ANCHORAGE FIELD OFFICE
NEPA CLEARANCE SHEET

Document No.: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0008-EA Serial/Case File No.: AA-77471

Applicant: United States Coast Guard/BLM

Proposed Action: Improve access and egress to JRMIC building on Mayflower Island

Environmental Coordinator: _____ Date: 12/11/09

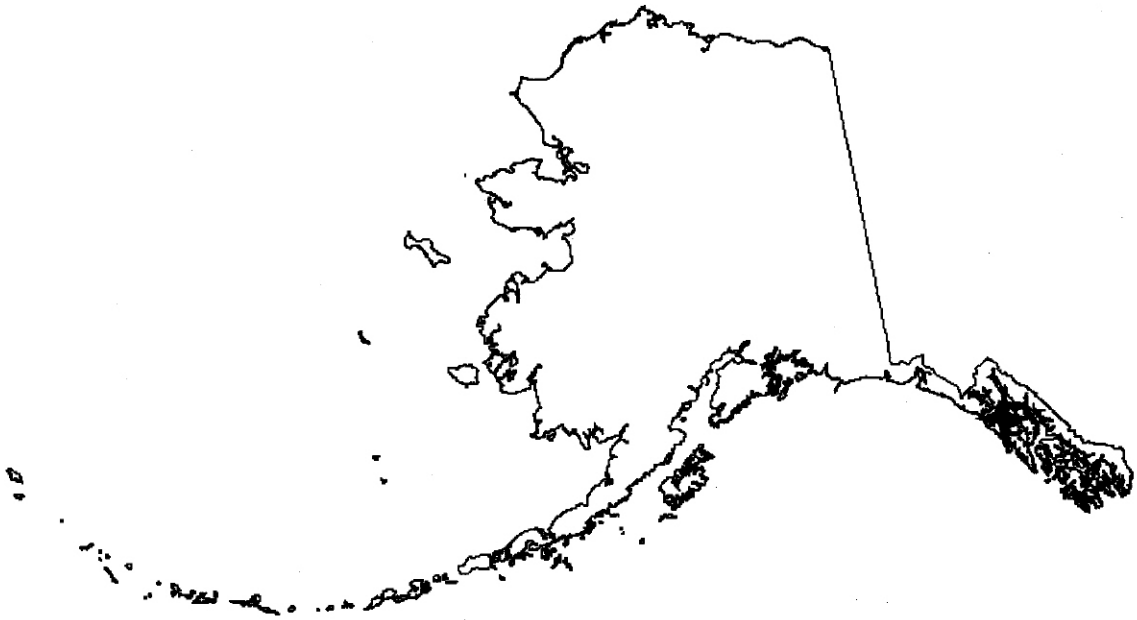
Group Manager, Renewable Resources: _____ Date: 12-11-2009

Group Manager, Lands: _____ Date: 12/11/09

	Y/N/NA
AFO Routing Slip:	_N/A__
ANILCA 906(k) State Concurrence Letter on State Selected Lands:	_N/A__
Native Community consultation on Native Selected Lands, 43 CFR §2650.1(2)(i):	_N/A__
ANILCA 810 Subsistence Clearance:	__Y___
Endangered Species Act Clearance:	__Y___
National Historic Preservation Act 106 Clearance:	__Y___

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 267-1246
http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado.html

Environmental Assessment
Mayflower Island John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIC) Building Addition
AA-77471
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0008-EA



Location:
Copper River Meridian, T41S, R67E, Section 36, USS 3844, PLO 534

Prepared By:
Harrison Griffin
Realty Specialist
11/16/09

I. INTRODUCTION

On January 19, 1996, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquired control of the former United States Bureau of Mines John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIC) on Mayflower Island in Southeast Alaska. The station complex included a number of wood frame buildings from the World War II era that had out-lived their usefulness. The structures themselves, and the hazardous materials associated with them have since been removed from the island. The main building is in need of rehabilitation to bring it up to modern code standards. In order for the building to be brought up to conformance with current code standards, appropriate laws and regulations, handicap access and fire safety egress improvements are being completed and approved.

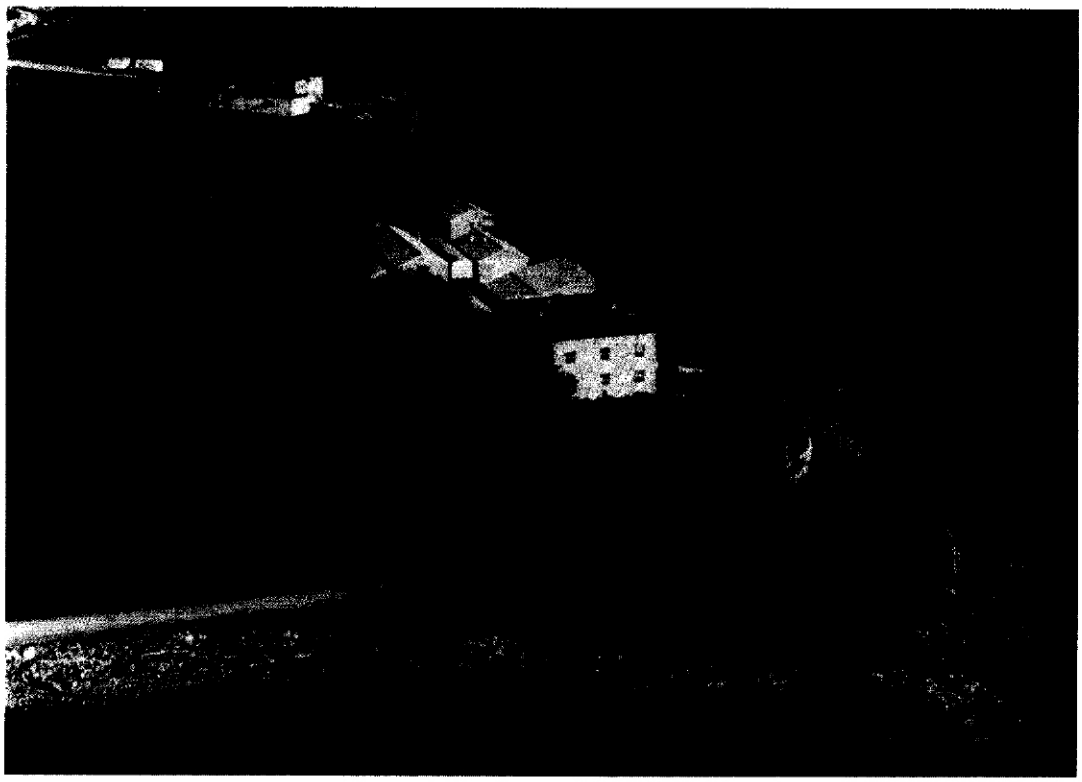


Figure 1 Mayflower Island, Alaska.

