



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Central Yukon Field Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>



In Reply Refer To:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION / PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION AND DECISION FOR THE COLDFOOT AIRPORT

FF84553

DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0004-CX

Proposed Action: Renewal of Coldfoot Airport Lease

Location: T. 28 N, R.12 W, Sec. 16 Fairbanks Meridian

Applicant: State of Alaska
Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
2301 Peger Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709-5399

Serial Number: FF 84553

Date of Proposed Action: May 1, 2012

Description of Proposed Action:

The State of Alaska proposes to renew the airport lease at Coldfoot, Alaska. The early renewal prior to the expiration date of the current lease is needed to meet FAA requirements to obtain federal funding for an erosion control project planned on the airport lease site.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan
Date Approved: January 11, 1991

The proposed action is in conformance with the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan Lands and Realty Program Objective 1 General Action 7 in Appendix N Page 8, which states: Process applications for land use authorizations from the general public, federal and state agencies, and research organizations on a case-by case-basis.

Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the NEPA Handbook Appendix 4, 516 DM 11.9 (E9), which states, “Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights of way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.”

The proposed action must be screened against the extraordinary circumstances found in 43 CFR 46.215 and listed below. Any “yes” finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

Extraordinary Circumstances

	YES	NO
1) May have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2) May have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3) May have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4) May have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5) Might establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6) May have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7) May 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) May 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) Might violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10) May have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
11) Might 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) Could contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious 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

Signature

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 CFR § 1610.8(a)(3). 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 CFR §1508.4.

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations: (See Attached Exhibits)

Authorized Official: Gary M. Foreman Date: 5/30/2012

**Decision for Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2011-0059-CX
Coldfoot Airport Lease**

Decision:

It is my decision to approve the renewal of the Coldfoot airport lease. The Bureau of Land Management considers airport use among the highest and best uses of public lands. Authorizing this Proposed Action will facilitate an acceptable and permitted practice by the BLM and is compatible with the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan.

Rationale:

1. Authorizing the permit is specifically provided for in the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan.
2. There will be no restriction to subsistence use (See attached ANILCA 810 documentation).
3. There will be no adverse impacts to cultural resources (See attached Assessment of Archaeological and Historic Resources Sec. 106 documentation).
4. The use of lands described by this lease will be subject to all other applicable State and Federal laws.

Appeal Procedures

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeal must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management Central Yukon Field Office within 30 days from receipt of this decision.

for 
Nichelle Jacobson
Manager, Central Yukon Field Office


Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review and decision, contact Joyce Voight, Realty Specialist, Central Yukon Field Office, at 907-474-2375 or email jvoight@blm.gov.