

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

**Anchorage Field Office
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DECISION RECORD

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Case File AA-092710
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0011-EA

1. Decision:
It is my decision to authorize a Right-of-Way (ROW) Grant to the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA NRCS), Case File Number AA-092710, for a period of approximately twenty (20) years. Mitigation measures, stipulations and conditions of the proposed ROW are attached.
2. Proposed Action:
The proposed action is to authorize a long term ROW to USDA NRCS to install and maintain an extensive, automated system (SNOWpack TELEmetry or SNOWTEL) designed to collect snowpack and related climatic data on Joint Based Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER). The proposed action is in accordance with the Title V of the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761), as amended and in conformance with the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan, Approved: March, 2008.
3. Rationale for the Decision:
The rationale for the decision is based on the need of the USDA NRCS to develop reliable research data on snow and water depth for Anchorage and vicinity. The proposed action is in conformance with the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan, Approved: March, 2008. The area of the proposed activity is within JBER and not available for subsistence use and no serious wildlife problems are anticipated.
4. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:
The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses as the area is not available for hunting or fishing under federal subsistence regulations. No reasonably foreseeable significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources or in the distribution of harvestable resources are anticipated and no reasonably foreseeable limitations on harvester access will result from the proposed action.
5. 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.

6. Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:

The proposed action has been reviewed for the following Wilderness Characteristics and found to contain none of the following characteristics:

- 1) Size-roadless areas of over 5000 acres of contiguous BLM lands.
- 2) Naturalness-affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the works of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor
- 3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
- 4) Supplemental values-if size, naturalness, and solitude/outstanding opportunities are met, then consider if the area contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. Supplemental values are not required to be present in order to classify an area as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.

The proposed action is located on JBER which is a highly developed military base.

7. Consultation and Coordination:

Public participation was accomplished by the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan which anticipated routine land authorizations in accordance with Title V of FLPMA. Adequate measures to protect public lands through stipulations and required operating procedures are in place. Internal scoping and review of the EA, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0011-EA was conducted by the Bureau of Land Management Anchorage Field Office's resource and land branch staff assigned and included threatened and endangered species, cultural clearances and an ANILCA 810 analysis.

8. Compliance and Monitoring Plan:

Compliance and monitoring of this authorization will be conducted by the BLM Anchorage Field Office. Inspection will be made prior to the applicant's use, during construction and operation, and after the applicant reclaims the land upon termination of the authorization.

/s/ Teresa McPherson
Matthew S. Varner
Anchorage Field Manager, Acting

12/19/2011
Date

Attachments: Terms and Stipulations

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

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**SNOWTEL Construction on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson
Environmental Assessment # DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0011-EA
Case File # AA-092710**

PROJECT NAME:

SNOWTEL Construction on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

PROJECT PROPONENT:

United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service

PROJECT OVERVIEW AND ALTERNATIVES:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), is considering an application from United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to construct and maintain a SNOWTEL site on JBER from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for space to construct a 10 foot tall rocket precipitation guide, a 4-foot by 4-foot by 8-foot shelter, a 10 foot tall meteorological sensor tower, and a 6 foot diameter snow pillow. The shelter and precipitation gauge would use four concrete filled mason blocks for foundation. The snow pillow would be on a 2-foot by 6-foot decked frame sunk into the ground so that the top of the pillow would be flush with the ground with four fence posts, one at each corner of the pillow. A 40-foot by 40-foot wide clearing would be needed for all the structures. The NRCS installs, operates, and maintains an extensive, automated system (SNOWpack TELEmetry or SNOWTEL) designed to collect snowpack and related climatic data in the Western United States and Alaska. In 1935, NRCS, then the Soil Conservation Service, established a formal cooperative Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SS-WSF) Program to conduct snow surveys and develop accurate and reliable water supply forecasts. The Program operates under technical guidance from the NRCS National Water and Climate Center (NWCC). The NRCS, BLM, National Weather Service (NWS), and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (COE) have an MOU (NRCS Agreement No. 67-01500-8-004, expires 2013) for the construction and operation of SNOWTEL sites within Alaska. If approved by BLM, this action would require BLM to grant federal rights-of-way (ROW) to build this SNOWTEL communication site on JBER on BLM-administered land.