A. Land Status

Mayflower Island, which lies within the Juneau Meridian, T. 41 S., R. 67 E., Section 36, United States Survey 3844, was "withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public-land laws, including the mining and mineral-leasing laws, and reserved for the use of the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, as an experiment station," (*See* Public Land Order 534, dated November 24, 1948 (PLO 534)).

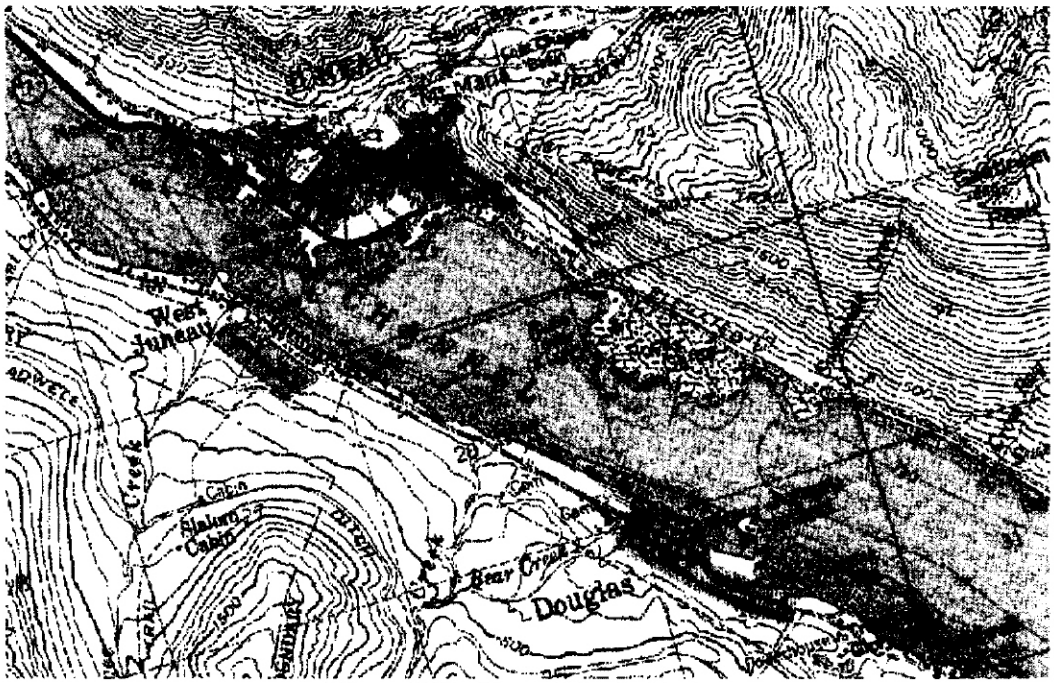


Figure 2 Mayflower Island, Alaska.

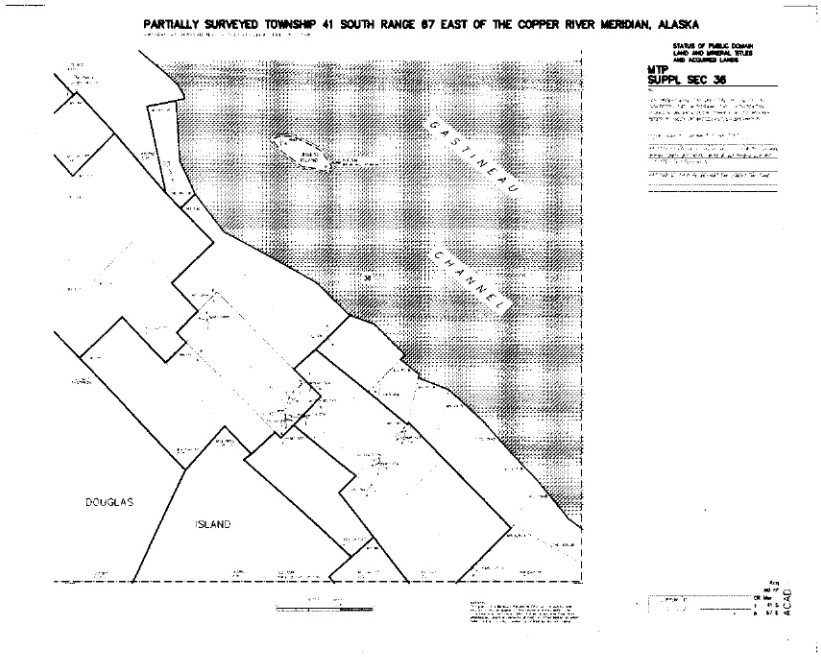


Figure 3 BLM Master Title Plat, Sec. 36, T. 41 S., R. 67 E., Copper River Meridian, Alaska USS 3844

The 104th Congress (January 3, 1995 – January 3, 1997) failed to provide funding for the United States Bureau of Mines in the Federal Government's 1996 fiscal year budget. On January 29, 1996, the Secretary of Interior transferred the United States Bureau of Mines' Mayflower Island facilities, property and liabilities to the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska (*see* Secretarial Order 3196, Appendix 1). From 1996 until 2007, the station provided accommodations for personnel engaged in the continued assessment of mineral potential on the public lands in Alaska. However, funding for that program was not included in the Bureau of Land Management's budget for 2008 and the station was closed on July 20, 2007. The island and its facilities are now excess and surplus real property.

B. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Policies, Plans or Other Environmental Analyses

1. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Policies, Plans or Other Environmental Analyses:
Statutes, Regulations, Policies, Plans or other environmental analyses affected by the proposed activities include the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (amended 2008), and 28CFR§36 Appendix A, Section 4.1.5 through 4.1.7. 28CFR§36 states that BLM must address and follow the requirements outlined for Additions, Alterations and Historical Preservation when managing Accessible Buildings on BLM administered lands. BLM must also be in conformance with all State and local fire codes as outlined in 13 AAC 50 for Fire Prevention. Should the land transfer become final as a result of these building improvements, Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as well as 43 CFR §2300 – Land Withdrawals, and 43 CFR §2370 – Restorations and Revocations would be followed as BLM policy and procedure mandates. Environmental Assessment AK-040-07-EA-034 was used to obtain the majority of the background information cited here in this EA. If delays are encountered with the management transfer of the site to the USCG during the withdrawal process, the BLM would consider a temporary transfer of the site, pending the withdrawal, through a right-of-way (ROW) grant. Authorization would fall under the authority of Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended (Public Law 94-579) (FLPMA), and the applicable regulations contained within 43 CFR 2800.

