

- F. Management, formulation, allocation, transfer, and reprogramming of the Department's budget at all levels. (This does not exclude the preparation of environmental documents for proposals included in the budget when otherwise required.)
- G. Legislative proposals of an administrative or technical nature (including such things as changes in authorizations for appropriations and minor boundary changes and land title transactions) or having primarily economic, social, individual, or institutional effects; and comments and reports on referrals of legislative proposals.
 - Guidance: This CE does not apply to legislative proposals that would result in changes in land use, or for legislative proposals for wilderness designation or wild and scenic river designation.
- H. Policies, directives, regulations, and guidelines: that are of an administrative, financial, legal, technical, or procedural nature; or whose environmental effects are too broad, speculative, or conjectural to lend themselves to meaningful analysis and will later be subject to the NEPA process, either collectively or case-by-case.
- I. Activities which are educational, informational, advisory, or consultative to other agencies, public and private entities, visitors, individuals, or the general public.
- J. Land and boundary surveys.
 - Guidance: Be sure to consider impacts resulting from survey activities, such as vegetation removal and ground disturbance before using this CE.
- K. Preparation and issuance of publications.
- L. Technical assistance to other Federal, State and local agencies or the general public.
- M. Routine reports required by law or regulation.
- N. Issuance of individual hunting and/or fishing licenses in accordance with State and Federal regulations.
- O. Changes in interpretive and environmental education programs.
 - Guidance: This CE also applies to changes in schedules for interpretive and environmental education programs and services.
- P. Plans, including priorities, justifications and strategies, for non-manipulative research, monitoring, inventorying and information gathering.
 - Guidance: This CE also applies to agreements between NPS offices and other federal and state agencies for plans and studies.
- Q. Authorization, funding or approval for the preparation of Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans.
 - Guidance: This CE applies to equivalent plans such as comprehensive statewide historic preservation plans.
- R. Adoption or approval of surveys, studies, reports, plans and similar documents which will result in recommendations or proposed actions which would cause no or only minimal environmental impact.

A. Actions Related to General Administration.

1. Changes or amendments to an approved action when such changes would cause no or only minimal environmental impact.
Guidance: An approved action includes one that has been analyzed in a NEPA document. Examples include, but are not limited to, changes in phasing of developments; changes to building capacities or levels of service not involving changes in building footprints or scale of the structure or service; and changes in use or addition of new uses that are similar in scope to uses included in the approved plan.
2. Minor boundary changes.
Guidance: This CE applies to boundary changes that are accomplished through existing statutory authorities and when no change in land use is anticipated, such as including an area within a park boundary and maintaining the area as open space, or including a historic structure within the boundaries of a park unit and retaining that structure.
3. Reissuance/renewal of permits, rights-of-way or easements not involving new environmental impacts.
Guidance: This CE applies when the impacts of the original actions have been evaluated in a NEPA document that accompanied the original permit, right-of-way or easement.
4. Conversion of existing permits to rights-of-way, when such conversions do not continue or initiate unsatisfactory environmental conditions.
Guidance: This CE applies when the impacts of the original actions were evaluated in a NEPA document. Unsatisfactory environmental conditions means adverse environmental impacts that may be more than minor.
5. Issuances, extensions, renewals, reissuances or minor modifications of concession contracts or permits not entailing new construction.
6. Commercial use licenses involving no construction.
Guidance: Commercial use licenses are now known as commercial use authorizations. Remember, as with all CEs, this CE should only be used when the operational activities approved under the permit process result in no or minor impacts.
7. Leasing of historic properties in accordance with 36 CFR Part 18 and NPS-38.
Guidance: NPS-38 is now Director's Order 38.
8. Modifications or revisions to existing regulations, or the promulgation of new regulations for NPS-administered areas, provided the modifications, revisions or new regulations do not:
 - a. Increase public use to the extent of compromising the nature and character of the area or causing physical damage to it,
 - b. Introduce noncompatible uses which might compromise the nature and characteristics of the area, or cause physical damage to it,
 - c. Conflict with adjacent ownerships or land uses, or
 - d. Cause a nuisance to adjacent owners or occupants.Guidance: Area should be interpreted to mean NPS unit.
9. At the direction of the NPS responsible official, actions where NPS has concurrence or coapproval with another bureau and the action is a categorical exclusion for that bureau.

