



Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office
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Administrative Determination (AD)/Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
Reindeer Grazing Allotment Improvement – Radio Antenna

Applicant: Thomas Gray
Case File No.: F-024210
AK-040-06-DNA-030



Location:

Section 24 Township 9 South, Range 21 West, Kateel River Meridian

Prepared By:

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Natural Resource Program Coordinator
Nome Field Station
April 20, 2006

Administrative Determination (AD)
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office

A. BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office **Lease/Serial Case File No.:** F-024210

Proposed Action Title/Type: Authorization of an existing communication repeater antenna.

Location of Proposed Action: Sec. 24, T. 9 S., R. 21 W., Kateel River Meridian

Description of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to issue Range Improvement Permit for an existing repeater antenna for the term of the applicant's current Reindeer Grazing Authorization Permit. Renewal of the Range Improvement (repeater antenna) shall be addressed with renewal of the applicant's Reindeer Grazing Permit.

Applicant: Thomas Gray

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

The proposed action is consistent with the Northwest Management Framework Plan completed in 1982. The objective for range management of the Northwest Management Framework Plan was to encourage proper utilization of range by livestock. Reindeer grazing was recognized as an important use by livestock on public lands. Conflicts between reindeer and caribou were identified by allowing for adjustments of reindeer allotment boundaries and/or designating non-use areas to avoid conflict with caribou winter range. The area of potential conflict concern at the time of the Plan was east and west of the Buckland River. The Northwest Management Framework Plan also called for the development of an Allotment Management Plan to support objectives to maintain and improve the range resource and reduce fire control costs. Only one Allotment Management Plan has ever been signed, that of Mr. Henry, for the lands near Koyuk. Range improvements are a necessary component of reindeer grazing.

Further, the Proposed Action is in conformance with the Northwest Management Framework Plan (MFP) dated October 5, 1982, activity objective Lands L 2.1 and L 2.3. Objective L 2.1 states that leases may be granted on a case-by-case basis where there would be no adverse impacts on subsistence resources. Objective L 2.3 states that High peaks which have the potential for communication sites would be protected for such use. The mountain top proposed by the applicant meets the criteria within the MFP.

C. Identify applicable NEPA documents and other related documents that cover the Proposed Action.

AK-040-06-EA-028; Right of Way for a communication site in Sec. 24, T. 9 S., R. 21 W., Kateel River Meridian; Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

- 1. Is the current Proposed Action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed? Is the current Proposed Action located at a site specifically analyzed in an existing document?**

Both this proposed action and the proposed action in AK-040-06-EA-028 address the environmental consequences of placing communication antennas on mountaintops in Sec. 24, T. 9 S., R. 21 W., Kateel River Meridian. Sec. 24, T. 9 S., R. 21 W., Kateel River Meridian is within the applicant's Reindeer Grazing Permit/Allotment area.

- 2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current Proposed Action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?**

Yes, with the exception that this antenna is already in place and the Bureau of Land Management is attempting to bring the applicant's installation into compliance with Federal land use standards.

- 3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances?**

The existing analysis was done in March 2006 and finalized with a FONSI in June 2006. No new information has been received and no circumstances have changed since the March 2006 analysis.

- 4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current Proposed Action?**

Yes, AK-040-06-EA-028 analyzed the environmental effects of installing two antenna on the same mountaintop as the applicant's in Sec. 24, T. 9 S., R. 21 W., Kateel River Meridian.

- 5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document analyze site-specific impacts related to the current Proposed Action?**

Yes the direct and indirect impacts are the same and the analysis in AK-040-06-EA-028 is site specific to the same location as the proposed action. Both the proposed action and the proposed action in AK-040-06-EA-028 address the installation of antennas and communication devices on a mountaintop in Sec. 24, T. 9 S., R. 21 W., Kateel River Meridian.

- 6. Are the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current Proposed Action substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?**

With the exception of the addition of one more authorized antenna (the subject antenna was in place at the time of the analysis in AK-040-06-EA-028), the cumulative impacts are the same.

- 7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current Proposed Action?**

Yes.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:

The proposed actions under AK-040-06-EA-028 and under this DNA were reviewed by all Anchorage Field Office specialists and cultural resource, Threatened and Endangered Species and Subsistence clearances were obtained in support of this DNA.