2. Conformance With Land Use Plan:
Mayflower Island, USS 3844, is within the Bureau of Land Management Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan area. The proposed action would be covered under the Ring of Fire Record of Decision and Approved

Management Plan, Part II. Management Decisions, I-2m, Administrative Sites.

C. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

In order for the BLM to be in conformance with the ADA, 28CFR§36 Appendix A, Section 4.1.5 through 4.1.7 states that the BLM must address, and follow the requirements outlined for Additions, Alterations and Historical Preservation when managing Accessible Buildings on BLM administered lands. BLM must also be in conformance with all State and local fire codes as outlined in 13 AAC 50 for Fire Prevention.

Currently, the building only has first floor handicapped accessibility. The JRMIC is a two-story building, and should have handicapped access to both floors. The purpose of this project is to bring the JRMIC main building into conformance with all State and Federal requirements for access and egress as outlined in the previous paragraph. This would aid in the transfer of management from the BLM to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) upon the revocation of Public Land Order 534 (PLO 534) an administrative withdrawal.

The BLM is required to evaluate the environmental impacts of a proposed action prior to making a decision. The purpose of this environmental assessment (EA) is to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed action and any alternatives on the human and natural environments so that an informed decision can be made as to the appropriate action to approve.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE

A. Proposed Action:

The BLM proposes to release a work plan for bid in the second quarter of FY10. The work plan would be for the construction of acceptable access and egress for the JRMIC building, Mayflower Is., Juneau, AK. Work plan details for the addition include new fixed aluminum windows and entry doors, new concrete ramp and stairs, aluminum pipe guard rail/handrail, as well as a new light fixture and card reader box. Once these and all other proposed improvements have been completed, reviewed, and approved by State and Federal inspectors, the JRMIC building would be in conformance with all State and Federal regulations outlined in the Purpose and Need section of this EA. After the building is brought into conformance with the appropriate laws and regulations, the appropriate legal steps would be taken to revoke PLO 534 and transfer the land to the management of the USCG. As a temporary measure to facilitate continued use of the site, the BLM would issue the USCG a ROW grant under the authority of Title V of FLPMA,

and regulations found at 43 CFR 2800. This measure would be utilized pending completion of the withdrawal process, should delays be encountered.

B. Alternative #1 - No Action Alternative:
Should the Proposed Action not be implemented, the JRMIC building would remain out of conformance with State and Federal requirements, and thus it is unlikely the ultimate transfer out of BLM administration would occur. The building and its surroundings would remain unchanged.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Cultural Resources:

Mayflower Island (also known as Juneau Island) is a small 3.18-acre island connected to Douglas Island by an 800-foot long causeway. The island is in the Gastineau Channel near Juneau in southeastern Alaska.

In November of 1889, District of Alaska Governor, Lyman E. Knapp, advised Secretary of the Interior, John W. Noble, that it was time to reserve lands that might be needed for coaling stations, government wharves, public buildings, etc. He cited the possibility that Congress would extend the land laws of the United States to Alaska during its next session and reported that some individuals in Alaska had begun to stake pre-emptive claims in anticipation of Congressional action. The Secretary of the Interior advised President Benjamin Harrison to reserve Mayflower Island as a coaling station and government wharf and on June 21, 1890, the president issued an executive order doing so. Coaling stations and government wharfs were needed at the time to support the United States Navy. There is no record of Mayflower Island's actual use as a coaling station or government wharf. Mindful of the governor's prediction of pre-emptive claims, there is some speculation that an individual named N. B. Lazard staked a mining claim on the island in 1881 and later sold it to the Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company. There is no Federal record of Mr. Lazard's purported claim.

The Alaska Treadwell Gold Mining Company did use the island and erected a modest dance pavilion and a few small zoo exhibits for the enjoyment of its employees from its nearby Douglas Island mines. The Treadwell complex which included four major mines consisting of the Treadwell, 700-Foot, Mexican, and Ready Bullion, was a mining and milling operation that spanned 36 years until 1917 when a disastrous cave-in flooded all but the Ready Bullion mine which ran until 1922.

Public Land Order 534 dated November 24, 1948, revoked the president's

June 21, 1890 reservation of the island as a coaling station and government wharf and reserved it for use by the Department of the Interior, U. S. Bureau of Mines for an Experiment Station. Congress appropriated $250,000 and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began construction of a causeway to the island and site preparation. At this point, the summit of the small island was leveled. The affected buildings were salvaged from an abandoned WWII camp in Skagway in 1948 and assembled on site as soon as the leveling of the island was completed. The Juneau architectural firm of Foss and Malcolm designed the main office building. It was built during 1949-50 at a cost of $181,794.58.

Research and intermittent laboratory work, including processing ore samples and testing the processed ore for mineral content, was conducted from 1950 until 1974. In 1974 laboratory work at the site ceased and laboratory areas were converted to office, storage and maintenance areas.

