



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Eastern Interior Field Office
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

In Reply Refer To: FF-095781

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION /PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION AND DECISION

DOI-BLM-AK-02000-2012-0003-CX

Proposed Action: Free Use Permit to harvest up to five cords of firewood

Date of Proposed Action: November 1, 2011 through July 31, 2012

Location: Davidson Ditch, mile post 57 Steese Highway

Applicant: Manfred Nolywaika

Serial Number: FF095781

Description of Proposed Action:

Mr. Nolywaika has re-applied for a free use wood cutting permit to harvest up to five cords of personal use firewood for his home. The proposed harvest site is at mile 57 of the Steese Highway (see attached map) within the boundary of a 2004 wildfire. There are an estimated 40 to 50 cords per acre of fire-killed spruce in the area. Mr. Nolywaika is proposing to cut only fire-killed trees north and east of the Davidson Ditch Wayside. He does not plan to use any motorized vehicles to retrieve the wood; it will all be carried out by hand. He also proposes to cut stumps low to the ground or root mass, and scatter limb debris. The permit will expire on 7/31/12.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: White Mountains Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision
Date Approved/Amended: 2/2/1986

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan (LUP) because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision:

Management Direction: Forest products would be reserved for local use only. No commercial timber harvest would be permitted (Forestry Resources Section, page 16).

Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (C-5) which states: “Disposal of small amounts of miscellaneous vegetation products outside established harvest areas, such as Christmas trees, wildings, floral products (ferns, boughs, etc.), cones, seeds, and personal use firewood.”

The Proposed Action must be screened against the extraordinary circumstances found in 43 CFR 46.215 and 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) May have significant impacts on public health or safety.	No
2) May 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) May have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.	No
4) May have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5) Might establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6) May have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
7) May 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) May 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) Might violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10) May have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
11) Might 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) Could contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the 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

Recommendation

I have found that the Proposed Action is compatible with the White Mountains Resource Management Plan, and is an action that can be categorically excluded. The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 516 DM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and no further environmental analysis is required.



Collin Cogley
Outdoor Recreation Planner
Eastern Interior Field Office

12/8/11
Date

Concurrence

I concur that the above action is in conformance with the White Mountains Resource Management Plan, does not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances, and qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion.



Lenore Heppler
Field Manager
Eastern Interior Field Office

12/20/11
Date

**Decision for Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-AK-02000-2011-0003-CX
Nolywaida/Free Use Firewood Permit**

Decision

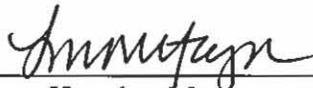
It is my decision to allow the harvest of up to five cords of personal use firewood from the proposed site near the Davidson Ditch Wayside with the allowances proposed by Mr. Nolywaika to not use motorized vehicles off of the road or wayside surfaces, not cut any live trees, and to reduce visible disturbance by leaving only minimal stumps and scattering brush. In addition, BLM requires that no firewood be harvested within a 30 ft. radius of the Davidson Ditch siphon in-take and that any other historic or pre-historic artifacts be left undisturbed and reported to BLM upon discovery.

Rationale

1. This action is in accordance with Goal 3.2 of the White Mountains Resource Management Plan which states: Where compatible with recreation goals, permit multiple uses of resources on land classified as semi-primitive.
2. There are no anticipated impacts to cultural resources. See attachment #1.
3. The Proposed Action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. See attachment #2.
4. There are no expected effects the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). See attachment #3

Appeal Procedures

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeal must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management Eastern Interior Field Office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. Appeals from administrative decisions issued by BLM-Alaska must be filed in writing in the office of the deciding official, either by mail or hand delivery. Notices of appeal transmitted by electronic means, such as facsimile or e-mail, will not be accepted as timely filed.



Lenore Heppler, Manager
Eastern Interior Field Office

12-8-11
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review and decision, contact Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Eastern Interior Field Office, at 907-474-2382.