



Bureau of Land Management

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

**Categorical Exclusion
(Forest Stewardship)**

**Applicant:
Bureau of Land Management**

**Case File Number:
540001**

AK-040-06-CX-025

Location:

Seward Meridian, T. 13 N., R. 2 W.,
Section 30, SW1/4, NW1/4 NW1/4 SE1/4, SW1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4, SE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4;
Section 31, E1/2 NW1/4, W1/2 E1/2 NW1/4.

Prepared By:

Brian Sterbenz
Fire Management Specialist/Forester
May30, 2006

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Case File No.: AA-086543
AK-040-06-CX-025

Anchorage Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-06-CX-025

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA086543

Proposed Action Title/Types: Mechanical removal of biomass/firewood

Location of Proposed Action: Seward Meridian, T. 13 N., R. 2 W.
Section 30, SW1/4, NW1/4 NW1/4 SE1/4, SW1/4 SW1/4 NE1/4, SE1/4 SE1/4 NW1/4
Section 31, E1/2 NW1/4, W1/2 E1/2 NW1/4

Description of Proposed Action:

The Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office under a Forest Stewardship Contract, proposes to remove approximately 1,081 cords of material from approximately 80 acres of land within the Fort Richardson Military Reservation. Skid trails will be created on either side of a road that accesses the land to facilitate log removal. This forest treatment will help restore the health, productivity, and diversity of this forested area. It will also improve moose browse habitat, reduce wildfire risk by removing fuel concentrations, and sustain a consistent local wood products market. Public opinion supports sustained forest yield. There is interest in the contracts. This project is being done with cooperation of the United States Army, Alaska.

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: South Central MFP

Date Plan Approved: March 1980

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3). Objective F-1.1 states that the BLM protect all potential commercial stands from wild fire and other destructive forces including man-caused activities. All fires should be suppressed during the first burning period.

The lands affected by this action are outside of the area addressed in Alaska's Coastal Zone Management Plan for Anchorage.

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Paragraph 1.12 of 516 DM 2, Appendix 1.

1.12 Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres. Such activities: Shall be limited to areas (1) in wildland-urban interface and (2) Condition Classes 2 or 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III, outside the wildland-urban interface; Shall be identified through a collaborative framework as described in "A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and the Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan;" Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans; Shall not be conducted in wilderness areas or impair the suitability of wilderness study areas for preservation as wilderness; Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and may include the sale of vegetative material if the primary purpose of the activity is hazardous fuels reduction. (Refer to the Environmental Statement Memoranda Series for additional, required guidance.)

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. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 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); | | |

Case File No.: AA-086543
AK-040-06-CX-025

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------|
| | floodplains (Executive Order 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 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> |

**Case File No.: AA-086543
AK-040-06-CX-025**

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

Remarks:

This action is in accordance with forest management regulations (43 CFR 5003) and The Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-148).

Preparer(s): Brian Sterbenz

Date: August 29, 2006

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:7/20/06