



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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From: Mark Ortega  
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Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

TO: Whom It May Concern:

In 2012, I was on a teleconference with Pacific Northwest and Alaska regional managers, hosted by our Public Health Service Officer John Leffel. He had been introduced to a promising composting method for backcountry waste disposal at a recent regional conference, and wanted to tell us about it. At that time, I was formulating plans to remove pit toilets in both the front-country and the back-country of Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve and replace them with something. This technology appeared to be a good replacement.

The park purchased one urine diversion system (BTW model) for the front-country campground, and tested it for 3 years. Specifically, the park performed weekly monitoring to ensure it was working effectively with regard to odor control & annual quantification of volume/pathological reduction. To date, our monitoring has shown that this model effectively controls odor and reduces volume/pathogens, and we are planning to change all toilets in our campground, which is off both the front-country electrical grid and water system. Our monitoring has also shown that this system is reliable and requires only minimal maintenance. The park is currently purchasing more of these units to replace the old pit systems within our back-country; installation will happen in the spring of 2020.

These new systems were permitted thru Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation through their wastewater disposal permitting process, receiving formal Certificates to construct and then to operate. On the National Park Service side, they were permitted thru NEPA and Section 106.

Sincerely,

Mark Ortega