



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** Big Spring Trail and Bridge Repair-Replacement

**PEPC Project Number:** 43081

**Project Description:**

Trail Foot Bridge was replaced in the summer of 2010, the flood in 2011 washed it out again. Recommendation: Building a new, more accessible, 45 foot free span trail bridge 55 feet further up the wash than its previous location. Rerouting a section of trail improving the accessibility on both sides of the bridge 75 feet on the upstream side and 85 feet on the downstream side, rehabbing approximately 105 ? 130 feet of the abandoned trail and doing some localized bank stabilization work where the original bridge was located. We also plan to remove as much concrete as possible that was deposited by the recent flooding without destabilizing the area, in accordance with field discussions from the site visit on 20 June 2012. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Resource Management, Resource Protection, Management, and Maintenance. Concrete removal shall be limited to removing the larger concrete pieces that now obstruct the waterway and are unsightly. Effort shall be made to remove concrete without destabilizing the area and creating future erosion problems.

Justification: The Bridge as it was built, and as it had been built in its past location, made it prone to being washed out during a flood event - this will be the third rebuild in five years. The original path puts the bridge 55' from the Current River, making it more susceptible to the impacts of flooding. Relocating the bridge would increase the chances of this bridge surviving a flood event, and would allow for improving accessibility by raising the structure above the stream bed.

1. It is the highest natural point across the ditch four feet higher than its current location. 2. It is also the narrowest section across the ditch which would allow us to build using a solid free span beam of 45'. 3. It would allow us to make this bridge and this section of trail more accessible for public use ? increasing visitor accessibility in the Big Spring area. 4. By rerouting the trail it would allow us to reclaim the current trail and to perform some bank stabilization work that is beginning to erode at the current location. 5. Direct line of sight to the river would still be maintained. 6. No trees need cut only a few limbs, new trail goes through grass and weeds.

Site work (new trail): The new trail will be routed through grass and weeds avoiding nearby "cane," maintaining our desires to improve accessibility wherever possible. No trees will be removed some limbs will have to be trimmed back. If fill is needed for the trail it will come from whatever material we excavate for the bridge support structure. We will use a cut / fill approach if you cut some here you fill less there vice versa to improve accessibility wherever possible. To establish a new trail and to improve the tread surface we will lay a base material of rock and complete the surface with compacted material to maximize mobility. Any disturbed area will be seeded and straw put down when work is done.

Site work New Bride: Excavate on both sides of the ditch an area four feet deep x two feet wide x five across. The back and two sides will be formed using the native undisturbed ground. All concrete will be poured in place and reinforced with rebar. Concrete structure will be back filled using three inch clean

rock for drainage. Excavated material will be used for building new trail, trail rehabilitation and bank stabilization. See Sketch SK-1 dated 25 June 2012.

Building Material: All of the wood products being used on the new bridge will be cedar - no treated wood products will be used on the bridge.

This project is outside of the Big Spring Historic District and does not involve any historic structures.

**Project Locations:**

**Location**

<b>County:</b>	Carter	<b>State:</b>	MO
<b>District:</b>	Lower Current	<b>Section:</b>	
<b>Geo.</b>		<b>Other:</b>	
<b>Marker:</b>			

**Mitigation(s):**

- Place support piers as far back from active channel as possible to minimize scouring and cutting at channel edge.
- Allow the vegetation of the abandoned portion of trail to grow back up. Reseed if possible.

**Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):**

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

**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 (e.g. all boxes in the ESF are marked "no") or conditions in Section 3-6 apply, and the action is fully described in Section 3-4 of DO-12.**

**Park Superintendent / Date:**  JUL 12 2012

**NPS Contact Person:** Joe Strenfel

**Title:** Environmental Protection Specialist

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