

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**Land Use Permit**  
**FF095636**

State of Alaska  
Department of Fish and Game  
Wildlife Conservation  
100 Center Street  
Tok, Alaska 99780

DOI-BLM-AK-02000-2012-0010-EA

Located in:  
Eastern Interior Field Office  
Township 27N., Range 11E., Copper River Meridian  
Approximately 42 miles West of Chicken, Alaska

Prepared by:  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern Interior Field Office  
1150 University Ave.  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844

## **I. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action**

### **BLM Purpose and Need:**

The BLM manages and administers the use of federal public lands and resources in the Eastern Interior of Alaska and is obligated to respond to applications for legitimate uses of those lands and resources.

The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game has filed an application for a Land Use Permit to authorize their storage of aviation fuel on public lands. The BLM needs to respond to the application under the authority of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2920.

### **Applicant's Purpose and Need:**

The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game has applied for a Land Use Permit to authorize their storage of fuel, primarily for aviation purposes, on public lands at the Molly Creek airstrip. They are requesting storage of up to 225 gallons of fuel. The fuel is needed to support their ongoing monitoring of caribou, moose, wolf and bear populations in Game Management units 20E and 20D.

**BLM Decision to be Made:** The BLM will make a decision whether or not to issue the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game a Land Use Permit to construct a temporary storage shed and to store fuel on public lands. The BLM will also determine whether or not mitigation measures will be required to minimize adverse impacts to the environment and to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands.

## **II. Potential Issues:**

**Internal Scoping:** The following environmental components were identified as being affected to a minor extent, but not needing to be analyzed in this NEPA document: *Soils; Wastes, hazardous or solid; water quality-surface or ground; and wilderness characteristics.*

**External Scoping:** The proposed action is not likely to cause any public concern or controversy; therefore, no external scoping is planned.

## **III. Location, Land Status and Conformance with Land Use Plans:**

**Location:** The proposed action would be located approximately 42 miles West of Chicken, Alaska. The specific lands affected are within sections 20 and 21 of Township 27N., Range 11E., Copper River Meridian.

**Land Status:** The subject lands are currently selected by the State of Alaska. They were previously selected by Doyon, Limited Regional Native Corporation but were relinquished by Doyon 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".

#### **IV. Proposed Action and Alternatives:**

##### Proposed Action Alternative:

The proposed action is to authorize the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game to construct a temporary storage shed and store aviation fuel on public lands. They plan to construct a framed wooden fuel storage shed that is 8 feet wide, 8 feet deep and 8 feet high. The shed will be constructed slightly above ground on a "foundation" of concrete blocks or treated wood and it will have a metal door that can be locked. It will not be permanently affixed to the ground.

The amount of fuel to be stored will vary but will be no more than four (55 gallon) drums at any one time. Secondary containment of fuel within the shed will be accomplished with a pop-up type vinyl "duck pond" on the floor of the structure. This duck pond will be large enough to contain up to four 55 gallon barrels of fuel and several five gallon plastic fuel cans/jugs.

The fuel shed will also have a short (2 to 3 foot) ramp built in front of the door so that barrels can be rolled in and out of the shed; however, most of the fuel will be transferred out of the shed by using 5 gallon containers. The 5 gallon containers will be filled either by gravity fed tubes or hand pumps. Absorbent pads and other spill clean-up supplies will be kept on site to take care of any fuel spills that may occur.

##### No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative would result in the applicant not being issued a Land Use Permit to store fuel on public lands as requested. Therefore, the storage of fuel would not be authorized. This alternative would make it more difficult for Alaska Department of Fish and Game to carry out their work of monitoring and managing wildlife.

#### **V. Affected Environment:**

The Molly Creek airstrip is located in a remote part of Interior Alaska and has no road access. Ongoing uses of the area consist primarily of hunting, trapping, subsistence, and dispersed recreation. Use levels are relatively low due to the difficulty and cost of accessing the area.

#### **VI. Impacts – Direct, Indirect, and Cumulative:**

No direct, indirect or cumulative impacts have been identified, and none are expected.

##### Mitigating Measures for Proposed Alternative

No mitigating measures have been identified as being needed.

##### Residual Impacts:

No residual impacts have been identified.

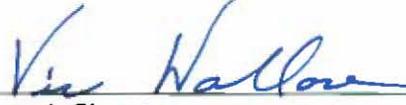
#### **VII. Consultation and Coordination:**

Persons/Agencies Consulted

State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	Applicant		
Ruth Gronquist	Wildlife Biologist	Invasive, Nonnative Species, Vegetation, Threatened/Endangered Species, Subsistence, Wildlife/Terrestrial	BLM BLM
Jason Post	Fisheries Biologist	Essential Fish Habitat, Wildlife/Aquatic	BLM
Holli McClain	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Recreation, Wilderness	BLM
Robin Mills	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	BLM
Skip Theisen	Fire Management Specialist	Fire Management	BLM
Vic Wallace	Realty Specialist	Lands	BLM
Ben Kennedy	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Floodplains, Water Quality, Wetlands/Riparian, Soils	BLM
Collin Cogley	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Environmental Justice, Farm Lands	BLM
Rebecca Hile	Physical Scientist	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	BLM
Darrel Vandeweg	Geologist	Mineral Resources	BLM

List of Attachments

Attachment A	Assessment of Archeological, Historical, and Paleontological Resources (2 pp)
Attachment B	Compliance with ANILCA Section 810 Evaluation and Findings (1 pp)

  
Preparer's Signature  
Vic Wallace  
Realty Specialist

June 19, 2012  
Date

## Decision Record

Issuance of a Land Use Permit (2920 06) to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to store up to 225 gallons of aviation fuel on public lands at Molly Creek airstrip approximately 42 miles west of Chicken, Alaska.

**FF095636**

Decision: It is my decision to authorize the storage of fuel described above on BLM-managed lands at Molly Creek airstrip in the Eastern Interior Field Office geographic area. A Land Use Permit will be issued to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for a period of three (3) years; in accordance with regulations found in 43 CFR 2920 and pursuant to Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

Rationale:

1. 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 2920.
2. All concerns are appropriately addressed in EA DOI-BLM-AK-02000-2012-0010. This includes cultural resources and subsistence concerns (see attached NHPA Section 106 and ANILCA 810 findings).

  
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Manager, Eastern Interior Field Office

6/19/12  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Appeal Provisions:**

This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)).

Any appeal of this decision must follow the procedures set forth in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of the decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the authorized officer at Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks Alaska 99709. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the authorized officer. If you wish to file a petition for stay of the effectiveness of this decision pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and must show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (3) The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is

not granted, and (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay. If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the authorized officer. A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99508, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the authorized officer and/or IBLA.

Contact Person

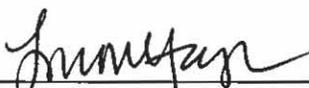
For additional information concerning this decision, contact Vic Wallace at the Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709, or by telephone at 907-474-2363.

**Finding of No Significant Impact**

Land Use Permit (2920 06) application FF095636 for storage of fuel on public lands.

Finding of No Significant Impact:

I have reviewed Environmental Assessment DOI-BLM-AK02000-2012-0010 and have concluded that the impacts of storing fuel on public lands adjacent to the Molly Creek airstrip in the Eastern Interior Field Office area (sections 20 and 21 of T.27 N., R.11E., Copper River Meridian) have been adequately addressed. There are no impacts that approached the threshold of significance. Therefore, I have determined that a Finding of No Significant Impact is appropriate and an environmental impact statement is not required.

  
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Manager, Eastern Interior Field Office

6/19/20  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date