

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION /PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION

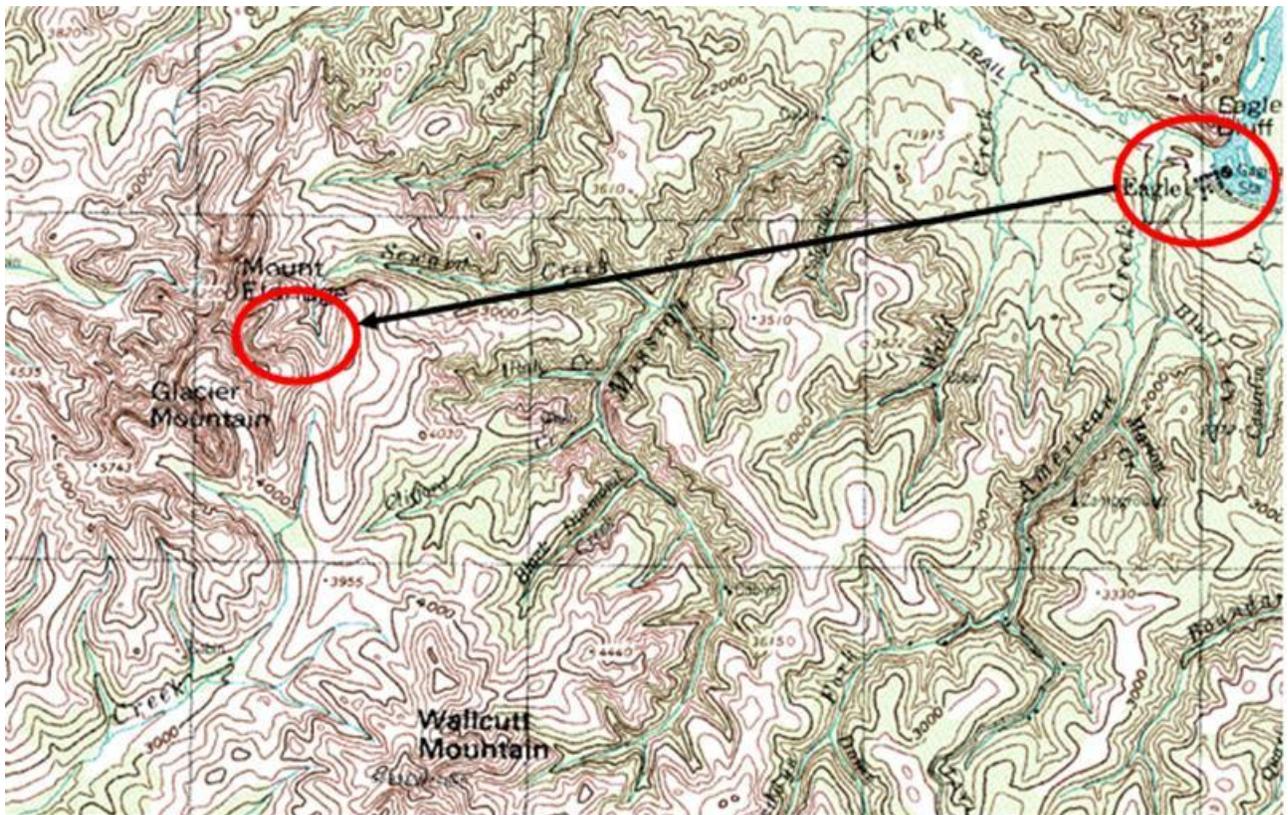
DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2013-0007-CX

A. Background

Proposed Action: Renew Right-of-Way (ROW) for a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska Fire Service (AFS) radio repeater.

Date of Proposed Action: Winter, 2012

Location: The repeater is located on top of Glacier Mountain approximately 25 miles south west of the City of Eagle, AK. The repeater is located in the NE1/4/SW1/4, Sec.17 T2S. R30E of the Fairbanks Meridian, (N.66 44.340 x W 141 46.341) the site is less than one acre in size.

