



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** Repair and Rehabilitate Skagit District Docks and Marinas

**PEPC Project Number:** 50121

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

Dock facilities on Gorge, Diablo, and Ross Lakes have been exposed to substantial winds and harsh wave action over the past 30 years and have reached the end of their useful life. Major components, including decks, flotation, cleats, anchoring systems, bumpers, and gangways are beginning to fail. Specifically, dock pontoons have rusted through to expose the Styrofoam filler, which breaks loose and litters the lake and adjacent beach areas. The steel has degraded to the point where welds regularly fail. Walking surfaces are worn and slick, and the docks contain bent and damaged steel that protrudes from the deck, creating potential threats to visitor and employee safety.

To address these issues, this project will:

1. Replace, in kind, 9 docks - composed of 2-3 dock sections (8' feet wide by 20' feet long) including flotation (pontoons) - and attachment systems (using existing bulkheads), and 9 gangway ramps (30' feet long by 5' feet wide) at the following campgrounds and public marinas on Ross and Diablo Lakes: Buster Brown, Colonial Creek Boat Launch, Thunder Point, and Hidden Cove on Diablo Lake and Silver Creek, Little Beaver, Big Beaver, Devil's Creek, and the Hozomeen Public Launch on Ross Lake.
2. Add cement and rocks to the base of the bulkheads at Little Beaver and Desolation Trailhead for preservation, and replace a metal bracket on the bulkhead at Green Point.
3. Re-anchor the wave logs at Lightening Boat and McMillan camps.
4. Replace the decking on the boat ramp and Gorge Campground with yellow cedar lumber.
5. Widen the stairs 36 inches down to the NPS dock on the NPS Haul Road between Diablo and Ross Lakes.

This project will be completed over the course of two years, beginning in 2017. While all work on bulkheads, wave logs, and decking (#2-5) would be completed in the off-season and in the dry with hand tools, dock/gangway replacement will likely need to occur at full pool (during the visitor use season) with the use of cranes and barges at least on Ross Lake. All docks would be replaced in kind; no pressure treated wood would be used. Please see attachments: Dock Replacement Project Work Plan and Dock Specifications for more information.

**Project Locations:**

**Location**

**County:** Whatcom **State:** WA

**Mitigation(s):**

- Do not use Hozomeen chert rocks to help reinforce the bulkheads.

- The project leader shall send out a proposed project schedule for all work planned for the visitor use season (Memorial Day - October 1) to the Newhalem Visitor Center (Denise Schultz), Skagit District VRP (Gabe Asarian), and the Wilderness District VRP (Rosemary Seifried). Specific project notifications shall be sent to these same individuals at least two weeks in advance when conducting work at specific locations, especially when the work will entail temporary closures, such as the use of a dock.
- JHA for dock moving should be done before project begins.
- Implement standard noise abatement measures: -schedule to minimize impacts to campsites and Backcountry areas. -use the best available noise control techniques where ever feasible, using hydraulically or electrically powered impact tools when feasible
- To reduce noise and pollution emissions, construction equipment and boat engines will not idle any longer than is necessary for safety and/or mechanical reasons.
- Muffle above ambient noise whenever possible to reduce noise impacts.
- Individual docks/camps shall be signed (in adherence to NOCA sign SOP) a week prior to dock replacement to let visitors know in advance of proposed work and how it may impact them.

**CE Citation:** C.8 Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity or appearance.

**CE Justification:**

This project replaces in kind docks, gangways, and replaces/rehabilitates other minor structures on Gorge, Diablo, and Ross Lakes. There will be no changes in location or capacity and little change in appearance of these facilities.

**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: Denise M. Schultz (acting for) Date: 3/20/17  
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/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
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/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	/s/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	/s/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	/s/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	/s/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
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/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
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/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	/s/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	/s/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
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	/s/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016
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/ Robert A.S. Burrows 12/20/2016