

NEPA - Internal Project Scoping

Document Type: EA

Document Number: DOI-BLM-AK-02000-2012-0010-EA

Action: Application for Land Use Permit

Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

BLM Purpose and Need

The purpose for action is to determine whether or not to issue a Land Use Permit to the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The permit would authorize ADF&G to construct a wood-frame fuel storage shed (8' x 8' x 8' high) and store aviation fuel there to support their monitoring and wildlife management activities. The need for action is established under the authority of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2920. The FLPMA authorizes the BLM to regulate the use, occupancy and development of public lands. The purpose of the regulations found in 43 CFR is to establish procedures for the orderly and timely processing of proposals for non-federal use of the public lands.

Applicant's Purpose and Need

The State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game has applied for a Land Use Permit to authorize their construction of a fuel storage shed on public lands at Molly Creek airstrip and store up to 225 gallons of aviation fuel there year-round. The fuel would be kept in 55 gallon drums inside the fuel storage shed along with several five gallon plastic fuel containers. Secondary containment of fuel within the shed will be accomplished with a pop-up type vinyl "duck pond" on the floor of the structure. The duck pond will be large enough to hold up to four 55 gallon drums of fuel and several five gallon plastic fuel containers.

BLM Decision to be Made

The BLM will make a decision whether or not to issue the State of Alaska a Land Use Permit to authorize the construction of a temporary fuel storage shed and the storage of fuel on public lands at the Molly Creek airstrip. If a decision to issue the Land Use Permit is made, the BLM will also determine mitigation measures (if any are needed) to minimize adverse impacts to the environment and to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands.

Description of Proposed Activities

The ADF&G plans to build a wood frame fuel storage shed (8' x 8' x 8' high) adjacent to the south side of the Molly Creek airstrip in June 2012. The exact location will be very close to where they have stored fuel in the past. Fuel will primarily be stored in 55 gallon drums. When refueling of aircraft is needed, fuel will be transferred from the 55 gallon drums into five gallon containers using either gravity fed tubes/hoses or hand pumps. The fuel will then be transferred to aircraft from the five gallon containers. Absorbent pads and other materials necessary for clean-up of fuel spills will be available on site in the storage shed.

Location, Land Status and Conformance with Land Use Plans

Location: The proposed action will occur approximately 42 miles west of Chicken, Alaska within sections 21 and 22 of Township 27 N., Range 11 E., Copper River Meridian.

Land Status: The subject lands are currently selected by the State of Alaska. They were previously selected by Doyon, Limited but were relinquished by Doyon, Limited on October 31, 2011.

Conformance with Land Use Plans: The proposed action is located within an area covered by the Fortymile Management Framework Plan of 1980 and is consistent with Objective 1 of that plan which is to "make lands available for intensive use and public purposes".