the critical root zone (1 radius for 1' of tree diameter) as possible. Consult park specialists or arborist before removing a tree because of root damage.
- Prior to construction activities, sensitive areas to be avoided will be marked by the archeologist. No work will be permitted within the marked areas.
comment: Prior to construction, the park archeologist will survey the newest road alignment and identify areas that should be avoided, if possible. This may include flagging sensitive trees and landforms. It also may include information gained through the excavation of limited shovel probes.
- Archeological monitoring required.
comment: There have been no archeological surveys in the vicinity and the landform has a high probability for archeological resources. An archeological monitor must be present at all times during ground disturbance to ensure archeological resources are not impacted. The archeologist will follow the Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Plan provided by the park. The archeological monitor will stop work as needed to inspect soils and look for artifacts. In the event that an archeological site is identified, work must stop within a 30-foot buffer surrounding the find. The monitor will contact the Park Cultural Resource Program Manager who will then notify the Park Superintendent, the State Historic Preservation Office, and three tribes. A work stoppage for an inadvertent discovery could last one day or more. However, if exigent circumstances occur and the Superintendent determines work stoppage may cause imminent threat to life or property, emergency archeological documentation will take place for a period of 1 hour at which time construction will proceed as planned.
- In the event of a fuel or oil leak/spill, the work shall cease immediately, spill containment deployed, NPS and other jurisdictional authorities shall be called immediately, as designated.
- Any heavy equipment used shall be kept as far from the stream as possible to prevent possible contamination of the stream from leaking hoses or parts. Equipment shall be inspected daily to ensure that leaks do not occur. Fueling operations shall take place at least 100' from the stream.
- All machinery containing fuels and oils shall have a spill kit available immediately in the event of a spill.
- Care shall be taken not to disturb any wildlife species (reptiles, migratory birds, raptors, or bats) found nesting, hibernating, estivating, or otherwise living in, or immediately nearby, worksites.
comment: Specific mitigations: 1) minimal removal/alteration of suitable nesting structures (>18" dbh live trees or snags, woody debris), or foraging habitat (lower canopy, shrubs, woody debris); 2) avoid night work; when unavoidable, shield lights down to prevent skyward illumination; 3) silence back up alarms and similar when safe (i.e. have spotter) to reduce noise disturbance of nearby wildlife

Construction and realignment of up to 2 miles of ~~NFS~~ [park] roads and associated parking areas. Examples include but are not limited to:

1. Constructing an ~~NFS~~ [park] road to improve access to a trailhead or parking area;
2. Rerouting an ~~NFS~~ [park] road to minimize resource impacts; and
3. Improving or upgrading the surface of an ~~NFS~~ [park] road to expand its capacity.

CE Justification: The project fits within the category of actions covered by this CE because the project is a realignment of an existing park road and the realignment does not exceed two miles. This project realigns what was an existing road segment that was washed out due to flooding. The affected road is 1 mile long and the segment to be realigned is less than 2,000 linear feet long. The road segment must be rebuilt (constructed) to allow residents on inholding parcels access to their homes and egress from the area. The selected alignment minimizes resource impacts.

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Explanation
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	The project will not result in any significant adverse impacts on public health or safety. Rather, rebuilding the road segment will result in beneficial impacts to public health and safety since the realignment allows residents to safely access their homes and to be able to egress the area in times of emergency. There are no health effects from rebuilding the road.
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	There will be some impacts to park lands, wetlands, floodplains, and general wildlife habitat from the project, but they do not rise to the level of significant. The road alignment has been selected to minimize clearing of habitat and it is anticipated that less than 10 acres will be cleared (probably closer to 5 to 7 acres will be disturbed). Within the context of existing habitat of this type, both in the immediate area and park-wide, this is not a significant number of acres. Additionally, the construction will allow for porosity in the base of the road segment to preserve floodplain utilization functions. This is an emergency action, and the exact acreage of wetland disturbance has not been determined, but the road alignment is as short as reasonably possible to minimize overall disturbance to all habitat types. Again, within both the context of the immediate area and within the larger park, the wetland acres impacted is small and not significant. This project does not adversely impact the functionality of other wetland areas in the park and has been minimized to ensure there are no significant impacts. There are no refuge lands, wilderness areas, national natural landmarks, drinking water aquifers, farmlands, or national monuments in the project area.
C. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	There are high probability of archaeological find landforms in the project area, which have not been surveyed. All efforts will be made to avoid these as much as possible, and the selected road alignment minimizes construction within the landforms. However, there will be archaeological monitoring, and there is an inadvertent discovery plan. Emergency consultation with the SHPO and Tribes has been conducted by the park's Cultural

