



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
Establishment of a short Right-of-way over public land

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management
Case File Number: AA-092955
DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-0021-CX



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glennallen Field Office
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-0008

Case File No.: AA-092860

Legal Land Description:

Lands in Game Management Unit (GMU) 13E.

Seward Meridian

Sections 5-8, T. 29 N., R. 6 E.,

Sections 7-36, T. 29 N., R. 5 E.,

Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 1-2, 11-14, and 23-36, T. 21 S., R. 9 W.,

Sections 1-36, T. 21 S., R. 8 W.,

Sections 1-36, T. 21 S., R. 7 W.,

Sections 1-36, T. 20 S., R. 8 W.,

Sections 1-36, T. 20 S., R. 7 W.

Location(s): Northern Talkeetna Mountains including the Hurricane Gulch, Honolulu Pass drainage, East and Middle fork of the Chulitna drainage and the southern portion of the Tisisi River Drainage which flows into the Talkeetna River.

Talkeetna Mountains (Unit13E, guide use area 13-1 and 13-2)

Applicant(s): Braun Kopsak, Knik Glacier Adventures

Proposed Action: Braun Kopsak has submitted a Special Recreation permit application for his hunting guide service which would utilize portions of BLM administered lands within the Talkeetna Mountains south of the Denali Highway and east of the Parks Highway. If authorized the permit would be valid for one year with the option for renewal pending all permit requirements are met annually.

Spring Bear Hunts -Hurricane, Honolulu Pass and East and Middle fork of the Chulitna drainages: 1-2 clients April 15-May 15. Access to hunting areas would be by snowmachine and/or snowshoes from the Parks Highway. All trips would be day trips with no overnight use.

Fall Dall sheep and Brown Bear Hunts: 1-7 clients from August 8th –September 20th.

All access to these areas is by float plane. A typical hunt will last from 4 to 10 days with approximately 1-7 clients per season at varying locations. All hunts are run from spike camps, which are completely removed after each hunt. Trash is flown out and human waste buried in appropriate manner. "Leave No Trace" camping techniques are utilized on all trips. The operating season runs from April thru October each year, averaging seven clients per season. All activities would be in accordance with State of Alaska hunting regulations.

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP)

Date Plan Approved: September 2007

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5-3(a)).

The Glennallen Field Office operates under the East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) of 2007. The proposed action has been reviewed and determined to be in compliance with the EARMP for authorized allocations within the proposed action area.

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: (Page 35 of the EARMP Record of Decision 2007)

M. Recreation

M-1: Goal

Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities.

6. Other Areas

Areas outside those identified above would be managed as Extensive Recreation Management Areas, with recreation management based on maintenance of existing ROS classes in the areas. Inventory and monitoring could occur and standards may be identified for trail density in these areas based on monitoring and inventory information. Some education/interpretation at trailheads may occur, particularly at 17(b) easement trailheads within these areas.

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review

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 which provides:

The Proposed Actions qualify as categorical exclusions pursuant to 516 DM 11.9, Appendix 4, Part H, 1:

“Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 (cumulative) staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR 2932.5).”

B. Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances Review.

The following Departmental List of Extraordinary Circumstances applies to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that 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

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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

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances in 43 CFR §46.215 are pertinent.

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

Remarks:

Under the principles of the multiple use concepts of managing natural resources, the intent of the recreation and tourism goals are to provide a broad spectrum of recreation opportunities for both resident and nonresident recreating public. It is the Bureau's policy, and in compliance with relevant planning documents, to issue this type of authorization to qualified applicants when the use does not conflict with other resource uses and protections.

PART III – DECISION

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 C.F.R. § 1610.8(a) (3) (2007). 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. §1508.4 (2007).

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

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: In addition to conditions and stipulations attached to the permit, annual compliance inspections and performance evaluations shall be conducted and documented within the permittee's case file.

Preparer s/s Denton Hamby
Denton Hamby
Recreation Planner

Date: 4/11/2011

s/s Beth Maclean
Beth Maclean
Glennallen Field Manager

Date: 4/12/11

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

GDO Document No. GFO-11-12

BLM Serial No. AA092860 Environmental Assessment No. DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-008-CX

Class of Inventory: No Further Review

Dates of Inspection: 04/01/2011

Inspector: John Jangala

Maps: Talkeetna Mtns (C-3), Healy (A-4, A-5)

Applicant: Braun Kopsak

Location: The project will be conducted within the Northern Talkeetna Mountains including the Hurricane Gulch, Honolulu Pass drainage, East and Middle fork of the Chulitna drainage and the southern portion of the Tisisi River Drainage which flows into the Talkeetna River; T.29N., R.6E.; T.29N.,R.5E., Seward Meridian; and T.21S.,R.9W.; T.21S., R.8W.; T.21S.,R.7W.; T.20S., R.8W.; T.20S., R.7W., Copper River Meridian

Project Description: The Bureau of Land Management proposes to permit Braun Kopsak to conducted guided spring bear and fall brown bear and Dall sheep hunts in the Talkeetna Mountains. All hunts will be conducted as either day trips on snowmachines or from temporary spike camps carried out and removed by float plane. All trash will be packed out and removed and no ground disturbance beyond small latrine holes is anticipated.

