



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>

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Controlled Use Area Boundary Signs

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0035-CX

Case File Number: AA-093350

Location / Legal Description:

Sourdough Controlled Use Area (west side of Richardson Hwy)
MP 155: Sec. 29, T. 10N., R. 1W., Copper River Meridian
MP 160.3: Sec. 32, T. 11N., R. 1W., Copper River Meridian
MP 168: Sec. 30, T. 12N., R. 1W., Copper River Meridian
MP 169: Sec. 19, T. 12N., R. 1W., Copper River Meridian

Paxson Closed Area (west side of Richardson Hwy)
MP 182: Sec. 29, T. 22S., R. 7E., Fairbanks Meridian
MP 185: Sec. 8, T. 22S., R. 12E., Fairbanks Meridian

Clearwater Creek Controlled Use Area (north side of Denali Hwy)
MP 73: Sec. 32, T. 21S., R. 2E., Fairbanks Meridian
MP 77.1: Sec. 24, T. 21S., R. 1E., Fairbanks Meridian

Applicant (if any): Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Description of Proposed Action: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) proposes to erect eight 18"x 12" aluminum signs mounted on 2"x10" Telspar posts and anchored with post anchors and fast-setting concrete on BLM-managed lands located along the Richardson and Denali Highways. These signs will be placed outside of defined road right-of-ways to delineate boundaries of the Sourdough Controlled Use Area (CUA), Clearwater Creek CUA, and the

Paxson Closed Area. The BLM would authorize a ten-year land use permit, with a right to renew, for installation of the signs.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), September 2007

The proposed action is in conformance with the EARMP and ROD, specifically the proposed action is consistent with the following decisions in the RMP/ROD:

T. TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AND OHV USE

T-1: Goals

- Manage OHV use associated with permitted and developed activities to provide for access while protecting resources.

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:

G. TRANSPORTATION

2. Installation of routine signs, markers, culverts, ditches, waterbars, gates, or cattleguards on/or adjacent to roads and trails identified in any land use or transportation plan, or eligible for incorporation in such plan.

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	NO

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
cumulatively significant environmental effects.	
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
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

E. 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/ Elijah Waters, Acting for

4/4/2013

Beth Maclean
Glennallen Field Manager

Date



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Alaska Department of Fish and Game Controlled Use Area Boundary Signs Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0035-CX

Case File, AA-09350

DECISION RECORD

Decision

It is my decision to implement the proposed action on BLM-managed lands as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion documentation, DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0035-CX. Specifically, I have decided to issue a 10-year land use permit, with a right to renew, to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for installation of ten Controlled Use Area and/or Closed Area boundary signs on BLM-managed lands.

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 Anchorage 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/ Elijah Waters, Acting for

4/14/2013

Beth Maclean
Glennallen Field Manager

Date

Attachments

Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2012-0035-CX