



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2546
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

Yukon Delta Communication Site Repeater Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0034-EA

Case File: AA-92395
Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

DECISION RECORD

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) applied for a radio communication repeater right-of-way. The site is referred to as the Bend Mountain repeater site. This site was originally authorized in 2003 under a short-term permit, with a renewal application being filed on March 16, 2007, requesting a long-term grant.

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the requested right-of-way, as described in Alternative 2 – Proposed Action. Specifically, I will grant a 20-year right-of-way to the USFWS for the operation and maintenance of an existing communication site on Bend Mountain near the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

The Proposed Action has been evaluated in an Environmental Assessment, prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. A Finding of No Significant Impact is attached. This action would not result in significant effects to the environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Rationale for the Decision

The Proposed Action alternative was selected over the No Action Alternative because it best meets the purpose and need and would benefit the USFWS's communications for management activities in the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge with little or no effect on the human environment.

Laws, Authorities, and Land Use Plan Conformance

The EA and supporting documentation have been prepared consistent with the requirements of various statutes and regulations, including but not limited to:

- Southwest Management Framework Plan (1981)
- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, Section 810

Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination

The requested right-of-way and associated NEPA document announcement was posted to the Anchorage Field Office's NEPA Register website in 2010. No public comments or other inquiries have been received.

Appeal Opportunities

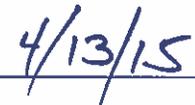
This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR § 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Anchorage Field Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile, email, or other electronic means.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR § 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR § 4.413); Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.



Alan Bittner
Field Manager



Date

Attachments

1. Finding of No Significant Impact
2. Yukon Delta Communication Site Repeater, Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0034-EA



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Yukon Delta Communication Site Repeater Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0034-EA

Case File: AA-92395
Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Background

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has applied for a radio communication repeater right-of-way. The site is referred to as the Bend Mountain repeater site. This site was originally authorized in 2003 under a short-term permit, with a renewal application being filed on March 16, 2007, requesting a long-term grant.

Finding of No Significant Impact

This action and its effects have been evaluated consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for determining *significance*. Per 40 CFR § 1508.27, a determination of *significance* requires consideration of both context and intensity. The former refers to the relative context in which the action would occur such as society as a whole, affected region, affected interests, etc. The latter refers to the severity of the impact.

Context

The requested right-of-way site is located on an undeveloped mountaintop in remote western Alaska. The requested authorization would have no significance at the regional, state, or national levels; locally, the implications would be minor at most.

Intensity

1. *Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.*

Adverse impacts identified in the EA in relation to nesting shorebirds and wilderness characteristics are minimal and would be limited in duration and occurrence (EA p. 4-5). The

project would benefit USFWS communications in support of management activities for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

2. *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.*

The requested right-of-way would have no bearing on public health and safety. Operation of the site could benefit the health and safety of USFWS employees while performing management activities within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

3. *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

The repeater site is located on a remote mountaintop in western Alaska. There are no historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas proximate to the repeater site.

4. *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

Communication sites are common throughout Alaska and the nation. The effects on the quality of the human environment are not highly controversial.

5. *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

Similar to item 4, the possible effects of communication sites on the human environment are well understood. There are no highly uncertain or unique risks or effects related to this right-of-way request.

6. *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

This right-of-way request is consistent with other similar requests state- and nationwide. This authorization would not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about future considerations.

7. *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

This action is not related to other action with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impact.

8. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.*

No previously recorded sites are known within the project vicinity. Furthermore, the project would not result in ground disturbance. There would be no effect to cultural resources (EA p. 3).

9. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

The impact of the Proposed Action on threatened and endangered plants and animals and their habitats has been evaluated in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1971, as amended. Based on currently available information, the proposed action would not affect any threatened or endangered species or their habitats. (See Threatened and Endangered Species clearance on file at the Anchorage Field Office.)

10. *Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The proposed action is consistent with Federal, state, and local law requirements.

Conclusion

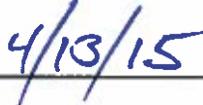
Therefore, on the basis of the information contained in the EA (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0034-EA), and all other information available to me, it is my determination that:

1. None of the environmental effects identified meet the definition of significance as defined by context and intensity considerations at 40 CFR § 1508.27;
2. The alternatives are in conformance with the Southwest Management Framework Plan (1981); and
3. The Proposed Action and alternatives do not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment.

Therefore, neither an Environmental Impact Statement nor a supplement to the existing EA is necessary and neither will be prepared.