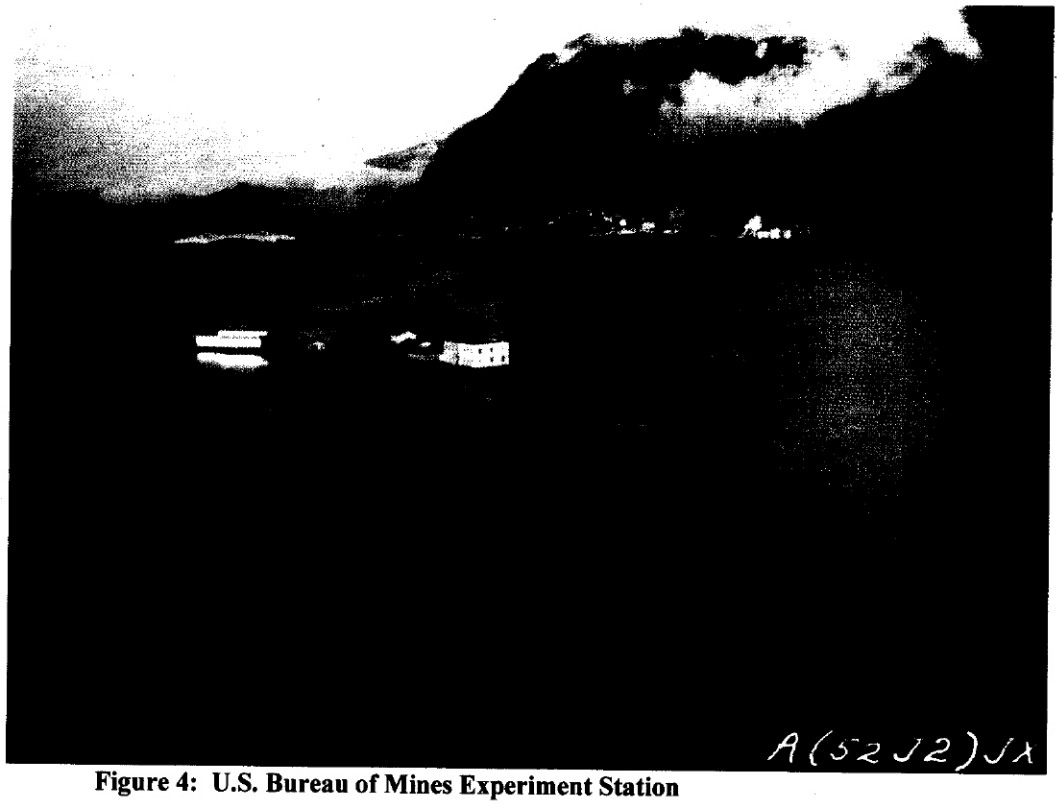


Figure 4: U.S. Bureau of Mines Experiment Station

The facility was known as the U.S. Bureau of Mines Experiment Station and later as the Alaska Field Operations Center. With the dissolution of the Bureau of Mines in 1996, management and possession of the complex passed to the BLM, also an agency of the US Department of the Interior. In 2003, BLM renamed the center for John Rishel, a Congressional aide and lobbyist who was a strong advocate for the mining industry in Alaska.

The facilities, with the exception of the storage shed that was installed in 1976, have been determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under Criterion A at the state level of significance. Its period of significance is 1950-1957. The historic district (JUN-1065) is composed of the Main Office Building (JUN-1066), the Chem Laboratory (JUN-1067), Warehouse (JUN-1068), Ore Laboratory (JUN-1069) and shop (JUN-1070). The Main Office Building is also eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the local level as a good example of the Art Deco style. The Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with this determination on June 14, 2007. In 2008 under a Memorandum of Agreement signed by the BLM and the SHPO all structures except for the Main Office Building were demolished.

The plans for the Main Office Building's conformance to fire safety standards and the Americans with Disabilities Act were reviewed by BLM and the Alaska SHPO's office. An agreement to minimize the impacts of conformance with the above measures was reached. Formal concurrence from the Alaska SHPO occurred on December 1, 2008. The fire stairs will now be oriented at a 90° angle to the Main Office Building thus allowing at least a five foot recess to the addition from the front of the original building. This will allow the original building to be viewed as one entity without the asymmetry of the addition to distract from the qualities that make it eligible to the National Register of Historic Places.

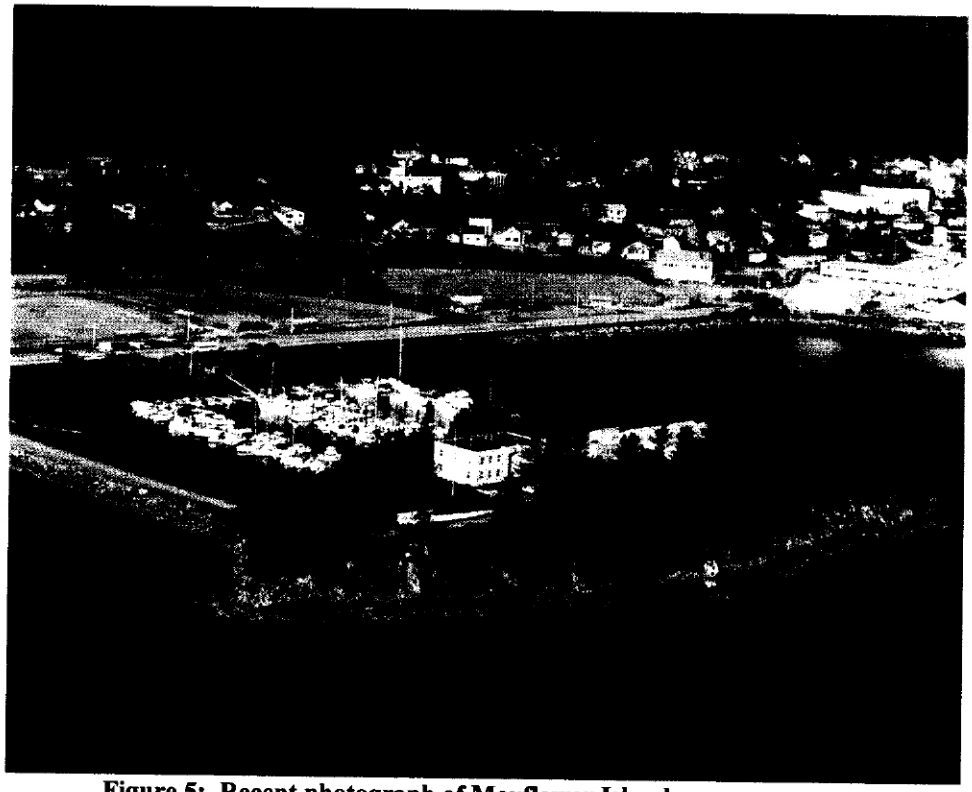


Figure 5: Recent photograph of Mayflower Island
Two story flat roofed building remains and addition will be added to the northern end.

B. T&E Species:
There is no reason to believe that:

1. an endangered or a threatened species is present in the area affected by the proposed action;
2. implementation of the proposed action will jeopardize the continued existence of an endangered or threatened species;
3. implementation of the proposed action will result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of such species;
4. implementation of the proposed action will jeopardize the continued existence of any species proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened;
5. implementation of the proposed action will result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat proposed to be designated for such species;

Therefore, no consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considered necessary pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. §1536.

