

Decision Record

FF093667 US Air Force, Right-of-Way Grant for the Snowy Peak Communication Site
The USAF has applied for a right-of-way grant to re-authorize the operation and maintenance of the Snowy Peak communication site in order to continue to provide expanded communication capabilities in Alaska's eastern airspace.

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the US Air Force to continue to operate and maintain the Snowy Peak communication site in order to provide expanded communication capabilities in Alaska's eastern airspace. Refer to the attached stipulations for mitigations measures that have been selected to be implemented.

Public Involvement

The Native Village of Fort Yukon and the Doyon, Limited Regional Corporation were sent information on the proposed renewal of the communication site via email on February 29, 2012. The Gwichayaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government, speaking on behalf of the Native Village of Fort Yukon, responded with no objections, though they requested that we conduct a site visit in the future to ensure the USAF is abiding by the terms of the right-of-way grant. Plans are being made to visit the Upper Black River Subunit in the summer of 2013. Doyon, Limited responded with no objections or concerns.

Rationale

1. The environmental effects of this action were considered in DOI-BLM-AK-0200-2012-0008 and were found to have no significant impacts, thus an environmental impact statement is not required. This includes the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Endangered Species Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and the National Environmental Policy Act. All concerns are appropriately addressed in the original EA and mitigation measures are being carried forward in stipulations attached to the right-of-way grant.
2. There is no land use plan for this area.
3. The decision to allow the proposed action is consistent with the use of public lands under the authority of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2900.

Appeal Provisions

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (Board), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the enclosed Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, the notice of appeal must be filed in this 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. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

/s/ Michael Gibson For
Lenore Heppler, Manager, Eastern Interior Field Office

7/27/2012
Date

Contact Person

For additional concerning this decision, contact Michael Gibson at the Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709, or by telephone at (907) 474-2263.