

# **Decision Record - Memorandum**

**Prepared by**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

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# **Chapter 1. Decision Record — Memorandum**

*Yukon Quest International, Ltd. Special Recreation Permit*

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## **1.1. Compliance**

The proposed action is within the Steese and Fortymile Subunits of the Eastern Interior Field Office. Activities associated with the Yukon Quest trail are addressed in the Resource Management Plan for the Steese National Conservation Area, February 6, 1986 (BLM-AK-PT-86-018-1610-028); Prescriptions Common to All Management Units, Recreation Management, Management Direction, Protection of important Recreation Values: Important recreational resource values that make the Steese NCA unique will be protected. These values include outstanding scenic vistas of high mountain terrain, primitive areas with virtually no evidence of man-made improvements, wildlife viewing opportunities, high ridge hiking opportunities along unmarked trails, unique landforms and geologic features, hunting opportunities, and outstanding opportunities for winter use of remote backcountry through a system of primitive cabins. Special Recreation Use Permits are required for commercial uses such as commercial outfitting and guiding and commercial river trips, etc. The trail is also addressed in the Birch Creek River Management Plan, December 1983 (BLM-AK-PT-83-003-1610-REP-87-080); Item 7 – Visitor Management, Action 7.3: Permits are required for all commercial river guides and outfitters operating within the river corridor.

Activities associated with the Eagle Field Station are addressed in the Fortymile Management Framework Plan, 09/08/1980; even though is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP objective(s): Objective Lands.1: Make lands available for intensive use and public purposes.

Activities associated with the Central Field Station are not covered by any LUP.

The proposed action is not within an area designated as a Research Natural Area.

## **1.2. Selected Action**

The proposed action is to issue a permit for a term of 5 years. The permittee will be permitted to conduct activities described in the proposed action section of the environmental assessment associated with a competitive sled-dog race on BLM-managed lands.

Stipulations on the authorization will be the General Terms on Form 2930–2 (May 2011).

## **1.3. Compliance with NEPA:**

The proposed action is an environmental assessment as documented in DOI-BLM-AK-F020–2013–0008–EA.

## **1.4. Public Involvement:**

The EA was posted on the BLM NEPA register. No public comments were received.

## **1.5. Rationale:**

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the approved land use plans and that no further environmental analysis is required.

The evaluation and finding done to comply with Section 810 of ANILCA found no significant restrictions to subsistence use.

The evaluation and finding done to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act found no anticipated impacts to cultural resources and recommended that the undertaking proceed.

The evaluation and finding done to comply with the Magnuson-Stevens Act found that the proposed action will not affect essential fish habitat.

The evaluation and finding done to comply with Executive Orders 11998 and 11990 found that the proposed action will not cause harm to the floodplain or associated wetlands of the Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River.

The evaluation and finding done to assess potential impacts to wilderness characteristics found that the proposed action will not significantly impair the size or naturalness of the area, or the opportunities for solitude and recreation of a primitive unconfined nature.

## **1.6. Appeal or Protest Opportunities:**

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 address below) within 30 days from receipt of this decision.

If you decide to file an appeal, you must carefully follow the procedure described on the enclosed form 1842-1. If you don't file your appeal at the locations specified on the form within 30 days, the Board may dismiss your appeal as untimely without considering its merits. Be sure to send a copy of your notice of appeal to each party named in this decision and to all of the addresses on the enclosed form 1842-1.

You may also ask the Board to stay or suspend the effect of this decision while your appeal is pending. If you desire a stay, you must enclose your request for a stay with your notice of appeal. You have the burden of showing a stay is justified.

The Board will grant a stay only if you provide sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the Board grants or denies the stay,
2. The likelihood of the success of your appeal on its merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the Board does not grant the stay, and;
4. Whether the public interest favors granting a stay.

## **1.7. Authorizing Official:**

/s/

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Lenore Heppler  
Field Manager

Date

## **1.8. Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact.

Holli McClain, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Eastern Interior Field Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
(907) 474.2378