



Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office
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Anchorage, AK 99507
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**Categorical Exclusion
Campbell Creek Riparian Restoration**

Applicant:
Case File Number:
AK-010-08-CX-014



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-014

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: NA

Proposed Action Title/Types: Campbell Creek Riparian Restoration

Location of Proposed Action: BLM Campbell Tract, Anchorage, AK

Description of Proposed Action:

Two short re-routes of the Salmon Run Trail will be constructed to bypass recent high water damage to the trail. The trail re-route sites and two additional eroded and impacted sites on the south bank of the South Fork of Campbell Creek and Salmon Run Trail will be re-vegetated using native plant materials and weed-free topsoil to stabilize the stream banks, improve the visual resources and reduce future pedestrian impacts. These sites are associated with social trail impacts and abandoned segments of trail resulting from trail re-routes.

Site 1 is located immediately upstream from the Campbell Airstrip Bridge adjacent to a site that was re-vegetated in the Fall of 2006. This proposal re-vegetates a 30' by 25' impacted and eroded stream bank location immediately downstream from the existing re-vegetation site, and identifies and hardens the recreation access corridor to the river between the two sites.

Approximately 8 inches of weed-free topsoil will be placed on the re-vegetation site which will be planted with a mix of local riparian species of trees and shrubs including alder, willow, highbush cranberry and prickly rose. A green plastic barrier fence will be installed on 6' T-posts to protect the site from moose and pedestrians. Three to four broad steps leading down to the waters edge will be installed between the established and newly installed green fencing. The lowest step will be composed of large flat 2-foot-plus boulders. The area behind the boulders will be filled with cobble stone. The upper steps will be composed of large 12 feet long, EPA-approved treated wooden timbers. The timbers will be anchored into the ground using iron rebar and if necessary cabled to link the steps together.

To avoid impacting spawning salmon, the steps will be installed at a time the when the water level in the creek is low enough to install the lowest step on when the shoreline is completely exposed. Project to be completed in 2008.

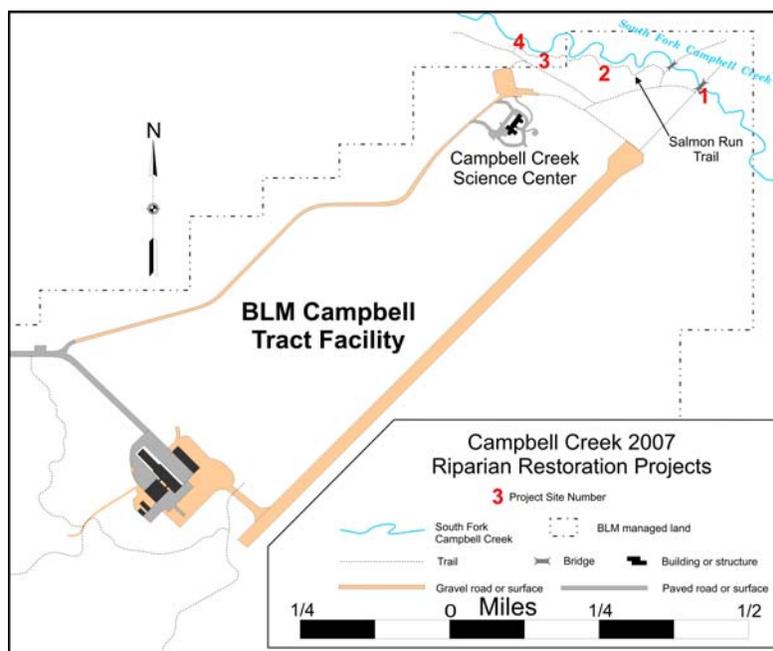
Site 2 is located on Salmon Run Trail at the western-most location of a high water event in 2005 that undercut the stream bank and caused approximately 25 feet of the trail to be undercut. A 100 foot re-route of this trail is proposed to bypass the damaged area, remove recreation traffic from the eroded stream bank site, and keep the trail viable. The re-route will be approximately

four feet wide and will be surfaced with E-1 gravel to match the character of the existing trail. Shrubs and 3-4 sapling sized alder trees will be removed within the re-route corridor during construction. The abandoned trail section will be covered with 6" of weed free topsoil and planted with a mixture of riparian zone plants similar to Site 1. The re-vegetation site will be fenced using T-posts and green plastic construction fence to restrict pedestrian access.

Site 3 is located at the eastern-most location of Salmon Run Trail damage caused by the 2005 high water event which undercut fifteen feet of the trail. A 60 foot re-route is proposed to lead recreation traffic around the damaged site that will be constructed identical to Site 2. The abandoned section of trail will be re-vegetated similar to Site 2.

Site 4 is at an area called Pole Point located near the start of the Salmon Run Trail. This high, flat stream bank site has become heavily impacted and denuded by many years of pedestrians leaving the trail and walking to the edge of the bank to view the river. A hardened access to the river with a view has been created just upstream, allowing the pole point site to be re-vegetated. The site is approximately 50' by 25' and will be re-vegetated by placing 8" of topsoil and the same mix of native species as described above. The site will be fenced on three sides to prevent entry by pedestrians.

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



Approximate locations of Campbell Creek riparian restoration 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*. The trail re-routes are consistent with Action RM-4: b. Trail System Improvements on page 42 that states:

“Develop a South Fork Campbell Creek trail network, tied in with the existing de facto trails and proposed interpretive trails.”

The re-vegetation projects are also 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 Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion 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.”

Further and had the Anchorage Field Office had the resources to address the consequences of the 2005 flood event within one year of its occurrence, the proposed actions would have fallen within the parameters of 516 DM 11.9 I (1)

“Planned actions in response to wildfires, floods, weather events, earthquakes, or landslips that threaten public health and safety, property, and/or natural and cultural resources, and that are necessary to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management-approved condition as a result of the event. Such activities shall be limited to: repair and installation of essential erosion control structures; replacement or repair of existing culverts, roads, trails, fences and

minor facilities; construction of protection fences; planting seeding, and mulching...”

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.	<u> </u>	<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> </u>	<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> </u>	<u> X </u>
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	<u> </u>	<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> </u>	<u> X </u>
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	<u> </u>	<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> </u>	<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	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-------|--------------|
| | species. | _____ | _____ |
| 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 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