



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

Alaska Department of Transportation Climate Change Monitoring Site, Land Use Authorization

Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0028-CX

Case File, AA093322

DECISION RECORD

Decision

It is my decision to issue the Alaska Department of Transportation a land use permit for a meteorological and hydrological site on BLM-managed lands for a period of two years, as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion documentation, DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0028-CX.

The proposed action has been reviewed by Glennallen Field Office staff and appropriate Project Design Features or stipulations, as specified, will be incorporated during project implementation. Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR § 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Glennallen Field Office, P.O. Box 147, Milepost 186.5 Glenn Highway, Glennallen, Alaska 99588, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Glennallen Field Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile or email.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR § 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the

merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR § 4.413); Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

/s/ Beth Maclean
Beth Maclean
Glennallen Field Manager

8/3/2012
Date

Attachments

Categorical Exclusion documentation, DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0028-CX
Land Use Stipulations



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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: Land Use permit for climate change monitoring site

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0028-CX

Case File Number: AA093322

Location / Legal Description: Sec. 16, T.14 S., R. 10 E., Fairbanks Meridian

Applicant (if any): State of Alaska, Department of Transportation

Description of Proposed Action

The BLM is proposing to authorize a land use permit for a new State of Alaska Department of Transportation meteorological and hydrological monitoring site consisting of sensors approximately 1.8 meters above the ground surface and attached to a tower. The equipment is a tripod design which will be secured to the ground by two, one-foot long sections of rebar inserted into the ground and/or a small pile of rocks around the tripod legs. The equipment will monitor air temperature, relative humidity and precipitation. The site is only needed until December 31, 2014. The site will be accessed by ATV.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: East Alaska Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, 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 (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. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

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 Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, which provides:

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 proposed action must be screened against the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 43 CFR § 46.215 (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. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	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.	No
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
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.	No
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.	No
9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
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).	No
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).	No

G. SIGNATURE

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is an action that can be categorically excluded. The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 516 FM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and that no further environmental analysis is required.

/s/ Beth Maclean

8/3/2012

Beth Maclean
Glennallen Field Manager

Date

Compliance with ANILCA §810

E.A No.: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0028-CX

Applicant(s): State of Alaska, Department of Transportation

Proposed Action: The BLM is proposing to authorize a land use permit for a new Alaska Department of Transportation meteorological and hydrological monitoring site consisting of sensors approximately 1.8 meters above the ground surface and attached to a tower. The equipment is a tripod design which will be secured to the ground by two, one-foot long sections of rebar inserted into the ground and/or a small pile of rocks around the tripod legs. The equipment will monitor air temperature, relative humidity and precipitation. The site is only needed until December 31, 2014. The site will be accessed by ATV from the Richardson Highway.

Location: The proposed action would take place in the Central Alaska Mountain Range just north of the Black Rapids Military Training area, near Gunnysack creek, and the Richardson Highway.

Township/Range: Section 16, Township 14 South, Range 10 East, Fairbanks Meridian

Map: Mt. Hayes 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 proposed action area is not near a federally regulated subsistence fishery; therefore, the action will not significantly restrict abundance of subsistence resources.

Wildlife: None. The proposed action is for a structure on rocky substrate on a mountain side within federal subsistence hunting area. Caribou that occur in the area can still be freely accessed during the hunt. Moose hunting occurs in the vicinity but will not be affected by the proposed action. Harvest of small game and upland birds may also occur in the vicinity. Nonetheless, the scope with which subsistence uses and needs are affected by the proposed action is not significant.

Other resources (edible flora, house logs, fuel wood, drinking water, etc...): The proposed activity will not significantly impact other resources such as berries, willows, and spruce roots. Subsistence activities that target these resources occur in a much broader area than where the proposed action is to take place. Therefore, the proposed action will not significantly affect 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. Wildlife may temporarily avoid area while site is established and seasonally maintained; however, wildlife is free to traverse or avoid the area until visits are completed. Therefore, there is no foreseeable reduction in the availability of resources caused by alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location.

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

Availability of other lands, if any, for the purpose sought to be achieved: None. Other lands are available for the purposes sought to be achieved. However, the location is convenient for the applicant's needs due to proximity to the highway, existing ATV trails, and in the vicinity of Jarvis Creek.

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 State of Alaska, Department of Transportation's proposed action, of removing establishing a meteorological site within unencumbered BLM managed lands, concludes that the action will not result in a foreseeable significant restriction in abundance, availability, or access of harvestable resources for subsistence uses.

/s/Sarah L. Bullock

11 July 2012

Sarah L. Bullock

Date

Wildlife Biologist

BLM, Glennallen Field Office

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

GDO Document No. GFO-12-28
BLM Serial No. AA093322

Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-028-CX

Class of Inventory: No Further Review

Dates of Inspection: 07/26/2012

Inspector: John Jangala

Maps: Mt. Hayes (C-4)

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

Location: The project will occur east of the Richardson Highway in the vicinity of Jarvis Creek. More specifically, the project will take place in Sec. 16, T.14S., R.10E., FM.

Project Description: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to authorize AKDOT&PF to install a temporary meteorological tower in the vicinity of Jarvis Creek. The tripod tower will be anchored using rocks and soil meters will be installed by hand in a less than one meter square hole to monitor soil temperature and moisture.

Acreage: Less than 1 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 One). The project will involve less than one square meter of ground disturbance. 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: Seismic Recording Station – State of Alaska, Department of Transportation
Casefile Number: AA093327
NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-0028-CX
NEPA Preparer: Brenda Becker
Please return to preparer by: July 20, 2012

Staff Specialist	Resource Area	Comments Provided Yes / No or n/a	Date Reviewed
Brenda Becker	Lands and Realty	n/a	7/10/12
Marcia Butorac	Recreation and Facilities	No	7/23/2012
Sarah Bullock	ANILCA, Section 810	Yes	7/11/2012
Sarah Bullock	T&E Animals	No	7/11/2012
Sarah Bullock	T&E Plants	No	7/11/2012
Sarah Bullock	Wildlife	No	7/11/2012
Heath Emmons	Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	7/10/12
Marnie Graham	Public Affairs	No	7/30/2012
Denton Hamby	Special Recreation Use	No	7/13/12
Denton Hamby	Visual Resources	No	7/13/12
Brad Honerlaw	Law Enforcement		
Alysia White	Law Enforcement	No	7/10/12
John Jangala	Cultural Heritage	No	7/26/2012
John Jangala	Paleontology	No	7/26/2016
Cory Larson	Travel Management	no	7/10/12
James Whitlock	Minerals		
Ben Seifert	Fire Management	No	7/13/12
Ben Seifert	Forestry	No	7/13/12
Ben Seifert	Invasive Weeds	No	7/13/12
Mike Sondergaard	Soils	No	7/10/12
Mike Sondergaard	Air Quality	No	7/10/12
Tim Sundlov	Riparian & Wetlands	No	7/24/12
Mike Sondergaard	Water Quality	No	7/10/12
Tim Sundlov	Fish Biology	No	7/24/12
Joseph Hart	Hazardous Materials	No	7/26/12
Elijah Waters	Branch Chief - resources	No	7/26/12
Molly Cobbs	ADO Planner	Yes	07/10/12

Authorized Officer Review: /s/ Beth Maclean Date: 8/3/2012