



# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

### 1. Park: Arches National Park

### 2. Project Description:

**Project Name:** Road Construction Schedule Changes and New Additions for 3R project

**Prepared by:** Sabrina Henry **Date Prepared:** 01/14/2016 **Telephone:** 435-719-2135

**PEPC Project Number:** 62376

**Locations:**

**Describe project:**

The NPS proposes to amend the decision made in the 2013 FONSI by authorizing night work, constructing a longer inbound lane, constructing a roundabout after the entrance booths, temporarily closing Devil's Campground and rehabilitating the campground road, temporarily closing and rehabilitating the Windows Road, and temporarily closing Delicate Arch Road for more extensive road construction.

All project phases could occur at night as a means of minimizing adverse impacts on daytime visitor use and experience. The actual balance between daytime and nighttime work would depend on day length, temperatures, project scheduling needs, and other factors.

An additional 2,000 linear feet would be added to the 800 linear foot entrance lane the NPS initially identified for implementation in the 2013 FONSI (Map 1). This would create a 2,800 linear foot lane by widening the outbound side of the road. A roundabout after the entrance booths would be constructed at the intersection of the maintenance road and main park road as shown in the conceptual Map 1.

Rehabilitating the Devil's Campground Road, Windows Road, and Delicate Arch Road would entail paving these roads and would include the following components: • Full Depth Reclamation (FDR) (existing asphalt pulverized and blended with the native soil and compacted in place as base); • Hot Asphalt Cement Pavement (HACP) overlay; • Colored concrete curb in the parking areas and pullouts; and • Asphalt curb in paved ditch locations.

It is anticipated that much of the pulverizing, paving and other work would occur at night so that the widened entrance road, maintenance road, and roundabout could be utilized by visitors during the day and lessen impacts to public traffic during the rest of the project. The work along the entrance road could take up to six to eight weeks to complete. The main entrance road and roundabout work would take place with phased full closures or lane closures if work during the day is necessary.

Detail work (e.g., edging, curves, etc.), at specific areas would require road and full area closures, such as the case for Devils Garden Campground, Delicate Arch Road and Window's Road (Map 2). The Devils Campground would be closed when road work is occurring for the first season of road construction and potentially closed for the second season. Entrance road work is proposed to begin in 2017 as is the sequence

of working north to south from Devils Garden to the intersection of Delicate Arch Road or to the Windows Road. Work proposed for the Delicate Arch Road and Windows Road improvements would most likely begin in the second season of the project as well as a sequence of work from the junction of the Delicate Arch Road to the entrance of the park.

Although every effort would be made to minimize disruption during construction, and conduct work at night as much as possible, there would be delays and closures required for work. A construction schedule would be developed based on the entire project being built under the same contract to determine an approximate overall time required for construction. Traffic control with pilot car and flaggers for this work may take place during the day or night. Flaggers would be utilized during full closures to prevent visitors from accessing work zones. Devils Garden, Delicate Arch and Window area trails would be closed when road construction is occurring in the respective areas. Access to trailheads would resume upon completion of road work within the area. When full closures are not in affect, typical traffic delays would be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per passage through the project as was originally approved in the comprehensive 2013 EA/FONSI. When roadways are open to public traffic the roadway surfaces may be a temporary pulverized gravel aggregate surface.

**Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])**  
Park Entrance road

**3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

☐ No  
☒ Yes

**Source or reference:** Completed a survey of the section between the entrance road and Bloody Mary Wash on 11/29/2012. No Archeological Resources were noted.

**4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

**Archeological Resources Notes:** Within the entrance portion of the APE: The majority of the APE has been severely disturbed over the last 60 years through construction of roads, buildings, bridges, utilities, and two VCs, all related to long-term, intensive park development in the area. Survey on 11/29/2012 revealed No Historic Resources.

**Historical Structures/Resources Affected:**

**Name and number(s):** Court House Wash Wall LCS 51326 Asset HS-22  
**Location:**  
**NR status:**

**Name and number(s):** Rock House LCS 10473 Asset HS-08  
**Location:**  
**NR status:**

**Historical Structures/Resources Notes:** Both the National Register-listed Rock House and the National Register-eligible CCC Bridge are in the general vicinity of the entrance area APE but neither will be impacted by the proposed project.

**Ethnographic Resources Affected Notes:** Purple Sage, an identified TCP, is in the general vicinity of the entrance road. Mitigations were identified and completed during the original realignment of the park entrance road, which destroyed the majority of the TCP. Consultation with tribes over the remaining identified TCP took place during the 2006 Arches Transportation Plan EA and there will be no further impact during the current proposed project.

