



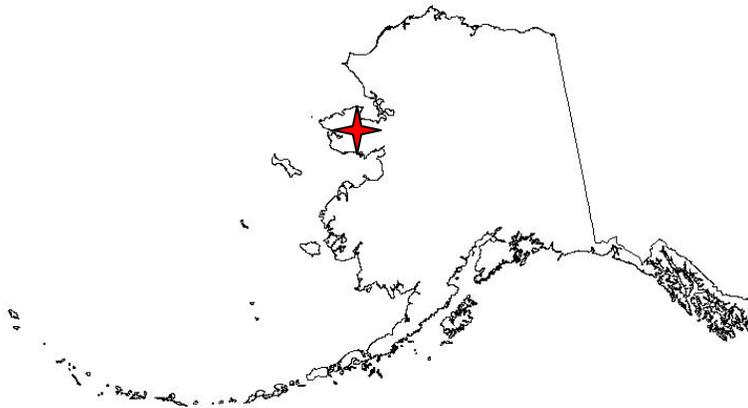
**Bureau of Land Management**

Anchorage Field Office  
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Anchorage, AK 99507  
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**Categorical Exclusion**  
**All Alaska Sweepstakes Sled Dog Race Nome to Candle**

**Applicant: Nome Kennel Club**  
**Case File Number: AA-087727**  
**AK-040-07-CX-037**



**Location:**

Kateel River Meridian

T. 12 S., R. 30 W., Sec. 7, Tract A  
T. 11 S., R. 29 W., Sec. 9 & 16  
T. 10 S., R. 26 W., Sec. 21, 29, & 30  
T. 9 S., R. 25 W., Sec. 22 thru 24  
T. 6 S., R. 24 W., Sec. 1, 2 & 21  
T. 5 S., R. 24 W., Sec. 36  
T. 5 S., R. 23 W., Sec. 31  
T. 5 S., R. 21 W., Sec. 2, 3, 9 & 10  
T. 4 S., R. 20 W., Sec. 29, 30 & 31  
T. 3 S., R. 20 W., Sec. 26 & 34  
T. 3 S., R. 18 W., S $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 25 & N $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 36.  
T. 3 S., R. 17 W., Sec. 18

**Prepared By:**

Thomas Sparks  
Natural Resource Program Coordinator  
September 20, 2007

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

CX No.: AK-040-07-CX-037

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-087727

Proposed Action Title/Types: Sled dog race from Nome to Candle, Alaska and back, 43 CFR 2930 (Special Recreation Permit).

Location of Proposed Action:

Kateel River Meridian

- T. 12 S., R. 30 W., Sec. 7, Tract A (State Selected)
- T. 11 S., R. 29 W., Sec. 9 & 16 (State Selected)
- T. 10 S., R. 26 W., Sec. 21, 29, & 30
- T. 9 S., R. 25 W., Sec. 22 thru 24
- T. 6 S., R. 24 W., Sec. 1, 2 & 21
- T. 5 S., R. 24 W., Sec. 36
- T. 5 S., R. 23 W., Sec. 31
- T. 5 S., R. 21 W., Sec. 2, 3, 9 & 10 (State Selected)
- T. 4 S., R. 20 W., Sec. 29, 30 & 31 (State Selected)
- T. 3 S., R. 20 W., Sec. 26 & 34
- T. 3 S., R. 18 W., S½ Sec. 25 & N½ Sec. 36.
- T. 3 S., R. 17 W., Sec. 18

Description of Proposed Action:

The Nome Kennel Club is sponsoring a sled dog race for up to 50 contestants (dog teams) to race from Nome to Candle, Alaska and back. The race will occur between March 25 and March 31, 2008 and will commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *All Alaska Sweepstakes* race. The route from Nome to Candle is approximately 408 miles long. Approximately 23 miles of the course crosses Bureau administered/managed lands.

There will be 12 checkpoints between Nome and Candle: Fort Davis, Hastings, Cape Nome, Safety, Solomon, Topkok, Timber, Council, Boston, Telephone, Haven, and First Chance. Three of the checkpoints are on Bureau administered/ managed lands: Telephone, Haven, Timber.

Bering Straits Native Corporation has selected, the Telephone checkpoint, Section 30, T. 4 S., R. 20 W., Kateel River Meridian as an ANCSA 14(h)(1) historical site, FF-022894.

Bering Straits Native Corporation has also selected the Haven checkpoint, T. 3 S., R. 18 W., S½ Sec. 25 & N½ Sec. 36., Kateel River Meridian as an ANCSA 14(h)(1) historical site, FF-

022009.

The State has selected the lands at the Safety checkpoint, T. 12 S., R. 30 W., Sec. 7, Tract A, Kateel River Meridian, FF-044560.

The Timber checkpoint at the confluence of the Cumberland Creek and Klokerblok River, T. 9 S., R. 25 W., Sec. 23, will be located on Bureau Managed land.

