



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Clean Up and Repair of Storm Damage to Colonial Creek Campground From Rhode Creek

PEPC Project Number: 62778

Description of Action (Project Description):

This project intends to restore Ross Lake National Recreation Area from damages sustained in the winter storms of November of 2015. The Colonial Campground Area sustained damage when a large debris flow came down Rhode Creek and plugged the main entrance road culvert. This caused water and debris from Rhode Creek to run across the highway and severely eroded the area in front of the Diablo Lake Boathouse.

This proposed project would remove approximately 200 cubic yard of debris from the area around the entrance to the campground and restore the culvert and creek bed to a normal depth. A grade control structure would also be installed about 20 feet upstream of the culvert to prevent the creek from enlarging its channel in the loose deposits from the 2015 storm event and depositing gravel on the road and in the culvert. This grade control structure would be approximately three feet deep, three feet wide, and ten feet long, built with 2-3 ft. diameter angular road, and the top of the structure would be at grade (see attached drawings). Some of this material will come from the 2015 debris flow, but 10-12 rocks may be brought in from Goodell Pit. The ravine that was created by the boat house would also be restored to pre-storm levels by adding material from the flow itself.

While much of the material was removed in winter 2015/spring 2016 in an emergency response to the storm damage, the grade control structure would be built and the culvert more thoroughly cleaned out in late summer/early fall 2016 when Rhode Creek is dry. This work will involve the use of an excavator that may need to enter the stream bed in order to access and move material. There will be no vegetation disturbance during installation of the grade control structure.

Project Locations:

Location

County: Skagit **State:** WA

Mitigation(s):

- The project leader shall arrange to have a trainer flagger onsite during instances when traffic may be temporarily blocked by the excavator, backhoe, or dumptrucks working onsite.
- Work shall be done when Rhode Creek is dry to avoid undue fine sediment inputs to Diablo Lake and to avoid impacts to fish/amphibians potentially using the creek.
- If a wolf is detected near the project area, it should be reported and noise should be limited until the animal has left the area. Report all sightings to wildlife staff as soon as possible.
- In the event of a fuel or oil leak/spill, the work shall cease immediately, spill containment deployed, NPS and other jurisdictional authorities shall be called immediately, as designated.
- Machinery working within streams shall have biodegradable oils.
- All rock imported from NPS gravel pits or other areas shall be cleaned prior to use at Rhode Creek to avoid introduction of non-native weed seed.

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- Equipment used at the site shall be pressure cleaned and free of weeds, seed, debris, and mud to prevent the introduction and/or spread of exotic, invasive plants.

CE Citation: C.9 Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, repair/replacement of guardrails, etc., on existing roads.

Explanation:

This project proposes to maintain the drainage to and through a culvert under the entrance road to Colonial Creek Campground. All work will be completed within 30 feet of the center line of the road which is within normal highway easements/road corridors.

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: _____ **Date:** _____
Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	/s/ EBoerke
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	/s/ EBoerke
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	/s/ EBoerke
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	/s/ EBoerke
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	/s/ EBoerke
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	/s/ EBoerke
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	/s/ EBoerke
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	/s/ EBoerke
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	/s/ EBoerke
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	/s/ EBoerke
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 13007)?	No	/s/ EBoerke
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	/s/ EBoerke