



Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office
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**Categorical Exclusion
Fort Richardson Fish Hatchery Facility
Recreation and Public Purpose Lease Renewal**

**Applicant: State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game
Case File Number: AA-12479
AK-040-06-CX-008**

Location:

Seward Meridian
SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 6, T 13 N., R. 2 W.

Prepared By:

Dorothy Bonds
Realty Specialist
November 3, 2005

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

CX No.: AK-040-06-CX-008 Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-12479

Proposed Action Title/Types: Fort Richardson Fish Hatchery Facility,
Recreation for Public Purposes Lease Renewal

Location of Proposed Action: Section 6, Township 13 North, Range 2 West
Seward Meridian
USGS 1:63,360 Quad – Anchorage A-8

Description of Proposed Action: The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, has applied for a renewal of their Recreation and Public Purposes Act Lease for a fish hatchery facility located within the boundaries of Fort Richardson. The hatchery produces salmon, trout, char, and grayling to stock around the State of Alaska and to create sport fishing opportunities. The hatchery structures include three residences for hatchery personnel and their families, a shop, a feed storage building, a visitor center, a headbox/aeration building, two fish rearing buildings, offices, 39 concrete outdoor raceways, and all associated pipelines. The hatchery program is currently under review by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and changes are likely in the future. These changes could include either replacing many of the fish rearing containers and buildings at the current hatchery site (this may or may not expand beyond the current footprint), or possibly building a new facility in a different location in south central Alaska. If new construction is expected to lie outside of the existing footprint, a modification of the lease will be applied for at that time. BLM issued the lease for 25 years on August 26, 1982, expiring on August 26, 2007. This lease renewal would be for a period of 5 years; extending the life of the grant to August 24, 2012, at which point the lease may be renewed if necessary. No additional rights would be conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorization. However, a rehabilitation plan will be necessary if current operation at the existing site is no longer needed.

Applicant (if any): State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southcentral Planning Area Management Framework Plan. Date Plan Approved: March 1980

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

Remarks: In the Management Framework Plan, Objective L-1 and L-2 state that BLM will “satisfy state and local government needs...for land as they arise” and “satisfy needs for rights-of-way.” As this is a right-of-way for a state government need, this action is in conformance with the plan.

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

- A. Categorical Exclusion Review.
 This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4. E.(9), Renewals and assignments of leases, permits or rights-of-ways where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.
- 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); 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, | | |

- | | YES | NO |
|---|-----|----------|
| 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> |

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:

Preparer(s): Dorothy Bonds Date: December 8, 2005

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: Gary Reimer Date: March 22, 2006
Field Office Manager