

**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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DECISION RECORD

**Applicant: U.S. Forest Service
Lease/Serial/Case File Number: AA-03060
Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0053-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) 6888, for the Juneau Falls Recreation Area located within the Chugach National Forest, for an additional 20 years. PLO 6888 will continue to withdraw approximately 320 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under Lands and Realty Goals I-2m: The BLM will maintain current withdrawals unless the agency for which the lands were withdrawn requests revocation of the withdrawal.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:

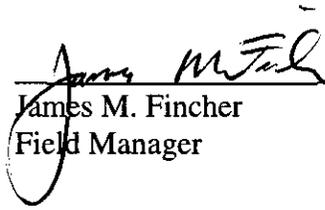
The proposed action will not significantly restrict Federal subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of federal subsistence resources, alter the distribution of federal subsistence resources, or limit qualified Federal subsistence user access.

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 Juneau Falls Recreation Area Withdrawal Extension

Applicant: United States Forest Service
Case File Number: AA-03060
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0053-CX



Location:

Seward Meridian,
T. 5 N., R. 4 W., unsurveyed,
sec. 13, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 24, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

Prepared By:
Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office (AFO)
October 2010

Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0053-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No: AA-03060

Applicant: United States Forest Service

Proposed Action: 43 CFR Public Land Order (PLO) No. 6888 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

T. 5 N., R. 4 W., unsurveyed,
sec. 13, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;
sec. 24, W $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$.

The area described contains approximately 320 acres.

Description:

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) requesting to extend the existing withdrawal, PLO 6888, for the Juneau Falls Recreation Area. The Juneau Falls Recreation Area is located within the Chugach National Forest on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. PLO 6888 was made effective on October 8, 1991 and was authorized for a period of 20 years and is currently set to expire on October 7, 2011. If PLO 6888 is extended for an additional 20 years, the order would continue to withdraw approximately 320 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 6888.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

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	_____	_____ X

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|---|-------|-------------|
| or critical areas. | _____ | _____ |
| 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_____ |
| 9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | _____ | _____X_____ |
| 10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898). | _____ | _____X_____ |
| 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). | _____ | _____X_____ |
| 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). | _____ | _____X_____ |

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

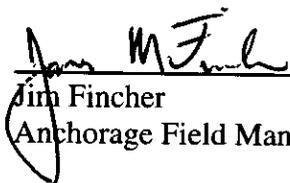
The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a)(3) (2006). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed action is within a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant 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 Fincher
Anchorage Field Manager

Date: _____

11/4/2010

VICINITY MAP
Mineral Withdrawal Extensions



