National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Denali National Park and Preserve Alaska

Finding of No Significant Impact

Replacement of Restroom Facilities at Polychrome Overlook, Teklanika Rest Stop, and Teklanika Campground

May 2009

Recommended: _____ 5/1/09
Superintendent, Denali National Park and Preserve — Date

Approved: _____ 6/18/09
Regional Director, Alaska — Date

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Replacement of Restroom Facilities
at Polychrome Overlook, Teklanika Rest Stop, and Teklanika Campground
Denali National Park and Preserve
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The National Park Service (NPS) prepared an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a proposal to replace the chemical toilets at Denali National Park and Preserve (DENA) to help bring the park's sewage treatment facility into compliance with state regulations. The last large groups of chemical toilets in the park are along the Park Road at 3 locations – Polychrome Overlook, Teklanika Rest Stop, and Teklanika Campground.

The NPS has selected alternatives Teklanika Campground 2, Teklanika Rest Stop 3, Polychrome Overlook 3, and Toklat Rest Stop 2, with mitigation measures. These were the NPS preferred alternatives. The selected alternatives call for removal of all chemical toilets and installation of vault toilets (sweet-smelling toilets, SSTs) as replacements but in different configurations and locations.

Eight parties provided comments during the EA public review period. An errata page at the end of this document details changes made to the EA.

ALTERNATIVES

Actions at 4 locations were evaluated in the EA, with alternatives at each location. One alternative was selected for each location. The alternatives, as presented in the EA, are briefly described here.

Teklanika Campground Alternative 1 – No Action

The Teklanika Campground would continue to have 2 restroom buildings. Each building has 4 chemical toilets. Each building has an external potable water standpipe for visitor use. This alternative assumes 2 working restroom buildings; however, 1 of the 2 existing buildings is not operational at this time. The facilities that are not operational would be repaired, consistent with current maintenance operations.

Teklanika Campground Alternative 2 – SST (NPS Preferred Alternative) (Environmentally Preferred Alternative)

The existing 2 buildings with chemical toilet facilities would be replaced with 4 double-vault SSTs (sweet-smelling toilets). There would be 2 SST buildings per campground loop. For each campground loop, 1 of the double-vault SSTs would be located near the existing chemical toilet structure. The remaining double-vault SST would be located on the opposite side of each campground loop, so visitors would have 2 locations to access restroom facilities within each campground loop. Each new SST structure would have an external potable water standpipe or deep wash sink for visitor use. Native plant material would be used to revegetate any areas that

may be disturbed by construction. Upon completion of construction, the facilities would be functional throughout the open season of the park road.

Teklanika Rest Stop Alternative 1 – No Action
The Teklanika Rest Stop would continue to have the existing 29 chemical toilets and a 5-place urinal. All existing facilities would stay the same.

Teklanika Rest Stop Alternative 2 – SST; Adaptive Use Management
This alternative would include minimum build-out and maximum build-out options. The minimum build-out would be implemented first, and an adaptive management evaluation would determine whether an increase of facilities is necessary. The minimum build-out would include 10 SSTs and 4 Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) wheelchair accessible SSTs. The maximum build out option would add an additional 12 SSTs and 2 ABA accessible SSTs. Both minimum and maximum build-out options would include the following:

- 1 5-place urinal SST;
- 1 janitorial storage unit;
- 12 bus parking spaces;
- 4 car parking spaces; and
- access for a pump truck.

The existing footprint of the deck, shelter, and toilet facilities would not change. However, the planters currently located between the deck and parking area would be removed for pump truck access. The existing restroom buildings would be retained but would be modified on the inside by removing the existing chemical toilets and replacing them with SST vault toilets. Active odor control (fans and ducts) would be installed from the underground vaults to an exit point downwind of the rest stop facilities. Duct piping would be close to the existing edge of the parking area in order to minimize disturbance to existing vegetation. A propane generator would be installed to power the fans for both the minimum and maximum build-out options.

Teklanika Rest Stop Alternative 3 – SST 'Pods'; Adaptive Use Management (NPS Preferred Alternative) (Environmentally Preferred Alternative)
The minimum and maximum build-out options would mirror Alternative 2, except that all the restroom buildings would be new. The minimum build-out option would include 12 (rather than 10) SSTs and 4 ABA accessible SSTs. The maximum build-out option would add 10 (rather than 12) SSTs and 2 ABA accessible SSTs. The minimum build-out would include a new building that would contain a storage area, a multi-unit urinal, and 4 SSTs. This alternative would also include 3 buildings, or 'pods,' containing 4 SSTs each. The maximum build-out would be achieved by adding 4 more SSTs to the back of the 'pods.' Both minimum and maximum build-out options would include the following:

- 1 5-place urinal SST;
- 1 janitorial storage unit;
- 12 bus parking spaces;
- 4 car parking spaces; and
- access for a pump truck.

