



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Eastern Interior Field Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

In Reply Refer To:

FF-095632(Egbert), FF-095637(Chicken Station), FF-095628(Fortymile Bridge), FF-095639(Mt. Fairplay), FF-095640 (West Fork CG/Launch), FF-095832(Logging Cabin), FF-095834 (Mosquito Fork), and FF-095835 (South Fork)

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION /PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION AND DECISION

DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2012-0011-CX

Proposed Action: Taylor Highway Recreation Repairs

Date of Proposed Action: June 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012

Location: BLM sites along the Taylor Highway including the waysides at Mt. Fairplay, Logging Cabin Creek, West Fork Boat Launch, Mosquito Fork, South Fork, and Fortymile Bridge, the Chicken Field Station, Fort Egbert, and the West Fork and Walker Fork Campgrounds.

Applicant: DOI-BLM-FDO-Eastern Interior Field Office

Description of Proposed Action:

This project includes:

- Replace one existing toilet building at Fort Egbert.
- Replace two existing toilet buildings at Chicken Field Station.
- Mt. Fairplay Wayside – Resurface parking area and reclaim barrow pit.
- Logging Cabin Creek Wayside – Resurface parking area and driveway.
- West Fork Boat Launch/Wayside – Resurface parking area, repair river access trail, and replace display carrier.
- West Fork Campground – Resurface road, replace three existing outhouses, and replace display carrier.
- Mosquito Fork Wayside – Resurface parking area, replace toilet, and replace sign carrier.
- South Fork Boat Launch/Wayside – Resurface parking area, replace two toilets, and replace sign carrier.
- Fortymile Bridge Boat Launch/Wayside – Resurface driveway, replace toilet, and replace sign carrier.

- Installation and/or repair of two wells at the Chicken Field Station and Walker Fork Campground.

Any reseeding will be done using BLM approved seed formulas analyzed for native Alaska seed content and lack of potentially non-native or invasive species seed content. Gravel and material sites used on the project will be documented and follow-up monitoring may be done to assess potential spread and impact of non-native and/or invasive plants.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Fortymile Management Framework Plan

Date Approved/Amended: September 8, 1980

Recreation Objectives

Objective 2: Provide recreation facilities that will enable visitors to use and enjoy the public lands in a safe and healthful manner.

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 3 (1.7) which states “Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities having limited context and intensity.”

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 Fortymile Management Framework 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.

/s/ Collin Cogley

7/27/2012

Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Eastern Interior Field Office

Date

Concurrence

I concur that the above action is in conformance with the Fortymile Management Framework Plan, does not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances, and qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion.

/s/ Michael Gibson For

7/27/2012

Lenore Heppler
Field Manager
Eastern Interior Field Office

Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Eastern Interior Field Office, at 907-474-2382.

**Decision for Categorical Exclusion
DOI-BLM-AK-0200-2012-0011-CX
Taylor Highway Recreation Repairs**

Decision

It is my decision to allow the Taylor Highway Recreation Repairs. These repairs will ensure a safer more enjoyable visitor experience within the Fortymile region and along the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River.

Rationale

1. This action is in accordance with Recreation Objective 2 of the Fortymile Management Framework Plan.
2. These repairs will ensure a safer more enjoyable visitor experience within the Fortymile region and along the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River.
3. There are no expected effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). See attachment **
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.

/s/ Michael Gibson For

7/27/2012

Lenore Heppler
Field Manager
Eastern Interior Field Office

Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review and decision, contact Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Eastern Interior Field Office, at 907-474-2382.