In order to determine the appropriate actions to take, the BLM developed an environmental assessment (EA) in which two (2) alternatives were evaluated: Alternative 1 – The Proposed Action SNOWTEL site constructed and maintained and Alternative 2 - The No Action Alternative, no SNOWTEL site constructed.

ALTERNATIVE 1 - PROPOSED ACTION:

The Proposed Action is for, USDA NRCS to construct a SNOWTEL site with tower facility including associated electronic equipment on JBER that would be powered by 12 volt batteries that will be solar charged in an enclosed wooden structure. The site would include a 10 foot tall rocket precipitation gauge, a 4-foot by 4-foot by 8-foot shelter, a 10 foot meteorological tower, and a 6 foot diameter snow pillow. The shelter and precipitation gauge would use four concrete filled mason blocks as a foundation. The snow pillow would be a 2-foot by 6-foot decked frame sunken into the ground so that the top of the pillow would be flush with the ground. All structures would be contained within a 40 foot square clearing.

ALTERNATIVE 2 - NO ACTION:

The No Action Alternative is not to authorize the construction of a SNOWTEL communication site on JBER.

ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION:

An EA (attached) was prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and BLM requirements.

LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS:

The Proposed Action has been analyzed for potential affects on lands with wilderness characteristics. The lands involved have been found to contain none of the wilderness characteristics thus the Proposed Action would have no affect on lands with wilderness characteristics.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI):

I have reviewed the EA (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0011-EA) and other relevant environmental documentation. I have determined that the Proposed Action with mitigating measures and stipulations 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.

//Teresa McPherson//
Matthew S. Varner
Field Manager, Acting

December 19, 2011
Date



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

Anchorage Field Office
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<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado.html>

SNOWTEL Construction on Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson

Applicant: United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service

**Case File Number: AA-092710
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2011-0011-EA**



Location:

Seward Meridian, Municipality and Borough of Anchorage, Alaska
T. 13 N., R. 2 W.,
Section 1, S $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ (within).

Prepared By:

Anchorage Field Office
November 2011

1. INTRODUCTION

The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA NRCS) has applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for space to construct a 10 foot tall rocket precipitation guide, a 4-foot by 4-foot by 8-foot shelter, a 10 foot tall meteorological sensor tower, and a 6 foot diameter snow pillow. The shelter and precipitation gauge would use four concrete filled mason blocks for foundation. The snow pillow would be on a 2-foot by 6-foot decked frame sunk into the ground so that the top of the pillow would be flush with the ground with four fence posts, one at each corner of the pillow. A 40-foot by 40-foot wide clearing would be needed for all the structures. The NRCS installs, operates, and maintains an extensive, automated system (SNOWpack TELEmetry or SNOWTEL) designed to collect snowpack and related climatic data in the Western United States and Alaska. In 1935, NRCS, then the Soil Conservation Service, established a formal cooperative Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting (SS-WSF) Program to conduct snow surveys and develop accurate and reliable water supply forecasts. The Program operates under technical guidance from the NRCS National Water and Climate Center (NWCC). The NRCS, BLM, National Weather Service (NWS), and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (COE) have an MOU (NRCS Agreement No. 67-01500-8-004, expires 2013) for the construction and operation of SNOWTEL sites within Alaska.

A. Land Status:

Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson (JBER) is a 77,483 acre area of public land on the northwest edge of the city of Anchorage, Alaska that is withdrawn from the public domain for military purposes by a number of executive orders and public land orders. The specific lands involved in the proposed action are withdrawn for military purposes by Executive Order 8102, dated April 29, 1939, which withdrew approximately 35,390 acres for military purposes.

B. Relationship to statutes, regulations, policies, plans or other environmental analysis:

Pursuant to Section 501 (a) (5) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, the Secretary of the Interior, through the Bureau of Land Management, is authorized to grant, issue, or renew a rights-of-way over, upon, under, or through such lands for systems of transmission or reception of radio, television, telephone, telegraph, and other electronic signals, and other means of communication. The proposed authorization would also be issued in accordance with regulations found at 43 CFR 2800.