New SSTs would be constructed on the west side of the Teklanika Rest Stop site and extend north from the existing deck. The existing restroom buildings would be removed and the voids created would become part of the viewing deck. The minimum build-out would utilize the

prevailing winds to vent odor, instead of fans, generator, and ducts. If the maximum build-out occurred, active odor control would be used to vent gases away from the facilities. This would require a propane generator to supply power for active odor control only if the maximum build-out is constructed.

Vehicular Circulation:

A service entry drive would be located on the west side of the site. A pump truck would be able to access the SSTs without affecting pedestrian circulation. Cleaning operations would take place during times when visitors are on site; however, cleaning operations would not pose contamination hazards to the viewing deck or visitor use areas. The service access would expand the existing disturbed area to the west in order to provide room for a pump truck to access all of the SSTs. A new access drive to the parking lot for buses and cars would be provided on the east side of the SSTs. Parking spaces for 12 buses and 5 cars would be provided. This new layout would alter the existing vegetated island that currently separates the parking area from the road. Areas disturbed during construction would be revegetated.

Pedestrian Circulation:

The existing deck would be reduced on its east side and the areas previously covered by the deck would be revegetated. Visitors would be able to approach the SSTs via the viewing deck and new boardwalk that accesses the individual toilets. It is intended that visitors would leave and approach the buses along the corridor between the bus parking spaces and the viewing deck. This would ensure that bus drivers could clearly observe pedestrians while entering and leaving the site.

Polychrome Overlook Alternative 1 – No Action

The site would retain the existing 18 chemical toilets, along with decking and a shade structure. This alternative would keep all existing toilets in tact and no changes would be made to the site.

Polychrome Overlook Alternative 2 – No Toilet Facilities

The existing 3,640 square foot deck, shelter, and chemical toilet facilities would be removed. This alternative would change the Polychrome to be a panoramic stop and remove all facilities from the area. The existing wood stairway that accesses the trail above Polychrome Overlook would be rebuilt or extended to reach the parking area, once the decking was removed.

Polychrome Overlook Alternative 3 – SST; Adaptive Use Management (NPS Preferred Alternative) (Environmentally Preferred Alternative)

All facilities would be removed from Polychrome Overlook, just as in Alternative 2, and the site would be operated as a panoramic view stop similar to the Stony view overlook for several seasons. The existing wood stairway that accesses the trail above Polychrome Overlook would be rebuilt or extended to reach the parking area, once the decking was removed. An adaptive use management approach would determine the need for future facilities, if any. The determination would be based on an evaluation of resource and visitor use indicators that could include sheep migration patterns, traffic flow, visitor satisfaction, social trails, impact to vegetation, evidence of human feces, administrative traffic levels, and operational costs (labor and materials), measured over the next two to five years. The findings from these efforts would guide the decision on whether or not a toilet facility is necessary and appropriate for the Polychrome Overlook site.

If it is determined that new restrooms should be constructed at Polychrome Overlook, the development would consist of 8 SSTs, 2 ABA accessible SSTs, a 5-place SST urinal, and a small covered shelter. All new structures would be placed in a staggered line to the west of the ice lens in order to better ensure they would not be impacted by subsidence or frost jacking. To accommodate the required building space, the adjacent bank would be excavated and a 10-12 foot high rock gabion retaining wall would be constructed to support the bank to the north of the rest stop. A 14-foot wide service drive would provide access for a pump truck.

Vehicular Circulation:

Eliminating the existing facilities would open up space that could be used as parking for 4 additional buses. Bus parking would not block the road and the configuration would allow for two-way vehicle travel. At full rebuild, the pump truck would park either adjacent to the SST urinal or in the 14-foot wide service drive.

Pedestrian Circulation:

At full rebuild, visitors getting off buses would be greeted with a view of the shelter that would act as a gateway to the restroom facilities and the overlook. Boulders would denote a pedestrian crossing point from the rest area facilities to the overlook across the road. This organization of pedestrian flow would improve safety at the site.