Alan Bittner
Field Manager



Date

Attachments

Yukon Delta Communication Site Repeater, Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0034-EA

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
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Yukon Delta Communication Site Repeater
Environmental Assessment, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0034-EA

Case File: AA-92395
Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Summary of Proposed Project

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has applied for a 20 year radio communication repeater right-of-way known as the Bend Mountain repeater site. This site was originally authorized in 2003 under a short-term permit, with a renewal application being filed on March 16, 2007. The site is located on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) unencumbered lands. The legal land description for the project is listed below:

Section 11, T. 18 N., R. 68 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska
Bend Mountain Repeater Site

1.2 Purpose and Need

USFWS has filed an application with the BLM Anchorage Field Office to obtain long term authorization for a radio repeater site on public lands.

The need for the action is established by the BLM's responsibility under Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), as amended, to respond to requests for land use authorizations on public lands. The purpose of this action is to provide use of public lands in a manner that is consistent with the provisions and objectives established for the management of resources within the respective planning areas and to ensure that the public uses described herein will not cause unacceptable damage to public lands.

1.2.1 Decision to be Made

The decision to be made by BLM is whether to authorize the radio repeater site on BLM managed lands, and if so, under what terms and conditions. This project would be authorized for a period of 20 years with option for renewal.

1.3 Land Use Plan Conformance

This area is subject to the Southwest Management Framework Plan (MFP), November 1981, which allows for making public lands available for the development of electronic communications facilities.

1.4 Other Applicable Laws, Regulations, Policies, etc.

A Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant for transmitting or receiving electronic signals on public lands is required under regulations contained in 43 CFR 2800, which implement the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Pub. L. 94-579 of October 21, 1976) Section 501(a)(5). Final rules and regulations relating to 43 CFR Part 2800 grants were published in the Federal Register on April 22, 2005.

1.5 Summary of Public Involvement

The requested right-of-way and associated NEPA document announcement was posted to the Anchorage Field Office's NEPA Register website in 2010. No public comments or other inquiries have been received.

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Alternative 1 - No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would be to deny the requested land use authorization concerning this site. USFWS would be directed to remove the existing repeater equipment and to rehabilitate the site to its original condition.

2.2 Alternative 2 - Proposed Action Alternative

USFWS originally applied for the Bend Mountain communication repeater site in March 2003. The site was authorized in May 2003 for a three-year term and renewed in June 2006 for an additional three-year term. The renewal application was received on March 16, 2007, requesting a long term grant.

The original application was for a free-standing fiberglass structure containing radio repeater equipment and antennas on BLM unencumbered lands on Bend Mountain near the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge. The structure is six-feet by six-feet wide and ten foot in height. It is fully self-contained including an internal battery power source of sealed non-spillable batteries utilizing solar panel re-charging capacity. This site is necessary to provide communication capability in support of management activities associated with the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

In addition to use of sealed, non-spillable batteries, the structure incorporates a floor plan designed to contain potential spills. When needed, batteries would be transported to the site by helicopter in sealed shipping crates and installed on site. The batteries are always fully contained.

There was no land disturbance when originally constructed and there is no need for employees to be on site on an ongoing basis. Access is strictly by helicopter and for annual maintenance.

The USFWS is requesting an authorization for 20 years, with the option for renewal. The authorization would be subject to the attached grant stipulations.

2.4 Alternatives Considered but not Analyzed in Detail

Because of the limited potential for impact and no ground disturbance, no other action alternatives were considered.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Cultural Resources

3.1.1 Affected Environment

No previously recorded sites are known in the vicinity of the project area. Since this repeater site is located in very broken terrain upon a high, steep mountain top, potential for previously unknown sites is low.

3.1.2 Direct and Indirect Effects - No Action Alternative

If the site is removed and rehabilitated, the potential to effect cultural resources is extremely low given the limited potential for previously unknown sites.

3.1.3 Direct and Indirect Effects - Proposed Action Alternative

As there are no ground disturbing activities authorized by this action, there will be no impacts to cultural resources. Refer to clearance prepared pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (on file at the Anchorage Field Office).

3.2 Subsistence Resources

3.2.1 Affected Environment

The Bend Mountain site is located on BLM managed lands. The lands are Federal Public Lands within the definitions of ANILCA 102(3) and fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Board. The lands are subject to the Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Wildlife, Fish and Shellfish on Federal Public Lands in Alaska.