**5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

- ☐ **No** Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
- ☐ **No** Replace historic features/elements in kind
- ☐ **No** Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- ☐ **No** Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)  
Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape
- ☐ **No** Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
- ☐ **No** Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
- ☐ **No** Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
- ☐ **No** Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
- ☐ **No** Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
- ☐ **Other (please specify):** \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Supporting Study Data:**

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

**B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS**

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

No Reviews From: Curator, Archeologist, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist, Historical Landscape Architect

**C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Assessment of Effect:**

- ☐ **No Potential to Cause Effects**
- ☒ **No Historic Properties Affected**
- ☐ **No Adverse Effect**
- ☐ **Adverse Effect**

**2. Documentation Method:**

Assessment of Effect Form - Road Construction Schedule Changes and New Additions for 3R project - PEPC ID: 62376

**[ X ] A. STANDARD 36 CFR PART 800 CONSULTATION**

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

**[ ] B. STREAMLINED REVIEW UNDER THE 2008 SERVICEWIDE PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT (PA)**

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

**APPLICABLE STREAMLINED REVIEW Criteria**  
(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

**[ ] C. PLAN-RELATED UNDERTAKING**

Consultation and review of the proposed undertaking were completed in the context of a plan review process, in accordance with the 2008 Servicewide PA and 36 CFR Part 800.  
Specify plan/EA/EIS:

**[ ] D. UNDERTAKING RELATED TO ANOTHER AGREEMENT**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or counterpart regulations.

**[ ] E. COMBINED NEPA/NHPA Document**

Documentation is required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD has been developed and used so as also to meet the requirements of 36 CFR 800.3 through 800.6

**[ X ] G. Memo to SHPO/THPO**

Explanation: None

**[ ] H. Memo to ACHP**

SHPO/THPO Notes: SHPO concurs with park's determinations of eligibility and effect for this undertaking.

**3. Additional Consulting Parties Information:**

Additional Consulting Parties: No

**4. Stipulations and Conditions:**

Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

**5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:**

Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties:  
(Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

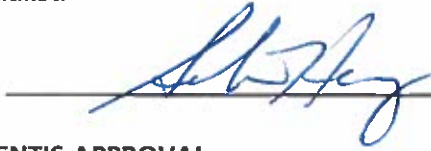
No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

**Compliance Specialist:**

**NHPA Specialist**

Sabrina Henry



Date:

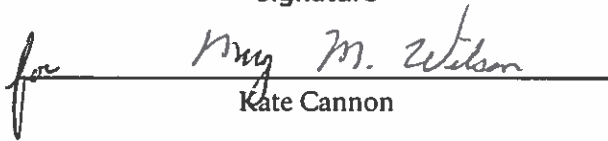
5/17/16

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

Signature

Superintendent:

for   
Kate Cannon

Date:

5/17/16



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** Road Construction Schedule Changes and New Additions for 3R project

**PEPC Project Number:** 62376

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

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Categorical Exclusion Form - Road Construction Schedule Changes and New Additions for 3R project - PEPC  
ID: 62376

day or night. Flaggers would be utilized during full closures to prevent visitors from accessing work zones. Devils Garden, Delicate Arch and Window area trails would be closed when road construction is occurring in the respective areas. Access to trailheads would resume upon completion of road work within the area. When full closures are not in affect, typical traffic delays would be limited to a maximum of 30 minutes per passage through the project as was originally approved in the comprehensive 2013 EA/FONSI. When roadways are open to public traffic the roadway surfaces may be a temporary pulverized gravel aggregate surface.

#### Project Locations:

##### Location

County:	Grand	State:	UT
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#### Mitigation(s):