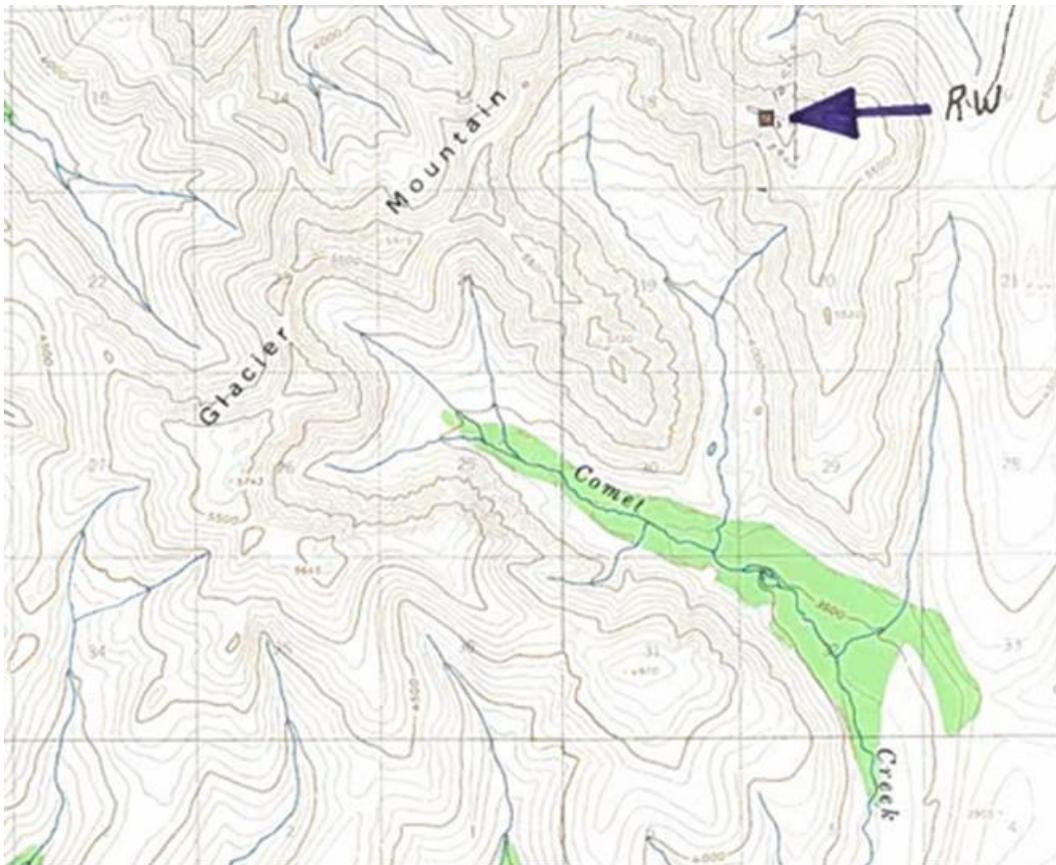


Applicant: Department of the Interior, BLM.

Serial Number: FF 044932

Description of the Proposed Action

Alaska Fire Service has submitted an application to renew the ROW for a radio repeater. The antenna tower is 10' W x 30' H. The radio and power unit is 8'H x 6'W x 8'L. The repeater is powered by a 6 ampere, 12V BP-solar panels and eight 6TL lead-acid surplus reconditioned Hum-vee batteries. The repeater is used by the AFS for communication between aircraft travelling in and around Glacier Mountain area and the dispatch office in Fairbanks. Other BLM staff also used the repeater when conducting projects within the Fortymile subunit. The AFS communications technicians will visit the site by helicopter once a year for regular maintenance. If the repeater fails, AFS staff will visit the site two or more times by helicopter to fix the problem. In the future AFS might reduce the size of the tower if demand for use decreases. The ROW would be granted for 20 years and would be renewable if all stipulations (see exhibit A) have been met.



B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: The Proposed Action is in conformance with the Fortymile Management Framework Plan approved September 8, 1980, even though it is not specifically provide for, because it is clearly consistent with the following Land Use Plan objective under Lands (1) “Make lands available for intensive use and public purposes”.

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR 46.210 or United States Department of Interior Manual, Part 516 DM, Appendix 4 (E). Realty 9. which states: Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or right-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations. The original EA is listed as EAR #AK-027-EA8-188.



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/ Kevan Cooper
Kevan Cooper Realty Specialist
Eastern Interior Field Office

5/6/2013
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 listed above, and qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion (CX).

/s/ Lenore Heppler
Lenore Heppler
Field Manager
Eastern Interior Field Office

5/6/2013
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX, contact Kevan Cooper, Realty Specialist, Eastern Interior Field Office, at 907-474-2316