



## Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

**Project:** GUIS Dune Restoration Plantings 2023-2028

**PEPC Project Number:** 101375

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

This project is for period native dune restoration efforts throughout Gulf Islands National Seashore. The majority of plants are in either 2" or 4" pots and are to be buried so that the rootball is 3-6" below the sand surface. These holes should not go deeper than 12" below the sand surface and 12" wide for plant materials. Hand tools such as a trowel or posthole diggers would be used. Posts for any temporary post and rope installation would likely need to go deeper.

Temporary post and rope may be used to protect plantings and would be pounded in such as with the shorebird posted areas. Smaller diameter carsonite/PVC pipe/wood stakes + nylon rope, for example. Temporary posting materials would stay up for 2 growing seasons and only be installed in areas where the plantings are at risk from human disturbance.

Planting would not involve relic dunes and would be limited to disturbed areas such as areas where sediments has recently been placed or areas that were overwashed by storms that removed the vegetation. This project covers only shoreline/dune habitat, no developed areas are covered under this compliance. The park archeologist and a park biologist will review proposed planting sites prior to implementation to ensure there will be no potential impacts to cultural or natural resources.

This compliance does not cover Wilderness areas or Naval Live Oaks Reservation

1. Materials and Assembly: Acceptable materials for posts include untreated wooden construction stakes, PVC pipe, and fiberglass (e.g. Carsonite). Posts shall be approximately 5 feet tall.. Signs shall be affixed to all posts with screws as high up the post as possible. Rope shall be 4mm polypropylene or Nylon rope that is either white or, such as red or blue.

2. Installation: Posts with restoration signage shall be placed approximately 20 feet apart but may be placed closer together to better demarcate restoration plots, especially in areas of high public use and around smaller plots, or to better hold up symbolic roping. Posts shall be placed no closer than 10 feet from restoration plantings. Posts shall be driven in with a hammer, mallet, or specialized Carsonite driver after placement. Postsshall be a maximum of 4 feet tall above the sand surface after being drivent into the substrate . Affix restoration signage to every other post (approximately every 40 feet) with screwson the side of the post that faces the public access path and/or beach.

Rope shall be secured to each post using the "over under method" method. Every third post, a knot shall be tied, such as a modified clove hitch, to prevent the entire line of string from falling if a break occurs between posts. Following installation, both signs and rope shall be no closer than 2.5 feet above the sand surface to minimize entanglement risk for nesting sea turtles.

**Project Locations:****Location 1**

<b>County:</b>	Escambia	<b>State:</b>	FL
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**Location 2**

<b>County:</b>	Harrison	<b>State:</b>	MS
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**Location 3**

<b>County:</b>	Santa Rosa	<b>State:</b>	FL
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**Location 4**

<b>County:</b>	Jackson	<b>State:</b>	MS
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**Location 5**

<b>County:</b>	Okaloosa	<b>State:</b>	FL
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**Mitigation(s):**

- Archeological survey and clearance required prior to commencement of the project.
- Project should avoid impacting T&E and rare plants.
- Minimize or avoid impacts to breeding birds.
- In circumstances when it is deemed necessary to conduct activities near sites known to support threatened or endangered species, such work will be performed in a way (specified by the T&E Biologist) to minimize impacts to the listed species (e.g., working quietly on-site, and minimizing time in or near habitats en route to their work sites).
- Care will be taken not to disturb any wildlife species (reptiles, migratory birds, raptors, or bats) found nesting, hibernating, estivating, or otherwise living in, or immediately nearby, worksites.
- Project Leader is responsible for inspecting all packs, gloves, etc. to make sure they are free of plant parts prior to entering the park, in order to prevent the spread of non-native species.
- Inadvertent Discovery: If during the progress of this project, if prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, or human bone or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native America cultures or early colonial or American settlement, are encountered at any time within the project area, the project shall cease all activities involving subsurface ground disturbance in the immediate vicinity of such discoveries and contact NPS S&RM staff, who will contact NPS archaeologists at the Southeast Archaeological Center (SEAC), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

**CE Citation:** 3.3.E.4 Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.

**CE Justification:**

This project is to restore dunes by planting native vegetation.

