



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/gdo.html>

Categorical Exclusion

Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Case File Number: AA-093119
DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0015-CX



Location: T. 12 N., R. 9 E., Section 29, CRM.

Prepared By: Joseph Hart, Realty Specialist

PART II - NEPA REVIEW
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. BACKGROUND

BLM Office: Glennallen Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No: AA-093119

Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AKA-A020-2012-0015-CX

Proposed action Title/Types: Re-establish use of a material site for a period of 5 years for highway maintenance and the removal of a misplaced stockpile of material.

Location of Proposed Action: T. 12 N., R. 9 E. Section 29, CRM.

Description of Proposed Action: To enter the material site and remove the stockpile of processed material misplaced by a previous project, and to utilize the material site for future highway maintenance.

Applicant (if any): Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

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

Land Use Plan Name:

Date Approved:

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:

East Alaska Resource Management Plan, Approved September 7, 2007.

I-2: Land Use Authorizations.

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 Section 46.210 or United States Department of Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11 which provides:

“E. Realty 12. Grants of right-of-way wholly within the boundaries of other compatibly developed rights-of-way.”

D. Extraordinary Circumstances

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

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

Yes _____

No

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.

Yes _____ No X

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

Yes _____ No X

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

Yes _____ No X

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

Yes _____ No X

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

Yes _____ No 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.

Yes _____ No 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.

Yes _____ No X

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

Yes _____ No X

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

Yes _____ No 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 site (Executive Order 13007).

Yes _____ No X

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).

Yes _____ No X

I certify that none of the Departmental Extraordinary Circumstances listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks: None.

Preparer(s): /s/ Joseph Hart Date: 4/11/2012

PART III – DECISION

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. Section 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. Section 1508.4 (2006).

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

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:

Authorized Official: /s/ Elizabeth Maclean

Date: 4/12/12

Other resources (edible flora, house logs, fuel wood, drinking water, etc...): None. Subsistence activities that target these resources occur within a much broader area than where the proposed action is taking place. Since the proposed action occurs within a previously disturbed gravel pit, the abundance of non-fish/wildlife harvestable resources used for subsistence purposes will not be significantly restricted.

Expected reduction, if any, in the availability of resources caused by an alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location: None. The proposed area of action is within an existing gravel pit and would not alter or restrict resource distribution or densities. Harvestable game, such as moose and caribou, are highly mobile and may use other lands in the vicinity while disturbance is taking place. Hence, this proposed action will not significantly restrict the availability of subsistence resources or significantly alter resource distribution, migration, or location.

Expected limitation, if any, in the access of subsistence users resulting from the proposal: None. The proposed action does not create a permanent obstruction to subsistence hunters; therefore, access to subsistence resources will not be significantly restricted.

Availability of other lands, if any, for the purpose sought to be achieved: None. The proposed action pertains specifically to the removal of material at the Tok Cutoff (MP70) site.

Other alternatives, if any, which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes: The only other alternative that would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes is to not allow or permit any activities that conflict with subsistence uses. However, such an alternative is not viable because the BLM manages public lands for multiple uses.

Finding:

This evaluation of AKDOT & PF's proposed action, of removing a stockpile of gravel from a previous material site, concludes that the action will not result in a significant restriction in abundance, availability, or access of harvestable resources for subsistence uses.

/s/Sarah L. Bullock

Sarah L. Bullock
Wildlife Biologist
BLM, Glennallen Field Office

04 April 2012

Date

Assessment of Undertakings Not Subject to Further Section 106 Review Glennallen Field Office

GDO Document No. GFO-12-14

BLM Serial No. AA-093119 **Environmental Assessment No.** DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0015-CX

Class of Inventory: No Further Review

Dates of Inspection: 03/20/2012

Inspector: John Jangala

Maps: Nabesna (D-6)

Applicant: Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF)

Location: The project will occur west of the Glenn Highway-Tok Cutoff north of Carlson Creek. Specifically, the project will occur at an old gravel pit between the current Tok Cutoff and an old portion of highway near milepost 70 in Sect. 29, T.12N., R.9E., CRM.

Project Description: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to grant AKDOT&PF a temporary use authorization to remove a stockpile of gravel from an old material site that is no longer being used. The project will involve heavy equipment operating on the previously disturbed surfaces of an old gravel pit.

Acreage: Unknown

Recommendations: According to the Protocol for Managing Cultural Resources on Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Alaska, between the Bureau of Land Management and the State Historic Preservation Officer, signed April 17, 1998, this undertaking is not subject to further Section 106 review (Appendix 2: Category Six). The project will involve an authorization in an area previously impacted by gravel mining and is unlikely to contain intact heritage resources. As long as the applicant adheres to the attached stipulations, the applicant may proceed as proposed in the application. However, if heritage or paleontological resources are encountered during implementation of the project, the project will cease and the Glennallen Field Office, cultural resource staff, shall be notified.

