

Decision Record

Jim Fehrenbacher and Ruth Stough have submitted a modification to a previously approved Plan of Operations which authorized mechanized placer mining on claim AKFF 055420. The proposed modification would include the use of a 5 inch suction dredge and conduct work in Dome Creek on the previously approved claim (FF055420), as well as the following claims: AKFF 055419, AKFF 055441-055448, inclusive.

Decision:

It is my decision to authorize suction dredge operations on claims AKFF 055419, AKFF 055420, and AKFF 055441-055448, inclusive. Mitigation measures will be consistent with those outlined in the Decision Record for EA-AK-080-91-009.

Rationale:

1. A Determination of NEPA Adequacy has been completed for this action and it has been determined that the environmental effects of the proposed activity were adequately considered in EA AK-080-91-009 completed in 2000. The assessment required by NHPA Section 106, the findings required by ANILCA Section 810, and Essential Fish Habitat Clearance have been completed. No additional NEPA analysis is required.
2. The proposed action is in compliance with the Fortymile Management Framework Plan and consistent with the use of public lands within the area
3. The proposed action will take place on previously disturbed ground and is considered a minor modification to previously authorized activities within the claim block.
4. The action will not increase the potential for undue and unnecessary damage to the environment.

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 email will not be accepted as timely filed. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

/s/ Lenore Heppler
Manager, Eastern Interior Field Office

12/05/2012
Date

Contact Person: For additional information concerning this decision, contact Matthew Reece at the Eastern Interior Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709, or by telephone at (907) 474-2334.

Attachments

1. Mitigation Measures from EA Log No. EA-AK-080-91-009 (04/12/2000)