



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Sea Walk

PEPC Project Number: 44309

Project Description:

The project justification focuses on pedestrian traffic flow and visitor safety. By strategically widening the paved walkway, to between 6' and 8', into Sitka National Historical Park a Sea Walk trail will produce and enhance a memorable and safe experience for arriving Park visitors. The project will be coordinated with the City's Sea Walk, which was designed partially with FTA funding to be implemented as far as the Park boundary. Within the Park, the proposed Sea Walk continues the trail as it widens and narrows directly beside the coastline with one trail spur going to Merrill Rock, which is part of the cultural landscape. Brush thinning and trail in that area will increase visitor safety.

Some vegetation thinning along the Sea Walk is proposed to allow views and seating along the trail. Old Sitka Spruce and Alder where eagles perch will remain undisturbed while vegetation beneath their canopy will be thinned. Closer to the Visitor Center, some non-native rose bushes and a short fence will be removed and replaced with native plants. The new SITK Sea Walk will end at the Visitor Center entrance.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	Sitka	State:	AK
District:		Section:	
Geo. Marker:		Other:	

Mitigation(s):

- No mitigations identified.

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):

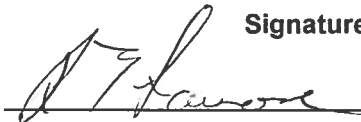
C.18 Construction of minor structures, including small improved parking lots, in previously disturbed or developed areas.

Explanation:

Guidance: Previously disturbed or developed areas means development zones with clear evidence of recent human disturbance. Other examples of minor structures include small-scale structures for public use; walkways, ramps, signs, or other small features incidental to the use of a developed area or to improve handicapped accessibility.

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.

Signature
Superintendent:  Date: 3/6/13
Randy Larson

NPS Contact: _____ Date: _____