The following stipulation should be attached to the permit: "There shall be no disturbance of any archaeological or historical sites, including graves and remains of cabins, and no collection of any artifacts whatsoever. Also, collection of vertebrate fossils, including mammoths and mastodon bones, tusks etc., is strictly prohibited. If historic resources are encountered then all artifacts will be respectfully left in place and the Glennallen Field Office's cultural resources staff will be notified immediately. "

Signed:

/s/ John W. Jangala

John W. Jangala
Glennallen Field Office Archaeologist (AKA-020)

Compliance with ANILCA §810

E.A No.: DOI-BLM-AKA-A020-2012-0015-CX

Applicant(s): Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities

Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to grant AKDOT&PF a temporary use authorization to remove a stockpile of gravel from an old material site that is not being used. The project will involve heavy equipment operating on the previously disturbed surfaces of an old gravel pit

Location: An old gravel pit located between the current Tok Cutoff Road (MP 70) and the old Tok Cutoff right of way, north of Carlson Creek.

Township/Range: Township 12 North, Range 9 East Section 29, Copper River Meridian

Map: Nabesna D-6

Evaluation by: Sarah L. Bullock

Discretionary Action?: Yes

Categorical Exclusion?: Yes

Type of Assessment / Sources: Review of application materials, subsistence database, local knowledge, and interviews with staff knowledgeable of the area and the proposed action.

Effect of the proposal on abundance of harvestable resources used for subsistence purposes:

Fisheries: None. The site is within a previously disturbed gravel pit and is located within dual-selected lands. The area is also adjacent to the road surface and does not cross water bodies with an active subsistence fishery. Hence, the proposed project will not significantly restrict abundance of harvestable fish resources used for subsistence purposes.

Wildlife: None. The site is a previously disturbed gravel pit and is located within dual-selected lands that are not open to federally regulated subsistence hunting. The site is located within critical winter moose habitat; however, all activity will be within the gravel pit area and not affect current winter habitat. Wildlife (small game, large game, and upland birds) may temporarily avoid the area due to human activity, but may willingly return after activity ceases. Hence, the proposed project will not significantly restrict abundance of harvestable wildlife resources used for subsistence purposes.

Other resources (edible flora, house logs, fuel wood, drinking water, etc...): None. Subsistence activities that target these resources occur within a much broader area than where the proposed action is taking place. Since the proposed action occurs within a previously disturbed gravel pit, the abundance of non-fish/wildlife harvestable resources used for subsistence purposes will not be significantly restricted.

Expected reduction, if any, in the availability of resources caused by an alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location: None. The proposed area of action is within an existing gravel pit and would not alter or restrict resource distribution or densities. Harvestable game, such as moose and caribou, are highly mobile and may use other lands in the vicinity while disturbance is taking place. Hence, this proposed action will not significantly restrict the availability of subsistence resources or significantly alter resource distribution, migration, or location.

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Finding:

This evaluation of AKDOT & PF's proposed action, of removing a stockpile of gravel from a previous material site, concludes that the action will not result in a significant restriction in abundance, availability, or access of harvestable resources for subsistence uses.

/s/Sarah L. Bullock

Sarah L. Bullock
Wildlife Biologist
BLM, Glennallen Field Office

04 April 2012

Date

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Glennallen Field Office

NEPA Interdisciplinary Review

Project Name: ADOT Material Site re-establishment

Casefile Number: AA-093119

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AKA-020-0015-CX

NEPA Preparer: Joseph Hart

Please return to preparer by: March 19, 2012

Staff Specialist	Resource Area	Comments Provided Yes / No	Date Reviewed
Brenda Becker	Lands and Realty	No	3/12/2012
Marcia Butorac	Recreation and Facilities	yes	3/14/2012
Wildlife Specialist	ANILCA, Section 810	Yes	04/04/2012
Wildlife Specialist	T&E Animals	N/A	04/04/2012
Wildlife Specialist	T&E Plants	N/A	04/04/2012
Wildlife Specialist	Wildlife	Yes	04/04/2012
Heath Emmons	Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	3/12/2012
Marnie Graham	Public Affairs	One reminder	3/9/12
Denton Hamby	Special Recreation Use		
Denton Hamby	Visual Resources		
Brad Honerlaw	Law Enforcement	N/A	
Alysia White	Law Enforcement	no	4/2/2012
John Jangala	Cultural Heritage	No	3/22/2012
John Jangala	Paleontology	No	3/22/2012
Cory Larson	Travel Management	No	3/12/12
James Whitlock	Minerals		
Ben Seifert	Fire Management	No	3/18/12
Ben Seifert	Forestry	No	3/18/12
Ben Seifert	Invasive Weeds	Yes	3/18/12
Mike Sondergaard	Soils	No	3/12/12
Mike Sondergaard	Air Quality	No	3/12/12
Tim Sundlov	Riparian & Wetlands	No	3/14/2012
Mike Sondergaard	Water Quality	No	3/12/12
Tim Sundlov	Fish Biology	No	3/14/2012
Joseph Hart	Hazardous Materials	No	3-9-12
Elijah Waters	Branch Chief - Resources	No	5/2/12

Authorized Officer Review: /s/ Elizabeth Maclean Date: 4/12/12