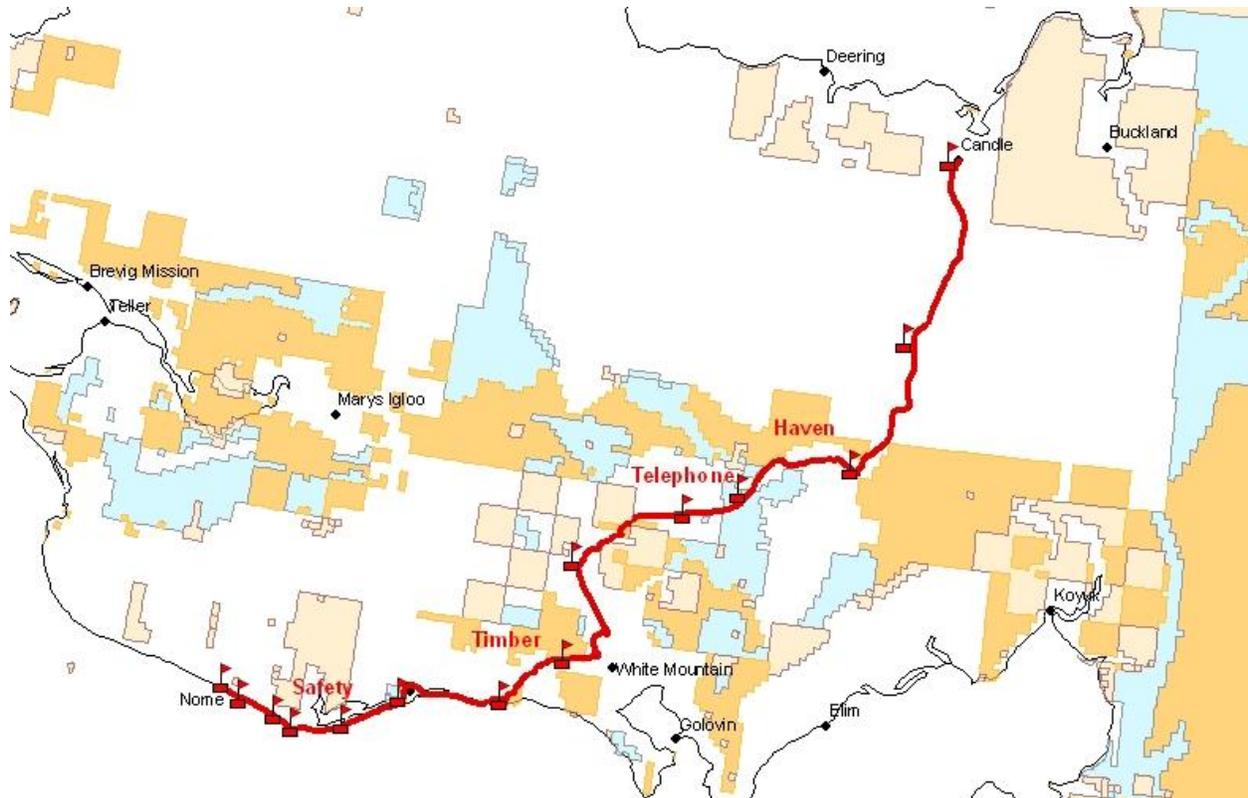


Figure 1 Race Route with BLM checkpoints.

Thus, there are four staging areas (checkpoints) on Bureau administered/managed lands. Each checkpoint will have a tent and privy. Participants in the event will use the checkpoints for preparing food. Each checkpoint will also have fuel for snow machines. Safety personnel supporting the event will use snow machines to travel from checkpoint to checkpoint and to monitor the race. As with the Iditarod race events, each checkpoint will also be used to bed down dogs, which will involve the use of straw to keep the animals warm. Based on the Bureau's experience with the Iditarod races, the All Alaska Sweepstakes race should affect *no more than 3 staging area acres* in the aggregate.

Applicant (if any): Nome Kennel Club  
PO Box 1290  
Nome, AK 99762

Contact: H. Conner Thomas  
PO Box 1290  
Nome, AK 9762  
(907) 443-5226

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**PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

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The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Northwest Management Framework Plan dated October 5, 1982, activity objective Recreation (R-1), which allows for recreational opportunities within the planning area (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)).

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**PART II - NEPA REVIEW**

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A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under Department of the Interior Manual, Series: *Environmental Quality Programs*, Part 516: *National Environmental Policy of 1969*, Paragraph 11.5 *Categorical Exclusions*, Subparagraph (H) *Recreation Management*:

(1) Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to *14 consecutive nights*; that impacts *no more than 3 staging area acres*; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR 2932.5).

[Emphasis added.]

A staging area is defined in this context as an area where use is concentrated, usually to enable access to a recreational activity that involves traveling across public lands along roads, trails or in areas authorized in a land use plan.<sup>1</sup>

B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that an environmental analysis must be prepared where an action may:

YES NO

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<sup>1</sup> Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Notice of Final Action to Adopt Revisions to the Bureau of Land Management’s Procedures for Managing the NEPA Process, Chapter 11 of the Department of the Interior’s Manual Part 516, 72 Fed. Reg. 45,503 (August 14, 2007)

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|-----|--|-------|----------------|
| 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 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   | _____ | _____ <u>X</u> |

(Executive Order 13007).

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of \_\_\_\_\_ X  
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).

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): Tom Sparks

Date: September 20, 2007

### PART III – DECISION

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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 action is within a category 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 stipulations.

/S/ \_\_\_\_\_

Date: December 5, 2007

Rodney Huffman  
Acting for Mike Zaidlicz  
Anchorage Field Office Manager