



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Glennallen Field Office  
P.O. Box 147  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/gdo.html>

## **Categorical Exclusion Granite Construction Administrative Site**

**Applicant: Granite Construction  
Case File Number: AA-92910  
DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-0016-CX**



**Location:**  
Section 24, T. 9 N., R. 2 W., Copper River Meridian

**Prepared By:**  
Brenda Becker  
Realty Specialist  
June 27, 2011

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

### A. Background

BLM Office: Glennallen Field Office      Lease/Serial/Case File No: AA-92910

Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0016-CX

Proposed Action Title/Types: Granite Construction Administrative Site – Minimum Impact Permit.

Location of Proposed Action: Section 24, T. 9 N., R. 2 W., Copper River Meridian. This is located just north of the Sourdough Campground on a Pipeline Access road close to the Gulkana River, where the temporary campground was located in the early 1960's while the current campground was under construction.

Description of Proposed Action:

On April 11, 2011, an application was submitted to set a double-wide trailer (28' X 70') at the old Sourdough Campground to use as an administrative site of approximately ½ acre. There will be no impacts to this area, as this is where Alyeska stages equipment for work in the surrounding area. A letter of non-objection has been received from Alyeska for this request. This area is also used by hunters for parking. The trailer would be set in early May 2011 and removed by the end of October 2012. This site would also include 1 or 2 portable toilets which will be maintained on a regular basis.

Applicant (if any): Granite Construction

### B. Land Use Plan Conformance 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)

Land Use Plan Name: East Alaska Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: September 2007

The proposed action is in conformance with plan because it is specifically provided for in the following planning decisions:

The proposed action is in conformance with the plan even though it is not specifically provided for because it is clearly consistent with the following planning decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

#### I. LANDS AND REALTY

##### I-1 Goals

Provide a balance between land use (rights-of-way, land use permits, leases and sales) and resource protection that best serves the public at large.

##### I-2: Land Use Authorizations

Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM lands such as right-of-way grants, road, temporary use permits under several different authorities; leases, permits, and easements under

section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA); airport leases under the Act of May 24, 1928; and Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases.

### C. NEPA Compliance

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR §46.210 or United States Department of Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11 which provides:

BLM Categorical Exclusions; E. Realty; 19. – Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

### D. Extraordinary Circumstances

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents must be prepared for actions which may:

1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety. \  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  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.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X
  
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X
  
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X
  
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  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.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  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.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X
9. Violate Federal law or a State, local or Tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  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 site (Executive Order 13007).  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X
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).  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  X

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR §46.215 are pertinent.

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

action is within a category 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).

**E. Signature**

Authorizing Official: s/s Brenda Becker      Date: 4/29/2011

Name: Brenda Becker

Title: Acting Field Manager

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Brenda Becker, Realty Specialist, Glennallen Field Office, P.O. Box 147, Glennallen, Alaska 99588, (907) 822-3217.

**Assessment of Undertakings Not Subject to Further Section 106 Review Glennallen Field Office**

**GDO Document No.** GFO-11-14

**BLM Serial No.** AA-92910 **Environmental Assessment No.** DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-0016-CX

**Class of Inventory:** No Further Review

**Dates of Inspection:** 04/25/2011

**Inspector:** John Jangala

**Maps:** Gulkana (C-4)

**Applicant:** Granite Construction

**Location:** The project will occur west of the Richardson Highway at Milepost 148.3 north of the Sourdough Roadhouse and the BLM's Sourdough Campground. Specifically, the project will occur along a pipeline access road at pipeline milepost 653.6 in Sect. 24, T.9N., R2W., CRM.

**Project Description:** The Bureau of Land Management proposes to grant to Granite Construction a Minimum Impact Permit to temporarily use a cleared and previously disturbed area as a parking area for an administrative trailer and various highway vehicles while they conduct construction along the Richardson Highway. This area was temporarily used by the BLM as a campground prior to the completion of the current Sourdough Campground and was used as a staging area by Alyeska Pipeline Services Company for TAPS construction and maintenance.