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 One). The project will involve less than one square meter of ground disturbance or will take place on areas with snow cover and frozen ground. 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 (AK-020)

Compliance with ANILCA Section 810

E.A No.: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-0008-CX

Applicant(s): Braun Kopsak

Proposed Action: The BLM proposes to permit Braun Kopsak of Knik Glacier Adventures to operate a hunting guide service for spring bears, fall brown bears, and fall dall sheep within the Talkeetna Mountain, south of the Denali Highway and east of the Parks Highway. Access to the hunting areas will be via snowmachine, on snowshoes, or by float plane.

Location: Talkeetna Mountains, south of the Denali Highway and east of the Parks Highway.

Township/Range: Seward Meridian, T. 29N, R. 6E, Secs. 5-8, T. 29N, R. 5E, Secs. 7-36, Fairbanks Meridian, T. 21S, R. 9W, Secs. 1-2, 11-14, and 23-36, T. 21S, R. 8W, Secs. 1-36, T. 21S, R. 7W, Secs. 1-36, T. 20S, R. 8W, Secs. 1-36, T. 20S, R. 7W, Secs. 1-36.

Map: please see application

Evaluation by: Merben R. Cebrian

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 subsistence uses and needs:

Fisheries: The Middle Fork and the East Fork of the Chulitna River are considered anadromous streams with Coho and King salmon present. The Chulitna River falls within the Cook Inlet Area subsistence fishery. There is no regulated federal subsistence fishery on the Chulitna River. Therefore, there is no significant effect on subsistence uses and needs.

Wildlife: The Talkeetna Mountains is the historical calving ground for the Nelchina caribou herd (NCH). Moose, bears, and wolves also inhabit the area. The NCH calve in the spring during which there is no open season for moose or caribou. There is no closed season for hunting bears in Unit 13. Hunting for spring bears during moose and caribou calving season can be disruptive to pregnant cows and young calves if careful snowmachine travel is not considered whenever moose and caribou are encountered. However, if the hunter avoids harassing the animals then disturbance can be minimized, and big game typically avoid humans whenever possible. The proposed activity is to occur on state-selected lands where no federal subsistence hunting occur. Therefore, there is no significant effect on subsistence uses and needs.

Other resources:

Expected reduction, if any, in the availability of resources due to alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location: None. The proposed action would not significantly alter the distribution, migration, or location of subsistence resources. Moose and caribou are highly mobile and may use other lands in the vicinity. Small game and upland birds may also temporarily avoid human encounters.

Expected limitation, if any, in the access of subsistence users resulting from the proposal: None. Access to subsistence resources will not be hampered by the proposed action. The proposed action does 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 for the purposes sought to be achieved. However, the location is convenient for the applicant's needs due to proximity to the highways.

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: The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses and needs in or near the area of the proposed action. Access to subsistence resources will not be hampered by the proposed action. There is no reasonable foreseeable significant decrease in abundance in harvestable resources and in the distribution of harvestable resources due to the proposed action.

s/s Merben R Cebrian
Merben R. Cebrian
Wildlife Biologist
BLM, Glennallen Field Office

04 May 2011
Date

Compliance with Wilderness Inventory 6300-1 and 6300-2

DNA No.: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2011-008-CX

Applicant(s): Braun Kopsak (Knik Glacier Adventures)

Proposed Action: BLM Glennallen Field Office received

Location: BLM administered Lands within the Northern Talkeetna Mountains

Township/Range: Lands in Game Management Unit (GMU) 13E. Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 5-8, T. 29 N., R. 6 E., Section 7-36, T. 29 N., R. 5 E., Sections 1-2, 11-14, and 23-36, T. 21 S., R. 9 W., Sections 1-36, T. 21 S., R. 8 W., Sections 1-36, T. 21 S., R. 7 W., Sections 1-36, T. 20 S., R. 8 W., Sections 1-36, T. 20 S., R. 7 W.

Map: see casefile

Evaluation by: Beth Maclean, Field Manager, prepared and presented by Denton Hamby, Outdoor Recreation Planner

Discretionary Action?: Yes.

Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)? Yes.

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

Effect of the proposal on wilderness:

Is the project in Conformance with the existing Land Use Plan: Yes, The Glennallen Field Office operates under the East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) of 2007. The proposed action has been reviewed and determined to be in compliance with the EARMP for authorized allocations within the proposed action area.

The proposed action is in conformance with the plan and is consistent with the following planning decisions: (Page 34-38 of the EARMP)

M. RECREATION

M-1: Goal

Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities.

Procedure for consideration of LWC in project level decisions in areas not analyzed in accordance with the BLM Manual 6302:

Has a Wilderness Characteristics inventory been completed for the area in accordance with BLM Manual 6301? No

Is the project in Conformance with the existing Land Use Plan? Yes, the area of the proposed action is covered by the East Alaska Resource Management Plan dated July 2007.

