

Categorical Exclusion

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

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Chapter 1. Moose Collar Retrieval

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A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2013-0004-CX

BLM Office: Central Yukon Field Office

Case File No.: F-96522

Proposed Action Title/Type: Moose Collar Retrieval

Location of Proposed Action: State of Alaska Moose Study Area 24 A/B (see map). Multiple townships encompassing public lands as well as other federal agency lands.

Description of Proposed Action: The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game proposes to use 1 to 2 snow machines from November to April (every year for five years), subject to snow conditions to retrieve moose collars that have been detached from the animal. They request a five (5) year permit; we would issue a three (3) year and renew for two (2) years. They would begin from the Dalton Highway Corridor mile post 56 to mile post 175 (Yukon River to Coldfoot) and work west. They do not know from year to year the exact location until the collar is detached, but the retrieval would be within the Moose Study Area 24 A/B. Snow machines would only be utilized with 12 inches of snow cover and 6 inches of freeze depth and if collar location is within a days trip. They will carry with them 5 gallon jugs of fuel for refueling, if they travel farther west they would obtain fuel and lodging in Bettles. If collars are farther west then a day trip, they propose to fly into Bettles and use Fish and Wildlife snow machines.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Dalton Utility Corridor RMP and Central Yukon RMP (Brooks Range, Hughes and Tozitna Subunits)

Date Approved/Amended: January 11, 1991 and March 1986

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Utility Corridor RMP, Appendix N Lands and Realty Program (page N-8)

7. Process applications for land use authorizations from the general public, Federal and State agencies and research organizations on a case-by-case basis.

Central Yukon RMP, Access (page 331)

Access to or across public lands will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s) (objectives, terms, and conditions).

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9,

11.9 E (Realty)

(19) Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage site, apiary sites, and construction sites where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

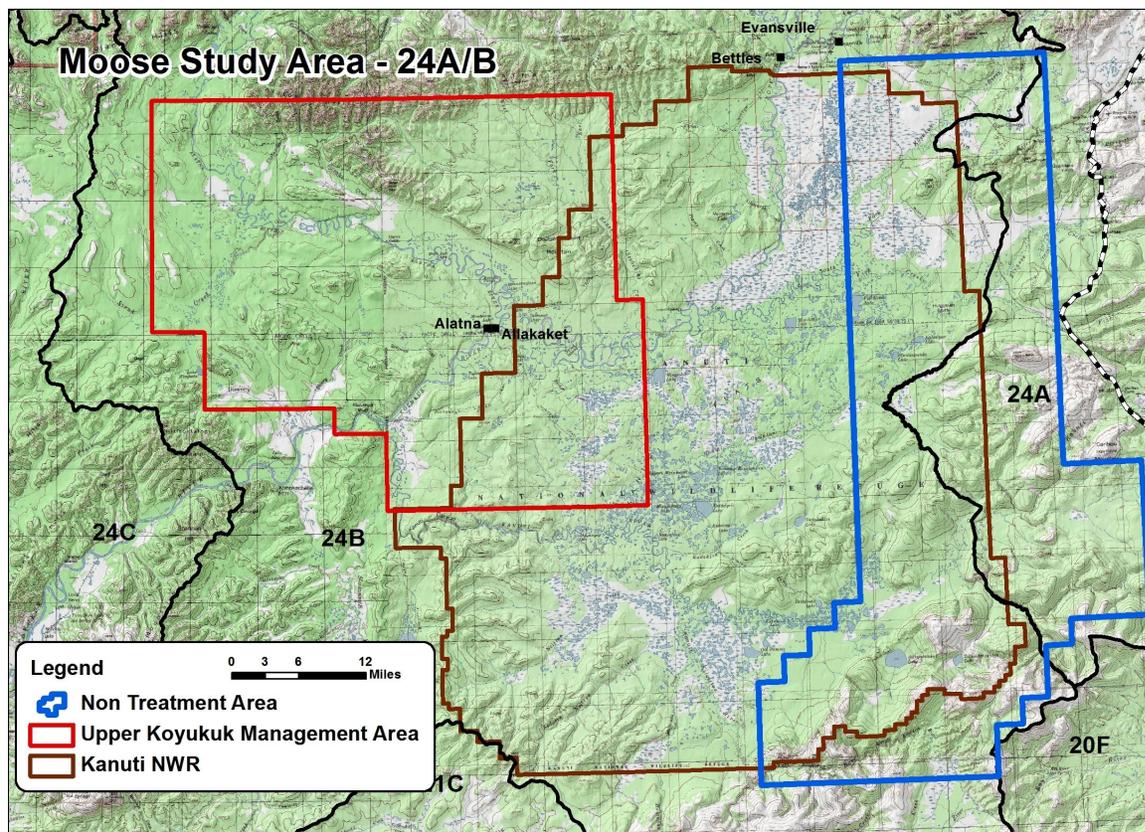


Figure 1.1. Map of Moose Study Game Units 24A/B

D. Approval and Contact Information

The proposed action is in conformance with a management framework plan or a resource management plan, 43 CFR § 1610.8(a)(3). The Department of the Interior has determined and found that the proposed action is within a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and that neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required, 40 CFR §1508.4I

It is therefore my decision to implement the action, as described, with appropriate mitigation measures or stipulations.

Mitigation Measures/Stipulations:

1. Permittee will not begin activities on the land until there is 6 inches of freeze depth and 12 inches of snow cover.
2. Permittee will also carry on the snow machine the proper absorbent material in the event of a fuel spill.

/s/ Nichelle W. Jacobson

Nichelle W. Jacobson
Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office

March 26, 2013

Date

Contact Person

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