



Bureau of Land Management

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

**Categorical Exclusion
Campbell Tract Recreation Maintenance**

Applicant:
Case File Number:
AK-010-08-CX-015



Location:
T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Sec. 3, Seward Meridian
Campbell Tract, Anchorage, Alaska

Prepared By:
Douglas Ballou
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-015

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: NA

Proposed Action Title/Types: Campbell Creek Recreation Maintenance

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

Description of Proposed Action:

The proposed action is to perform recreation maintenance actions on Campbell Tract including the construction of 2 short trail re-routes, installation of 4 informational kiosk units, installation of approximately 15 wooden sign posts, and the delineation of a multi-use, recreational trail route in the airstrip corridor. These travel management actions will improve user access to the Campbell Tract trail system, improve visitor information and directional signage, and reduce incidental recreation use of the airstrip corridor.

At Site 1, a 50 foot re-route of Lore Road Trail will be established immediately southwest of the existing trail at the junction of Lynx Trail and the southern antenna site access road. This re-route will align the new Lynx Trail with the eastern leg of Lore Road Trail resulting in a shorter and safer pedestrian crossing of the antenna site road and a more logical and user-friendly trail junction. Surface vegetation and low shrub species will be removed from the site of the re-route to a width of 4 feet and approximately 6 inches of E-1 gravel will be compacted to a similar width over a layer of geotextile material. The abandoned segment of Lore Road Trail will be re-vegetated with locally obtained white spruce, cranberry, white birch, alder and native grass mix over a 6 inch base of weed-free topsoil. The site will be monitored for invasive weeds throughout the first two growing seasons.

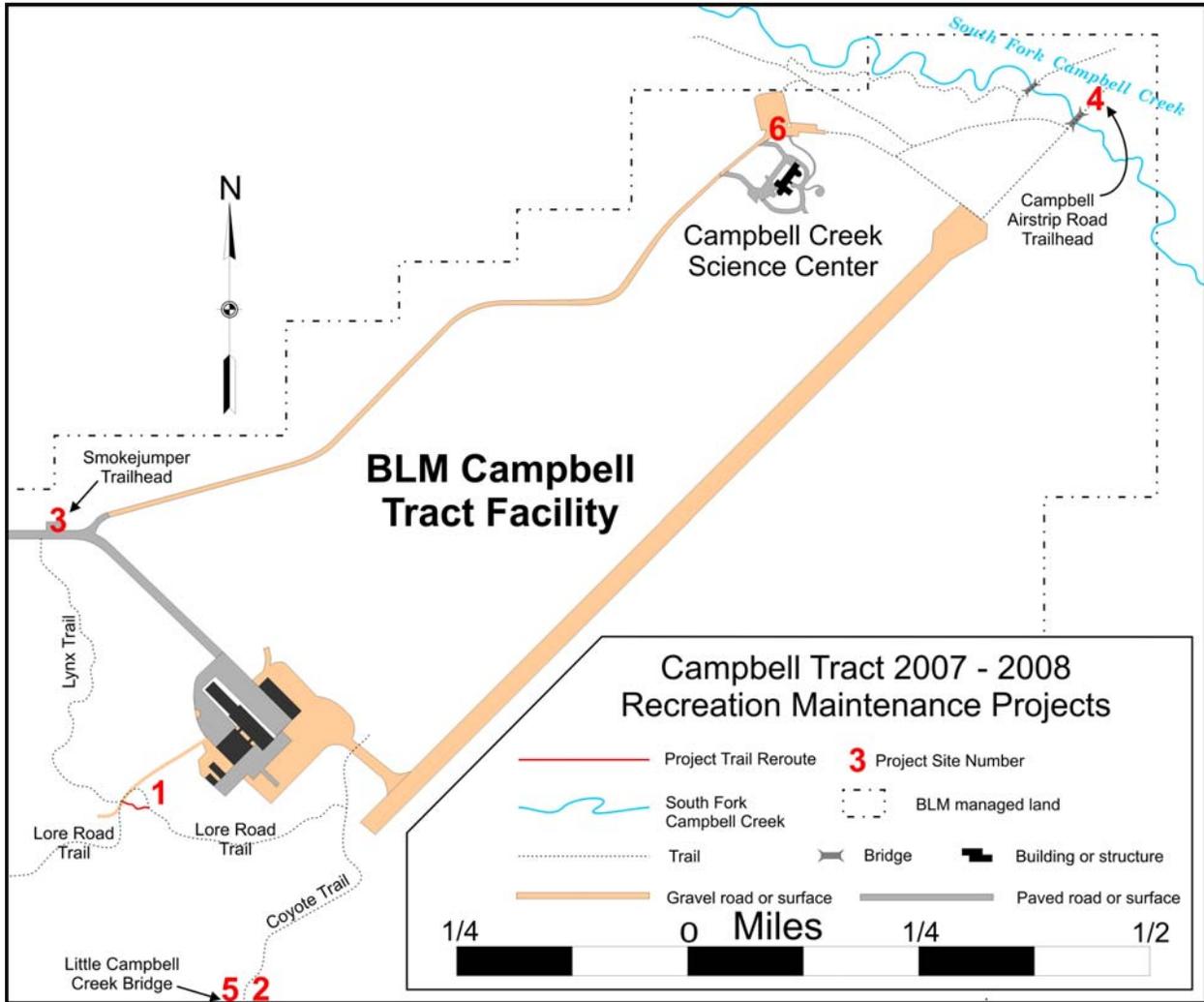
Site 2 is located at the point where Birch Meadow Trail intersects with Coyote Trail and Little Campbell Creek. The southwestern end of Birch Meadow Trail running parallel to the creek has become highly eroded from the impacts of repeated horse use as equestrians crossed the actual creek to avoid using the old wooden bridge. The bridge has been replaced (BLM Environmental Assessment # AK-040-04-EA-012) and is now suitable for safe horse passage. The proposal is to re-route the trail away from the edge of the creek and re-vegetate the damaged area. The re-route will follow an already established social trail and will be approximately 3 feet wide and 75 feet in length. The re-route segment will be surfaced with wood chips and will join with Coyote Trail approximately 30 feet north of the creek. The abandoned trail segment parallel to the creek will be re-vegetated with 6 inches of weed-free topsoil and a selection of appropriate native species