C. ANILCA Sec. 810, Subsistence:

The Proposed Action occurs on Federal public lands as defined in ANILCA § 102(3) and falls under the regulatory authority of the Federal Subsistence Board. Juneau is in the State of Alaska Game Management Unit 1C. Juneau/Douglas are considered non-rural communities and are considered non-rural residents and do not fall under the Federal Subsistence Program. Rural residents of GMU 1C and other rural residents with established customary and traditional (C&T) use of 1C can participate in the Federal Subsistence Program. The management regulation harvest limits, season dates, and C & T determinations are outlined in the current Management Regulations for the Harvest of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands pp. 24-27. Given the non-wildlife habitat on the island, small size, and proximity to town there would be limited wildlife use of the island. In addition given the distance rural residents would need to travel for access there is little to no use of the island for subsistence resources. On general domain lands managed by the BLM, fisheries regulations would only apply on non-navigable waters.

The Proposed Action would not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of Federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution or movement of Federal subsistence resources, or limit qualified Federal subsistence users access from currently existing conditions. No further analysis is necessary at this time.

D. Wildlife:

Although the Bald Eagle has recently been taken off of the Endangered Species list, it remains protected under the Bald Eagle Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. §668-668d. During a recent site visit at least three Bald Eagles were observed on Mayflower Island and an Eagle nest with eaglets was observed on the south end of the island, southwest of the main office building.

E. Vegetation:

The site has not been re-vegetated since the demolition and remediation of buildings and hazardous materials (HAZMAT) concerns in 2007; rather the areas on the island affected by the removal project have been covered in gravel to facilitate parking for the remaining office building. When construction has been completed, if the proposed action is approved, re-vegetation would occur according to the requirements of the BLM. Should transfer of management occur, re-vegetation would be performed according to the USCG requirements.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Impacts of the Proposed Action:

1. Cultural Resources:

All JRMIC building improvements could impact heretofore undiscovered cultural resources on the island. All existing cultural resources have been identified, and/or have been removed in previous years. The area upon which the access/egress improvements are being constructed has been previously disturbed. If any cultural artifacts are uncovered during the construction phase of this renovation, all activities would be halted. All artifacts found would be collected and held for further identification. Once any found artifacts have been collected and catalogued for further identification, the BLM Archaeologist would make a recommendation to the BLM manager as to when construction could restart.

2. T&E Species:

No Threatened and Endangered species are known to inhabit Mayflower Is. Should any T&E species be encountered during the construction phase of this project, all construction would be put on hold until further analysis by a qualified Wildlife Biologist could be performed to evaluate the affected species.

3. ANILCA Sec. 810, Subsistence:

The Proposed Action occurs on Federal public lands as defined in ANILCA § 102(3) and falls under the regulatory authority of the Federal Subsistence Board. Juneau is in the State of Alaska Game Management Unit 1C. Juneau/Douglas are considered non-rural communities and are considered non-rural residents and do not fall under the Federal Subsistence Program. Rural residents of GMU 1C and other rural residents with established customary and traditional (C&T) use of 1C can participate in the Federal Subsistence Program. The management regulation harvest limits, season dates, and C & T determinations are outlined in the current Management Regulations for the Harvest of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands pp. 24-27. Given the non-wildlife habitat on the island, small size, and proximity to town there would be limited wildlife use of the island. In addition given the distance rural residents would need to travel for access there is little to no use of the island for subsistence resources. On general domain lands managed by the BLM, fisheries regulations would only apply on non-navigable waters.

The Proposed Action would not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of Federal subsistence resources, alter the

distribution or movement of Federal subsistence resources, or limit qualified Federal subsistence users access from currently existing conditions. No further analysis is necessary at this time.

4. Wildlife:
Although bald eagles have been known to nest in trees near the south end of the island, and southwest of the main office building, the nesting area is located outside the immediate construction area. All construction would take place outside of the nesting area. The eagles are not anticipated to be disturbed as it is believed that the eaglets will have ceased use of the nest at the time of the proposed construction.

5. Vegetation:
The majority of construction would take place on previously disturbed ground. Any vegetation that has grown up since the demolition and HAZMAT removal of 2007 would be minimal. Once construction is completed, the area would be landscaped according to BLM standards. Should transfer of management occur, landscaping would be performed according to USCG standards.

B. Impacts of Alternative #1 - No Action Alternative:

1. Cultural Resources:
Should the project fail to be approved, no construction would take place on the island. Thus, any cultural resources that might be present would remain undisturbed, and unaffected by the No Action Alternative.

2. T&E Species
It is believed that there are no Threatened and Endangered species on Mayflower Is. Should there be any undiscovered T&E species on the island, they would remain undisturbed under the No Action Alternative.

3. ANILCA Sec. 810, Subsistence:
The Proposed Action occurs on Federal public lands as defined in ANILCA § 102(3) and falls under the regulatory authority of the Federal Subsistence Board. Juneau is in the State of Alaska Game Management Unit 1C. Juneau/Douglas are considered non-rural communities and are considered non-rural residents and do not fall under the Federal Subsistence Program. Rural residents of GMU 1C and other rural residents with established customary and traditional (C&T) use of 1C can participate in the Federal Subsistence Program. The management regulation harvest limits, season dates, and C & T determinations are

outlined in the current Management Regulations for the Harvest of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands pp. 24-27. Given the non-wildlife habitat on the island, small size, and proximity to town there would be limited wildlife use of the island. In addition given the distance rural residents would need to travel for access there is little to no use of the island for subsistence resources. On general domain lands managed by the BLM, fisheries regulations would only apply on non-navigable waters.

The No Action Alternative would not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of Federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution or movement of Federal subsistence resources, or limit qualified Federal subsistence users access from currently existing conditions. No further analysis is necessary at this time.

4. Wildlife:
Any bald eagles or eaglets residing on the island would remain undisturbed and unaffected under the No Action alternative.

5. Vegetation:
Any vegetation that has re-grown between the end of the 2007 demolition and HAZMAT removal project through present day would continue to develop unhindered and undisturbed. No terrain alterations would occur under the No Action Alternative.

