

NEPA – Internal Project Scoping

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Action: Closure of an unauthorized dump on BLM land

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

BLM/Applicant Purpose and Need

The BLM plans to close the modern section of the dump located within the Fort Egbert National Historic Landmark in Eagle, Alaska. The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) categorizes the dump as a Class III landfill under 18 Alaska Administrative Code (AAC) 60. Waste materials within the boundaries of the modern dump site will be consolidated and the area will be capped with approximately 24 inches of mineral material approved by the ADEC.

The need for action is to comply with State of Alaska Solid Waste Management regulations outlined under 18 AAC 60. The BLM Hazardous Management and Resource Restoration Program (HMRR) objectives include maintaining compliance with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and directives. The BLM is also required to minimize the impacts to the environment under the authority of Section 302(d)(2)(A) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976.

BLM Decision to be Made

The BLM will make a decision on how to complete the capping of the dump at Fort Egbert and determine what mitigation measures if any would be necessary to prevent undue and unnecessary degradation of public lands.

Description of Proposed Activities

The proposed action is to cap the modern section of the dump located within the bounds of Fort Egbert. The dump encompasses approximately 0.5 acres along the northern bluff, parallel to the parade grounds. The attached map (Figure 3) outlines the perimeter of the cap area. Marsh Creek, LLC has been awarded the contract to complete this project. Marsh Creek will complete a work plan outlining the steps for closing the dump. The work plan must be reviewed by the BLM and approved by ADEC prior to project execution. The project is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2012.

Project execution has been divided into three phases. Phase I incorporates all of the planning associated with capping the dump. Marsh Creek will complete a work plan and establish working relationships with ADEC, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Regulatory Office, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, City of Eagle and Village of Eagle. The work plan will include a schedule, project team organization, a description of major project tasks, and details for site controls and project work flow. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be completed in accordance with the Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES). This project is likely to impact less than half an acre of wetlands (Figure 3). Consultation between Marsh Creek and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers Regulatory Office regarding Section 404 permitting is on-going. Public meetings with the City of Eagle and the Village of Eagle will be held once a work plan has been approved by ADEC.

Phase II, includes implementation of the work plan. Marsh Creek anticipates mobilizing equipment to the site around July 14th, 2012. A 200 series Tracked Excavator, D-4 or D-6 class Dozer, 297 skid steer loader, tow behind compressor, a water tank trailer, crew truck, and a truck van will be utilized. Project execution is tentatively scheduled to begin shortly after July 15, 2012. This date was selected to reduce the chance of taking nesting birds in accordance with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Region recommendations for complying with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. If conditions in July are not appropriate for field activities then the project will commence later in the summer of 2012.

A BLM Archeologist will be on site prior to the start of field activities to identify the outer limits of the site. Marsh Creek is also planning on mobilizing a survey crew to establish site controls for use during construction. SWPPP controls will be constructed and debris will be collected using a tracked excavator and laborers using hand tools within the "solid waste debris area" on the Figure 3. Mineral material will be added from the top of the bluff to create access to the lower section of the modern dump. Minimal vegetation clearing will occur to facilitate access to the debris scattered along the dump toe. It is estimated that less than 5 cords of wood will be removed. The wood removed under this contract will be made available to the Eagle community through free use firewood permits.

Mineral material will be sourced from the Eagle area. The cap will be constructed of at least 24" of mineral material that is approved by ADEC. Marsh Creek currently proposes to use pit run as the cap material. The haul route will be established in the work plan and designed to minimize impacts on the road and residents. Dust control measures will include decreased vehicle speed and water spray. The cap material will be pushed from the top of the dump in 2-foot lifts downward to the toe of the dumpsite. Final grades will not exceed a 2:1 slope. The perimeter of the cover shall be graded to a 3:1 slope.

Once grade has been achieved a jute mat cover will be installed. BLM approved seed mixture and fertilizer will be broadcast in the area. The Statement of Work (SOW) outlines the seed specifications and seed tags will be approved by BLM prior to broadcast. A barrier approximately 300 ft. in length will be installed along the top of the reclaimed dump to discourage motorized use of the site and to facilitate vegetation establishment. The BLM is currently coordinating with the National Park Service's National Historic Landmark office regarding integration of a barrier into the project site.

Upon completion of the project, surveyors will be re-mobilized to complete as-built drawings of the cap topography, limits, and features such as the fencing. The boundaries of the modern section of the dump will be identified on the Master Title Plat for future reference.

Phase III will include final reporting and monitoring plan. Marsh Creek will prepare draft and final closure reports for the modern dump. They will also prepare a draft and final monitoring plan for regulatory compliance and later implementation by the BLM. The BLM is required to complete visual inspections of the cap annually for the first 5 years. The dump location must be annotated on the Master Title Plat.

Location, Land Status and Conformance with Land Use Plans

Location: The proposed action will take place in Section 31 NW1/4, Township 1 South, Range 33 East, Fairbanks Meridian. The dump site is west of the National Park Service buildings located on Fort Egbert in Eagle, Alaska (Figure 1)

Land Status: The project area is within Lot 1, USS 4033 along the Yukon River in Eagle, Alaska. The Master Title Plat is attached as Figure 2.

Conformance with Land Use Plans: The proposed action is located within the area covered by the Fortymile Management Framework Plan. The following sections apply to the work site.

- Lands Objective 7: Terminate and prevent unauthorized use on public lands in the Resource Area.
- Lands 7.1: Following the establishment of an alternative solid waste disposal site, undertake the cleanup of the present Eagle dumpsite.

FIGURES

Figure 1 – Vicinity Map

Figure 2 – Master Title Plat (MTP)

Figure 3 – Wetland Sample Points and Boundary Delineation