

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**Anchorage Field Office
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DECISION RECORD

**Applicant: U.S. Forest Service
Lease/Serial/Case File Number: AA-05964
Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0057-CX**

DECISION TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED ACTION ALTERNATIVE:

It is my decision as Manager of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Anchorage Field Office (AFO) to accept the proposed action as stated in the categorical exclusion assessment (CX). BLM proposes to authorize the withdrawal extension of Public Land Order (PLO) 6892, for the Sixmile Creek Recreation Area located within the Chugach National Forest, for an additional 20 years. PLO 6892 will continue to withdraw approximately 834 acres of National Forest System lands from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the public land laws, including the United States mining laws, but not from mineral leasing laws, to protect the recreational values.

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 Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan approved March 2008, under Lands and Realty Goals I-2m: The BLM will maintain current withdrawals unless the agency for which the lands were withdrawn requests revocation of the withdrawal.

ANILCA SECTION 810 COMPLIANCE:

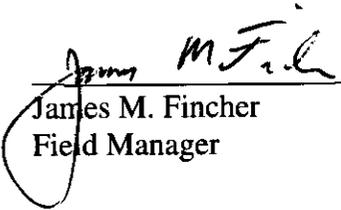
The proposed action will not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution of federal subsistence resources, or limit qualified Federal subsistence user access.

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 as appropriate will be handled and coordinated by the Anchorage Field Office Lands Branch.



James M. Fincher
Field Manager

11/4/2010
Date



U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(907) 267-1246

Categorical Exclusion Sixmile Creek Recreation Area Withdrawal Extension

**Applicant: United States Forest Service
Case File Number: AA-05964
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0057-CX**



Location:

Seward Meridian,

T. 7 N., R. 1 E., sec. 6;

T. 8 N., R. 1 E., sec. 31;

T. 8 N., R. 1 W., secs. 3, 10, 25, and 36;

T. 9 N., R. 1 W., secs. 22, 27, and 34.

Prepared By:

Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office
October 2010

Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0057-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No: AA-05964

Applicant: United States Forest Service

Proposed Action: Public Land Order (PLO) No. 6892 Withdrawal Extension for a 20 year term.

Location: The proposed withdrawal extension would affect the following lands located within the Chugach National Forest:

Seward Meridian, Alaska,

Two parcels of land described as follows:

- (a) Beginning at a point within sec. 6, T. 7 N., R. 1 E., unsurveyed, at the center of the East Fork bridge, at approximately mile 61.6 on the Seward-Anchorage Highway, a strip of land lying between the right bank of East Fork Sixmile Creek and a line 200 feet west of the centerline of the highway, northeasterly to a section line between secs. 25 and 26 of T. 8 N., R. 1 W., unsurveyed.

The area described contains approximately 408 acres.

- (b) Beginning on the section line between secs. 10 and 15, T. 8 N., R. 1 W., unsurveyed, at the Hope Highway, a strip of land lying between the right bank of Sixmile Creek and a line 200 feet west of the highway, northerly to approximately mile 5.7 on the Hope Highway on the section line between secs. 15 and 22, T. 9 N., R. 1 W., unsurveyed.

The area described contains approximately 426 acres.

The areas described aggregate approximately 834 acres. This acreage is derived through Geographical Information System (GIS) measurements of the described lands involved. The October 18, 1991, 43 CFR Public Land Order 6892 noted 473 acres, which was an error in acres for both parcels that was carried through from earlier documentation. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska State and Washington Offices reviewed the acre discrepancy and agreed the correct acreage to use in this withdrawal extension documentation is approximately 834 acres.

Description:

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has filed an application with the BLM requesting to extend the existing withdrawal, PLO 6892, for the Sixmile Creek Recreation Area. The Sixmile Creek Recreation Area is located within the Chugach National Forest on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. PLO 6892 was made effective on October 18, 1991 and was authorized for a period of 20 years and is currently set to expire on October 17, 2011. If PLO 6892 is extended for an additional 20 years, the order would continue to withdraw approximately 834 acres of National Forest System lands from settlement, sale, location, or entry under the public land laws, including the United States mining laws, but not from mineral leasing laws, to protect the recreational values.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2310.3-2, the USFS has prepared the following required studies: 1) Cultural resource report; 2) Identification of the roadless areas; 3) Mineral resource analysis; 4) Biological assessment; 5) Analysis on economic impact; 6) Public participation; 7) Floodplain and Wetlands; and 8) Consultation and coordination. This information would be submitted for review to the Secretary of the Department of Interior as part of the documentation for the withdrawal extension for PLO 6892.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance 43 CFR 1610.3.2(b)

Land Use Plan Name: Ring-of-Fire Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP). Date Plan Approved: March 2008.

The plan has been reviewed to determine if the proposed withdrawal extension conforms to the land use plan terms and conditions as required by 43 CFR 1610.5-3.

The proposed action is in conformance as identified with the LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following Land Use Plan decisions, objectives, terms, and/or conditions (pg 10): I-2m: The BLM will maintain current withdrawals unless the agency for which the lands were withdrawn requests revocation of the withdrawal.

The proposed action is in conformance with the plan even though it is not specifically provided for because it is clearly consistent with the following planning decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions).

C. NEPA Compliance

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR §46.210 or United States Department of Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, and the BLM NEPA Handbook H-1790-1, Appendix 4 p. 151 which provides:

E) Realty, 1) Withdrawal extensions or modifications, which only establish a new time

period and entail no changes in segregative effect or use.

D. Extraordinary Circumstances

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances apply to individual actions (BLM NEPA Handbook 2008, 155-156). Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents must be prepared for actions which may:

	YES	NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	_____	_____X_____
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.	_____	_____X_____
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	_____	_____X_____
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	_____	_____X_____
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	_____	_____X_____
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	_____	_____X_____
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.	_____	_____X_____
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.	_____	_____X_____

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|---|-------|--------------|
| 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 area or 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> |

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

E. Signature

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).

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.

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described.
Mitigation Measures/Stipulations: None

Authorizing Official: Jim M. Fincher Date: 11/9/2010
Jim Fincher
Anchorage Field Manager

VICINITY MAP Mineral Withdrawal Extensions



