



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: Great Northwest**  
**Case File Number: AA093213**  
**DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0016-CX**



**Location: Sec. 32, T. 16 S., R. 10 E., Fairbanks 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: AA093213

Environmental Document No: DOI-BLM-AKA-020-2012-0016-CX

Proposed action Title/Types: Crew camping for between 20 and 40 self-contained travel trailers.

Location of Proposed Action: Sec. 32, T. 16 S., R. 10 E., Fairbanks Meridian.

Description of Proposed Action: Great Northwest is requesting authorization to provide a camping site for their crew, between 20 and 40, in an existing gravel pit located at Mile 224 Richardson Highway with a possible alternative site at Mile 229.3 Richardson Highway. This camping is for self-contained travel trailers. Great Northwest will be providing water, once a week sewer pumping for the holding tanks on the trailers, and dumpsters for garbage service. The only ground disturbance will be the possibility of leveling an area is needed for setting the travel trailers. This request is for the 2012 construction season, April 1 thru October 1, 2012.

Applicant (if any): Great Northwest

#### 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:

#### 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: 4/5/2012

### 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: 4/5/2012

# Compliance with ANILCA §810

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**E.A No.:** DOI-BLM-AKA-020-2012-0016-CX

**Applicant(s):** Great Northwest, Inc.

**Proposed Action:** Great Northwest is requesting authorization to provide a camping site for their crew, between 20 and 40, in an existing gravel pit located at Mile 224 Richardson Highway. This camping is for self-contained travel trailers. This request is for the 2012 construction season, April 1 thru October 1, 2012.

**Location:** An existing gravel pit located at Mile 224 Richardson Highway

**Township/Range:** Sec. 32, T. 16 S., R. 10 E., 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. There area is not a federally regulated subsistence fishery in the area. The campsite is located on previous disturbed gravel pit adjacent to the Richardson highway; therefore, the action will not significantly restrict abundance of subsistence resources.

**Wildlife:** None. The campsite is located within a previously disturbed gravel pit adjacent to the Richardson highway and big game such as moose and caribou occur in the area and may avoid disturbance during construction season. Small game and upland birds in the immediate vicinity of the gravel pit may also be temporarily displaced when human disturbance is occurring. However, due to the temporary nature of use, the campsite will not significantly restrict abundance of subsistence resources.

**Other resources (*edible flora, house logs, fuel wood, drinking water, etc...*):** None. The campsite is located on previous disturbed gravel pit adjacent to the Richardson highway and there are no harvestable resources such as berries, willows, and spruce roots in the parking lot

that the proposed action is to occur. Hence, the action will not significantly restrict non-fish/wildlife subsistence resources in the area.

**Expected reduction, if any, in the availability of resources caused by an alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location:** None. The campsite is located within a previously disturbed gravel pit; therefore, the action will not significantly restrict availability of subsistence resources distribution, migration, or location.

**Expected limitation, if any, in the access of subsistence users resulting from the proposal:** None. The campsite is located within a previously disturbed gravel pit. The gravel pit may have restricted access during the period of construction; however, there are multiple pullouts, and other parking areas for subsistence users to use. Hence, the action will not significantly restrict access of subsistence resources as a result from the proposal.

**Availability of other lands, if any, for the purpose sought to be achieved:** Other areas such as a very similar gravel pit, located at MP 229.3 of the Richardson Hwy along the Delta River, are possible for the purpose sought by the applicant. However, the proposed site submitted is near the worksite, large enough to hold the buildings necessary for project, and is more sheltered from wind than the Delta River pit (MP 229.3).

**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 the Great Northwest, Inc.'s request for use of the gravel pit at MP 224, for a temporary camping site, concludes that the action will not result in a significant restriction of abundance, availability, or access of harvestable resources for subsistence users.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/Sarah L. Bullock

\_\_\_\_\_/04 April 2012

Sarah L. Bullock  
Wildlife Biologist  
BLM, Glennallen Field Office

Date

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

**GDO Document No.** GFO-12-14

**BLM Serial No.** AA-093213 **Environmental Assessment No.** DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0016-CX

**Class of Inventory:** No Further Review

**Dates of Inspection:** 3/16/2012

**Inspector:** John Jangala

**Maps:** Mt Hayes (C-4)

**Applicant:** Great Northwest

**Location:** The project is located east of the Richardson Highway, south of the U.S. Army's Black Rapids Training Center. More specifically the project is located near milepost 224 of the Richardson Highway in a gravel pit in Sec. 32, T.16S., R.10E., FM.

**Project Description:** The BLM proposes to authorize Great Northwest, a construction company, to park 20 to 40 camp trailers at an existing gravel pit used by the State of Alaska's DOT&PF. The camp trailers will be used by Great Northwest employees for the purpose of camping during a highway construction project. The project will take place completely with the existing and previously disturbed 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 activity in an area previously impacted by gravel extraction 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 stipulations 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/s John Jangala

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: Great Northwest

Casefile Number: AA093213

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AKA-020-2012-0016-CX

NEPA Preparer: Brenda Becker

Please return to preparer by: March 19, 2012

Staff Specialist	Resource Area	Comments Provided Yes / No	Date Reviewed
Brenda Becker	Lands and Realty	Preparer	3/12/2012
Marcia Butorac	Recreation and Facilities	No	3/30/2012
Sarah Bullock	ANILCA, Section 810	Yes	04/04/2012
Sarah Bullock	T&E Animals	N/A	4-4-12
Sarah Bullock	T&E Plants	N/A	4-4-12
Sarah Bullock	Wildlife	Yes	04/04/2012
Heath Emmons	Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	4/2/2012
Marnie Graham	Public Affairs		
Denton Hamby	Special Recreation Use		
Denton Hamby	Visual Resources		
Brad Honerlaw	Law Enforcement	Yes see email	3/27/2012
Alysia White	Law Enforcement		
John Jangala	Cultural Heritage	No	3/16/2012
John Jangala	Paleontology	No	3/16/2012
Cory Larson	Travel Management		
James Whitlock	Minerals		
Ben Seifert	Fire Management		
Ben Seifert	Forestry		
Ben Seifert	Invasive Weeds		
Mike Sondergaard	Soils		
Mike Sondergaard	Air Quality		
Tim Sundlov	Riparian & Wetlands	No	3/14/2012
Mike Sondergaard	Water Quality		
Tim Sundlov	Fish Biology	No	3/14/2012
Joseph Hart	Hazardous Materials		
Elijah Waters	Branch Chief - Resources		

Authorized Officer Review: /s/ Elizabeth Maclean Date: 4/5/2012