

**DECISION RECORD
and
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

I. Decision:

It is my decision to continue to permit winter, *specialized recreational use* of Bureau of Land Management lands traversed by the route of the Iditarod National Historic Trail, and the use of Bureau of Land Management facilities along the Trail; provided, the combined annual winter visits and visitor days of all winter events engaged in such use, including ancillary use, e.g. commercial filming, do not exceed 1,346 visits or 1,185 visitor days.

The configuration of the 2008 winter, *specialized recreational use* of Bureau of Land Management lands traversed by the route of the Iditarod National Historic Trail and the use of Bureau of Land Management facilities along the Trail is: The Tesoro Iron Dog snowmobile race with up to 100 snowmobiles participating; the Tesoro Iron Dog sponsored Poker Run with up to 25 snowmobiles participating; the Alaska Ultra Sport Human Endurance Race with up to 50 individuals participating; and the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race with up to 100 dog teams, dog sleds and mushers participating; together with commercial filming activity.

For the sake of clarity and *the above configuration notwithstanding*, future winter, *specialized recreational use* of Bureau of Land Management lands traversed by the route of the Iditarod National Historic Trail and the use of Bureau of Land Management facilities along the Trail are within the scope of this decision, *regardless of the configuration* of such use; provided, the combined use does not exceed 1,346 visits or 1,185 visitor days.

Further, it is my decision for the Bureau of Land Management to continue to host the finish of the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race at the Bureau of Land Management's Campbell Tract Facility in Anchorage, Alaska; provided, the associated annual visits to the Campbell Tract Facility do not exceed 3,315 visits or the associated annual visitor days on the Campbell Tract Facility do not exceed 1,106 visitor days.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

Winter, *specialized recreational use* of Bureau of Land Management lands traversed by the route of the Iditarod National Historic Trail is in conformance with all BLM management framework and resource management plans for areas traversed by the Iditarod National Historic Trail as well as the River Management Plan for the Unalakleet National Wild River and the Iditarod National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan.

The impacts identified in the environmental analysis are a necessary consequence of winter trail use. The affect of those impacts on the human and physical environment have stabilized during the long history of the Trail's use, including the thirty-five year history of winter, *specialized recreational use* of BLM lands traversed by the Trail.

Use of the Campbell Tract Facility to host the finish of the ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is in conformance with the Campbell Tract Facility Management Plan and does not contemplate an irreversible, irretrievable or long-term commitment of resources. The impacts identified in the environmental analysis are a necessary consequence of utilizing the Facility for this purpose. The affect of the impacts on the human and physical environment is temporary, physically removed from the Anchorage urban environment, and of a limited annual duration of ten hours.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

The proposed action is consistent with existing national environmental policies and objectives as set forth in Section 101 (a) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Further and based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, it is my determination that the proposed action does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The proposed action will not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution of federal subsistence resources, or limit qualified Federal subsistence user access.

V. Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

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VI. Compliance and Monitoring Plan:

The stipulations attached to each Special Recreation Permit, incorporate mitigation measures designed to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands and protection of resources.

In the event the Arctic's climate continues to change, continued winter, *specialized recreational use* of the Iditarod National Historic Trail corridor, as it traverses BLM lands, may require and be dependant upon an assessment of trail conditions – particularly the effects associated with thawing permafrost. Routing of events and races may be changed to accommodate new environmental conditions or concerns.

/s/ Mike Zaidlicz
Mike Zaidlicz
Anchorage Field Manager

2/09/2008
Date