5. Installation of signs, displays, kiosks, etc.
Guidance: Other examples include wayside exhibits, small solar collectors on poles, boundary marking signs, and small solar or wind generator system installations on a building.
6. Installation of navigation aids.
7. Establishment of mass transit systems not involving construction, experimental testing of mass transit systems, and changes in operation of existing systems (e.g., routes and schedule changes).
Guidance: This CE may not be appropriate if you are establishing a new mass transit system that would change visitor access, restrict how visitors may access the park, or restrict access to areas of the park. Additional analysis is likely necessary for those types of projects, including air tour management plans.
8. Replacement in kind of minor structures and facilities with little or no change in location, capacity or appearance.
Guidance: Examples of minor structures and facilities include comfort stations, pit toilets, fences, kiosks, signs, sheds, foot logs, small trail bridges, and campfire circles.
9. Repair, resurfacing, striping, installation of traffic control devices, repair/replacement of guardrails, etc., on existing roads.
Guidance: This CE also applies to road maintenance, rehabilitation, repaving, and reconstruction on existing roads within the existing road prism. Actions taken under this CE may also include repair or replacement of culverts, signs, surfacing of right turn lanes at intersections in previously disturbed areas, seal coating a parking lot, maintenance of an existing gravel road in the same footprint, routine roadside brushing, routine ditching, culvert cleaning/replacement, adding gravel, grading and other modifications to minor existing features on existing roads. This CE does not apply to widening the driving lanes or paving dirt shoulders.
10. Installation of wells, comfort stations and pit toilets in areas of existing use and in developed areas.
Guidance: Other examples include pump houses and vault toilets.
11. Minor trail relocation, development of compatible trail networks on logging roads or other established routes, and trail maintenance and repair.
Guidance: Examples include relocating a short section of a trail to avoid an exposed cliff, where storm damage is occurring, erosion is occurring or where boulders are falling; relocating a small section of a trail for resource or visitor protection; relocating trails that are forming which cut across sensitive vegetation, and short trail extensions, or spur trails. Additional analysis is likely to be necessary when there is potential for additional resource damage to occur.
12. Upgrading or adding new overhead utility facilities to existing poles, or replacement poles which do not change existing pole line configurations.
Guidance: Examples include wireless telecommunication facilities (WTF) located on existing poles or replacement poles, and other similar services. If replacing or constructing associated WTF ground facilities, see CE (3.4 C18).

D. Actions Related to Visitor Use.

1. Carrying capacity analysis.
2. Minor changes in amounts or types of visitor use for the purpose of ensuring visitor safety or resource protection in accordance with existing regulations.
3. Minor changes in programs and regulations pertaining to visitor activities.
4. Issuance of permits for demonstrations, gathering, ceremonies, concerts, arts and crafts shows, etc., entailing only short-term or readily mitigable environmental disturbance.
5. Designation of trail side camping zones with no or minimal improvements.

E. Actions Related to Resource Management and Protection.

1. Archeological surveys and permits involving only surface collection or small-scale test excavations.
2. Restoration of noncontroversial native species into suitable habitats within their historic range and elimination of exotic species.
Guidance: This CE is most appropriate for exotic plant species. When considering elimination of animals that are exotic species, it is likely that large scale elimination of these species will result in more than minor impacts and require additional analysis. Restoration may be controversial when restoring species that are likely to leave the park or may require special management actions, such as listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.
3. Removal of park resident individuals of non-threatened/endangered species which pose a danger to visitors, threaten park resources or become a nuisance in areas surrounding a park, when such removal is included in an approved resource management plan.
Guidance: This CE should be used only when an imminent danger to visitors or immediate threat to park resources exists. The CE should not be used to treat more than individual plants or more than one specimen of a species (or, at most, a small isolated grouping of individuals). If treatment extends over a large geographic area or to a large numbers of individuals, additional analysis is needed. This CE applies to both native and non-native species.
4. Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.
Guidance: Be sure to evaluate impacts to cultural landscapes and archeological resources. Remember, as with all CEs, this CE should only be used when the action will result in no or minor impacts.
5. Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.
Guidance: This CE applies to many I&M activities, including vegetation plots and monitoring, soil surveys, species monitoring, and other nondestructive research activities which require a research permit. This CE should be used for activities which are not covered under the CE for day to day resource management (see 3.3 Y).
6. Designation of environmental study areas and research natural areas.

- (ii) Condition Classes 2 or 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III, outside the wildland-urban interface;
- (2) Shall be identified through a collaborative framework as described in “A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan;”
- (3) Shall be conducted consistent with bureau and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans;
- (4) Shall not be conducted in wilderness areas or impair the suitability of wilderness study areas for preservation as wilderness; and
- (5) Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and may include the sale of vegetative material if the primary purpose of the activity is hazardous fuels reduction. (Refer to the ESM Series for additional, required guidance.)

Guidance: NPS, pursuant to a Department of Interior determination, should not use this CE in Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Montana, Arizona and Nevada due to a 9th Circuit Court case involving the U.S. Forest Service. Parks in other states should consult their Solicitor before using this CE.

- 2. Post-fire rehabilitation activities not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, heritage site restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repair of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds) to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. Such activities must comply with the following (Refer to the ESM Series for additional, required guidance.):
 - (1) Shall be conducted consistent with bureau and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans;
 - (2) Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and
 - (3) Shall be completed within three years following a wildland fire.

3.5 Exceptions to CEs Due To Extraordinary Circumstances

Extraordinary circumstances, also referred to as exceptional circumstances in DO-12, exist for individual actions within categorical exclusions that may meet any of the criteria listed in paragraphs A through L of this section. If the IDT or the NPS decision-maker determines that any of the following exceptions apply to a proposal, it may not be categorically excluded, and you must prepare either an EA or an EIS. Items A-L below are from the list of departmental exceptions published at 43 CFR § 46.215.

- A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.
- 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 (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