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Darrell Echols

**Extraordinary Circumstances:**

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Explanation
<b>A.</b> Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	This project would not have significant impacts on public health or safety.
<b>B.</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	This project would restore native vegetation and with implementation of project stipulations would not have a significant impact on cultural or ecologically significant or critical areas.
<b>C.</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	This project would not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.
<b>D.</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	This project would not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
<b>E.</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	This project would not establish a precedent for future actions or decisions.
<b>F.</b> Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	This project would not have cumulatively significant environmental effects.
<b>G.</b> 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	No significant impacts to historic and cultural resources are expected from this project. The park completed a CRM review of this project, see NHPA section.
<b>H.</b> 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	No significant impacts on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or designated Critical Habitat for these species are expected from this project. The park completed a natural resources review of this project, see Other Compliance section.
<b>I.</b> Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	This project would not violate any laws.
<b>J.</b> Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	This project is limited to GUIS property and would not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.
<b>K.</b> 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	This project would not 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.

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	This project would decrease the existence of invasive species in the project area by planting the area with native vegetation.
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# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** Gulf Islands National Seashore

### 2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** GUIS Dune Restoration Plantings 2023-2028

**Prepared by:** Shawn Jones **Date Prepared:** **Telephone:** (850) 934-2633

**PEPC Project Number:** 101375

#### **Locations:**

County, State: Escambia, FL

County, State: Harrison, MS

County, State: Santa Rosa, FL

County, State: Jackson, MS

County, State: Okaloosa, FL

#### **Describe project:**

This project is for period native dune restoration efforts throughout Gulf Islands National Seashore. The majority of plants are in either 2" or 4" pots and are to be buried so that the rootball is 3-6" below the sand surface. These holes should not go deeper than 12" below the sand surface and 12" wide for plant materials. Hand tools such as a trowel or posthole diggers would be used. Posts for any temporary post and rope installation would likely need to go deeper.

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This compliance does not cover Wilderness areas or Naval Live Oaks Reservation

#### 1. **Materials and Assembly:**

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better demarcate restoration plots, especially in areas of high public use and around smaller plots, or to better hold up symbolic roping. Posts shall be placed no closer than 10 feet from restoration plantings. Posts shall be driven in with a hammer, mallet, or specialized Carsonite driver after placement. Posts shall be a maximum of 4 feet tall above the sand surface after being driven into the substrate. Affix restoration signage to every other post (approximately every 40 feet) with screws on the side of the post that faces the public access path and/or beach.

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**Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])**

**3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

☐ No

☒ Yes

Source or reference:

**4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

**Archeological Resources Present:** No

**Historical Structures/Resources Present:** No

**Cultural Landscapes Present:** No

**Ethnographic Resources Present:** No

**5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

☐ Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure

☐ Replace historic features/elements in kind

☐ Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure

☐ Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)

☐ Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape

☐ Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible

☐ Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible

☒ Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources

☐ Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources

☐ Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)

☐ Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Supporting Study Data:

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

### B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

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#### [ X ] Anthropologist

**Name:** Amanda Griffis

**Date:** 10/03/2022

**Check if project does not involve ground disturbance** [ ]

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☒ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:**

**Doc Method:** Streamlined Review (PA)

**Streamlined Activity:**

5. Routine Grounds Maintenance

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#### [ X ] Archeologist

**Name:** Shawn Jones

**Date:** 09/27/2022

**Comments:** This is a programmatic Action which will be reassessed with specific location information. It will only take place within heavily disturbed or recently placed soils.

**Check if project does not involve ground disturbance** [ ]

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☒ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:** An archaeologist should reevaluate the effect with specific location information for survey and level of disturbance. Most of the areas will have adequate survey to carry out this action. Newly placed sediment and heavily disturbed sediment determined by an archaeologist would also have no adverse effect on historic properties.

**Doc Method:** Streamlined Review (PA)

**Streamlined Activity:**

5. Routine Grounds Maintenance

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#### [ X ] Historian

**Name:** William Hunter

**Date:** 10/11/2022

**Comments:** This restoration action involves replanting grasses and native plants in the same locations or in previously disturbed areas with approved species. The planting of non-invasive plant species in non-historic areas as conditioned would have no adverse effect on historic properties.

**Check if project does not involve ground disturbance** [ ]

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☒ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:** Archeological monitoring may be appropriate throughout the ground-disturbing activities, in accordance with any recommendation of the CRM Team.