3.2.2 Direct and Indirect Effects - No Action Alternative

If the site is removed and rehabilitated, the potential to measurably affect subsistence resources is extremely limited given the small footprint of the site. As such, there would be no effects to subsistence resources as a result of the No Action Alternative.

3.2.3 Direct and Indirect Effects - Proposed Action Alternative

The location of the proposed site is on a mountain top and there are no known fisheries activities. 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.

The location of the proposed site is on a mountain top with little to no habitat available for wildlife species. 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 proposed action would not appreciably impact any other harvestable resources such as wood, water, berries or vegetation.

3.3 Wildlife Resources

3.2.1 Affected Environment

In the general area of the proposed action, caribou, moose, wolves, martin, muskrats and wolverine are found in the various habitats of the region. The location of the proposed site is on an exposed mountain top with little habitat available for these species. Caribou from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd or possibly the Kilbuk Herd may move through the area during winter months. Bend Mountain is just outside the currently known extent these two caribou herds range, therefore caribou activities near the proposed action location is unlikely. Inland nesting shorebirds may use upland/alpine habitats, however impacts from this communication site would likely be minimal.

3.3.2 Direct and Indirect Effects - No Action Alternative

If the site is taken down and rehabilitated then any potential impacts will no longer occur.

3.3.3 Direct and Indirect Effects - Proposed Action Alternative

Due to the location of the proposed action on the summit of Bend Mountain, the impacts to wildlife resources would be minimal. The action is also administrative in nature and would not result in any new ground disturbance, and therefore would not create additional impacts to wildlife.

3.4 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

3.4.1 Affected Environment

The inventory area is bounded on the east and west by Native-owned lands and the Yukon River, to the north by State-owned lands, and to the south by the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge

and Yukon River. The inventory area consists of nearly 100,000 acres of mostly BLM unencumbered land, two small parcels of State selected lands, and three Native allotments. This area was inventoried and found to contain lands with wilderness characteristics.

3.4.2 Direct and Indirect Effects - No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative existing effects to lands with wilderness characteristics would be eliminated. The removal of the repeater and elimination of helicopter activities associated with repeater maintenance would enhance the wilderness characteristics.

3.4.3 Direct and Indirect Effects - Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action Alternative would minimally affect the wilderness characteristics of lands near and around the repeater site. The small stature of the proposed repeater and extremely limited frequency of helicopter activity associated with repeater maintenance would render the effects limited in duration and occurrence.

3.5 Cumulative Effects (All Resources)

At this time, this communication repeater site is the only action in this area. There are no reasonably foreseeable future actions anticipated at this time.

3.6 Mitigation Measures (All Resources)

No additional mitigation measures, beyond the attached stipulations are recommended.

4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

Brenda Becker, Realty Specialist, Glennallen Field Office
Geoff Beyersdorff, Former Subsistence Biologist, Anchorage Field Office
Jenny Blanchard, Archaeologist, Anchorage Field Office
Molly Cobbs, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Anchorage District Office
Stephen Fusilier, Former Lands Branch Manager, Anchorage Field Office
Bruce Seppi, Wildlife Biologist, Anchorage Field Office

APPENDICES / ATTACHMENTS

Grant Stipulations

ATTACHMENT: GRANT STIPULATIONS

Standard Stipulations

1. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting the holder.
2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
3. Use of pesticides shall comply with the applicable Federal and State laws. Pesticides shall be used only in accordance with their registered uses and within limitations imposed by the Secretary of the Interior. Prior to the use of pesticides, the holder shall obtain from the authorized officer written approval of a plan showing the type and quantity of material to be used, pest(s) to be controlled, method of application, location of storage and disposal of containers, and any other information deemed necessary by the authorized officer. The plan should be submitted no later than December 1 of any calendar year to cover the proposed activities for the next fiscal year. Emergency use of pesticides shall be approved in writing by the authorized officer prior to such use.
4. No burning of trash, litter, trees, brush or other vegetative material generated by clearing the right-of-way shall be allowed under this grant.
5. The holder shall comply with applicable State standards for public health and safety, environmental protection and siting, construction, operation and maintenance, if these State standards are more stringent than Federal standards for similar projects.
6. The holder shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated regarding toxic substances or hazardous materials. In any event, the holder shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and

Liability Act of 1980, section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any federal agency of state government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency of State government.