Are wilderness characteristics clearly lacking? No

- Size criterion: Based on size, wilderness characteristics are not clearly lacking.
- Naturalness Criterion: The area appears to be primarily affected only by the forces of nature. Based on naturalness, wilderness characteristics are no clearly lacking.

Can the project be implemented in a manner that would not impair wilderness characteristics? Yes. The proposed action is temporary in nature.

Finding: In accordance with BLM Manuals 6300-1 and 6300-3, the area of the proposed action clearly does not lack wilderness characteristics. However, the nature of the activity guided hunting the use of “leave no trace practices” and the limited group size will create no long term impacts to the landscape that would impair future management decisions. Therefore, this action will not impair any wilderness characteristics.

s/s Beth Maclean
Beth Maclean
Field Manager
Glennallen Field Office

April 8, 2011
Date

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

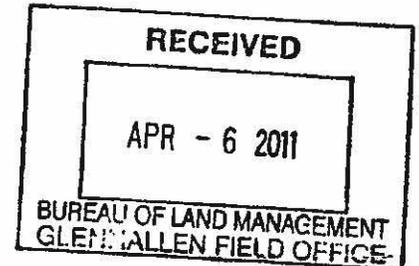
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER
SOUTHCENTRAL REGION LAND OFFICE

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

550 W. 7TH AVE., SUITE 900C
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3577
PHONE: (907) 269-8503
FAX: (907) 269-8913

April 4, 2011

Bureau of Land Management
Glennallen Field Office
Attn: Beth Maclean
PO Box 147
Glennallen, AK 99588



Re: 906(k) Letter of Concurrence
BLM Permit: #AA-92860 (AKA020)
State ID# LAS 28038

Ms. Maclean:

The Southcentral Region, Division of Mining, Land and Water has reviewed Braun Kopsak dba Knik Glacier Adventures application for a Bureau of Land Management Special Recreation and Land Use Authorization to allow a seasonal commercial recreation camp on a parcel of State of Alaska (hereinafter "the State") selected lands within Sections 1-2, 11-14, 23-36 of Township 021 South, Range 009 West, Sections 1-36 of Township 021 South, Range 008 West, Sections 1-36 of Township 021 South, Range 007 West, Sections 1-36 of Township 020 South, Range 008 West, Sections 1-36 of Township 020 South, Range 007 West, Fairbanks Meridian.

The State has no objection to the issuance of the subject permit allowing the proposed activities provided that: (i) the Bureau of Land Management adheres to stipulations 1 through 4 and (ii) stipulations 5 through 13 are included as conditions of any BLM permit issued in conjunction with this Letter of Concurrence.

1. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) shall provide the Southcentral Regional Office with a copy of all permits issued in conjunction with this Letter of Concurrence.
2. (a) The BLM shall notify the Southcentral Regional Office if the permit is not issued or renewed, or terminated prior to conveyance to the State.

(b) If the permit is not issued, renewed or terminated, the BLM shall assure the Southcentral Regional Office that the lands are restored prior to conveyance to the State.
3. The BLM shall include the State on the distribution list for any subsequent decisions or notices issued for any permit issued in conjunction with this Letter of Concurrence. The State of Alaska's LAS number (LAS 28038) will be referenced in any subsequent correspondence.

"Develop, Conserve and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans"

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Glennallen Field Office

NEPA Interdisciplinary Review

Project Name: Braun Kopsak (Knik Glacier Adventure)

Casefile Number: AA-0092860

NEPA Document Number: DOI-BLM-AKA-020-2011-CX

NEPA Preparer: Denton Hamby

Please return to preparer by: 3/18/2011

Staff Specialist	Resource Area	Comments Provided Yes / No	Date Reviewed
Brenda Becker	Lands and Realty	Yes	3/15/2011
Marcia Butorac	Recreation and Facilities	No	3/17/2011
Merben Cebrian	ANILCA, Section 810	Yes	4/8/2011
Merben Cebrian	T&E Animals	No	4/7/2011
Merben Cebrian	T&E Plants	No	4/7/2011
Merben Cebrian	Wildlife	Yes	4/7/2011
Heath Emmons	Wild and Scenic Rivers	No	3/15/2011
Marnie Graham	Public Affairs	No	3/16/2011
Denton Hamby	Special Recreation Use	Preparer	3/1/2011
Denton Hamby	Visual Resources	No	3/1/2011
Brad Honerlaw	Law Enforcement		
Alysia White	Law Enforcement	No	3/15/2011
John Jangala	Cultural Heritage	No	4/1/2011
John Jangala	Paleontology	No	4/1/2011
Cory Larson	Travel Management	No	3/22/2011
James Whitlock	Minerals		
Ben Seifert	Fire Management	No	3/15/2011
Ben Seifert	Forestry	No	3/15/2011
Ben Seifert	Invasive Weeds	No	3/15/2011
Tim Sundlov	Soils		
Tim Sundlov	Riparian & Wetlands	No	3/16/2011
Tim Sundlov	Water Quality	No	3/16/2011
Tim Sundlov	Fisheries	No	3/16/2011
Tim Sundlov	Hazardous Materials		
Elijah Waters	Branch Chief - Resources		

Authorized Officer Review: _____ Date: _____