



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: Granite Construction
Case File Number: AA093234
DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0020CX



Location: Sec. 24, T. 9 N., R. 2 W., Copper River Meridian

Prepared By: Brenda Becker, Realty Specialist

PART II - NEPA REVIEW
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. BACKGROUND

BLM Office: Glennallen Field Office

Lease/Serial/Case File No: AA-93234

Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0020-CX

Proposed action Title/Types: Granite Construction Staging Area – Minimum Impact Permit

Location of Proposed Action: Section 24, T. 9 N., R. 2 W., Copper River Meridian. The proposed staging area will be approximately 2 acres in size and will be located just north of the Sourdough Campground off of a Pipeline Access road that accesses the Gulkana River. This is close to the Granite Construction Administrative Site.

Description of Proposed Action: On March 20, 2012, an application was submitted to be able to use the large open area along the Alyeska Access road at Sourdough for a temporary staging/parking area for equipment, trucks and materials, if needed. There will be no ground disturbing impacts and the proposed use of the site is consistent with historic use by Alyeska, hunters, etc. for parking and staging of equipment and vehicles. Although no ground disturbance is anticipated, the stipulations attached to this authorization would require Granite Construction to rehabilitate or restore the site to its original condition should any damages occur. This site would possibly be utilized during the construction seasons for the next 2 years, May 1, 2012 thru November 1, 2013.

Applicant (if any): Granite Construction

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

Land Use Plan Name: East Alaska Resource Management Plan

Date Approved: September 2007

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:

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):

I. LANDS AND REALTY

I-1 Goals

Provide a balance between land use (rights-of-way, land use permits, leases and sales) and resource protection that best serves the public at large.

I-2: Land Use Authorizations

Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM lands such as right-of-way grants, road, temporary use permits under several different authorities; leases, permits, and easements under section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA); airport leases under the Act of May 24, 1928; and Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases.

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:

Categorical Exclusion: E. Realty: 19; Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

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 X

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/ Brenda Becker Date: 5/24/2012

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: 6/1/2012

Compliance with ANILCA §810

E.A No.: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0020-CX

Applicant(s): Granite Construction

Proposed Action: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to grant to Granite Construction a temporary minimum impact use permit along a previously disturbed Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) access road and adjacent clearing for the purpose staging equipment, trucks, and materials. This area has been previously cleared of vegetation and impacted during TAPS construction.

Location: The proposed staging area will be approximately two acres in size and will be located just north of the Sourdough Campground off the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System access. This is close to the Granite Construction Administrative Site.

Township/Range: Township 9 North, Range 2 West, Section 24; Copper River Meridian

Map: Gulkana (C-4)

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 application is for purpose staging equipment, trucks, and materials to be located at the existing parking lot. Therefore, there is no significant effect on subsistence uses and needs.

Wildlife: None. The location of the staging area is in a previously disturbed area, a parking lot, adjacent to a major road. Therefore, the proposed action does not have a significant effect on subsistence resource uses and needs.

Other resources (*edible flora, house logs, fuel wood, drinking water, etc...*): There are no harvestable resources such as berries, willows, and spruce roots in the parking lot that the proposed action is to occur. Therefore, the proposed action does not have a significant effect on subsistence uses and needs.

Expected reduction, if any, in the availability of resources caused by an alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location: None. The proposed action would not significantly alter the distribution, migration, or location of subsistence resources. The location is an existing disturbed area, a parking lot, where wildlife are likely to traverse freely. The parking lot has been in existence for years and resident wildlife are likely habituated to its existence.

Expected limitation, if any, in the access of subsistence users resulting from the proposal: None. Access to subsistence resources shall not be hampered by the proposed action. The proposed action shall not create a permanent obstruction to subsistence users.

Availability of other lands, if any, for the purpose sought to be achieved: Other lands are available. However, the applicant has an administrative facility and work nearby; therefore, this is the most practical and convenient location for the staging area.

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 concludes that the action will not result in a significant restriction in subsistence uses. There is no reasonably foreseeable significant decrease in abundance, availability, and access in harvestable resources due to the proposed action. Granite construction is reminded that employees shall not prevent access to parking area or interfere with subsistence users pursuing available resources.

/s/Sarah L. Bullock
Sarah L. Bullock
Wildlife Biologist
BLM, Glennallen Field Office

05-11-2012
Date

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

GDO Document No. GFO-12-18

BLM Serial No. AA-093234 **Environmental Assessment No.** DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-020-CX

Class of Inventory: No Further Review

Dates of Inspection: 05/02/2012

Inspector: John Jangala

Maps: Gulkana (C-4)

Applicant: Granite Construction Company

Location: The project will occur west of the Richardson Highway near Milepost 148 north of Sourdough Campground. Specifically, the project will occur along a Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) access road in Sect. 24, T.9N., R2W., CRM.

Project Description: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to grant to Granite Construction Co. a temporary minimum impact use permit along a previously disturbed pipeline road and adjacent clearing for the purpose staging equipment, trucks and materials. This area has been previously cleared of vegetation and impacted during TAPS construction.

Acreage: 2 Acres

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 the temporary use of a previously disturbed area that 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:

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

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Glennallen Field Office
NEPA Interdisciplinary Review

Project Name: Granite Construction Staging Area

Casefile Number: AA093234

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AKA-020-0020-CX

NEPA Preparer: Brenda Becker

Please return to preparer by: April 9, 2012

Staff Specialist	Resource Area	Comments Provided Yes / No or n/a	Date Reviewed
Brenda Becker	Lands and Realty	Preparer	3/30/12
Marcia Butorac	Recreation and Facilities	No	3/30/2012
Sarah Bullock	ANILCA, Section 810	yes	5-11-2012
Sarah Bullock	T&E Animals	no	5-11-2012
Sarah Bullock	T&E Plants	no	5-11-2012
Sarah Bullock	Wildlife	yes	5-11-2012
Heath Emmons	Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	4/2/2012
Marnie Graham	Public Affairs	yes	4/20/12
Denton Hamby	Special Recreation Use	No	4/17/12
Denton Hamby	Visual Resources	No	4/17/12
Brad Honerlaw	Law Enforcement		
Alysia White	Law Enforcement	Yes- email	4/3/2012
John Jangala	Cultural Heritage	Yes	5/3/2012
John Jangala	Paleontology	No	5/3/2012
Cory Larson	Travel Management	No	4/2/12
James Whitlock	Minerals		
Ben Seifert	Fire Management		
Ben Seifert	Forestry		
Ben Seifert	Invasive Weeds		
Mike Sondergaard	Soils	No	3/30/12
Mike Sondergaard	Air Quality	No	3/30/12
Tim Sundlov	Riparian & Wetlands	No	3/30/12
Mike Sondergaard	Water Quality	No	3/30/12
Tim Sundlov	Fish Biology	No	3/30/12
Joseph Hart	Hazardous Materials		
Elijah Waters	Branch Chief - resources	No	5/2/12
Molly Cobbs	ADO Planner		

Authorized Officer Review: /s/ Elizabeth Maclean Date: 6/1/2012