Toklat Rest Stop Alternative 1 – No Action

The existing 7 double-vault SSTs would remain in place. There would be no modifications to the site.

Toklat Rest Stop Alternative 2 – SST (NPS Preferred Alternative) (Environmentally Preferred Alternative)

One 5-place SST urinal building would be constructed adjacent to the existing SSTs on the disturbed site. Vehicular and pedestrian circulation would not change at the Toklat Rest Stop.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The EA was released for a 32-day public comment period from March 12, 2009 through April 13, 200. The EA was sent to 49 agencies, organizations, and individuals and was posted on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website. The park issued a press release on March 12, 2009 about the EA and the open comment period.

Eight comments were received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Army Corps of Engineers, 2 environmental organizations, and 4 individuals. The comments did not change the conclusions in the EA about the environmental effects for the proposed action and alternatives.

The 2 environmental groups generally supported the NPS preferred alternatives. Two of the individuals generally opposed removal of restrooms from Polychrome. The letters expressed concern about noise from the generator at Teklanika Rest Stop, height of the new buildings impacting viewsheds, noise from back-up alarm of the pumper truck, adequate number of toilets at Teklanika Rest Stop, alternate locations for restrooms at Polychrome, bus scheduling, August odors at Toklat, retention of planters at Teklanika Rest Stop, toilets on buses, a need for diaper

changing stations, adequacy of the wetland evaluation, permit requirements, and suggested re-vegetation at Polychrome. Two letters suggested retaining the chemical toilets and altering the design of the park's sewage treatment plant to treat the effluent.

DECISION

The NPS decision is to select the following 4 actions:

1. Teklanika Campground Alternative 2 – SST (NPS Preferred Alternative), with one modification. The modification is to retain the campground restroom buildings, convert them to bear-proof storage units, and remove the existing conex trailer storage box from the campground.
2. Teklanika Rest Stop Alternative 3 – SST 'Pods'; Adaptive Use Management (NPS Preferred Alternative).
3. Polychrome Overlook Alternative 3 – SST; Adaptive Use Management (NPS Preferred Alternative).
4. Toklat Rest Stop Alternative 2 – SST (NPS Preferred Alternative).

MITIGATING MEASURES

The following mitigation measures apply to the 4 selected actions.

Cultural Resources

Project excavations will be monitored by cultural resource staff. If previously unknown cultural resources are located during construction, the project will be stopped in the discovery area until cultural resource staff can determine the significance of the finding and recommend appropriate courses of action.

Floodplain Management

New facilities will be located in the same disturbed area as the existing facilities at the Toklat Rest Stop. Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be used during construction and installation to minimize impacts to floodplains and preserve floodplain values.

Natural Sound

All noise-producing project construction equipment and vehicles using internal combustion engines will be equipped with mufflers, air-inlet silencers, shrouds, shields, or other noise-reducing features in good operating condition that meet or exceed original factory specification. Mobile or fixed "package" equipment (e.g., arc-welders, air compressors) will be equipped with shrouds or noise control features that are readily available for that type of equipment. The use of noise-producing signals, including horns, whistles, electronic alarms, and sirens and bells, will be for safety warning purposes only. Any new permanent propane generator installed will have hospital-grade muffler and silencing equipment and housing.

Recreation and Visitor Use
Construction phasing and timing will be coordinated with the park bus systems and low visitor use times to minimize traffic delays on the park road and use of the Teklanika Campground. Temporary restroom facilities (e.g., portable toilets) will be located in existing disturbed areas for visitor use as needed during construction periods.

Soils and Vegetation
Backslopes and fill slopes will be covered with conserved topsoil from earlier excavation. Disturbed sites within the project area will be replanted with native vegetation, following the USGS Interior Alaska Revegetation Plan. Measures to prevent invasive plant colonization will include pressure washing construction equipment and vehicles prior to entering the park. Any gravel or fill required will either come from a weed-free materials site (as verified by a park vegetation technician) or will be heated to kill any plant material and seeds. The park's existing exotic plant eradication program will continue in the project areas.

Visual Quality
To the greatest extent practicable, impacts to visual resources from construction and operational activities will be minimized. This will be accomplished through means such as locating new or reconstructed facilities within existing footprints, using building materials and colors that are compatible with the natural landscape, and screening the entrances of certain restroom facilities. The visual impact of construction will be minimized by operating during low visitor use periods (e.g., evening hours).

