



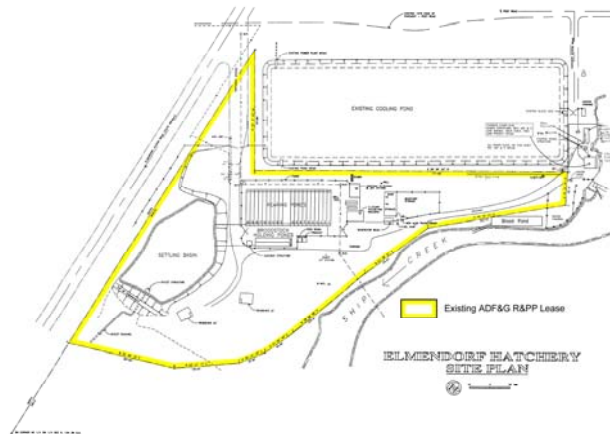
**Bureau of Land Management**

Anchorage Field Office  
6881 Abbott Loop Road  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
<http://www.anchorage.ak.blm.gov>

---

**Categorical Exclusion  
Elmendorf Fish Hatchery Facility  
Recreation and Public Purpose Lease Renewal**

**Applicant: State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game  
Case File Number: AA-009596  
AK-040-06-CX-042**



**Location:**  
Seward Meridian  
SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, SW<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>, Section 9, T. 13 N., R. 3 W.

**Prepared By:**  
Dorothy Bonds  
Realty Specialist  
May 15, 2006

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Anchorage Field Office

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM**

---

CX No.: AK-040-06-CX-042	Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-009596
Proposed Action Title/Types:	Elmendorf Fish Hatchery Facility, Recreation for Public Purposes Lease Renewal
Location of Proposed Action:	Section 9, Township 13 North, Range 3 West Seward Meridian USGS 1:63,360 Quad - Anchorage A-8 NW Quadrangle

Description of Proposed Action:

The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, has applied for a renewal of their Recreation and Public Purposes Act Lease for a fish hatchery facility located on public lands adjacent to Elmendorf Air Force Base. The hatchery has been operating in this location since 1972. The hatchery produces salmon, trout, and char to create sport fishing opportunities. In recent years, the hatchery has produced approximately 50,000 kg of fish annually. Fish are stocked throughout Interior and Southcentral Alaska including lakes and streams in Anchorage, the Matanuska Valley, Fairbanks, Glennallen, the Delta area, Seward, Valdez and the Kenai Peninsula. The economic effect of spending by anglers pursuing the hatchery's fish is over \$8,000,000 a year. Additionally, hatchery personnel conduct approximately 30 classroom tours a year. Approximately 60,000 visitors come annually to view adult Chinook salmon in the adjacent creek and to watch Chinook and Coho salmon egg-takes.

The hatchery operates with all appropriate water rights and discharge permits. The operational budget is between \$640,000 and \$680,000 paid with revenues from Dingle-Johnson user group taxes and license sales. The structures on site include a shop, a water intake building, an operations building that includes offices and a small visitor area, two hatchery houses, an oxygen generation building, a head box/aeration building, a generator building, 21 concrete outdoor raceways, and all associated pipelines.

The hatchery was utilizing excess heat from the Elmendorf Air Force Base power plant to accelerate fish growth and operate year round. However, in September 2005, the power plant closed and the hatchery transitioned from rearing fish in heated water to cold water rearing, which means less production in the short-term. In the long term, the Sport Fish Division plans are to build a new generation of hatcheries; one in Fairbanks and one in Southcentral, in or near Anchorage. Bond money has passed the legislature and a new facility should be on-line by 2010.

**PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southcentral Planning Area Management Framework Plan. Date Plan Approved: March 1980.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Remarks: In the Management Framework Plan, Objective L-1 and L-2 states that BLM will “satisfy state and local government needs...for land as they arise” and “satisfy needs for rights-of-way.” As this is a right-of-way for a state government need, this action is in conformance with the plan.

**PART II - NEPA REVIEW**

- A. Categorical Exclusion Review.  
This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM, 11.5 E (9):

Renewals and assignments of leases, permits or rights-of-ways where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

- B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.  
The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents MUST BE PREPARED for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

- |   | YES | NO       |
|---|-----|----------|
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 7. 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.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 8. 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.   | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).  | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).   | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 12. 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). | ___ | <u>X</u> |

I certify that none of the Departmental Extraordinary Circumstances listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Preparer(s): Dorothy Bonds

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

**PART III – DECISION**

---

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:

Authorized Official: Mike Zaidlicz

Date: 7/6/06