7. The holder of this right-of-way grant or the holder's successor in interest shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and the regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.
8. Invasive species mitigations per the 2010 BLM *Alaska Invasive Species Management Policy*:
 - An invasive species/vegetation survey should be conducted as soon as feasible at this hilltop site by a knowledgeable botanist. Early detection, rapid response mitigates ecological damage from invasive species. Permittees must develop an invasive plant mitigation plan to prevent the introduction and propagation of invasive species.
 - All vehicles, transport equipment used in access, construction, maintenance and operations of project must be thoroughly cleaned **prior to** moving equipment and gear across or onto BLM managed lands. Washing and/or brushing equipment and gear to remove material that can contain weed seeds or other propagates helps to insure equipment that is being transported across or onto BLM managed lands are weed and weed seed free. High pressure washing is recommended to treat the insides of bumpers, wheel wells, undercarriages, inside belly plates, excavating blades, buckets, tracks, rollers, drills, buckets, shovels, any digging tools, etc., to remove potential weeds, seeds, and soil carrying weed propagules, and vegetative material. All gear, tool bags and accessories must be free of all plant debris, mud, and materials that can be the source of non-native invasive plants and pathogens.
 - Site reclamation must be implemented as soon as possible after construction using the original organic layer. This organic layer is to be removed and set aside upon initial site disturbance, and replaced on disturbed areas in lieu of revegetation with non-local materials.
 - Certified weed-free mulch, hay or straw is required in areas needing mulch. Sources for weed free mulch can be found by calling the Plant Materials Center: 907-745-4469. Revegetation Guidance can be found at: http://www.dnr.state.ak/ag/pmcweb/PMC_reveg

Standard Stipulations

1. Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Holder shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery will be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values. The holder will be responsible for the cost of evaluation and any decision as to proper mitigation measures will be made by the authorized officer after consulting the holder.
2. Pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(g), the holder of this authorization must notify the authorized officer, by telephone, with written confirmation, immediately upon the discovery of human remains, funerary items, sacred objects, or cultural patrimony. Further, pursuant to 43 CFR 10.4(c) and (d), you must stop activities in the vicinity of the discovery and protect it for 30 days or until notified to proceed by the authorized officer.
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4. No burning of trash, litter, trees, brush or other vegetative material generated by clearing the right-of-way shall be allowed under this grant.
5. The holder shall comply with applicable State standards for public health and safety, environmental protection and siting, construction, operation and maintenance, if these State standards are more stringent than Federal standards for similar projects.
6. The holder shall comply with all applicable Federal laws and regulations existing or hereafter enacted or promulgated regarding toxic substances or hazardous materials. In any event, the holder shall comply with the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, as amended (15 U.S.C. 2601, et seq.) with regard to any toxic substances that are used, generated by or stored on the right-of-way or on facilities authorized under this right-of-way grant. (See 40 CFR, Part 702-799 and especially, provisions on polychlorinated biphenyls, 40 CFR 761.1-761.193.) Additionally, any release of toxic substances (leaks, spills, etc) in excess of the reportable quantity established by 40 CFR, Part 117 shall be reported as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, section 102b. A copy of any report required or requested by any

federal agency of state government as a result of a reportable release or spill of any toxic substances shall be furnished to the authorized officer concurrent with the filing of the reports to the involved Federal agency of State government.

7. The holder of this right-of-way grant or the holder's successor in interest shall comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and the regulations of the Secretary of the Interior.
8. Invasive species mitigations¹:
 - An invasive species/vegetation survey should be conducted as soon as feasible at this hilltop site by a knowledgeable botanist. Early detection, rapid response mitigates ecological damage from invasive species. Permittees must develop an invasive plant mitigation plan to prevent the introduction and propagation of invasive species.
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¹ BLM Alaska Invasive Species Management Policy

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ANCHORAGE FIELD OFFICE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

REPORT OF DETERMINATIONS FOR SECTION 106 of the NHPA

Project Name	US Fish and Wildlife Service Communication Site ROW Renewal - Bend Mountain
Cultural Project Number	CR-AK-010-2011-017
Serial Number	AA-92395
NEPA Number	DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0034-EA
Applicant	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Quadrangle	Russian Mission C-7
Date	2/14/2011

1. Location: T.18 North, R. 68 West, Section 11; Seward Meridian;
Acreage: 0.02 acres

2. Action Type: Right of Way Renewal

3. Project Description: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would renew a right of way grant for the US Fish and Wildlife Service to operate and maintain their existing communication site for 20 years. The communication site is located near the Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge. This is an administrative action and does not authorize any additional ground disturbance. All access to the communication site is by helicopter, and the ROW includes a helicopter landing zone.