Water Resources
BMPs will be used to reduce water runoff and avoid water quality impacts during construction and demolition of facilities at each site. BMPs will include using: clean fill materials, minimum clearing distances, silt fences and sediment basins to reduce erosion during construction, dust abatement, and roadside culverts to maintain natural drainage and surface water flow patterns.

Wetlands
BMPs, such as the use of silt fences, will be used to protect adjacent wetlands.

Wildlife and Habitat
In accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the NPS will endeavor to avoid the "take" of migratory birds, their eggs, feathers, or nests. In order to avoid violations of the MBTA, bird habitat (vegetation) will not be removed during the nesting season, April through July 15. After completing all the nesting vegetation removal required for the project, there will be no seasonal MTBA restriction for construction activities, even during subsequent nesting seasons. If an active nest is encountered at any time, it will be protected from destruction. "Active" is indicated by intact eggs, live chicks, or presence of an adult on the nest. Eggs, chicks, or adults of wild birds will not be destroyed.

RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION

The selected actions will satisfy the purpose and need of the project better than other alternatives because they protect natural resources, provide adequate restroom services to the public, and are within reasonable funding targets. These actions will result in the removal of the remaining fixed chemical toilets in Denali National Park. This will help satisfy the NPS obligation under the Clean Water Act, administered by state regulations, to reduce the nitrogen levels in the groundwater near the main sewage treatment plant. The redesigned sewer treatment plant, scheduled to go on line in May 2011, is intended to receive no more than a small amount of chemical toilet waste.

The NO ACTION alternatives would not satisfy the requirements of the project purpose and need. They would not result in removal of chemical toilets from the park.

The 1997 Entrance Area and Road Corridor EIS (the Frontcountry Plan) is the direct precursor of this EA and provides the general guidelines for the proposed activities. The February 1997 Record of Decision states, *Frontcountry developments will be limited to actions in which the National Park Service has traditionally specialized, such as interpretive centers, environmental education opportunities, trails, resource protection programs and campgrounds… The National Park Service will encourage the private sector to develop visitor service facilities (accommodations, food service, and other commercial services) outside the park.* The frontcountry facilities proposed in this EA are consistent with this direction.

The rationale for removing chemical toilets from the waste stream and replacing them with sweet smelling toilets was developed based on the following information. In February 2005 a team of engineers held a 3-day session to analyze data of the entire park's sewage waste stream including the chemical toilets. This resulted in the decision to remove all of the chemical toilets from the park because the high biological oxygen demand of the waste causes shock loading to the park's treatment plant. This decision was discussed in the cumulative effects section of the March 2008 *Front Country Wastewater Facility and Collection System Rehabilitation* EA. Treatment technologies available that could adequately treat the chemical toilet wastes were considered by the engineering team, but would cost as much or more than the chemical toilet replacement projects and would have much higher operational and maintenance costs for years to come.

The existing chemical toilets are obsolete and, if kept in use, would require conversion of the failing diaphragm pumps to electric pumps. This conversion would have increased operation and maintenance costs.

The conversion of chemical toilets to SSTs is better for the environment because there are no chemicals used in the SSTs or in the treatment of the SST waste. The chemical toilets would require additional chemicals to treat the wastes. The SSTs are more economical because the projected savings in chemicals, reduced trips on the road for hauling waste, and reduced staff for maintaining the facilities is approximately $196,000 annually.

Other types of toilet systems were considered. Water-based flush toilets would require a significant ground disturbance for septic tanks and leach fields, and would require a water supply

system with ground disturbance for installation of wells, distribution piping, generators, and chlorination systems. Composting toilets were considered, but case studies have shown that they do not even work in parks such as Glacier National Park in Montana. Propane toilets were considered but have large energy requirements. The SST technology, when installed and operated properly, was determined to be the most sustainable toilet system for use in Denali.

Teklanika Campground (Alternative 2, SST)
Visitors will have shorter distances to walk from their campsites to the nearest restroom building because the existing two buildings will be replaced with four new buildings. Once the existing restroom buildings are refurbished for bear-proof storage, visitors will have 2 food storage units rather than the just 1 metal conex trailer. The unattractive conex trailer will be removed from the campground. Visitors will be disturbed less often by pump truck visits because the SSTs would not need to be pumped as often. The chemical toilets are pumped every one or two weeks, but the SSTs will be pumped about once a month. This will save staff time and funding for the park. Each restroom will still be cleaned and serviced regularly, but will be pumped-out less often. The SSTs may be used early season and late season because they do not freeze up like the chemical toilets.