- C. Conformance with Land Use Plan:
Installation of a communications facility on JBER is in conformance with BLM's Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan Approved March 2008.

Specifically Section I-2n: Rights-of-Way says – “The BLM may issue rights-of-way for a variety of uses including but not limited to: roads, water pipelines, electric lines and communication sites under the authority of Title V of FLPMA.”

- D. Purpose and Need
The purpose is for BLM to respond to the request from USDA NRCS for use of public lands within the withdrawn lands on JBER. BLM has a responsibility under Title V of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of October 21, 1976, as amended (90 Stat. 2776; 43 U.S.C. 1761) to respond to requests from the public for use of public lands under the multiple use mandates of the law. The need is for BLM to obtain sufficient information regarding potential environmental impacts to make an informed decision as to which alternative reviewed to approve and, if any alternative other than the No Action alternative is approved, under what terms and conditions the chosen alternative would be approved.

2. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

- A. Alternative 1 - Proposed Action:
The Applicant, USDA NRCS proposes to construct a SNOWTEL facility including associated electronic equipment on JBER that would be powered by 12 volt batteries that would be solar charged, in an enclosed wooden structure. The site would include a 10 foot tall rocket precipitation gauge, a 4-foot by 4-foot by 8-foot shelter, a 10 foot meteorological tower, and a 6 foot diameter snow pillow. The shelter and precipitation gauge would use four concrete filled mason blocks as a foundation. The snow pillow would be a 2-foot by 6-foot decked frame sunken into the ground so that the top of the pillow would be flush with the ground. All of the SNOWTEL facilities would be contained within a 40 foot square clearing.

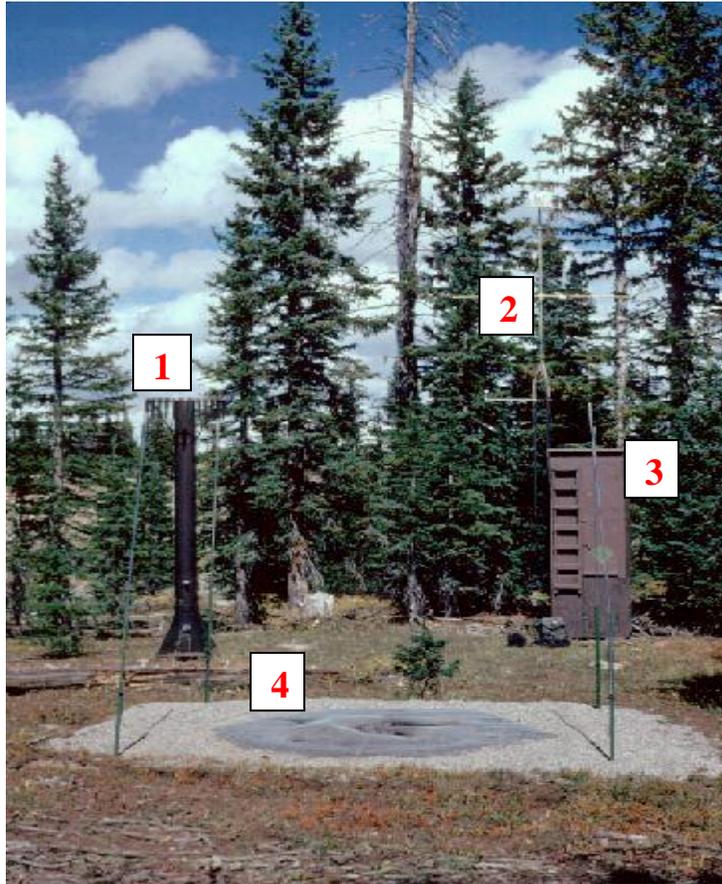


Figure 2 Proposed SNOWTEL Site System on Joint Base Elmendorf - Richardson, Alaska (1 - 10-foot Rocket Precipitation Gauge; 2 – 10-foot Meteorological Tower; 3 - 4-foot by 4-foot by 8-foot Equipment Shelter; and 4 – 2-foot by 6-foot Snow Pillow)

- B. Alternative 2 - No Action Alternative:
Under this alternative, the SNOWTEL communication site would not be constructed on JBER and NRCS would not be able to obtain the snow pack information that it needs.