F. Mitigation Measures:

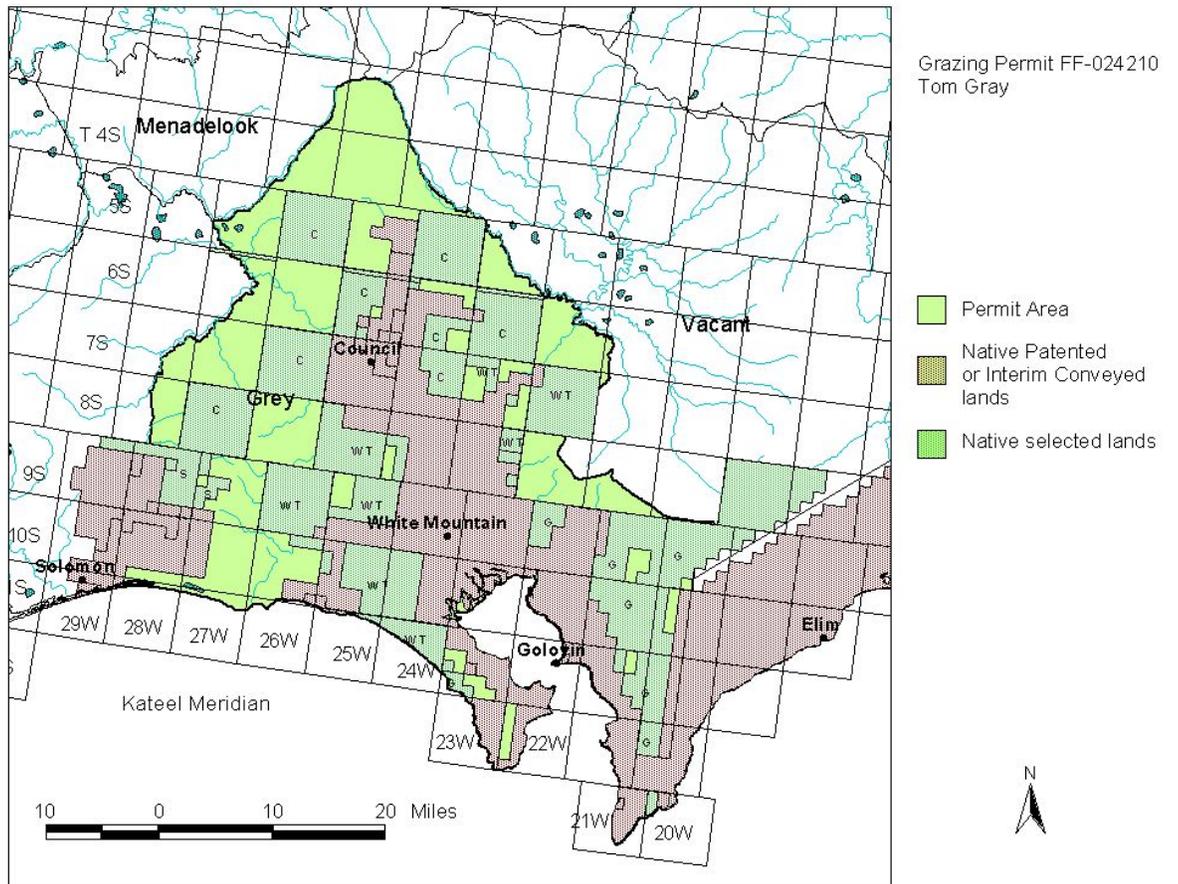
The antenna will be removed at the applicant's expense upon expiration of the applicant's Reindeer Grazing Permit/Allotment or upon the antenna's obsolescence whichever occurs first. If the applicant fails to remove the antenna with one six months of either event, the Bureau of Land Management may, at its election, declare the antenna abandoned and remove it from the mountaintop. If the Bureau of Land Management removes the antenna from the mountaintop, the applicant shall be liable for all costs incurred by the Bureau of Land Management.

G. Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the Proposed Action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Gary Reimer
Anchorage Field Manager

September 19, 2006
Date



Gray Reindeer Grazing/Allotment Area



Figure 1 The Repeater Antenna