**Acreage:** 1.0 Acres

**Recommendations:** According to the Protocol for Managing Cultural Resources on Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska, between the Bureau of Land Management and the State Historic Preservation Officer, signed April 17, 1998, this undertaking is not subject to further Section 106 review (Appendix 2: Category Six). The project will involve a temporary right of way on a cleared parking area that has previously been impacted by both pipeline maintenance as well as campground construction and is unlikely to contain intact heritage resources. As long as the applicant adheres to the attached stipulations, the applicant may proceed as proposed in the application. However, if heritage or paleontological resources are encountered during implementation of the project, the project will cease and the Glennallen Field Office, cultural resource staff, shall be notified.

The following stipulation should be attached to the permit: "There shall be no disturbance of any archaeological or historical sites, including graves and remains of cabins, and no collection of any artifacts whatsoever. Also, collection of vertebrate fossils, including mammoths and mastodon bones, tusks etc., is strictly prohibited. If historic resources are encountered then all artifacts will be respectfully left in place and the Glennallen Field Office's cultural resources staff will be notified immediately."

Signed:

John W. Jangala  
Glennallen Field Office Archaeologist (AKA-020)

# Compliance with ANILCA Section 810

E.A No.: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-0016-CX

**Applicant(s):** Granite Construction

**Proposed Action:** The BLM proposes to grant a Minimum Impact Permit to Granite Construction for use of the old Sourdough Campground as location for an administrative trailer (23' x 70' double wide trailer) while working in the vicinity.

**Location:** Old Sourdough Campground near milepost 148 Richardson Highway

**Township/Range:** Copper River Meridian, T. 9N, R. 2W, Section 24

**Map:** please see application

**Evaluation by:** Merben R. Cebrian

**Discretionary Action?:** Yes

**Categorical Exclusion?:** Yes

**Type of Assessment / Sources:** Review of application materials, subsistence database, local knowledge, and interviews with staff knowledgeable of the area and the proposed action.

## **Effect of the proposal on subsistence uses and needs:**

Fisheries: None. The application is for an administrative trailer to be located at a parking lot. Therefore, there is no significant effect on subsistence uses and needs.

Wildlife: None. The application is for an administrative trailer to be located at a parking lot. Therefore, there is no significant effect on subsistence uses and needs.

Other resources: None. The location of the administrative trailer is in a disturbed area, a parking lot, adjacent to a major road. Therefore, the proposed action does not have a significant effect on subsistence resources used and needs.

**Expected reduction, if any, in the availability of resources due to alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location:** None. The proposed action would not significantly alter the distribution, migration, or location of subsistence resources. The location is an existing disturbed area, a parking lot, where moose and caribou are likely to traverse freely. The parking lot has been in existence for years and resident moose are habituated to its existence.

**Expected limitation, if any, in the access of subsistence users resulting from the proposal:** None. Access to subsistence resources will not be hampered by the proposed action. The proposed action does not create a permanent obstruction to subsistence users.

**Availability of other lands, if any, for the purpose sought to be achieved:** Other lands are available. However, the applicant has work nearby and this is the most practical location for an administrative trailer.

**Other alternatives, if any, which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes:** The only other alternative that would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes is to not allow or permit any activities that conflict with subsistence uses. However, such an alternative is not viable because the BLM manages public lands for multiple uses.

**Finding:** The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses and needs in or near the area of the proposed action. Access to subsistence resources will not be hampered by the proposed action. There is no reasonably foreseeable significant decrease in abundance in harvestable resources and in the distribution of harvestable resources due to the proposed action.

s/s Merben R. Cebrian  
Wildlife Biologist  
BLM, Glennallen Field Office

27 April 2011  
Date

**Case File Number: AA-92910**  
**DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-0016-CX**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**  
**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Glennallen Field Office**  
**P.O. Box 147**  
**Glennallen, AK 99588**  
**Phone: (907)822-3217**  
**Fax: (907)822-7335**

**DECISION RECORD**

**Granite Construction Administrative Site**  
**Case File Number: AA-92910**  
**DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-0016-CX**

I. Decision:

It is my decision to authorize the minimum impact permit for Granite Construction to set a double wide trailer on already disturbed lands in Section 24, T. 9 N., R. 2 W., Copper River Meridian for a term of no longer than 2 years. Stipulations and conditions are attached.

II. Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to authorize a minimum impact permit for Granite Construction to set a double wide trailer and portable toilets for use as an administrative site on public lands. The minimum impact permit would be authorized under the authority of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761). The proposed action is in conformance with the East Alaska Resource Management Plan, Approved: September, 2007.

III. Rationale for the Decision:

The rationale for the decision is based on the need for the applicant to have the authorizations to do Highway widening and realignment along the Richardson Highway.

The proposed action is in conformance with the East Alaska Resource Management Plan, Approved: September, 2007. The area of the proposed activity is not within a critical subsistence use area and no serious wildlife problems are anticipated.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. No reasonably foreseeable and significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources or in the distribution of harvestable resources, and nor reasonably foreseeable limitations on harvester access will result from the proposed action.

V. Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction

**Case File Number: AA-12479, AA-12918,  
AA-12919, AA-41791, and AA-92888  
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0014-CX**

Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

VI. Consultation and Coordination:

Public participation was accomplished through the development of the East Alaska Resource Management Plan which anticipated routine land authorizations in accordance with FLPMA. Adequate measures to protect public lands through stipulations and required operating procedures are in place. Internal scoping was conducted by GFO staff and included threatened and endangered species, cultural clearances and ANILCA 810 analysis.

VII. Compliance and Monitoring Plan:

Compliance and monitoring of this authorization will be conducted by the BLM Glennallen Field Office. Inspections will be made on a regular basis and after the applicant reclaims the land upon termination of the authorization.

s/s Brenda Becker  
Acting for Elizabeth Maclean  
Glennallen Field Manager

4/29/2011

Attachments: Terms and Stipulations

Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
**Glennallen Field Office**

NEPA Interdisciplinary Review

Project Name: Granite Construction Administrative Site

Casefile Number: AA-92910

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AKA-020-2011-0016-CX

NEPA Preparer: Brenda Becker

Please return to preparer by: April 27, 2011

Staff Specialist	Resource Area	Comments Provided Yes / No	Date Reviewed
Brenda Becker	Lands and Realty		
Marcia Butorac	Recreation and Facilities	Yes	4/21/2011
Merben Cebrian	ANILCA, Section 810	Yes	4/27/2011
Merben Cebrian	T&E Animals	No	4/27/2011
Merben Cebrian	T&E Plants	No	4/27/2011
Merben Cebrian	Wildlife	Yes	4/27/2011
Heath Emmons	Wild and Scenic Rivers		
Marnie Graham	Public Affairs	Yes – formatting	4/28/2011
Denton Hamby	Special Recreation Use	No	4/27/2011
Denton Hamby	Visual Resources	No	4/27/2011
Brad Honerlaw	Law Enforcement	N/A	
Alysia White	Law Enforcement	Yes – emailed	4/27/2011
John Jangala	Cultural Heritage	Yes	4/25/2011
John Jangala	Paleontology	No	4/25/2011
Cory Larson	Travel Management	No	4/25/2011
James Whitlock	Minerals	N/A	
Ben Seifert	Fire Management	No	4/28/2011
Ben Seifert	Forestry	No	4/28/2011
Ben Seifert	Invasive Weeds	No	4/28/2011
Ben Seifert	Soils	No	4/28/2011
Tim Sundlov	Air Quality	No-EW	4/27/2011
Tim Sundlov	Riparian & Wetlands	No	4/21/2011
Tim Sundlov	Water Quality	No	4/21/2011
Tim Sundlov	Fish Biology	No	4/21/2011
Joseph Hart	Hazardous Materials	No	4/27/2011
Elijah Waters	Branch Chief - Resources	No	4/27/2011

Authorized Officer Review: s/s Brenda Becker, Acting FM Date: 4/29/2011