**Doc Method:** Streamlined Review (PA)

**Streamlined Activity:**

5. Routine Grounds Maintenance

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**[ X ] Historical Architect**

**Name:** Megan Jenkins

**Date:** 09/29/2022

**Comments:** No historic structures are affected by this project

***Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]***

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☐ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:**

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**[ X ] Historical Landscape Architect**

**Name:** David Hasty

**Date:** 10/11/2022

**Comments:** The dune restoration is to take place on heavily disturbed or recently placed soils and should have no adverse effect on the cultural landscape.

***Check if project does not involve ground disturbance [ ]***

**Assessment of Effect:** ☐ No Potential to Cause Effect ☐ No Historic Properties Affected ☒ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect ☒ Streamlined Review

**Recommendations for conditions or stipulations:** Would suggest more location data when this project takes place in NR districts. Refer to the Fort Pickens CLR when Part 2 (Treatment) is completed to ensure the proposed undertaking is in accordance with that plan.

**Doc Method:** Streamlined Review (PA)

**Streamlined Activity:**

5. Routine Grounds Maintenance

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**No Reviews From:** Curator, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor

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**C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Assessment of Effect:**

☐ No Potential to Cause Effects  
☐ No Historic Properties Affected  
☒ No Adverse Effect  
☐ Adverse Effect

**2. Documentation Method:**

**[ ] A. Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation**

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.



**[ X ] B. Streamlined Review Under the 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement (PA)**

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

**Applicable Streamlined Review Criteria**

(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

5. Routine Grounds Maintenance.

**[ ] C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

**[ ] D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process**

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

**[ ] E. Memo to Project File**

**3. Consultation Information**

**SHPO Required:** No

**SHPO Sent:**

**SHPO Received:**

**THPO Required:** No

**THPO Sent:**

**THPO Received:**

**SHPO/THPO Notes:**

**Advisory Council Participating:** No

**Advisory Council Notes:**

**Additional Consulting Parties:** No

**4. Stipulations and Conditions:** Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

An archaeologist should reevaluate the effect with specific location information for survey and level of disturbance. Most of the areas will have adequate survey to carry out this action. Newly placed sediment and heavily disturbed sediment determined by an archaeologist would also have no adverse effect on historic properties.

**5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:** Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties: (Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

**Required Mitigations -** For the proposed project actions to be within compliance requirements during construction and/or project implementation, the following mitigations must be adhered to:

- Archeological survey and clearance required prior to commencement of the project.
- Project should avoid impacting T&E and rare plants.
- Minimize or avoid impacts to breeding birds.

- In circumstances when it is deemed necessary to conduct activities near sites known to support threatened or endangered species, such work will be performed in a way (specified by the T&E Biologist) to minimize impacts to the listed species (e.g., working quietly on-site, and minimizing time in or near habitats en route to their work sites).
- Care will be taken not to disturb any wildlife species (reptiles, migratory birds, raptors, or bats) found nesting, hibernating, estivating, or otherwise living in, or immediately nearby, worksites.
- Project Leader is responsible for inspecting all packs, gloves, etc. to make sure they are free of plant parts prior to entering the park, in order to prevent the spread of non-native species.
- Inadvertent Discovery: If during the progress of this project, if prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, stone tools or metal implements, dugout canoes, or human bone or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native America cultures or early colonial or American settlement, are encountered at any time within the project area, the project shall cease all activities involving subsurface ground disturbance in the immediate vicinity of such discoveries and contact NPS S&RM staff, who will contact NPS archaeologists at the Southeast Archaeological Center (SEAC), and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

#### 6. Assessment of Effect Notes:

This is a programmatic Action which will be reassessed with specific location information. It will only take place within heavily disturbed or recently placed soils.

#### D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:

Compliance Specialist:

NHPA Specialist

Bruce Leutscher \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

**Signature**

Superintendent: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Darrell Echols



