Case File No: FF-091493
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2012-0012-CX

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

Munz Camp Cleanup
Applicant: Bureau of Land Management
Case File Number: FF-091493
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2012-0012-CX

1. **Decision:**
It is my decision to authorize removal and reclamation of the abandoned Munz placer mining camp. Cleanup of the site will allow BLM to convey the land to the State of Alaska. Field work for this action will begin during the summer/fall 2012.

2. **Proposed Action:**
The purpose of this project is to remove of a large volume of solid waste and conduct limited petroleum release response at a remote abandoned placer mining camp on the Seward Peninsula of Alaska. BLM needs to remove the solid waste so that BLM can transfer management of the land to the State of Alaska.

3. **Rationale for the Decision:**
The rational for the decision is based on the requirement for BLM to convey lands that are not compromised by solid waste, attractive nuisances, physical safety hazards, or oil and hazardous substances; BLM is prohibited from conveying the land until cleanup is complete.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan, Approved: September, 2008. The area of the proposed activity is not within a critical subsistence use area and no serious wildlife problems are anticipated.

4. **ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:**
The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. No reasonably foreseeable and significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources or in the distribution of harvestable resources, and nor 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 one or more of the characteristics:

1) Size-road-less 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 in Game Management Unit 22B within a 20 acre parcel of BLM administered lands surrounded by State of Alaska and AK Native Corp lands. The Munz placer mining claims were determined to be Abandoned and Void after the claims owner, William Munz passed-away in the mid-1980's. No other mining activity has taken place in the area since before that time; the nearby Omilak Mine is overgrown with vegetation with only one building left standing. Munz Camp is located approximately 30 air miles northeast of the nearest community; Council. There is no overland access to the site during summer. The land outside Munz Camp & Omilak is largely untouched by man. Due to the natural reclamation that has taken place during the past several decades the area offers outstanding opportunities for primitive outdoor recreation. The Visual Resource Management classification within the land use plan (Kobuk-Seward Peninsula, September 2008) is Class III. The proposed activity would not alter the scenic or recreational nature of the area or affect the wilderness characteristics of the area.

7. **Consultation and Coordination:**
Public participation was accomplished through the development of the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Area Management Plan which anticipated routine land authorizations in accordance with Title III, Section 302 of FLPMA. Adequate measures to protect public lands through stipulations and required operating procedures are in place**.** Internal scoping was conducted by AFO staff and included threatened and endangered species, cultural clearances and ANILCA 810 analysis.

8. <u>Compliance and Monitoring Plan:</u>
Compliance and monitoring of this action will be conducted by the BLM Anchorage Field Office. The BLM Project Inspector will accompany the contracted field crew during the mobilization to ensure minimal trace of use is left on the land.

/s/	3/16/2012
James M. Fincher Field Manager	Date

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Categorical Exclusion
Munz Camp Cleanup

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management
Case File Number: FF-091493
DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2012-0012-CX

Location:
N1/2 NW1/4 SW1/4 SEC 22,
Township 5 South, Range 20 West,
Kateel River Meridian, Alaska

Prepared By:

Anchorage Field Office

February 2012

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. Background

BLM Office: Anchorage Field Office Lease/Serial/Case File No: FF-091493

Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2012-0012-CX

Proposed Action Title/Types: Munz Camp Cleanup

Location of Proposed Action: N1/2 NW1/4 SW1/4 SEC 22, Township 5 South, Range 20 West, Kateel River Meridian, Alaska

Description of Proposed Action:

The purpose of this project is to remove of a large volume of solid waste and conduct limited petroleum release response at a remote abandoned placer mining camp on the Seward Peninsula of Alaska. BLM needs to remove the solid waste so that BLM can transfer management of the land to the State of Alaska.

Munz Camp is remote; located about 30 road-less miles northeast of Council, AK. The camp has been abandoned since the mid-1980's. BLM will hire a contractor to remove and properly dispose off-site two corrugated metal buildings, three “Crawlers” (similar to a bull-dozer), four ATVs, and several hundred tons of vehicle maintenance and placer mining related metal and wood debris from the site. The contractor will also cleanup small oil spills encountered during course of the project. There is one surface oil stain that measures approximately 5’x10’ where drums removed by BLM in 2007 had once been piled.

The contractor will establish a 4-10 person temporary camp on-site and either remove the materials by helicopter external load, or by overland move using a cat-train during the winter. The loads will likely be transported to Council, then trucked to the Nome Inert Waste Monofill for disposal. Contractor will be responsible for securing all needed permits or special permissions as part of developing their work plan.

The temporary camp will be minimal – sleep tent, work/dinning tent, with freeze-dried/MREs for food, port-a-can, and 1-2 drums of gasoline & heating oil in secondary containment. At demobilization all equipment, materials, and waste generated during the work (including trash and containerized grey and black water) will be backhauled for proper disposal.

It is standard practice and included in the contract statement of work that all equipment and materials be properly cleaned/decontaminated before mob and at demob to prevent spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Any grass seed used to promote revegetation where bare ground

remains after removal of the building, etc. will be of the appropriate type for the location and certified weed-free, as per standard practice for hazmat projects.

Applicant (if any): Bureau of Land Management

B. Land Use Plan Conformance 43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)

1. Land Use Plan Name:
   Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Record of Decision and Approved Management Plan
   Date Approved: September 2008

2. The proposed action is in conformance with plan because it is provided for in several of the Goals and Management Actions under RMP-8 Abandoned Mine Lands and Hazardous Materials Management. Specifically:

   "Conduct remediation actions on identified sites in accordance with applicable laws and policy."

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 the Interior 516 DM 11.9, which provides:

"J. Other

(4). Use of small sites for temporary field work camps where the sites will be restored to their natural or original condition within the same work season. And

(10). Removal of structures and materials of no historic value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.

D. Extraordinary Circumstances

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents must be prepared for actions which may:

1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.

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.

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

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.

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.

9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

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).

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or 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).

This categorical exclusion is appropriate because there are no extraordinary circumstances that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR §46.215 are pertinent.

E. Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The proposed action has been reviewed for the following Wilderness Characteristics and found to contain one or more 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
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F 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.

G. 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).

Authorized Official: *\/s/James M. Fincher* Date: *3/16/2012*

Attached: Map and Site Photos

Goggle Earth image of southern Seward Peninsula showing where Munz Camp is located in relation to the nearest communities and City of Nome

Aerial view of Munz Camp taken from altitude of about 1,000 feet on Aug 23, 2009. View is looking generally west.

Photo of debris outside a building at Munz Camp, August 23, 2009. Debris here is typical of that found elsewhere around the camp.