



Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office
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**Categorical Exclusion
Campbell Tract Trail and Roadside Re-vegetation**

Applicant:
Case File Number:
AK-010-08-CX-013



Location:
T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 3, Seward Meridian
Campbell Tract, Anchorage, Alaska

Prepared By:
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Outdoor Recreation Planner
November 8, 2007

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

CX No.: AK-010-08-CX-013

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: NA

Proposed Action Title/Types: Campbell Tract Re-vegetation Projects

Location of Proposed Action: Bureau of Land Management's Campbell Tract, Anchorage, AK

Description of Proposed Action:

Six sites on Campbell Tract will be re-vegetated using native plant materials and weed-free topsoil to improve Campbell Tract species diversity and the natural visual experience for recreation and Campbell Creek Science Center users. One site on Campbell Tract will be subjected to mechanical non-native invasive plant control measures.

Site 1 is located at the Weasel playfield located ¼ mile west of the Campbell Creek Science Center. The present berm adjacent to the Campbell Creek Science Center road will be extended 20 feet and re-vegetated with native trees, grass, and shrubs. The berm will be composed of a core of pit run material with an 8-10 inch topping of weed free local topsoil. Species planted will include moose tolerant alder and white spruce, and native grasses and shrubs matching those found at the site. The existing posts and cable will be removed and a narrow pedestrian corridor will be established to provide access to the activity field. Project to be completed in 2008.

Site 2 is an abandoned gravel storage site measuring approximately 30 X 50 feet on the north side of the Campbell Creek Science Center road immediately north of Site 1. This site will be re-vegetated with 6-8 inches of topsoil and a mix of native species, including 8 white birch and aspen saplings approximately 8 feet high. To prevent moose browsing on the newly planted hardwood materials, the site will be fenced with an 8 foot high sheep-wire style fence mounted on 4" square wooden posts set 3 feet in the ground that will be spaced 10 feet apart.

Site 3 is an abandoned gravel storage site located just west of Site 1 on the north side of the Campbell Creek Science Center road and is approximately 20 X 50 feet. This site will be re-vegetated in a similar manner to Site 2 using aspen, white birch saplings, cranberry, prickly rose and native grasses. A moose-proof compound similar to the Site 2 enclosure will be constructed to protect the vegetation.

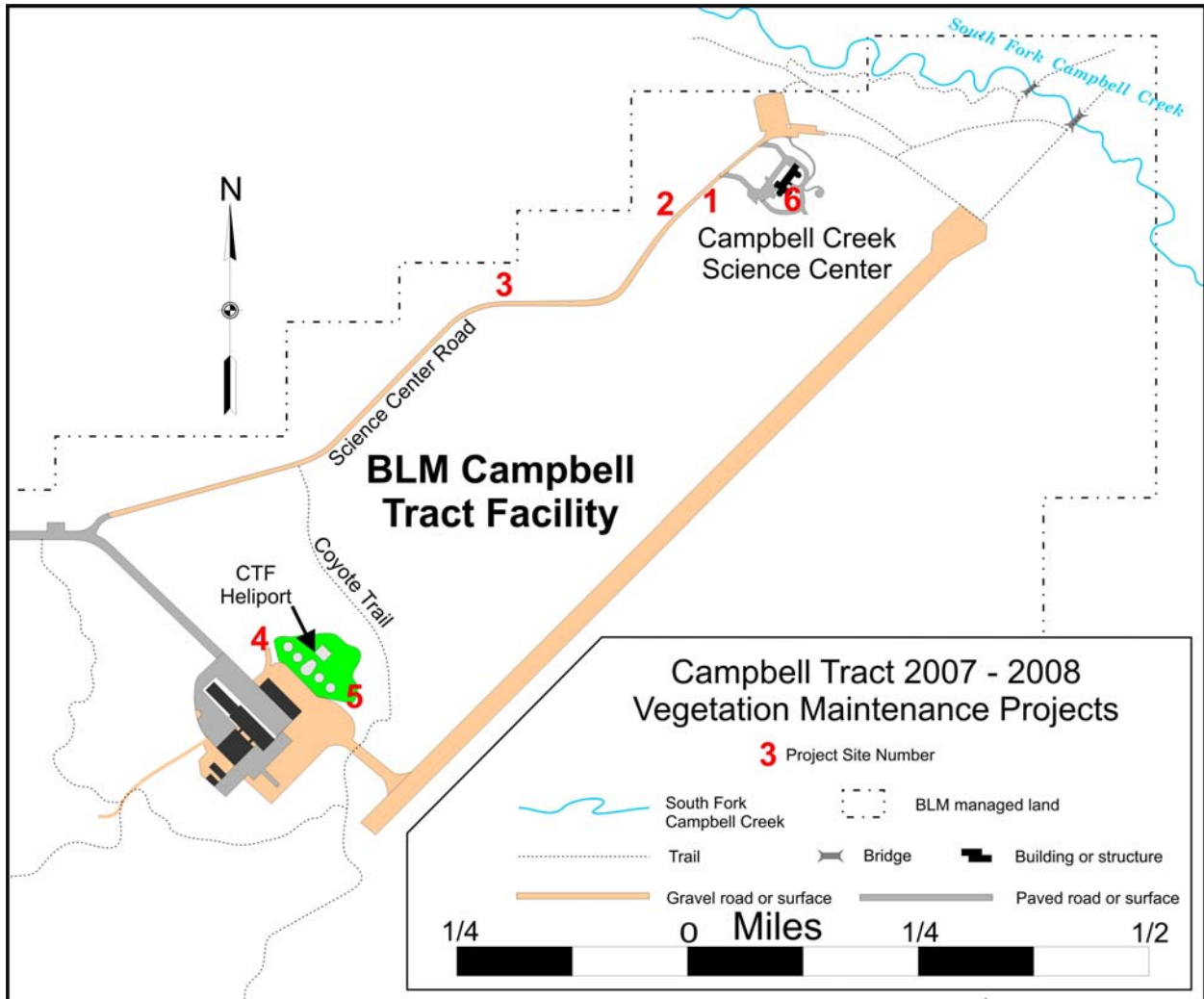
Site 4 is located at the east end of the Campbell Tract heliport adjacent to a disturbed area used by facilities maintenance personnel to store wood, gravel, and sand. An 80 foot long berm approximately 10 feet wide and five feet high will be constructed from topsoil and a pit run core to physically and visually separate the Bureau of Land Management's Anchorage Field Office's

