



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Replace and Relocate Diablo Lake Boathouse

PEPC Project Number: 32249

Description of Action (Project Description):

The current Diablo Lake Boathouse is the main NPS boat facility on the lake. All Ranger, Resource Management, and Maintenance activities that occur on the lake rely on this facility for boat access. Many NPS activities on Ross Lake indirectly rely on this facility for access to the Ross Haul Road and Ross Lake. Facility inspections revealed that the log floats and stand-off cribbing are water logged and rotten above the water line. The gangway rides on a center pipe beam and consequently is very unstable. The float end repeatedly falls off the float, requiring employees to jump the gap to access the float. There isn't a good way to secure the ramp to the float. This ramp to float situation is a definite safety hazard. The boathouse has been racked so many times that it cannot be straightened and secured in a square shape any longer. Consequently the garage door is continually racked and difficult to operate. During a Title I scoping trip in 2010, it was determined that the existing boathouse needs to be relocated due to sediment accumulation. In addition, the boathouse no longer can accommodate NPS needs for this facility.

The work associated with this project includes demolition of the existing boathouse and appurtenances adjacent to SR 20 at Colonial Creek Campground (milepost 130) and replacement of the boathouse at a new location: the current Seattle City Light (SCL) Skagit Tour Dock, located near the northwestern quarter of the lake and ~0.5 mile along Diablo Dam Road from its intersection with SR 20. The location was originally designed to be located at the West Ferry Landing, which belongs to SCL but in the middle of project planning in 2016 the location for the new boathouse was moved to the current SCL Tour dock location (not proposed new tour dock location—see PEPC# 76286) per SCL operational requirements.

The new boat house would be approximately the same size as the existing boathouse (approximately 1,140 square feet of flotation system components). This project will replace the floats using precast concrete floats with closed-cell expanded polystyrene (EPS) core flotation, replace the boathouse on the flotation system, and install a new gangway and anchor system. The current Tour Dock has an existing engineered concrete bulkhead that is suitable for NPS boat house attachment. The new boathouse would be anchored to this bulkhead via an anchor system including a hinge and HSS steel stiff-arm system (similar to the current SCL Diablo boathouse located ~0.4 mile to the east).

The modular precast concrete float system would be constructed offsite and transported to the new boathouse location, where modular sections would be launched and connected to the new anchor system. A new aluminum gangway with FRP grating would be installed. The boathouse superstructure would be constructed onsite atop the float system from dimensional lumber and timber framing, including plate-connected wood trusses. Pre-finished metal roofing and wall panel systems would provide protective finishes.

Scoping and design for this project began in 2010 and resumed in 2015. Initial construction documents were completed in 2016 for the Ferry Dock site, but were then revised in early 2018. A contract for the project is planned to be awarded in FY18 with construction likely starting in either fall FY18 or spring/summer of FY19.

(See also PEPC project 44613 for broader discussion of boating facilities on Diablo Lake.)

Project Locations:

Location

County:	Whatcom	State:	WA
District:	Skagit	Section:	

Mitigation(s):

Project Notification

- Methods for demolition of the old boathouse are not detailed in this PEPC project. The Project Leader shall have a meeting with NOCA's Interdisciplinary Team to determine best management practices for demolition (e.g. demolition should occur above OHWM so that potentially harmful material can be collected and disposed of properly).
- Any activities requiring closure to the public require seven days advance notice to NOCA's public information officer and lead environmental protection specialist.
- Swinomish Tribe has requested to be notified of boat house demolition date so that they can be present to monitor. Project leader must keep the 106 Coordinator up to date on the time line for demolition so that the tribe can be given notification.

Operational Safety

- A traffic control plan shall be prepared and approved by NOCA prior to project initiation to ensure public health and safety throughout project implementation. This plan shall be reviewed by NOCA's Safety Officer.
- Spill containment kits shall be on-site at all times during any construction activities. Equipment can be fueled (but not serviced) within the construction area as long as Spill Prevention Kits are on-hand and utilized.

Non-native/Noxious Species Management

- All material sources and materials incorporated into the work must be certified to be free from noxious weeds, invasive plants, and other deleterious materials by a federal, state or local public agency. Commercial certifications may be acceptable if materials have been certified through the North American Weed Free Forage Program standard or a similarly recognized certification process approved by the CO. Submit material certifications to the CO for approval at least 5 days prior to their use in the work.
- Prior to moving onsite, all equipment must be pressure washed and free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris that could contain or hold seeds. Cover all trucks hauling materials into the Park to prevent the transport of weed seeds and other foreign material.