3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

- A. Cultural Resources:
Generally speaking, the Military Reservation falls within the traditional lands of the Dena'ina Athabaskan tribes of Upper Cook Inlet. The Deanna traditionally pursued a semi-permanent lifeway establishing permanent settlements in the winter and moving to fishery camps in the summer months (CMMEL 2010).

Several locations on JBER have been identified as areas of traditional use by Dena'ina Athabaskans. Identified cultural resource locations include Clunie Creek, coastal bluff locations north of Eagle River, and the Training Area 1C which is located on the Knik Arm shoreline. The Native Village of Eklutna is conducting a Traditional Cultural Properties study of the JBER area to help identify spiritual and cultural sites of significance (U.S. Army Garrison 2010).

Additional cultural sites have been identified within the JBER Military Reservation associated with what is known as the American Era which lasted from 1867 to 1938. During this time a territorial governmental was established in Alaska. Anchorage was established as the construction camp and headquarters of the Alaska Railroad. The Alaska Railroad, linking Seward, Anchorage, and Fairbanks, was completed in 1923 and a portion of the railroad was located on land which became part of the Military Reservation. A remnant of the Old Richardson Highway is known to be located on the Military Reservation. The highway was constructed in 1935 to access the agricultural colony in the Matanuska Valley from Anchorage (U.S. Army Garrison 2010).

Fort Richardson personnel contracted a cultural resource inventory of the APE for this project, along with several other proposed projects on Fort Richardson. The 0.1 acre APE was surveyed by a team of two Colorado State University, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands archaeologists on May 18th, 2010. The pedestrian survey covered 100% of the area of potential effect with transect spacing of 10-20 meters. Archaeologists also put in three 50 cm x 50 cm test pits in high probability areas. No cultural resources were identified within the proposed project APE. One site, ANC-03334, consisting of a single retouched flake, was found near one of the locations for manual snow sampling; this project would not be impacted by the proposed project ("*Section 106 Consultation for five proposed projects at Fort Richardson (FRA), Alaska*," by Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands, 2010).

B. Threatened & Endangered Species:

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.

- C. 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. JBER is in the Anchorage Management Area and Game Management Unit 14C. JBER is closed to the subsistence taking of wildlife in accordance with the Subsistence Management Regulations for the harvest of Wildlife on Public Lands in Alaska. Subsistence use of fisheries is unaffected by the Proposed Action.
- D. Invasive, Non-Native Species:
Non-native invasive plant species are documented in the project vicinity, primarily along transportation routes (AKEPIC database)¹. This area of JBER has a history of disturbance from military operations, and within the past ten years has seen an increase in the number of non-native invasive species and infestation size. The increase of non-native invasive species and the size of infestations are typical of other areas with human disturbance due to the proximity of areas already infested and use of infested sources of construction material (heavy equipment and tools carrying propagules, lack of certified weed free products like gravel, topsoil, mulch). Many of the infestations are a result of lack of understanding what the non-native plant species are, why land managers are concerned about their presence, and general lack of knowledge of how to prevent the introduction and spread. See map Appendix A-1
- E. Wastes, Hazardous or Solid:
There are no known hazardous or solid waste sites in the affected area.
- F. Visual Resources:
The project area is within a wooded area of JBER and there are no scenic vistas on the site as the surrounding woods tend to mask the view shed. There is limited public access to the site as it is on an active military base where access is restricted.
- G. Wildlife:
The JBER area provides wildlife habitats that are common in south central Alaska. Most of the terrestrial animal species found in south central Alaska can be found near the site. Moose are common and are often seen browsing in winter in the shrubs in the area. Black bear, brown bear, and wolf and coyotes occur, and may frequent areas along the roadways. Snowshoe hares are abundant and support a lynx population. Other animals that live and breed in the area include beaver, red fox, porcupine, red squirrel, wood frog and several species of microtine rodents.

