



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

Campbell Tract Special Recreation Permit Environmental Analysis DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2013-001-EA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Background

In fall of 2013, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Anchorage Field Office prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) analyzing the effects of authorizing six special recreation permits (SRPs), as well as future foreseeable SRPs.

Finding of No Significant Impact

This action and its effects have been evaluated consistent with the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for determining *significance*. Per 40 CFR § 1508.27, a determination of *significance* requires consideration of both context and intensity. The former refers to the relative context in which the action would occur such as society as a whole, affected region, affected interests, etc. The latter refers to the severity of the impact.

Context

The extent of this project is limited to approximately 730-acres of the Campbell Tract Special Recreation Management Area, which is under the jurisdiction of the BLM by withdrawal from the Federal public domain for BLM's administrative use as directed by *Public Land Order 7471*, dated February 11, 2002, which expires in twenty years, 2022.

The anticipated effects are site-specific in nature and mitigated with SRP stipulations in order to manage visitor use, protect natural and cultural resources, and achieve the goals and objectives of the field office recreation program. This project would not affect local, state, regional or national resources or interests.

Intensity

1. Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse.

The EA considered and disclosed both potential beneficial and adverse effects of the alternatives. For example, the EA discloses that the proposed action may directly affect the recreation experience provided to other public visitors while Organized Group activities or Competitive

Events occur. The activities and events are generally limited temporally and geographically with stipulations to minimize effects. The EA also acknowledges that the No Action Alternative would preclude all enforceable authority by the BLM. Future activities and events would continue to occur without BLM permit stipulations, monitoring, and enforceable compliance (EA, p. 13).

2. *The degree to which the proposed action affects public health and safety.*

The proposed action provides measures to manage the SRP activities safely and enhance trail user safety with the requirement of permit stipulations (Tables 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 in the EA, pp. 15 - 25).

3. *Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity of historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas.*

There are no parks, prime farmlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas in proximity to the Proposed Action. The Campbell Tract Facility contains cultural resource artifacts from World War Two in off-trail areas which have been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district, as well as the Campbell Airstrip (EA, pp. 41-42). Stipulations related to off-trail activities were included to protect these cultural resources.

4. *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

Project stakeholders were contacted during the development of the EA and a presentation was offered at a local Trail User Group Meeting in November 2012 (EA, p. 9). Additionally, the EA was circulated for a two-week public review prior to developing this FONSI (EA, p. 1). No unique or appreciable scientific controversy has been identified regarding the effects of the Proposed Action.

5. *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

Neither the analysis nor the public outreach efforts indicate that there are unique or unknown risks to the human environment.

6. *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

Per the *Ring of Fire Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision* (2008), the Proposed Action is consistent with the objectives outlined in the document and is not in conflict with other resources in the area. The document (BLM, 2008, pp. ROD-10) specifies that, "...Management of this [Campbell Tract] administrative site would continue to be guided by:

A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the BLM Campbell Tract Facility, dated June 1988.

The 1988 Management Plan covers: recreation and environmental education issues and opportunities; management objectives and constraints; and twenty management actions that make up the management program for the administrative site, none of which address the issuance of special recreation permits. The next revision to the existing 24-year old Management Plan would address Special Recreation Permits. In the meantime, helpful guidance from the existing plan includes recognition of one type of proposed SRP –competitive event – under the recreation management use category: "The trail system will be managed primarily for multiple, non-motorized trail uses, including competitive events," (BLM, 1988). (EA, p. 5)

7. *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

Cumulative effects were addressed for each of the resources. The environmental analysis did not reveal any significant cumulative effects (EA, pp. 41-50). The EA did not identify that this action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.

8. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources.*

This project has no potential to affect historic properties (EA, p. 45). See also the response to item 3 above.

9. *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

There are no Federally threatened or endangered species within the project area (EA, p. 10).

10. Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.

The Proposed Action does not threaten to violate any law. The Proposed Action is located within the planning area covered by the *Ring of Fire Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision* (2008), and associated step-down plans, which provides direction for the protection of the environment on public lands (EA, p. 8).

Conclusion

Therefore, on the basis of the information contained in the EA (DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2013-001-EA), and all other information available to me, it is my determination that:

1. None of the environmental effects identified meet the definition of significance as defined by context and intensity considerations at 40 CFR § 1508.27;
2. The alternatives are in conformance with the Ring of Fire RMP/ROD (2008); and
3. The Proposed Action and alternatives do not constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment.

Therefore, neither Environmental Impact Statement nor a supplement to the existing EA is necessary and neither will be prepared.

/s/ Alan Bittner

May 10, 2013

Alan Bittner
Anchorage Field Manager

Date

Attachments

BLM 2013. *Environmental Assessment: Campbell Tract Special Recreation Permits*, DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2013-001-EA. May 9, 2013. Prepared by Anchorage Field Office, Anchorage, Alaska.