



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: FF096418 (380800)

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION /PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION AND DECISION

DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2012-0009-CX

Proposed Action: South Fork Harrison Creek AML Cleanup
Date of Proposed Action: June 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012
Location: South Fork Harrison Creek AML site
Sections 10 & 11, T6N, R12E, Fairbanks Meridian
Applicant: DOI-BLM-FDO-EIFO
Serial Number: FF096418 (380800)

Description of Proposed Action:

BLM will solicit a contractor for the removal and disposal of solid waste from old mining claims along South Fork Harrison Creek. The site falls within the Steese National Conservation Area, approximately 20 miles south of milepost 114.1 of the Steese Highway. Existing trails will be utilized to access the site. Vegetation removal may occur along the South Fork trail from the junction of South Fork with the main stem of Harrison Creek. No surface disturbance is anticipated outside of solid waste removal.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Steese National Conservation Area Land Use Plan/Record of Decision

Date Approved/Amended: February 6, 1986

Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Improve the water quality of Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River.

Goal 3: Manage lands consistent with multiple use principles and maintenance, of environmental quality.

Objectives:

- Improve access to recreational opportunities.
- Provide for quality hunting, trapping, fishing and wildlife viewing.

- Provide opportunities for ORV use where compatible with fish, wildlife, and recreation objectives.

Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with BLM Handbook 1790-1, Appendix 4 (J) (10), which states “Removal of structures and materials of no historical value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.”

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 Steese National Conservation Area 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 that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement is not needed.

Rebecca Hile

Rebecca Hile, Physical Scientist
Eastern Interior Field Office

5/18/12

Date

Concurrence

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

Lenore Heppler

Lenore Heppler
Field Manager
Eastern Interior Field Office

5/18/12

Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Rebecca Hile, Physical Scientist, Eastern Interior Field Office, at 907-474-2371.

**Decision for Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2012-0009-CX
South Fork Harrison Creek AML cleanup**

Decision

It is my decision to continue cleanup actions along South Fork Harrison Creek. Harrison Creek is a first order tributary of Birch Creek which is designated as a National Wild River. The following stipulations shall be followed to protect cultural resources and to minimize potential contamination from petroleum, oil and lubricants.

Stipulations

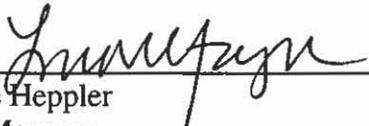
1. Any historic or pre-historic artifacts shall be undisturbed and reported to BLM upon discovery.
2. All petroleum products on site shall be stored within compatible secondary containment.
3. All spills shall be contained and cleaned up as soon as possible. The contractor will report any spill or release of petroleum products that affects bodies of water to the ADEC as soon as possible (in Fairbanks 457-2121 or 1-800-478-9300 outside normal business hours), along with the Authorized Officer, Lenore Heppler at 907-474-2200. Spill response absorbent materials shall be available on site to mitigate a hazardous material spill or leak.
4. Solid waste shall be disposed of within an ADEC approved landfill.
5. Human waste shall be backhauled off the site.

Rationale

1. This action is in accordance with Goals 1 & 3 of the Steese National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan.
2. Completing cleanup from previous mining activities is important to the health of the environment and all that visit the Steese National Conservation Area.
3. Removal actions will protect the water quality of tributaries of Birch Creek.
4. There are no anticipated impacts to cultural resources. See attachment **
5. The Proposed Action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. See attachment **

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
Field Manager
Eastern Interior Field Office

5/18/72
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review and decision, contact Rebecca Hile, Physical Scientist, Eastern Interior Field Office, at 907-474-2371.