maintenance yard and heliport from the recreation trail that passes immediately to the east. The berm will be planted with native moose resistant species including alder, spruce, cranberry, and prickly rose, and seeded with a native seed mix. This project site will not be fenced. Project to be completed in 2008.

Site 5 is located immediately north of the helipads in the field of waist-high shrubby willows, aspen, alder and birch that lies between the heliport and Coyote Trail. Regular browsing by moose has prevented the vegetation in this area from recovering from previous operational impacts on the land by the military and the Bureau of Land Management. Presently, recreation users on Coyote Trail have unobstructed views of the heliport and the Bureau of Land Management's maintenance storage yards due to the low-growing vegetation. This proposal will construct a 115 by 170 foot rectangular moose-proof compound that will enable the existing vegetation to grow to normal heights, screening the Campbell Tract Facility administrative sites from recreational users. This will result in increased security for the Bureau of Land Management's facilities and a more visually rewarding natural experience for trail users. The compound will be constructed of 5 foot high sheep wire mounted on posts to a height of 8 feet. Two single strands of wire will be strung below the fence material to exclude small moose. The corners of the compound will be constructed of 6" square treated wood posts set in post-set with two adjacent 4" square wood posts supporting diagonal braces. The balance of the fence posts will consist of metal T-posts that will be spaced 10 feet apart around the compound. Topsoil will be laid to a depth of 8 inches on an existing abandoned 200 X 10 foot former dirt two-track road within the compound and re-vegetated with native species of trees, shrubs and grasses. Project to be completed in 2008.

Site 6 is located behind the seating area in the amphitheater east of the Campbell Creek Science Center. The site has suffered a non-native invasive plant infestation. The Bureau of Land Management proposes to engage in a standard procedure of manually removing the non-native invasive plants followed by re-vegetation of the area with ecologically compatible and native plants. Project to be completed in 2008.

All sites will be monitored for invasive weeds throughout the growing season. Vegetation height will be monitored annually and all moose enclosure fences and posts will be removed when the vegetation in each compound can thrive without direct moose protection.



Approximate locations of CT vegetation maintenance projects.

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the BLM Campbell Tract Facility*. Grounds maintenance is consistent with the Total Area Objectives described in Part III: Section B 2. which states:

“Protect and interpret other resource values, including wildlife, wetlands and cultural resources, consistent with administrative requirements and maintenance of natural setting on appropriate portions of the CTF. Enhance these values where it is cost effective and appropriate.”

Date Plan Approved: June, 1988

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)).

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Actions qualify as categorical exclusions under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. Part A, 1.7:

“Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance and replacement activities having limited context and intensity; e.g., limited size and magnitude or short term effects.”

and 516 DM 11.9, D. (10):

“Vegetation management activities, such as seeding, planting, invasive plant removal, installation of erosion control devices...when the activity is necessary for the management of vegetation on public lands.”

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:

	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	_____	_____ X
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.	_____	_____ X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	_____	_____ X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	_____ X
5. Establish a precedent for future action 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 Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	_____	_____ X

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| 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 weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the 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): Douglas Ballou Date: 11-19-2007

PART III – DECISION

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a)(3) (2006). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed actions are within categories of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, 40 C.F.R. §1508.4 (2006).

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:

Authorized Official: /s/ Mike Zaidlicz Date: 4/03/2008