C. Cumulative Impacts:
Regulations require that the cumulative impacts – the past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future impacts to the area of a proposed action - be evaluated. Cumulative impacts to the area of the proposed action consist of the previous construction of the causeway connecting Mayflower Island to Douglas Island, the historic leveling of the island and construction of the federal buildings in the 1948-1950 timeframe, the construction of the storage shed in 1976, and the demolition and HAZMAT removal in 2007. The proposed actions including transfer of management of the site to the USCG, if approved, would not significantly increase the cumulative impacts to the environment when taken into consideration with all previously existing actions. There are no known future actions to evaluate other than the proposed construction associated with the JRMIC building modification project on Mayflower Is., and transfer of management to the USCG.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. Persons and Agencies Consulted:

Dean Brinkman – Civil Engineer, BLM – AFO Branch of Facilities Management;
Curt Fortenberry – Civil Engineer, BLM – FFO Branch of Facilities Management
Casey Reeves – Realty Specialist – Joint Pipeline Office, BLM

B. List of Preparers:

Geoff Beyersdorf – Natural Resource Specialist
Stephen L. Fusilier, Lands Branch Manager
Harrison Griffin – Realty Specialist
Donna Redding - Archaeologist
Bruce Seppi – Wildlife Biologist

C. Appendices:

Appendix A: Public Land Order #534
Appendix B: Secretarial Order #3196

APPENDIX A:

Public Land Order 534

ALASKA

REVOKING IN PART EXECUTIVE ORDER OF JUNE 21, 1890, AND WITHDRAWING LAND THEREBY RELEASED FOR USE OF THE BUREAU OF MINES, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

By virtue of the authority vested in the President and pursuant to Executive Order No. 9337 of April 24, 1943, it is ordered as follows:

The Executive Order of June 21, 1890, withdrawing various tracts of land in the Territory of Alaska for use by the Federal Government, is hereby revoked so far as it affects the following described land:

Juneau Island, situated in Gastineaux Channel, opposite the Town of Douglas City, latitude 58°16'30" N., longitude 134°23' W.

Subject to valid existing rights, the above-described land is hereby withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public-land laws, including the mining and mineral-leasing laws, and reserved for the use of the Bureau of Mines, Department of the Interior, as an experiment station.

C. GIRARD DAVIDSON,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.
NOVEMBER 24, 1948.

{F. R. Doc. 48-10517; Filed Dec. 2, 1948; 8:46 a.m.}

APPENDIX B:

ORDER NO. 3196

SIGNATURE DATE: January 19, 1996

Subject: Transfer of Functions from the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Alaska to the Bureau of Land Management

Sec. 1 **Purpose**. The purpose of this Order is to transfer functions of the U.S. Bureau of Mines in Alaska concerning mineral assessments on public lands to the Bureau of Land Management.

Sec. 2 **Authority**. This Order is issued in accordance with the authority provided by Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended.

Sec. 3 **Transfer of Functions**. Functions of the U.S. Bureau of Mines in the State of Alaska concerning mineral assessments on public lands are transferred to the Bureau of Land Management, reporting through whatever lines of authority are appropriate, to the Alaska State Director. All functions transferred shall lapse with respect to the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

Sec. 4 **Delegations**. The Director, Bureau of Land Management, is delegated through the Assistant Secretary - Land and Minerals Management all the program authority necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the transferred functions.

Sec. 5 **Implementation**. The Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget is responsible for ensuring implementation of this Order, including the appropriate transfer of personnel, funds, facilities, programs, records, property and liabilities.

Sec. 6 **Effective Date**. This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the appropriate directives system, whether that be the Departmental Manual or a Bureau of Land Management directive, or until it is amended, superseded or revoked, whichever comes first. In the absence of the foregoing action, the provisions of this Order will terminate and be considered obsolete on December 31, 1996.

/s/ Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior

SO#3196 1/19/96

Case File No.: AA-077471
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0008-EA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone: (907)267-1246
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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Mayflower Island John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIC) Building Addition
Environmental Assessment # DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0008-EA
Casefile # AA-077471

PROJECT NAME:
Mayflower Island John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIC) Building Addition

PROJECT PROPRONENT:
Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Field Office

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND ALTERNATIVES:
On January 19, 1996, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) acquired control of the former United States Bureau of Mines John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIC) on Mayflower Island in Southeast Alaska. The station complex included a number of wood frame buildings from the World War II era that had out-lived their usefulness. The structures themselves, and the hazardous materials associated with them have since been removed from the island. The main building is currently out of compliance with State building and safety codes and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (ADA). In order for the building to be brought up to conformance with current code standards, appropriate laws and regulations, handicap access, and fire safety egress improvements are being completed and approved. To the BLM, the island and its facilities are now excess and surplus real property for which the United States Coast Guard (USCG) has indicated a need. The BLM is required to bring the facilities up to conformance with the ADA and appropriate State building and safety codes prior to allowing their use.

In order for the BLM to be in conformance with the ADA, 28CFR§36 Appendix A, Section 4.1.5 through 4.1.7 states that the BLM must address, and follow the requirements outlined for Additions, Alterations and Historical Preservation when managing Accessible Buildings on BLM administered lands. BLM must also be in conformance with all State and local fire codes as outlined in 13 AAC 50 for Fire Prevention.

Currently, the building only has first floor handicapped accessibility. The JRMIC is a two-story building, and should have handicapped access to both floors. The purpose of this project is to bring the JRMIC main building into conformance with all State and Federal requirements for

access and egress as outlined in the previous paragraph. This would aid in the transfer of management from the BLM to the USCG upon the revocation of Public Land Order 534 (PLO 534) an administrative withdrawal.

In order to determine the appropriate actions to take the BLM created an environmental assessment (EA) in which two alternatives were evaluated: The Proposed Action, and the No Action Alternative.

PROPOSED ACTION:

The proposed action for the BLM is to release a work plan for bid in the second quarter of FY10. The work plan would be for the construction of acceptable access and egress for the JRMIC building, Mayflower Is., Juneau, AK. Work plan details include new fixed aluminum windows and entry doors, new concrete ramp and stairs, aluminum pipe guard rail/handrail, as well as a new light fixture and card reader box. Once these and all other proposed improvements have been completed, reviewed, and approved by State and Federal inspectors, the JRMIC building would be in conformance with all State and Federal regulations outlined in the Purpose and Need section of this EA. After facility has been brought up to conformance with current code standards, appropriate laws and regulations, the appropriate legal steps would be taken to revoke PLO 534 and transfer the land to the management of the USCG. As a temporary measure to facilitate the USCG's us of the site pending completion of the withdrawal process, should delays be encountered, the BLM would issue a ROW grant under the authority of Title V of FLPMA and regulations found at 43 CFR 2800.

NO ACTION:

In addition to the Proposed Action, a No Action Alternative was considered in the EA for the project. Under the No Action Alternative, the BLM would not release a work plan for bid and the building and its surroundings would remain unchanged. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need for the project.

ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

An EA (attached) was prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and BLM requirements. A Class III cultural resources survey report was also prepared and used in consultation efforts with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) , and a plan was developed and approved for the modifications to the historical building.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI):

I have reviewed the EA (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0008-EA) and other relevant environmental documentation. I have determined that the Proposed Action with mitigating measures described in the EA will not have any significant impacts on the human environment and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

RATIONALE FOR NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FINDING:

Through the analysis conducted in the EA, no significant impacts to human health, safety, or the environment have been identified. Both beneficial and adverse impacts from implementing the proposed action have been considered. 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.

James M. Fincher
Field Manager

12/11/2009
Date

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DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0008-EA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
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DECISION RECORD

Mayflower Island John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIC) Addition Project
Environmental Assessment # DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0008-EA
Casefile # AA-077471

DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED ACTON ALTERNATIVE:

It is my decision as Manager for the Anchorage Field Office to accept the proposed action as stated in the EA, authorizing the implementation of access and egress construction on the John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIC) building, located on Mayflower Island near Juneau, AK. Once the improvements are made to the building to bring it into conformance with Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, and safety codes, Mayflower Island and its associated facilities will be transferred to the management of the USCG upon their application for such transfer.

RATIONALE FOR THE DECISION:

No significant impact will occur to resources as a result of implementing the proposed action. The proposed action is not expected to be controversial, does not establish a precedent, or represent a decision in principle about future considerations, nor is it related to any other proposed actions representing cumulatively significant impacts.

The proposed action is in conformance with the BLM Anchorage Field Office Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan, Section I-2m, signed March 21, 2008. The project has been considered in the context of public health and safety and consistency with regards to Federal, State, and local laws.

By making the access and egress improvements to the JRMIC building, BLM can ensure that occupants and visitors with disabilities will have safe and reliable accommodations. Other Life Safety improvements will provide an extra measure of protection to occupants, visitors and the property. Improvements made to the JRMIC will also aid in the transfer of the Mayflower Island property to another entity such as the USCG, which has expressed a need for the facility, should the withdrawal (PLO 534) be revoked.

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.

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.

COMPLIANCE AND MONITORING PLAN: Compliance and monitoring shall be in conformance with BLM regulations and will be handled by the Anchorage Field Office Lands Branch and in coordination with the appropriate engineering and cultural staff.

James M. Fincher
Field Manager

12/11/2009
Date

United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office

COMPLIANCE WITH ANILCA SECTION 810
EVALUATION AND FINDING

APPLICANT: Bureau of Land Management

Casefile No.: AA-77471 DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0008-EA

Date: 12/11/09

PROPOSED ACTION: The BLM proposes to release a work plan for bid in the second quarter of FY10. The work plan would be for the construction of acceptable access and egress for the John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIFC) building, Mayflower Is., Juneau, AK. Work plan details for the addition include new fixed aluminum windows and entry doors, new concrete ramp and stairs, aluminum pipe guard rail/handrail, as well as a new light fixture and card reader box. Once these and all other proposed improvements have been completed, reviewed, and approved by State and Federal inspectors, the JRMIC building would be in conformance with all State and Federal regulations. After the building is brought into conformance with the appropriate laws and regulation the appropriate legal steps would be taken to revoke PLO 534 and transfer the land to the management of the USCG.

LOCATION: Copper River Meridian, T41S, R67E, Section 36, USS 3844, PLO 534

Evaluation

The Proposed Action occurs on Federal public lands as defined in ANILCA § 102(3) and falls under the regulatory authority of the Federal Subsistence Board. Juneau is in the State of Alaska Game Management Unit 1C. Juneau/Douglas are considered non-rural communities and are considered non-rural residents and do not fall under the Federal Subsistence Program. Rural residents of GMU 1C and other rural residents with established customary and traditional (C&T) use of 1C can participate in the Federal Subsistence Program. The management regulation harvest limits, season dates, and C & T determinations are outlined in the current Management Regulations for the Harvest of Wildlife on Federal Public Lands pp. 24-27. Given the non-wildlife habitat on the island, small size, and proximity to town there would be limited wildlife use of the island. In addition given the distance rural residents would need to travel for access there is little to no use of the island for subsistence resources. On general domain lands managed by the BLM, fisheries regulations would only apply on non-navigable waters.

1. Effect of proposed action on subsistence uses and needs.

Fisheries: Since the Proposed Action is for construction on an existing facility and due to the absence of non-navigable waters there will be no direct impact to fisheries resources. The proposed action would not significantly reduce harvestable fisheries resources that are available for subsistence use. The proposed action would not alter the distribution, migration or location of harvestable fisheries resources. The proposed action will not create any legal or physical barriers that would limit access by subsistence users of the fisheries resource.

Wildlife: Since the Proposed Action is for construction on an existing facility there will be no direct impact to wildlife resources The proposed action would not alter the distribution, migration or location of harvestable wildlife resources. The proposed action would not create any legal or physical barriers that would limit subsistence harvest and access. The impacts to subsistence resources associated with the construction will be negligible.

Other Resources:

The preferred alternative would not appreciably impact other harvested resources, such as wood, berries or vegetation. The proposal is for construction improvement on an existing facility, located on a small island distant from rural residents.

Availability of other lands for the purpose sought to be achieved.
Under this factor, it must first be determined that the proposed action is to occur on lands needed for subsistence purposes. As these construction improvements are directly linked to the transfer of these lands to USCG no other alternatives were evaluated.

Other alternatives which would reduce or eliminate the use occupancy or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes.

The no action alternative would require BLM to reject the application; however, there is no substantial evidence tha would indicate a significant impact as a result of the proposed action. No other alternatives were evaluated.

Finding:

The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. No reasonably foreseeable and significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources or in the distribution of harvestable resources, and no reasonably foreseeable limitations on harvester aceess have been forecasted to emerge as a function of the action that is analyzed in this document.

Prepared and Approved by: /s/ Geoff Beyersdorf, Subsistence Coordinator,
December 11, 2009

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

REPORT OF EXAMINATION FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES

1. Abstract: No further consultation is necessary under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

2a. Location: T. 41 S., R. 67 E., Section 36, Copper River Meridian, USS 3844, PLO 534
USGS Quad: Juneau B-2
2b. **Case File #** AA-77471 (DOI-BLM-AK010-2010-0008-EA)
Action Type: building modifications

3. Project Description: Size: 3.18 acre (island)
BLM proposes to construct an addition to the historic Mayflower Island Office building (JUN-1066). Housed within this addition will an ADA compliant elevator and two flights of fire stairs. The entrance to the addition will consist of an ADA compliant ramp, stairs, security doors and a card reader.
Topography: leveled island in Gastineau Channel
Vegetation: spruce/hemlock forest

4. Consultation Procedures: The Alaska Heritage Resources survey (AHRS) files were checked as well as Anchorage Field Office files on the John Rishel Minerals Information Center (former Bureau of Mines Field Operations center.)

