



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: **Sinking Creek Site Upgrades**

PEPC ID (PIN): **27266**

Project Description: **Definition of Problem:** Day use and overnight camping at Sinking Creek is not defined. Visitors to this popular site are not provided with a clear delineation of where to park, or where to camp. This has resulted in overcrowding and ad hoc patterns of use that compromise the both the natural resources and the quality of the visitor experience. People park and camp pretty much wherever they wish, including on the gravel bars right next to the river and creek which has the potential to introduce contaminants from oil leaks into the river/creek. Litter and campfire debris is left in full view for passing floaters on the river. At present, floaters along this stretch of the Current are sure to encounter an array of vehicles parked across the gravel bar along the river's edge in the summer. In the absence of designated day-use parking, day-use visitors park in and around the ad hoc campsites and walk through them to access the river and creek. The site was never designed to minimize the potential for visitor use conflicts. Park VUAs (Visitor Use Assistants) charged with fee collection (based on per vehicle at overnight campsites) have difficulty in determining which vehicles are actually camping overnight. Fee collection at this site is unmanageable under these circumstances. **Proposed Upgrades at Sinking Creek:** 1.) Delineate eight designated campsites (two parking spaces each), none of which will be located directly on the open gravel bars next to the river or creek. 2.) Provide each campsite with a numbered lantern post, picnic table, and fire-ring grill. 3.) Day-use visitors will be provided with two designated parking areas (total 10 spaces). 4.) A small temporary parking area next to the restrooms will be provided (two spaces). 5.) Access to the gravel bars along the river and the creek will be open to pedestrians ONLY---and all vehicular access curtailed by the placement of large boulders, allowing vegetation to grow up except where pedestrian foot paths lead to the river. 6.) Appropriate guide and regulatory signs will be installed. (NOTE: attached file w/ site plan) All proposed upgrades will be accomplished by park maintenance staff with materials now in stock with the exception of signage. Site work in establishing delineated campsites and parking areas will occur in already disturbed areas of use. The naturally occurring gravel forming the lower terrace of Sinking Creek already provides existing camp pads with base materials. Minimal grading will be required. All mature trees will be retained and campsites and parking areas will be sited in such a manner as to avoid woody vegetation...

Project Locations:

Location

County: **Shannon Cty**

State: **MO**

District:

Section:

Geo. Marker:

Other:

(See Attached Environmental Screening Form)

Mitigation(s):

- **No mitigations identified**

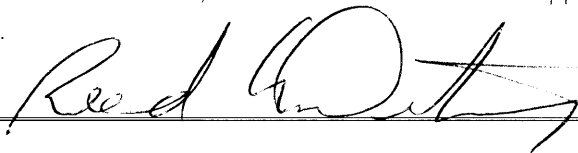
Describe the category used to exclude action from further NEPA analysis and indicate the number of the category (see Section 3-4 of DO-12):

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

(See Attached Environmental Screening Form)

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:



SEP 30 2009

NPS Contact Person:

Joe Strenfel

Title:

Management Assistant

Phone number:

573-323-4236