Teklanika Rest Stop (Alternative 3, SST Pods, Adaptive Use Management)
Visitors will be disturbed less often by the pumper truck. The chemical toilets are pumped daily, but the SSTs will be pumped once or twice a week. This will save staff time and funding for the park. The SSTs may be used early season and late season because they do not freeze-up like the chemical toilets. The options for minimum build-out to maximum build-out give the park a money saving opportunity to build only what is necessary and appropriate. A less intrusive facility will be built initially, which the NPS believes will be adequate for the number of visitors, based on 2008 observations of restroom use patterns. Unlike alternative 2, the SSTs will be pumped-out from the back of the buildings or through service alleys, and not directly through the toilet risers. This makes for easier and cleaner pump-out operation. The pumper truck will have its own service lane so it will not take up parking space as in the other alternatives. The minimum build-out SSTs will operate with passive odor control and without a propane generator. This will save money on energy costs. The maximum build-out SSTs will have active odor control, requiring electric fans, ducts, and a propane generator for power.

Polychrome Overlook (Alternative 3, Adaptive Use Management)
Wildlife may respond to the lack of development with increased habitat use of the immediate area. Park visitors will enjoy improved views of scenery and wildlife. Tour and shuttle buses will have more parking space and safer maneuvering room. With no restrooms to clean, service, and pump-out daily, there will be fewer administrative road trips on the Park Road and the park will save on staff time and funding. Polychrome will remain a scheduled bus stop, and the visitor experience will be improved by providing a large undeveloped overlook with time to enjoy the views. In response to concerns that toilet facilities could still be needed at Polychrome, the park will monitor visitor concerns and resource indicators. The decision to reinstall toilet facilities at Polychrome can be revisited in the future if monitoring shows a need.

Toklat Rest Stop (Alternative 2, SST)
The addition of another SST building, and especially the fact that it is a 5-station urinal, will significantly add to the use capacity of the rest stop. The new 5-station urinal will reduce the time needs in the existing SSTs. This additional capacity will be needed to compensate for the removal of the Polychrome Overlook restrooms. The additional 5-station urinal SST will not increase the footprint of development of the rest stop.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

The selected alternatives will not have a significant effect on the human environment. This conclusion is based on the following examination of the significance criteria defined in 40 CFR Section 1508.27.

(1) Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial.

The project will have both beneficial and adverse impacts on visitor use and enjoyment at Polychrome. Visitors will experience a less-developed, more natural overlook, roadway, and park. Visitors will also have to wait for a restroom break until their bus reaches Toklat or Teklanika Rest Stop.

(2) The degree to which the proposed action affects public health or safety.

The proposed actions will have an important positive affect to public health and safety because of the effective operation of the park's sewage treatment plant without the chemical toilet waste stream. Negative health and safety affects are minor.

(3) Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetland, wild and scenic rives, or ecologically critical areas.

The project area is located in Denali National Park. The landscapes in the area are dynamic. The park hosts viewable wildlife populations of large animals along with their habitat and migration routes. These unique characteristics will not be significantly affected by the project.

(4) The degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.

Restroom facilities along the Park Road are a necessity, and their location is of interest to the public and to interest groups. Development to provide for visitor restrooms has resulted in a few rest areas along the Park Road. The Park Road itself is a linear development surrounded by designated wilderness, but the amount of roadside development has been an ongoing discussion. The 1997 Entrance Area and Road Corridor Development Concept Plan and EIS addressed this issue and guides the current project. The selected alternatives will close some restroom facilities.

(5) The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.

The effects of the selected alternatives involve few unique or unknown risks. The underground ice lens at the Polychrome Overlook is buried clear ice about 10 feet below the surface and about 20 feet thick. The overlook is small, less than one acre, and topography limits its expansion. There is not enough room to comfortably, safely, and adequately accommodate both the existing bus traffic and restroom use. The ice lens is not absolutely defined as to its size, extent, and continuity. Also its hazard to structures built above it, or to parking vehicles above it are not well known. The long-term hazard of the melting ice lens to the integrity of the flat parking and road surface are not well known.

(6) The degree to which the action may establish a precedent of future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.

Removal of chemical toilets from the park, and their replacement either on-site or at different locations, will not establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision on principle about a future consideration. The scope of the EA is limited to chemical toilet removal and replacement, and does not address bus scheduling or vehicle management. A major planning effort to address such vehicle management issues has begun as the Denali Vehicle Management Plan and EIS.

