

Premier Alaska Tours, Inc.

A. Background

BLM Office: Central Yukon Field Office

LLAKFO3000

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF095449

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permit — 2930

Location of Proposed Action: Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area (DHCMA)

Description of Proposed Action: The commercial tour operator proposes to provide guided tours of the Dalton Highway using recreation areas, public lands and facilities for business and financial gain. The applicant proposes to transport tourists in the DHCMA by motor-coach with travel beginning and ending in Fairbanks. The operator provides tours primarily during the months of May — September but there is a potential for off season tours. The specific activities are dependent on the season and weather conditions. Advertised activities include sightseeing tours, wildlife viewing, photography (non-commercial), interpretation of natural and living history, and stops at BLM designated and managed waysides. The dates of the proposed action are from January 1, 2013 – December 31, 2017 for a term of five (5) years.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: January 11, 1991

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) : Chapter 2 of the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (pages 2-26 and 2-27) Proposed Action #28 Recreation Management Areas and Recreation Program Objective 2 found in Appendix N (page N-19). Additional guidance is provided in the Recreation Area Management Plan Dalton Highway.

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 H; which states, “Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”

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.

I considered the proposed action of providing access for Premier Alaska Tours, Inc. and find that there is no potential for significant impacts to BLM lands in the Dalton Highway Corridor.

D. Approval and Contact Information

/s/ Nichelle Jacobson

4/23/2013

Nichelle W. Jacobson
Manager, Central Yukon Field Office

Date

Contact Person

Kelly Egger, Natural Resource Specialist
Central Yukon Field Office
1150 University Ave.
Fairbanks, AK 99709
907/474-2242/email kegger@blm.gov