Topography: Mountain Ridge

Vegetation: Rocky, tundra

4. Consultation Procedures: The Alaska Heritage Resources Survey was consulted for cultural resources that could be affected by this undertaking. No cultural resources are known in the vicinity of the project APE. Additionally, this project is located on the top of Bend Mountain, making the potential for previously unknown cultural resources extremely low.

5. Findings and Recommendations:

This project is a right of way renewal, and is therefore an administrative action. As an administrative action which authorizes no ground disturbance, this project has no potential to affect historic properties. Under the BLM, Alaska State Protocol Agreement, this project is

considered exempt from further review under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The following exemption applies to this undertaking:

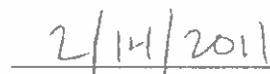
Exemption 1: Activities that involve less than one square meter (11 square feet) of cumulative ground disturbance, provided the activity is not taking place on a National Register listed or eligible property. Examples include many guiding permits.

I recommend that based on the project location and the Exemption described above, this project would have **no effect on historic properties** and is not subject to further section 106 review.

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



Jenny H. Blanchard, AFO Archaeologist



Date of Determination

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)

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

Threatened and/or Endangered Species Evaluation

Casefile Number: AA-92395

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2010-0034-EA

Proposed Action:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS) originally applied for this communication repeater site in March, 2003. The site is in place, and located within section 11, T. 18 N., R. 68 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska, and is referred to as the Bend Mountain repeater site. This site was authorized in May 2003 for a three (3) year term. This was renewed in June 2006 for another three (3) year term. The original application was for a fiberglass structure containing radio repeater equipment and antennas on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands on Bend Mountain near the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The structure is 6' x 6' x 10' in height and is fully self contained including an internal battery power source of sealed non-spillable batteries utilizing solar panel re-charging capacity. In addition to use of sealed, non-spillable batteries, the structure incorporates a floor plan designed to contain potential spills. When needed, batteries will be transported to the site by helicopter in sealed shipping crates and installed on site. The batteries are always fully contained. There was no land disturbance when originally constructed and no need for employees to be on site on an ongoing basis. Access is strictly by helicopter for annual maintenance. The repeater is designed to allow radio communications within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The F&WS has requested a longer 10 year term right-of-way (ROW) for this site. This action is administrative; therefore, no new ground disturbance is associated with this proposed action.

Location of Proposed Action:

Section 11, T. 18 N., R. 68 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska. Known as the Bend Mountain Radio Site, at the summit of Bend Mountain.

No Action Alternative: This site would remain unauthorized by BLM. The site would likely be removed, leaving the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service without radio repeater communications in the area.

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.

/s/ Bruce E. Seppi
Bruce E. Seppi, Examining Wildlife Biologist

October 25th, 2010
Date

Compliance with ANILCA Section 810

COMPLIANCE WITH ANILCA SECTION 810
EVALUATION AND FINDING

Applicant: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Case File Number: AA-92395

Date: June 28, 2011

PROPOSED ACTION:

BLM has been requested to reauthorize an existing communication site within the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge to the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for a twenty year term. FWS has an existing communication site on Bend Mountain that consists of a 6 x 6 x 10 foot fiberglass shelter that contains communications equipment powered by un-spill able, gel-cell batteries, internal antennas and an external solar panel. The structure is designed to contain all spilled liquid. When needed, batteries will be transported to the site by helicopter in sealed shipping crates and installed on site. Access is strictly by helicopter for annual maintenance.

This action is administrative and would not result in any new ground disturbance.

EVALUATION

The Bend Mountain site is located on BLM managed lands. The lands are Federal Public Lands within the meaning of ANILCA 102(3), fall under the jurisdiction of the Federal Subsistence Board, and are subject to the Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of and Wildlife, Fish and Shellfish on Federal Public Lands in Alaska.

Effect of proposed action on subsistence uses and needs

Fisheries:

The location of the proposed site is on a mountain top and there are no known fisheries activities. 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:

The location of the proposed site is on a mountain top with little to no habitat available for wildlife species. 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.

Other Resources:

The proposed action would not appreciably impact any other harvestable resources such as wood, water, berries or vegetation.

Availability of other lands for the purpose sought to be achieved:

The proposed action occurs on land managed by Bureau of Land Management. There are no other lands available for the purpose sought to be achieved. This is an administrative action to renew an authorization for an existing site. Therefore, no other lands were considered.