- All mitigations created for 2013 Parkwide Road Maintenance and Modification EA must be adhered to in addition to these mitigations.
- Visitors would be informed in advance of construction activities via a number of outlets including the park website, newspaper, radio, at entrance stations, variable message signs, visitor centers, kiosks, commercial operators, and at other nearby national parks and other public lands. In addition, information on the construction would be publicized in news releases, local newspapers, media outlets, postings in local businesses, visitor bureaus, chambers of commerce, and travel- and tourism-related businesses. Visitors will be periodically updated if needed.
- Backcountry camping permits for specific backcountry zones due may be limited during construction.
- To facilitate expedited and safe night work, entry to the park may be closed intermittently to reduce visitor travel during scheduled night work times.
- Flaggers shall record delay times at stopping points and the results shall be reported to the Park project leader. Immediate access shall be provided to any emergency vehicles.
- Full closure of Devils Garden campground is anticipated for the entire first season and potentially for the second season of construction work. As soon as construction is completed campground should be opened and made available for reservations.
- • In addition to the lighting plan, best lighting practices would be followed to the greatest extent possible as a means of minimizing adverse impacts of artificial lighting. Best practices include - a. Limit the use of artificial lighting during nighttime operations to only those lights that are determined necessary for safety. b. Use shielding and aiming techniques as well as limiting the height of light poles to reduce glare and avoid light shining above horizons. c. Direct lights downward onto the task area. The bottom surface of the light fixture should be level, or if unable to be fully level, point it as close to straight down as possible or shield it to avoid light being projected horizontally. d. Use motion sensors, timers, or manual switching for areas that require illumination but are seldom occupied. e. Use vehicle-mounted lights for nighttime maintenance activities instead of permanent lighting structures. f. Reduce lamp brightness to the minimum necessary. Often visibility can be as good or sometimes better with a reduction to ¼ of the original output. g. Amber colored lighting should be used if possible where color rendition is not critical to the task. For safety critical areas, lighting should be warm-white.
- Prior to initiating nighttime work, the contractor would submit to the NPS a project-specific lighting plan that must demonstrate to NPS' satisfaction how the contractor would meet the objective of minimizing adverse impacts of artificial lighting on natural lightscapes.
- Each evening and during other periods of time when work is not taking place, work areas must be cleared of food, loose materials, debris, water, and other wildlife attractants. Food or garbage attractants must be secured in a closed vehicle.
- Construction workers would be instructed to not feed or approach wildlife.
- Use of unmuffled engine brakes would be prohibited.

- All construction-related vehicles would be equipped with properly installed and functioning engine exhaust mufflers.
- The maximum nighttime speed limit for all construction-related vehicle traffic would be 30 miles per hour or the posted speed limit, whichever is less.
- Where work is conducted in proximity to the wetland associated with Salt Wash at Wolfe Ranch, best management practices will be implemented to prevent pollutant discharges or other project-related activities from adversely impacting the wetland.
- Paved ditches would be designed and constructed with permanent features that dissipate flow energy and reduce erosion caused by water runoff.
- Regular site inspections would be conducted to ensure that erosion-control measures are properly installed and functioning effectively. Erosion-control measures would be left in place at the completion of construction, after which time the park would be responsible for maintenance and removal once vegetation is established.
- Erosion-control best management practices for drainage and sediment control, as identified and used by the CFLHD, contractor, and National Park Service, would be implemented to prevent or reduce nonpoint source pollution and minimize soil loss and sedimentation in drainage areas. These practices may include, but are not limited to fiber rolls, silt fencing, filter fabric, temporary sediment ponds, check dams of pea gravel-filled burlap bags or other material, and/or immediate mulching of exposed areas to minimize sedimentation and turbidity impacts as a result of construction activities. The placement and specific measures used would be dictated to a large degree by the steep topography immediately adjacent to the road in some portions of the project. Silt fencing fabric or other sediment traps would be inspected regularly during project work and weekly after project completion, until removed. Accumulated sediments would be removed when the fabric is estimated to be approximately 75% full. Silt removal would be accomplished in such a way as to avoid introduction into any flowing water bodies.
- The contractor would control dust within the construction limits, including active haul roads, pits and staging areas, at all hours. Water would be applied at the locations, rates, and frequencies ordered by the contracting officer.
- The contractor will prevent or minimize establishment and spread of non-native vegetation and noxious weeds by:
  - Minimizing soil and vegetation disturbance
  - Checking and cleaning equipment and vehicles
  - Covering of haul vehicles
  - Limiting vehicle and equipment parking to within construction limits
  - Obtaining all fill, rock, or additional topsoil from a commercial source.
  - Initiating rehabilitation of disturbed areas within 14 days of the last construction with a park approved native seed mix.
  - Reclaimed areas would be monitored by the NPS annually after construction to determine if reclamation and revegetation efforts are successful.
- Before construction begins, construction limits would be identified and may be marked with construction fencing, staking, tape, flagging, snow fencing, or some similar material, as necessary.
- For the duration of the project, a weekly or biweekly progress meetings with park staff and project contractor will be conducted to ensure park staff understand the construction schedule and closure times.
- A soil treatment and revegetation plan would be developed to rehabilitate disturbed areas.

**CE Citation:** B.1 Changes or amendments to an approved plan, when such changes would cause no or only minimal environmental impact.

**Explanation:**

Amends the 2013 Parkwide Road Maintenance and Modification EA/FONSI

**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.

Categorical Exclusion Form - Road Construction Schedule Changes and New Additions for 3R project - PEPC ID: 62376

Signature

Superintendent:

*Mary M. Wilson*  
*for*  
Kate Cannon

Date:

*5/17/16*

**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	