



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Trails Maintenance Plan - Programmatic Compliance 2019-2023

PEPC Project Number: 85464

Description of Action (Project Description):

Trail Maintenance Plan, Trail Standards, and Trail Classification for Denali National Park and Preserve.

This project seeks 5-year approval (thru Dec 31, 2023) to work on "in-kind cyclic" maintenance, stabilization and rehabilitation of existing trail systems located within Denali National Park and Preserve. SEE DOCUMENT TITLED Trails Maintenance Plan for FULL description of project.

NON-HISTORIC TRAILS: Work is allowed under this plan on existing non-historic trails that are located within previously disturbed areas and do not exceed the depth of the previous disturbance. This work may include the following and comparable work:

- In-kind regrading, graveling, repaving, or other maintenance treatments of all existing trails, walks and paths within existing disturbed alignments.
- Minor realignment of trails where the ground is previously disturbed as determined by a qualified archeologist.
- Routine trail maintenance and cleanup with no ground disturbance. -Removal of dead and downed vegetation using equipment and methods that do not introduce ground disturbance.

HISTORIC TRAILS: Including the Horseshoe Lake, The Triple Lakes, Savage Canyon, McKinley Bar, and Mt. Healy Overlook Trail. The following maintenance is allowed on these trails:

- Repair, routine maintenance, or resurfacing in-kind. The project, including staging areas, cannot exceed the area of the existing surface and cannot exceed the depth of existing disturbance.
- Tree management.
- Routine maintenance of vegetation within CL with no changes in layout or design.
- Routine roadside and trail maintenance and cleanup with no ground disturbance.
- Removal of dead and downed vegetation using equipment and methods that do not introduce ground disturbance.

SIGNS: The following is allowed in regards to signs under this approval:

- Replacement of existing signage in the same location with similar style, scale and materials.

- New signs that meet NPS standards, provided the sign is not physically attached to a historic building, structure, or object (including trees) and the sign is to be located in previously disturbed areas or areas inventoried and found not to contain historic properties.

- Replacement of interpretive messages on existing signs.

- Small developments such as paved pads, benches, and other features for universal access to signs, in previously disturbed areas or areas inventoried and found not to contain historic properties.

- Temporary signage for closures, etc. in previously disturbed areas or areas inventoried and found not to contain historic properties.

The types of work covered under this proposal are Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) - activities related to maintenance, stabilization and/or rehabilitation.

In this plan, the Park's hiking trails have been divided into five classes, each defined by its own user groups and design specifications. The intent of this plan is to authorize the trail maintenance staff to repair/rehabilitate the Park's existing trails to meet their designed standards. Efforts to alter a trail so as to improve or degrade a trail to another trail class would be beyond the scope of this plan and would require additional compliance. Standard goals of the work crew will be as follows; brush vegetation, repair or stabilize wherever possible, and rehabilitate using similar methods and materials wherever simple repair/stabilization is not possible. The course of action selected by the crew will be dictated by the needs of the area and pre-approved methods of repair. Tools and techniques for repair and rehabilitation will be limited to the methods used or authorized for construction, or those that have traditionally been used.

Activities not allowed under this maintenance proposal are: • New trail construction • Major trail reroute sections • Major new non-existing trail features, i.e. bridges.

Location

County: Denali Bourough **State:** AK

Mitigation(s): See document (Plan) for multiple mitigation measures to be considered for each project.

CE Citation: C.11 Minor trail relocation, development of compatible trail networks on logging roads or other established routes, and trail maintenance and repair.

CE Justification:

The programmatic compliance provides for routine maintenance. More substantial projects will be considered independent of the programmatic.

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

Signature

Superintendent: Don Striker **Date:** 27 MAR 2019

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
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 (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. Have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, as determined by either the bureau or office?	No	
H. 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	
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?	No	