Site Restoration

- All native undeveloped areas disturbed during the project shall be replaced with material to match original surfaces. Flow lines affected by construction equipment or personnel shall also be re-established. Slopes shall be restored to their original condition upon completion of construction or demolition activity at any given area. The NPS shall re-establish any native shoreline vegetation that is removed by the contractor at the construction and demolition sites.

Demolition/Construction Area Management

- All work shall be conducted during the work week, between 0700 and 1730 Monday through Friday.
- A traffic control plan shall be prepared and approved by NOCA prior to project initiation to ensure public health and safety throughout project implementation. This plan shall be reviewed by NOCA's Safety Officer.

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- The contractor shall develop a Waste Management Plan submitted to and approved by the NPS prior to project initiation and to plan to remove from the site and dispose of all non-native materials and construction debris outside the park, legally, according to applicable regulations. Any excavated materials not intended for reuse must be removed from the site and disposed of at appropriate locations.
- A stormwater pollution plan and temporary erosion and sedimentation control plan shall be developed and approved by the NPS prior to project initiation to protect the environment from pollutants during the demolition and construction phases.
 - Site grading and drainage operations are to be conducted in a manner to prevent or lessen excessive soil erosion of the construction site work area but erosion control measures shall also be established prior to exposing any erodible materials and appropriate soil control measures shall be implemented down slope from each drainage area where excavation is to occur.
 - Surface water shall be directed away from stockpile sites to prevent erosion and deterioration of materials, and to remove any excess material upon project completion. Site will be left clean and in neat condition, with any non-paved areas graded to prevent free-standing surface water.
 - All permanent erosion control features shall be implemented at the earliest practicable time to minimize the need for temporary controls. Similarly, all surface water shall be directed away from stockpile sites.
- All native undeveloped areas disturbed during the project shall be replaced with material to match original surfaces. Flow lines affected by construction equipment or personnel shall also be re-established. Slopes shall be restored to their original condition upon completion of construction or demolition activity at any given area. The NPS shall re-establish any native shoreline vegetation that is removed by the contractor at the construction and demolition sites.

Design Specifications

- Exterior paint colors and roofing shall blend in with surrounding area, similar to the Seattle City Light boathouse.
- Galvanized roofing shall not be used as Zinc is moderately toxic in aquatic environments. Use stainless steel fasteners as opposed to galvanized where water contact is likely.
- The roofline shall be designed and cleats and fenders added as appropriate to allow boats to park outside of the boathouse without collecting additional rain or snow from the roof.
- All exterior lighting will be LED dark sky compatible with photocell control.
- To prevent birds or bats from entering and nesting inside the boathouse, a bird screen shall be installed at the base of the overhead garage door and other places they could gain access.
- PVC electrical conduits shall be provided above internal plywood panels to provide maximum flexibility for future use.
- Cores and locks installed at the new boathouse at the facility, shall be consistent/compatible with other facilities at NOCA (BEST).
- The use of pre-treated wood that may come in contact with water is prohibited. All sawn timber shall be new Alaskan yellow cedar no.1 & better. All timber attached vertically to the float side walls shall be sealed with the following product or equivalent: acri-soy penetrating sealer, manufactured by eco safety, inc.
- Gangway shall be semi-transparent to minimize shading of the nearshore aquatic environment. Framework will be aluminum with fiberglass reinforced plastic (FRP) grating.
- Float system is to be entirely encapsulated to prevent non-native materials from splintering off and entering the waterbody. Floats shall be pre-cast concrete with closed-cell expanded polystyrene core or EPS flotation.
- The concrete bulkhead at the old boathouse location shall be removed, but if possible access to electricity/power will be left in place.

If any you have any questions, if issues or concerns arise, or if substantial deviations from the proposed work are necessary, please contact Rob_Burrows@nps.gov or 360-854-7313 before continuing work.

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

CE Justification:

The proposed relocation and replacement of the Diablo Lake Boathouse will involve construction activities on the existing SCL tour dock, which is not currently being utilized. The new boathouse will be slightly larger in size than the one being replaced, but the size difference is minor. The only construction not present on the current boathouse that will be installed for the new boathouse is a gangway from an existing bulkhead and two small wing walls off the existing bulkhead to anchor the stiffarm system that tethers the boathouse to the shore. This new construction beyond the repair and relocation is minor, and in a previously disturbed area, hence eligible for this CE.

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: for [Handwritten Signature] Karen F. Taylor-Goodrich Date: 4/26/18

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	

