

Date: 4 May 2016

## Documentation of Waiver to Park Regulations Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

### 1. Project Leader:

Christopher Sergeant

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### 3. Project Title:

Annual SEAN Murrelet Distribution and Abundance Surveys in Glacier Bay National Park.

### 4. Project Description:

Areas of high murrelet abundance, particularly Kittletz' murrelet, occur within marine waters where motor vessel use is restricted during the visitor season. These areas need to be included in the monitoring program to ensure a complete picture of abundance and distribution of the species. The monitoring protocol relies on established transect surveys repeated over time. Several transects are located within water areas that are closed to motor vessel use from May until September. Surveys take place in early to mid July each year.

\*\*\*\*\* Please note that this Waiver accompanies Scientific Research and Collecting Permit# GLBA-2013-SCI-0002 \*\*\*\*\*

### 5. Exemptions from federal or state statutes, regulations, or Natural Resource Management Guidelines (NPS 77) requested and rationale for exemptions.

In order to accomplish the objectives outlined above, project personnel require exemptions from several park regulations. After careful review of the proposal and consultation with the project leader and park staff, on mitigating the impact of this study on park resources and values, the following exemptions to park regulations are granted:

A) Waters closed to motorized vessels and floatplanes.

For a variety of legitimate reasons, the proposed areas for murrelet abundance and distribution surveys coincide with seven areas (Johns Hopkins Inlet, the Beardslee Islands Wilderness Complex, Rendu Inlet, Upper Muir Inlet, Wachusett Inlet, Adams Inlet, Hugh Miller Inlet) that are designated motorless during the visitor season. Johns Hopkins Inlet (south of Jaw Pt.) is closed to motorized vessels and landings by floatplanes May 1 - June 30. The Beardslee Islands Wilderness Complex, Rendu Inlet, Adams Inlet, and Hugh Miller Inlet are closed May 1 - September 15. Wachusett Inlet is closed from July 16 - August 31 and Upper Muir Inlet is closed June 1 - July 15. In order to successfully perform the above core activities essential to accomplishing the primary research objectives, the project leader has requested limited exemptions from some "motorless waters" regulations.

With this form, the project leader is granted exemption from:

- **36 CFR 13.65(b)(3)(vi)(E) - Non-motorized waters in Johns Hopkins Inlet:** The project leader is authorized entry into Johns Hopkins Inlet south of Jaw Pt. with a motorized vessel for one 12-hour (6:00AM - 6:00PM) day between May 1 through June 30 to conduct murrelet transect surveys. Vessel speed must not exceed 10 knots and vessels must be out of the area between 6:00PM and 6:00AM. General motorized vessel travel throughout the Johns Hopkins Inlet protected area for any purpose other than those listed above is not authorized under this waiver. Additionally, the project leader will notify the Visitor Information Station immediately prior to entry (vessel or floatplane), and after departure from the area.
- **36 CFR 13.65(b)(3)(vii) - Non-motorized waters in the Beardslee Islands Wilderness Complex, Rendu Inlet, Hugh Miller Inlet, Adams Inlet, Upper Muir Inlet, and Wachusett Inlet:** The project leader is authorized entry into the areas listed above with a motorized vessel for up to six 12-hour (6:00AM - 6:00PM) weekdays during the period when the areas are closed to all motorized vessels. Vessel speed must not exceed 10 knots and vessels must be out of the area between 6:00PM and 6:00AM. Motorized vessel entry during this period is NOT authorized on weekend days or on holidays. General travel throughout these areas with a motorized vessel for any purpose other than those listed above is not authorized under this waiver. Additionally, the project leader will notify the Visitor Information Station immediately prior to entry, and after departure from each area.

#### E) Quality of visitor backcountry experience.

In order to minimize conflicts, we ask that the work be accomplished, to the extent possible, when park visitors are absent from the area. If a park visitor should approach the project leader and/or his field crew while the work is in progress, we ask that the project staff identify themselves, the intent of the study, and the permits that allow the work to be completed. All vessels should be clearly identified as "research" vessels. The project leader and/or field crew will frequently brief the park on the status of the schedule and all aspects of the project. This will include information on dates and hours spent within non-motorized waters and restricted islands, number of visitors observed within non-motorized waters, visitor contacts, areas visited, and anticipated schedules and other plans.

6. Waiver approval dates: July 1, 2016 – July 30, 2017

WAIVER RECOMMENDED BY Alicia J. Banks 5/10/16  
Research Coordinator Date

WAIVER REVIEWED BY [Signature] 5/10/16  
Chief, Resource Management Date

WAIVER APPROVED BY [Signature] 5/18/16  
Superintendent Date