5. Findings: The building on what is locally known as Mayflower Island is currently occupied by the U.S. Coast Guard under a lease from the Bureau of Land Management. This building (JUN-1066) was determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A (state level) and Criteria C (local level). The Alaska SHPO concurred with this determination on June 14, 2007. Subsequently, plans for the building's compliance to fire safety standards and Americans with Disabilities Act compliance were reviewed by BLM and the Alaska SHPO's office. An agreement on how to minimize the impacts of compliance with the above measures was reached and formal concurrence from the Alaska SHPO occurred on December 1, 2008.

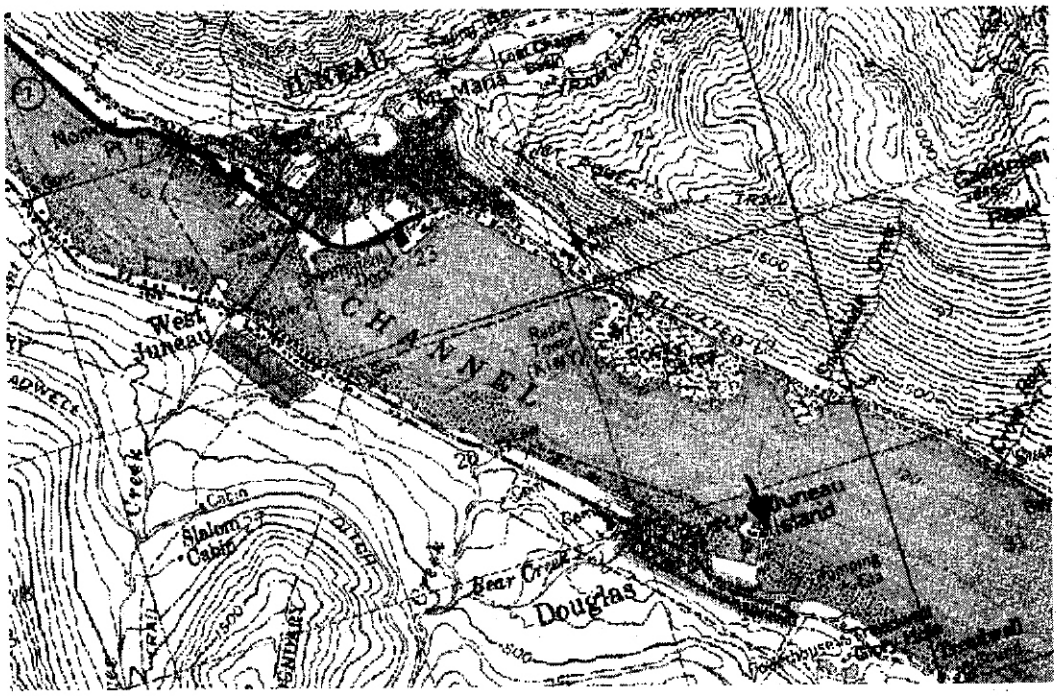
6. Recommendations: Effects of this undertaking have been minimized in consultation with the Alaska SHPO's office.

I certify that this examination complies with pertinent historic preservation laws and regulations.

20Nov09
Date(s) of Examination

Donna Paulding
Archaeologist/Historian

A clear copy of (or an original of) the USGS Topographic Map of the project and the area surveyed must be attached.
AK8111-1
(April 1992)



Juneau B-2 (Note: Juneau Island is locally known as Mayflower Island.)

United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office

Threatened and/or Endangered Species Evaluation

Casefile Number: AA-77471

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0008-EA

Location: Copper River Meridian, T41S, R67E, Section 36, USS 3844, PLO 534

Introduction:

On January 19, 1996, the Bureau of Land Management acquired control of the former Bureau of Mines John Rishel Mineral Information Center (JRMIC) on Juneau Island in Southeast Alaska. The station complex included a number of wood frame buildings from the World War II era that had out-lived their usefulness. The structures themselves, and the hazardous materials associated with them have since been removed from the island. The main building is currently out of compliance with State building and safety codes. In order for the building to be in compliance, handicap access, and fire safety egress improvements must be completed and approved.

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action:

In order for BLM to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (amended 2008), 28CFR§36 Appendix A, Section 4.1.5 through 4.1.7 states that BLM must address, and follow the requirements outlined for Additions, Alterations and Historical Preservation when managing Accessible Buildings on BLM administered lands. BLM must also be in compliance with all State and local fire codes as outlined in 13 AAC 50 for Fire Prevention. Currently, the building only has first floor handicapped accessibility. The JRMIC is a two-story building, and should have handicapped access to both floors. The purpose of this project is to bring the JRMIC main building into compliance with all State and Federal requirements for access and egress as outlined in the previous paragraph. This will aid in the transfer of ownership from BLM to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) upon the lifting of Public Land Order 534 (PLO 534) administrative withdrawal.

Proposed Action:

BLM intends to release a work plan for bid in the second quarter of FY10. The work plan is for the construction of acceptable access and egress for the JRMIC building, Mayflower Is., Juneau, AK. Work plan details include new fixed aluminum windows and entry doors, new concrete ramp and stairs, aluminum pipe guard rail/handrail, as well as a new light fixture and card reader box. Once these and all other planned improvements have been completed, and reviewed by State and Federal inspectors, the JRMIC building would be in compliance with all State and Federal regulations outlined in the Purpose and Need section of this EA.

No Action Alternative:
Should the Proposed Action not be implemented, the JRMIC building would remain out of compliance with State and Federal requirements, and thus inhibit ultimate transfer out of BLM administration. The building and its surroundings would remain unchanged.

The impact of the proposed action and alternatives on threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats has been evaluated in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Based on currently available information, the proposed action would not affect any threatened or endangered species or their habitats. Therefore, no consultation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considered necessary pursuant to Section 7 of the Act and none will be undertaken.

Bruce E. Seppi

Bruce E. Seppi, Examining Wildlife Biologist

November 20th, 2009

Date