(7) Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.

The actions in this EA are not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant impacts.

(8) Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

The selected actions will not adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. No known scientific resources will be adversely affected by the selected actions.

(9) The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.

The selected alternatives will not adversely affect endangered or threatened species or habitat.

(10) Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

The selected alternative will not violate any Federal, State, or local law.

FINDINGS

The levels of adverse impacts to park resources anticipated from the selected actions will not result in an impairment of park resources that fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or that are key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park.

The removal of chemical toilets and their replacement with SSTs under the selected actions complies with the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and Executive Orders 11988 (Floodplains) and 11990 (Wetlands). There will be no restriction of subsistence activities as documented by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Title VIII, Section 810(a) Summary Evaluation and Findings.

The National Park Service has determined that the selected alternative does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR 1508.9), an environmental impact statement is not needed and will not be prepared for this project.

ERRATA

1. Page 15, 2.2.2, Teklanika Campground Alternative 2 – SST (NPS Preferred Alternative) (Environmentally Preferred Alternative). The following paragraph has been modified due to a recent change in the planned activity – to retain the campground restroom buildings, convert them to bear-proof storage units, and remove the existing conex trailer currently used for bear-proof storage. This change will not significantly change the levels of impact analyzed in the EA.

> *This alternative would involve replacing the existing chemical toilet facilities with two, double vault SSTs per campground loop. For each campground loop, one of the double vault SSTs would be sited ~~in the same area as~~ approximately 20 to 30 feet from the existing chemical toilet structure. The remaining double vault SST would be sited on the opposite side of each campground loop so visitors would have two central locations to access restroom facilities within each campground loop (Figure 3). The final locations of the two SST facilities would minimize or avoid disturbance of existing vegetation to the greatest extent possible. ~~Each~~ Two of the 4 new SST structures would have ~~an~~ external potable water standpipes or deep wash sinks for visitor use. The 2 existing chemical toilet buildings would not be removed but would be refurbished and converted to bear-proof storage structures. The existing conex unit for bear-proof storage would be removed from the campground. The 2 existing water standpipes adjacent to the existing structures would remain in use. Native plant material would be used to revegetate any areas that may be disturbed by construction. Upon completion of construction, the proposed facilities would be functional throughout the open season of the park road.*

2. Page 23, 2.4.3, 1st paragraph. Add the following after the 1st sentence to clarify NPS intent. It describes a portion of the selected Polychrome 3 alternative that is the same as the Polychrome 2 alternative.

> *The existing wood stairway that accesses the trail above Polychrome Overlook would be rebuilt or extended to reach the parking area, once the decking was removed.*

3. Page 23, 2.4.3, 1st paragraph, 3rd sentence. The following sentence has been modified to clarify NPS intent. It describes a portion of the selected Polychrome 3 alternative.

> *The indicators ~~would~~ could include; sheep migration patterns, traffic flow, visitor satisfaction, social trails, impact to vegetation, evidence of human feces, administrative traffic levels, and operational costs (labor and materials).*

4. Page 24, 2.4.3, Pedestrian Circulation. The following sentence has been modified to clarify NPS intent. It describes a portion of the selected Polychrome 3 alternative.

> *Boulders or other markers would denote a pedestrian crossing point from the rest area facilities to the overlook across the road.*

5. Page 31, 2.7.3, Natural Sound. The following paragraph has been modified to clarify NPS intent. It describes the mitigation measures that will be implemented to prevent noise and protect natural sounds.

> *All noise-producing project construction equipment and vehicles using internal combustion engines would be equipped with ~~hospital grade~~ mufflers, air-inlet silencers*

~~where appropriate~~, ~~and any other~~ shrouds, shields, or other noise-reducing features in good operating condition that meet or exceed original factory specification. Mobile or fixed "package" equipment (e.g., arc-welders, air compressors) would be equipped with shrouds or noise control features that are readily available for that type of equipment. The use of noise-producing signals, including horns, whistles, electronic alarms, and sirens and bells, would be for safety warning purposes only. Any new permanent propane generator installed would have hospital-grade muffler and silencing equipment and housing.

6. Page 31, 2.7.4, Recreation and Visitor Use, 2nd Sentence. The following sentence has been modified to clarify NPS intent. It describes the mitigation measures that will be implemented.

Temporary restroom facilities (e.g., portable toilets) will be located in existing ~~parking~~ disturbed areas for visitor use as needed during construction periods.