

Attachment 11I(1)

Explanatory Note for DOI: National Park Service (NPS) November 2, 2009

This is the National Park Service's (NPS) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Report as required under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Section 1609(c). The NPS was approved for ARRA funding under three Treasury Appropriations Funds, including Operations of the National Park System, Construction and Major Maintenance, and Historic Preservation.

New Entries in the NPS report: For ease of tracking, all new entries were entered at the bottom of the report to ensure that the rows of the spreadsheet were retained as previously reported.

- Abandoned Mine Lands projects- The Abandoned Mine Lands projects were inadvertently left off of the previous report NPS submitted to the Department. These projects and all NEPA actions have been inserted in this report.
- Historic Preservation Fund Program- The Secretary of the Interior announced the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Recovery Act potential grant recipients on Friday, September 18, 2009 as part of the Historic Preservation Fund program. NPS is working with potential grant recipients to complete proper NEPA analysis. Grants will only be issued after NEPA analysis has been completed. NPS will more fully report on the NEPA actions for these projects in subsequent reporting periods.
- New projects and/or NEPA actions- There were 20 new projects that, because ARRA funds were determined to be sufficient to fund additional projects, were moved from the over-target to the in-target project funding list and are being reported for the first time.

Projects with Multiple NEPA actions- There are some instances where more than one NEPA action has been applied to the same ARRA project. Some NEPA documents are being tiered, with various levels of NEPA compliance being completed. There are other instances where multiple actions have been grouped together as one project in order to manage the ARRA program more effectively (this is especially the case for smaller, lower-dollar projects being combined for ease of financial tracking and organization). When there is more than one NEPA action being applied to the same ARRA project, each NEPA action is listed as a separate entry on page 2 of the report. This results in more NEPA actions than ARRA projects.

Consolidation of NEPA actions- NEPA actions have been consolidated for the following projects. For these projects, the titles have been combined and are now being reported as one NEPA action.

- Deferred Maintenance- 105490: GOGA Install New Boiler and Rehabilitate Existing Heating System in Park Headquarters- using same NEPA action as Deferred Maintenance-83462. Both entries for 105490 have had all NEPA information removed. The NEPA information is reflected in the entry for Deferred Maintenance-83462.
- Deferred Maintenance- 148433: GOGA Demolish Six Structures at Golden Gate NRA and Re-vegetate Area- using same NEPA action as Deferred Maintenance-148204.

- Trails- 118288: KLG0 Rehabilitate Trails, Campgrounds and Cultural Sites- using same NEPA action as Trails-118289.
- Energy Efficient Equipment Replacement- 154837: YOSE Parkwide Loader / Backhoe Equipment Replacement- using same NEPA action as Energy Efficient Equipment- 154837.

Duplicate entries in previous report- The following entries are duplicates of other projects in the NPS report. All NEPA action information has been removed from these projects to accurately reflect the true number of NEPA actions. It has been noted in the report which projects are duplicates.

- Deferred Maintenance- 83462: GOGA Replaced Deteriorated Heating System in Park Headquarters, Fort Mason
- Deferred Maintenance- 103655: KNRI Relocate Sewage Grinder/Lift Station to Exterior of Visitor Center
- Deferred Maintenance- 114302: ASIS Rehabilitate Assateague National Seashore Sinepuxent District Boardwalks
- Trails- 154799: GWMP Rehabilitate Trails and Remove Exotic Plants

Moved from in-target to over-target- All NEPA action information was removed from the following project, as it was moved from the NPS list identified for receiving funding (in-target) to the contingency list (over-target). However, it has not been cancelled from receiving ARRA funding and could potentially move back to the in-target list in the future.

- Deferred Maintenance- 148295: MUIR Rehabilitate Facilities to Meet ADA Requirements

Compliance Documents Completed Prior to ARRA- For some projects, compliance documents were completed several years ago. In addition to reporting the original NEPA action, a memo to file, or “look back” has been completed, verifying that the proposed action has already been analyzed in site-specific detail in a previous NEPA document, that no different impacts or changes to the project are expected, and that environmental conditions have not changed.

Pending Categorical Exclusion actions- There are 140 out of 728 categorical exclusions whose status remains as pending. Reasons that projects are remaining in a pending status include:

- Some of these are new projects being reported for the first time.
- Parks are awaiting the completion of the Section 106 process and/or other environmental reviews and permits before completing their NEPA compliance.
- In some cases, project designs have needed refinement and additional detail before the CE can be completed. It is not anticipated that the new information will lead to a different NEPA action; rather parks want to ensure they have all of relevant project information before the Superintendent approves the use of the CE.

Pending Environmental Assessments- There are 33 Environmental Assessments whose status is pending. The breakdown of their status is as follows:

- 1 EA has been out for public review and the FONSI is being drafted.
- 1 EA is currently out for public review and comment.

- 17 EAs are in production
- 14 EAs are in various stages scoping (internal, public, interagency, etc.)

Withdrawn projects- NPS projects have been withdrawn from ARRA for the following reasons:

- the project needed additional planning and compliance which would not be complete in time to meet ARRA time requirements,
- other sources of funding were used in lieu of ARRA funding,
- there was no longer a need for the project, or
- funding was shifted to a higher priority project.

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