



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Improvement to accommodate winter trail use at Mtn Vista Trailhead

PEPC Project Number: 74798

Description of Action (Project Description):

The test phase of winter and spring road plowing has highlighted the challenges the Mountain Vista trailhead faces as it struggles to serve a wide variety of winter recreational uses. The presence of tourists curious about winter recreation, potentially in large numbers, creates a level of visitor interaction and congestion that other winter trailheads in Denali don't experience. In order to provide for visitor, dog driver, and dog safety, this modifies the existing conditions near Mountain Vista and approves the following actions:

•Improved signage to better communicate trail locations and uses to visitors •Wands are to be added where germane to delineating the route •Only the yellow line (skier route) is authorized for any modifications at this time. No construction is to be done with respect to the red and blue lines (musher route leaving from Savage Cabin area; decisions about this area to follow upcoming winter planning effort/new EA) - please see map. •Trees at "pinch point" (SE-ish corner of general campground area) may be cleared to provide safer passage through that area and improved sight distance. •Brushing of "yellow" line to 8' wide is authorized up to the first creek crossing. •Puncheon to be removed - monitor skier trends this winter that result from removal.

Project Locations:

Location

County: Denali Borough **State:** AK

Mitigation(s):

- 106 Survey will be done in advance of any work.

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:

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
Don Striker

Date:

25 Sep 2017

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	