¹ <http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/maps/akepic/>

There are 20 bird species that are year round residents, and an additional 21 migrant species that breed in the area, all of which may frequent shrub or forest habitats. Three species of owl breed in adjacent forest habitats. Thirty-five species of resident and migrant land birds use the forest and shrub habitats during fall migration. The Olive-Sided Flycatcher, Gray-Cheeked Thrush, Townsend's Warbler and Blackpoll Warbler move through the area during fall migration, may frequent the forest and shrub habitats in the area, and are included on the State of Alaska's list for Species of Special Concern.

H. Lands With Wilderness Characteristics:

The area of the proposed action has been reviewed for affect on lands with the following Wilderness Characteristics and the lands were found to contain none of the characteristics:

- 1) Size-roadless areas of over 5000 acres of contiguous BLM lands.
- 2) Naturalness-affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the works of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor.
- 3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
- 4) Supplemental values-if size, naturalness, and solitude/outstanding opportunities are met, then consider if the area contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. Supplemental values are not required to be present in order to classify an area as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.

Since the affected area contains no lands with Wilderness Characteristic this part of the affected environmental will not be carried forward for review.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Impacts of the Proposed Action

1. Cultural Resources:

A Cultural Resources survey was conducted and submitted to the State of Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) office for concurrence. The survey found that there were no cultural resources within the project area.

An archaeological survey of the proposed project area was conducted on May 18, 2010 by a team from Colorado State University, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands. No cultural resources were identified within the proposed action's Area of Potential Effect (APE).

Additionally, it was concluded that the APE generally appears to have little probability of containing cultural resources. The contract archaeologists and Fort Richardson/JBER determined that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed undertaking. No indications of burials or other human remains were observed within the surveyed area; barring an unforeseen discovery during the undertaking, there would be no further considerations expected under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. § 3001 *et seq.*). The SHPO concurred on August 11, 2010, that no historic properties would be affected by the Proposed Action. A stipulation would be added to the right-of-way (ROW) grant regarding the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources, including human remains.

2. Threatened & Endangered Species:

There would be no impacts to Threatened and Endangered Species by the proposed action. There are no endangered species present in the area.

3. Subsistence: This proposed action would not significantly restrict subsistence uses. As a result of the proposed action there are no reasonably foreseeable significant decreases in the abundance or distributions of subsistence resources and no reasonably foreseeable limitations to subsistence access.

- Fisheries: Subsistence use of fisheries is unaffected by the proposed action as no Federal Navigable Waters occur and non-navigable waters are unaffected by the proposal or do not provide a sustainable yield of fish or shellfish.
- Wildlife: JBER falls within the Anchorage Management Area (GMU 14C) which is closed to the subsistence taking of wildlife as per the Subsistence Management Regulations for the Harvest of Wildlife on Public Lands in Alaska.
- Other Resources: The proposed action would not appreciably impact any other harvestable renewable resources such as wood, berries, vegetation or water.

4. Invasive, Non-Native Species:

The proposed action could introduce new or cause spread of known existing non-native invasive plant species in the project area. To mitigate the potential for new species being brought into the area, all building materials

and construction equipment would be cleaned prior to being moved on to JBER. Weed free gravel soil, mulch, and seed mixes would be certified weed free products.

To prevent the spread of known invasive species in the project vicinity, all construction equipment would be thoroughly cleaned on site, after construction is completed, before moving it to another construction site or returning it to a vendor.

Site monitoring for non-native invasive plant species would be conducted annually during the summer growing season for the life of this permit. Early detection rapid response actions would be employed to address any incipient populations of non-native invasive plant species.

5. Wastes, Hazardous or Solid:

The Proposed Action would generate construction wastes during the construction phase including human waste but all waste would be disposed of in accordance with appropriate laws and regulations and leave no permanent impact. During the life of the Proposed Action there would be long-term batteries and solar power cells for power on site but this would be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions as to appropriate use and would not create an ongoing environmental hazard.

6. Visual Resources:

The Proposed Action would have no impact on the existing visual quality of the site. All facilities are lower in height than the surrounding trees and would only be visible for a short distance in an area. Public access is restricted on JBER.

