

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

I. Decision:

The Matanuska Telephone Association's telecommunication line in the vicinity of Sunshine Road, Talkeetna, Alaska is incapable of meeting anticipated customer demand or modern telecommunication needs. The association seeks to upgrade the line to provide its current and future clientele with modern telecommunication services. In recognition of the land and resource needs of the public, it is my decision to issue the Matanuska Telephone Association a right-of-way grant under Title V of Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), 43 U.S.C. 1761 et seq., and authorize the use of public lands for the purpose of burial and maintenance of a telecommunications line along a trail south of Sunshine Road, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Talkeetna, Alaska in Sections 17 and 20, Township 24 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to manage the public lands in a manner which recognizes the public's resource needs and to regulate use, occupancy, and development of the public lands through easements, leases, licenses, published rules or other appropriate legal instruments, 43 U.S.C. §1732. The Secretary is authorized to grant, issue, or renew rights-of-way over, upon, under or through the public lands for systems for transmission or reception of radio, television, telephone, telegraph, and other electronic signals, and other means of communication, 43 U.S.C. §1761(a)(5).

Installation of MTA's new telecommunication line will occur within the planning area addressed in BLM-Alaska's, March 2008, Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan. Bureau of Land Management regulations at 43 CFR §1610.5-3 (a) require that authorizations be in conformity with that plan. The plan provides that:

The BLM may issue rights-of-way for a variety of uses including but not limited to: roads, water pipelines, electric lines and communication sites under the authority of Title V of FLPMA.

The grant of a right-of-way to accommodate MTA's new communication line is contemplated by and in conformance with the plan.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact:

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:

The action will not have an adverse impact on energy development, production, supply or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

VI. Compliance and Monitoring Plan:

The mitigation measures found in the attached environmental assessment are incorporated herein as if fully set forth. They as well as the provisions of 43 U.S.C. §1765 shall become stipulations to the right-of-way grant.

_____/s/_____
James M. Fincher
Anchorage Field Manager

1/7/2009
Date