## Other Compliance/Consultations Form

**Park Name:** Gulf Islands National Seashore

**PEPC Project Number:** 101375

**Project Title:** GUIS Dune Restoration Plantings 2023-2028

**Project Type:** Restoration

**Project Location:**

**County, State:** Escambia, FL

**County, State:** Harrison, MS

**County, State:** Santa Rosa, FL

**County, State:** Jackson, MS

**County, State:** Okaloosa, FL

**Project Leader:** Ashley Warren

### ESA

**Any Federal Species in the project Area?** Yes

**If species in area:** Not Likely to Adversely Affect

**Was Biological Assessment prepared?** No

**If Biological Assessment prepared, concurred?**

**Formal Consultation required?** No

**Formal Consultation Notes:**

**Formal Consultation Concluded:**

**Any State listed Species in the Project Area?** Yes

**Consultation Information:**

**General Notes:**

Federally listed species that could be found within the project area include the Perdido Key beach mouse, loggerhead sea turtle, green sea turtle, leatherback sea turtle, Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, piping plover, and red knot. State listed species that could be found within the project area include the snowy plover, least tern, black skimmer, and American oystercatcher. Surveys to ensure no shorebird or sea turtle nesting occurs within the project area during the course of implementation should ensure that there is no adverse effect to these listed species. The project should provide an overall benefit to the listed species by increasing and improving habitat.

**Data Entered By:** Ashley Warren

**Date:** Sep 29, 2022

## ESA Mitigations

Mitigation ID	Type	Text
137789	Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species - Habitat	Care will be taken not to disturb any wildlife species (reptiles, migratory birds, raptors, or bats) found nesting, hibernating, estivating, or otherwise living in, or immediately nearby, worksites.

Mitigation ID	Type	Text
137790	Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species - Habitat	In circumstances when it is deemed necessary to conduct activities near sites known to support threatened or endangered species, such work will be performed in a way (specified by the T&E Biologist) to minimize impacts to the listed species (e.g., working quietly on-site, and minimizing time in or near habitats en route to their work sites).
137791	Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species - Habitat	Minimize or avoid impacts to breeding birds.
137792	Rare, Threatened & Endangered Species - Habitat	Project should avoid impacting T&E and rare plants.

#### Floodplains/Wetlands/§404 Permits

Question	Yes	No	Details
A.1. Is project in 100- or 500-year floodplain or flash flood hazard area?	Yes		Determined to be exempt from compliance with Director's Order #77-2 and no Floodplain Statement of Findings required.
A.2. Is Project in wetlands as defined by NPS/DOI?		No	Not in wetland as defined by NPS/DOI.
B. COE Section 404 permit needed?		No	No placement of fill in waters of the United States.
C. State 401 certification?		No	
D. State Section 401 Permit?		No	Issue Date: Expiration Date:
E. Tribal Water Quality Permit?		No	
F. CZM Consistency determination needed?		No	Date Review Requested: Date Reply Received: Date State Concurred:
G. Erosion & Sediment Control Plan Required?		No	
H. Any other permits required?		No	Permit Information:
Other Information:			

Data Entered By: Amber Rhodes

Date: Sep 26, 2022

## FloodPlains & Wetlands Mitigations

*No FloodPlains & Wetlands mitigations are associated with this project.*

#### Wilderness

Question	Yes	No	
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<b>A. Does this project occur in or adjacent to Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness?</b>		No	
<b>B. Is the only place to conduct this project in wilderness?</b>		No	
<b>C. Is the project necessary for the administration of the area as wilderness?</b>		No	
<b>D. Would the project or any of its alternatives adversely affect (directly or indirectly) Designated, Recommended, Proposed, Study, Eligible, or Potential Wilderness? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required)</b>		No	
<b>E. Does the project or any of its alternatives involve the use of any of the Wilderness Act Section 4(c) prohibited uses: commercial enterprise, permanent road, temporary road, motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, landing of aircraft, mechanical transport, structure, or installation? (If Yes, Minimum Requirements Analysis required)</b>		No	
<b>If the answer to D or E above is "Yes" then a Minimum Requirements Analysis is required. Describe the status of this analysis in the column to the right.</b>			<b>Initiation Date: Completed Date: Approved Date:</b>
<b>Other Information:</b>			

**Data Entered By:** Amber Rhodes **Date:** Sep 26, 2022

**Other Permits/Laws** *Questions A & B are no longer used.*

Question	Yes	No
<b>C. Wild and scenic river concerns exist?</b>		No
<b>D. National Trails concerns exist?</b>		No
<b>E. Air Quality consult with State needed?</b>		No
<b>F. Consistent with Architectural Barriers, Rehabilitation, and Americans with Disabilities Acts or not Applicable? (If N/A check Yes)</b>	Yes	
<b>G. Other:</b>		No

**Other Information:**

**Data Entered By:** Amber Rhodes **Date:** Sep 27, 2022

