



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** Unmanned Aircraft

**PEPC Project Number:** 54172

**Project Description:**

This project complies with Policy Memorandum 14-05, Subject: Unmanned Aircraft - - Interim Policy, issued by the NPS Director on June 19, 2014. The purpose of this policy is to ensure that the use of unmanned aircraft is addressed in a consistent manner within the National Park Service System. This project will update the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Superintendent's Compendium to close those lands administered by the National Park Service to launching, landing, or operating unmanned aircraft.

This interim policy action is taken to maintain public health and safety in units of the National Park System and to protect park resources and values. The National Park Service (NPS) will determine whether specific uses of unmanned aircraft on lands and waters administered by the NPS are appropriate and will not cause unacceptable impacts on park resources and values. NPS Management Policies 2006, section 1.5 provides that a new form of park use may be allowed within a park only after a determination has been made in the professional judgment of the superintendent that it will not result in unacceptable impacts on park resources and values. Unmanned aircraft as defined as a device is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

This new use has the potential to cause unacceptable impacts such as harming visitors, interfering with rescue operations, causing excessive noise, impacting viewsheds, and disturbing wildlife. These interim closure measures are necessary to ensure that this new use can be properly evaluated for park resource and visitor use and enjoyment impacts.

Additionally, current NPS regulations do not specifically address launching, landing or operating unmanned aircraft as defined above. Therefore using the authority granted to superintendents pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5 these interim closure measures are being undertaken.

**Project Locations:**

**Location 1**

<b>County:</b>	Ramsey	<b>State:</b>	MN
<b>District:</b>		<b>Section:</b>	
<b>Geo. Marker:</b>		<b>Other:</b>	

**Location 2**

<b>County:</b>	Anoka	<b>State:</b>	MN
<b>District:</b>		<b>Section:</b>	

Geo. Marker:

Other:

**Location 3**

County: Dakota

State: MN

District:

Section:

Geo. Marker:

Other:

**Location 4**

County: Hennepin

State: MN

District:

Section:

Geo. Marker:

Other:

**Location 5**

County: Washington

State: MN

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):**

D.2 Minor changes in amounts or types of visitor use for the purpose of ensuring visitor safety or resource protection in accordance with existing regulations.

**Explanation:**

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: John Anfinson  
John Anfinson

Date: 8/20/14

NPS Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_