

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION /PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION

### DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2013-0020-CX

#### A. Background

Proposed Action: Issue a Land Use Permit for Tanana Chiefs Conference surveyors to establish a "staging area and temporary spike camp" at the Molly Creek airstrip in support of surveying lands which have been selected for conveyance by Doyon, Limited. This proposed action also includes the storage of 4 barrels of fuel for aircraft (helicopter) use.

Date of Proposed Action: Approximately July 1, 2013 thru July 31, 2013

Location: Adjacent to the Molly Creek airstrip which is approximately 42 miles west of Chicken Alaska within Sections 20 and 21 of Township 27North, Range 11East of the Copper River Meridian.

Applicant: Tanana Chiefs Conference

Serial Number: FF096610

#### Description of the Proposed Action

Tanana Chiefs Conference has applied for a Land Use Permit which would authorize them to have a staging area and temporary spike camp adjacent to the Molly Creek airstrip for Cadastral Survey of Doyon selected lands in the general area surrounding the airstrip. This would include the storage of up to four barrels of fuel for aircraft. Five to seven people will be staying in the camp. The helicopter will fly to Tok each evening and return to the airstrip the following morning.

#### Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: Fortymile Management Framework Plan

Date Approved/Amended: September 8, 1980

The Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, even though not specifically provided for, because it is consistent with the following LUP objective 1: "Make lands available for intensive use and public purposes." In addition, it is consistent with, and is part of the process of fulfilling the requirements of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of December 18, 1971.

#### B. Compliance with NEPA

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.9 (J)(4) which states:

*"Use of small sites for temporary field work camps where the sites will be restored to their natural or original condition within the same work season."*

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.

<b>EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>
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/ Vic Wallace  
Vic Wallace, Realty Specialist  
Eastern Interior Field Office

6/13/2013  
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, and qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion.

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

6/13/2013  
Date

## **Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Vic Wallace, Realty Specialist, Eastern Interior Field Office, at 907-474-2363