

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-06-CX-037

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-84539

Proposed Action Title/Types:

FLPMA 507 Right-of-Way, Federal agency radio site - Renewal

Location of Proposed Action:

Sec. 16, T. 24 S., R. 5 W., Kateel River Meridian, Alaska, containing approximately .02 acres.

Description of Proposed Action:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) proposes to renew a ROW for a fiberglass structure containing radio repeater equipment and antennas on BLM land on Blackburn peak near the Innoko Wildlife Refuge. The structure is 6' x 6', 10' in height and is fully self contained including an internal battery power source of sealed non-spillable batteries utilizing solar panel re-charging capability.

The repeater is designed to allow radio communications within the Innoko Wildlife Refuge.

The land is located within sec. 16, T. 24 S., R. 5 W., Kateel River Meridian, Alaska.

In addition to use of sealed, non-spillable batteries, the structure incorporates a floor plan designed to contain potential spills. Batteries will be transported to the site by helicopter in sealed shipping crates and installed on site. The batteries are always fully contained.

There will be no land disturbance and no need for employees to be on site.

Access is strictly by helicopter for annual maintenance.

The grant requested is for 3 years, renewable at that time. When the project is complete the land will be restored to its original condition.

This is the first renewal.

Applicant (if any):

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southwest Management Framework Plan, L-1, Recommendation L-1.3, Make public lands available for the development of electronic communications facilities sites.

Date Plan Approved: November 1981

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

Remarks:

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. or 516 DM 11.5 E. (9):

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

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.

The following Departmental List of Exceptions 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. | ___ | <u>x</u> |
| 2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics, 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. | ___ | <u>x</u> |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)] | ___ | <u>x</u> |
| 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 actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. ___ x

- 6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. ___ x

- 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. ___ x

- 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. ___ x

- 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal laws or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. ___ x

- 10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 13007). ___ x

- 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 (EO 13007). ___ x

- 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 Control Act and EO 13112.) ___ x

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above (516 DM 2.3A(3) and Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Preparer(s): Shirley Rackley, Realty Specialist Date: May 30, 2006

PART III – DECISION

AK-040-06-CX-037
Case File No.: AA084539

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.

Remarks:

Authorized Official: Mike Zaidlicz
Field Manager

May 31, 2006