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Explanation
		Program Manager. Because the selected road alignment avoids landforms where archeological resources are more likely and because NPS will have a monitor onsite, any archeological resources in the area will not be significantly adversely affected. The project is similar to other past projects. The project area is an area that has been used for similar purposes over time since the abutting residential area has predated the park. Thus, there are no other highly uncertain impacts, and the project does not involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
D. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	Rebuilding segments of road that have been damaged by natural disasters is not a precedent-setting action for the NPS. The project also does not engender future actions that would have potentially significant effects. The result of the project is that residents will be able to access their homes and be able to egress in times of emergency.
E. Have a direct relationship to other actions that implicate potentially significant environmental effects?	No	No other actions are being taken in the area except that the private residents will be responsible for any road reconstruction on their private property. In total, the length of road to be rebuilt by NPS and by private residents does not exceed 2 miles. When considering the effects of the NPS work as well as the work that residents may take to reconstruction road sections on their property, the impacts collectively do not rise to the level of significant impacts. This area has been developed since the park was established and the work proposed will be in a small area of the park. Also, there is no potential for significant impacts since residents will not be allowed to rebuild their section of the road within the new river prism.
F. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau?	No	The park's Cultural Resources Manager has reviewed the project and determined that no listed or eligible for listing properties are in the project area. There are high probability of archaeological find landforms in the project area, which have not been surveyed. All efforts will be made to avoid these as much as possible, and the selected road alignment minimizes construction within the landforms. However, there will be archaeological monitoring, and there is an inadvertent discovery plan. Emergency consultation with the SHPO and Tribes has been conducted by the park's Cultural Program Manager. Because the selected road alignment avoids landforms where archeological resources are more likely and because NPS will have a monitor onsite, any archeological resources in the area will not be significantly adversely affected.
G. 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?	No	There will be an adverse effect on Northern spotted owl habitat in that some (5 or fewer) acres of habitat will be lost. The road alignment was selected to minimize the amount of habitat loss. The park Biologist has conducted

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Explanation
		an emergency notification/ consultation with USFWS and will conduct further consultation once the emergency project is complete. The USFWS has provided NPS with emergency project conservation measures to follow which further minimize impacts and reduce any potential for significant impacts to the owl. It is not anticipated that the acreage of habitat loss constitutes a significant impact; the area impacted represents a small percentage of available habitat within the park and even smaller percentage within Northern spotted owl habitat throughout its range. The park biologist will conduct a hoot survey prior to construction and if a nest is found, all efforts will be made to re-route the road around the tree with the nest. Because of the limited number of habitat acres impacted, the conservation measures that will be employed during construction, and because NPS will conduct a survey to determine if there are any nests within the road corridor and attempt to save any trees with a nest, there will be not significant impacts to Northern spotted owls or their habitat. Impacts to other listed species include temporarily impacted by noise disturbance from heavy machinery that may cause injury, alteration of natural activities, or disturbance of prey. These are not expected to rise to the level of significance. NPS will follow conservation measures during construction provided by the USFWS.
H. Significantly limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites?	No	The park Cultural Resource Manager has conducted expedited consultation with the Tribes, and they have not identified any Indian sacred sites within the project area.
I. Contribute to potentially significant effects resulting from the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or from other actions that promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act)?	No	Because there will be heavy equipment and fill brought in for the project, best management practices have been added to the project to prevent the introduction of weeds or other non-native invasive species into the area. There should be no significant effects or introduction of these types of organisms into the project area.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion(s) above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

**Superintendent
Signature:**

**DANIKA
GLOBOKAR**

Digitally signed by
DANIKA GLOBOKAR
Date: 2026.03.27
15:23:57 -07'00'

Date: **3/27/2026**

Danika Globokar