7. Wildlife:

Installation of the SNOWTEL facility could potentially affect some bird populations through collisions with the tower structures. However, the site is small in size, does not include guy wires or lighted strobes or beacons, and is only 10 feet high, making collisions with birds very unlikely. The facility would require the clearing of vegetation; however the extent of the clearing is small relative to the surrounding area and is not likely to affect wildlife populations.

B. Impacts of the No Action Alternative:

1. Cultural Resources:

There would be no impact to cultural resources as a result of the No Action Alternative.

2. Threatened & Endangered Species:
There would be no impacts to Threatened and Endangered Species as a result of the No Action Alternative.
3. Subsistence:
There would be no impacts to subsistence as a result of the No Action Alternative.
4. Invasive, Non-Native Species:
There would be no impacts to invasive, non-native species as a result of the No Action Alternative.
5. Wastes, Hazardous or Solid:
There would be no impacts to wastes, hazardous or solid as a result of the No Action Alternative.
6. Visual Resources:
There would be no impacts to visual resources as a result of the No Action Alternative.
7. Wildlife:
There would be no impact to wildlife as a result of the no action alternative as the facility would not be built and no vegetation would be cleared – no disturbance would occur.

- C. Cumulative Impacts:
The cumulative effects analysis (CEA) area is generally the area surrounding the project area, including JBER. Past actions in the project area include the development of the mineral materials sites, construction of a military golf course, the construction of primary power lines and military shooting ranges. Other actions which affect the project area include the construction of the Glenn Highway, and Hiland Road and adjacent subdivisions on private land. These roads and subdivisions bring increased vehicular traffic with their associated air pollution and potential contamination of streams due to effluent from cars and residential structures.

Publicly available documents were researched and the only future action identified in the project area was part of a future road network plan by the Anchorage Metro Area Transportation Solutions (AMATS), the federally recognized Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Anchorage. The Eagle River CBD and Residential Core Circulation Study, MOA Project No.

772880, contains a proposed road on the Military Reservation that is roughly parallel to the Pole Line Road. The plan is currently in a draft stage of development and is scheduled to be completed in 2011 in conjunction with the AMATS, Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP).

Invasive species do exist within the project area and are likely to persist and spread in the absence of an intensive control and mitigation program. Invasive species have the potential to be spread during the construction of the Proposed Action, but this can be minimized by implementing the best management practices and early detection rapid response efforts as requested. The cumulative impact is anticipated to be minor based on the abundance of other construction activities on private lands in the greater Anchorage area that also have infestations and are not required to address or mitigate non-native invasive plant species.

The SNOWTEL site would add to the cumulative loss of habitat within JBER by clearing a 40 foot area of woodland. This increase would reduce the potential breeding area for some migratory bird species.

5. MITIGATIONS/STIPULATIONS

Operators must prevent and control invasive non-native plant and noxious weed introduction or spread by cleaning equipment (removing all mud, dirt, oil grease or other material that could carry seed) prior to moving onto BLM-managed lands. After the SNOWTEL site construction is complete, all construction equipment will be thoroughly cleaned again on-site prior to moving to another construction site and/or returning to a vendor. Any and all gravel, soil, mulch or revegetation products used or brought on site for the project will be certified weed free according to Alaska Administrative Code 11 AAC 34.020, and the BLM Alaska Invasive Species Management Policy 2010.

Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered by a user, permittee, claimant, or any person working on their behalf on public land will be immediately reported to the authorized officer. The user, permittee or claimant or any person working on their behalf will 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. This may include the professional collection and analysis of significant specimens by scientists. After scientific study, appropriate mitigation measures will be developed and implemented.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. List of Preparers:

Brian Bourdon
Stephen L. Fusilier
Jenny Blanchard
Bruce Seppi
Jeff Kowalczyk
Geoff Beyersdorf
Laurie Thorpe

Realty Specialist
Lands Branch Manager
Archaeologist
Wildlife Biologist
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Natural Resource Specialist (Subsistence)
Natural Resource Specialist (Vegetation)

APPENDIX A-1