for this shady site. A temporary fence may be installed to protect the re-vegetation site from pedestrian and moose impacts. Project to be completed in 2008.

Four interpretive kiosks, each consisting of a 3-panel unit and a single panel unit will be installed on Campbell Tract at Sites 3-6. The kiosk installations at Sites 3 and 4 will replace vandalized kiosk units that are already in place at Smokejumper and Campbell Airstrip trailheads. The Site 5 location is a new kiosk installation site on the west side of Coyote trail adjacent to the new bridge on Little Campbell Creek. At this site, the kiosk units will be placed 8 feet west of the trail on a flat gravel pad to allow users to safely leave the flow of traffic to read the information. Site 6 is a new kiosk installation site adjacent to the northeast corner of the Campbell Creek Science Center public parking lot and will serve users entering at either the Moose Track Trail or the airstrip access gate. Installation of each kiosk requires the drilling of six, 8-inch diameter holes, 3 feet deep, and the placement of each of the 6 kiosk post legs in one bag of post-set or ready-mix. Project to be completed in 2008.

The sign post proposal will install up to fifteen, 8-inch square, treated wood, sign posts at various trail intersections on the Campbell Tract trail network. The posts will be set in 12 inch wide holes at a depth of 3 feet, and located within 4 feet of the established trail. Directional signs and “you are here” maps will be placed on each pole to guide recreational users.

The multi-use trail corridor will be placed along the western side of the Campbell Airstrip corridor immediately adjacent to the existing tree line. The trail will be marked with removable orange traffic cones with intermittently spaced directional signs that direct users off the airstrip and onto the multi-use trail. The trail corridor will be periodically brushed with mechanical equipment and no ground disturbing actions are planned. The trail markers and signs will be removable in the event the airstrip corridor is widened and the multi-use corridor is re-established at the edge of a wider tree-line clearing.



Approximate locations of Campbell Tract recreation maintenance 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, dated June 1988.*

The trail re-routes are consistent with Action RM-4: Trail System Improvements on page 42 which states:

- a. Develop new winter trails south of the existing designated ski trail to provide for winter uses, including skiing, horseback riding and skijoring.
- b. 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.”

The sign post and kiosk installations are consistent with Action RM-1 Trail Use Conflicts on page 39 which states:

- b. At the three major entrance points, provide signing that briefly and concisely explains shared trail system etiquette.

and Action RM-3 Visitor Information on page 42 which authorizes trail and trailhead visitor information signage.

Date Plan Approved: June, 1988

The Proposed Actions have been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)).

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

- A. Categorical Exclusion Review.
The Proposed Actions qualify as categorical exclusions 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.”

and 516 DM 11.9, G (2)

“Installation of routine signs... on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such a plan.”

- 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> </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	<u> </u>	<u> X </u>

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| | principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | _____ | _____ |
| 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 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 actions are 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