



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Cascade River Road Erosion Repair/Bank Stabilization 2018

PEPC Project Number: 78841

Description of Action (Project Description):

Background: Floods during November 2017 caused damage at several erosion sites along the Cascade River Road. A location map and site images are attached.

At two sites near the Eldorado Trailhead (sites A & B; mile 19.7), lateral stream bank erosion caused damage to the road shoulder.

At site A, located just before the gate, the erosion created a 10 ft high, 90 ft long cut-bank against the road and exposed the end of a 3 ft diameter culvert that carries a small stream under the road. The culvert now discharges 4 ft above stream at low flow.

At site B, located approximately ¼ mile upstream, erosion was less severe but there are several small sections of the road shoulder that were damaged. These sections are located just downstream of a engineered log jam that was installed in 2009, part of a previous repair to the road shoulder.

At site C, located at the North Fork Bridge (mile 21.1), the flood damaged some of the rip rap on the left bank leading into and beneath the bridge.

At site D (mile 21.2), part of a logjam constructed in 2005 washed away in the 2017 flood. The damage is to about 35 ft at the upper end of the site, where a single large log washed away.

Proposed Solutions Site A : Since the road can not be relocated due to wilderness boundary and wetland, a several step erosion control plan was devised (cross sections and plan view of proposed repair are attached) 1.) Remove existing rip-rap that washed into the channel beneath culvert. The rip-rap will be re-used on site to anchor logs. 2.) Replace the 3 ft diameter culvert with a 8 ft diameter culvert, grade to river and bury bed of culvert in gravel. 3.) Install several large logs and rootwads along bank, anchor with rocks and rootwads. Material imported from outside wilderness boundary. 4.) Revegetate bank by planting shrubs among logs and rootwads, and by willow layering downstream of culvert above logs. Cuttings obtained from nearby wetland.

Site B: There are 5 small holes in the existing log structure. We propose using large angular rocks to fill these holes, preventing further damage in future flood events

Site C: We propose placing 5-10 cubic yards of class 5 rip rap to repair damage beneath bridge on leftbank. Plant native shrubs in voids between boulders.

Site D: Import a 30-40 foot long 3 ft. diameter log to replace the one lost. Anchor log with rootwad on site, and cable to deadman under road, or, another rootwad. Place 1-2 yd3 of large rock to protect upstream end of logjam.

Downed trees/logs will be sourced from the boneyard at the Marblemount Ranger Station, along the side of the Cascade River Road, and along the side of roads in the Newhalem area (Goodell Creek, near Newhalem Campground.)

The work will be done by a contractor in Fall 2018 after Labor Day. Equipment will include a large excavator, a large truck/trailer to transport logs, and assorted hand tools.

Project Locations:

Location

County: Skagit **State:** WA

Mitigation(s):

- In order to protect any possible nesting Marbled Murrelets work with heavy equipment should not start before September 23. If work with heavy machinery needs to start before that date the project leader shall contact NOCA wildlife staff to check if there are nesting birds within the harassment threshold distance of the project areas.
- To avoid spawning and incubating rainbow trout, in water work should not be conducted between May 1 and September 1.
- Utilize fresh shot rock (i.e., rock that hasn't been stock piled).

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

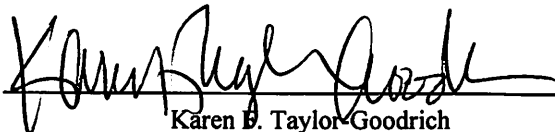
CE Justification:

This project entails reconstruction on the existing Cascade River Road within the existing road prism, including culvert replacement and repair of erosion control measures along the shoulder.

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:


Karen B. Taylor-Goodrich

Date:

6/25/18

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
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	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
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	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
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	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
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	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018
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	Robert A.S. Burrows 6/20/2018