

Personal Use Firewood Permit for

Mr. Collier-Sanuki

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

For:

J. Scott Collier-Sanuki

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FF096703

Located in:

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NEPA

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Action: Free Use Firewood Harvest – Isolated 20 acre BLM parcel on Chena Ridge

I. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Purpose and Need

The purpose for action is to determine whether or not to issue a Personal Use Firewood Permit (5510-1) for firewood harvesting activities on BLM-managed lands in the Fairbanks area (Figure 1). The need for this action is established under the authority of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and the regulations found in 43 CFR 5510. The FLPMA directs the BLM to regulate the use, occupancy and development of public lands. The purpose of the regulations found in 43 CFR 5510 is to determine when a permit is required to use public lands for timber harvest and to establish procedures for the orderly and timely processing of permit applications.

Applicant's Purpose and Need

Mr. Collier-Sanuki has applied for a Free Use Vegetative or Mineral Permit for up to 10 cords of firewood on a small 20 acre tract of BLM-managed land near the end of Chena Ridge. The parcel is adjacent to his residence and he is also concerned with mitigating potential wildfire impacts by harvesting dead trees and removing slash. The harvested wood would be dead or downed aspen. Mr. Collier-Sanuki has proposed to low cut all stumps and will be removing the majority of slash. Mr. Collier-Sanuki may use an ATV to remove some of the wood but ATV use will be limited due to steep terrain and close proximity. Any ATV use will originate and terminate off his property and no trail development is requested. The permit will expire July 31, 2014. This action requires an EA due to the fact the parcel is not covered by a land use plan. Mr. Collier-Sanuki is also required to have a permit for harvesting vegetative material for more than just recreational campfire purposes.

BLM Decision to be Made

The BLM will decide whether or not to issue a 5510 Free Use Personal Firewood Permit for the applicant's request. If a 5510 Permit is issued, the BLM will determine the terms, conditions and stipulations prior to issuance.

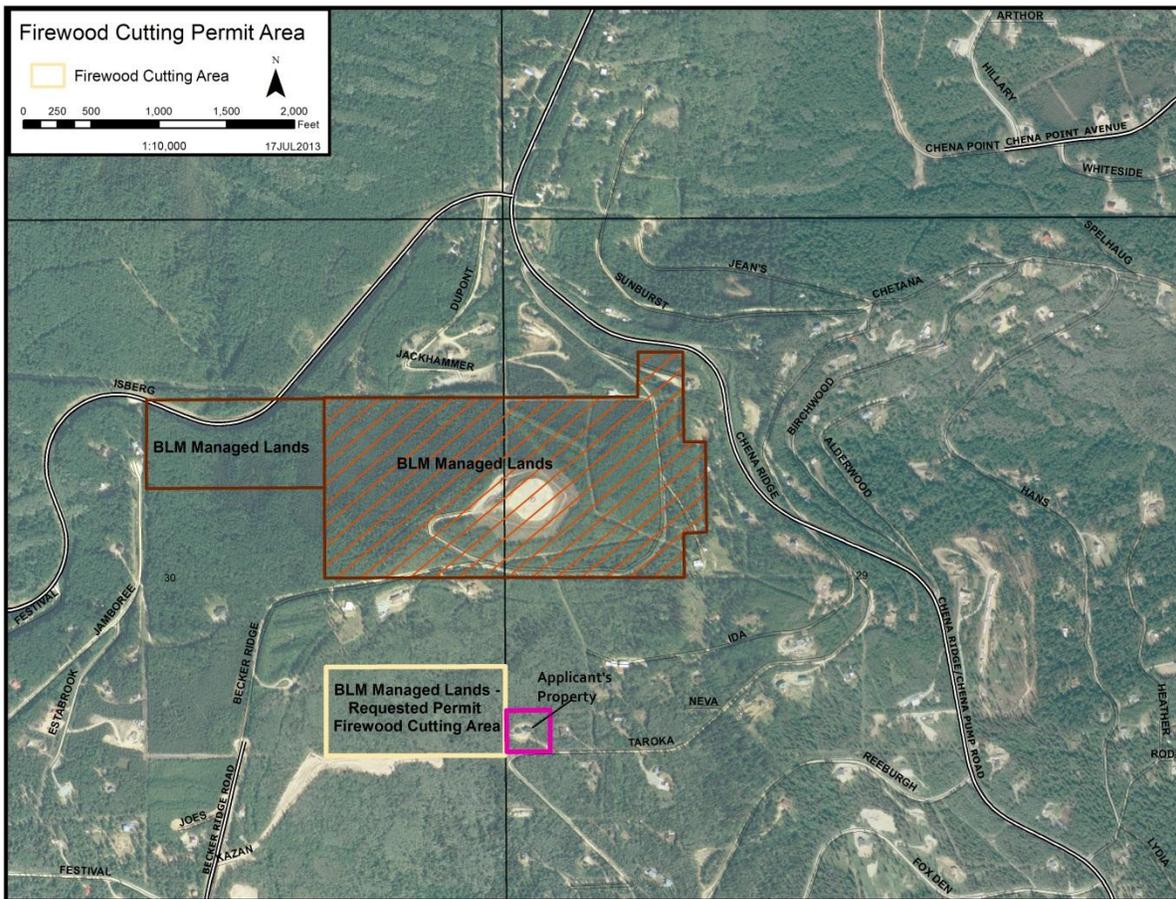


Figure 1

II. Potential Issues

Internal Scoping: Five potential issues were identified through internal scoping. They include:

- Will the use of ATV's lead to increased spread potential of Invasive/Non-native species?
- Will the use of ATV's lead to soil compaction and potential erosion issues?
- Will ATV use lead to route development and increased ATV use in the area?
- How does the applicant anticipate harvesting the trees?
- Will the action impact the migratory bird guidelines?

All five of these potential issues have been addressed and resolved either through clarification of the Proposed Action or through guidelines included in the Standard Operating Procedures which are attached to the Decision Record. As such, no impacts have been identified for analysis.

III. Location, Land Status and Conformance with Land Use Plans

Location: The project is located in Fairbanks, AK on the southern end of Chena Ridge off of Taroka Drive (Figure 1). It is located in Sec. 30, T15S, R2W, FM.

Land Status: The 20 acre parcel is selected by the State of Alaska. No selected Native corporation lands are included in the proposed action. (See attached map).

Conformance with Land Use Plans:, There are no Land Use Plans for this area. General BLM guidance for multiple-use is applied to this action.

IV. Description of Proposed Action and Alternative Actions

Proposed Action Alternative:

Mr. Collier-Januki has applied for a free use wood cutting permit to harvest up to 10 cords of personal use firewood for his home. The proposed harvest site is on an isolated 20 acre BLM managed parcel on the end of Chena Ridge. The parcel is predominantly covered with aspen trees of which there is a fair mortality. Mr. Collier-Januki would like to remove these trees in order to reduce fuels in the incident of a future wildfire and to utilize as personal use firewood. He has proposed to harvest dead or downed trees, to low stump, and to remove the majority of slash. Mr. Collier-Januki may use an ATV to remove some of the wood and slash to his property but will limit use due to steep terrain and close proximity to his private parcel.

No Action Alternative:

The no action alternative would result in the applicant not being issued a permit to harvest vegetative material.

V. Affected Environment

The proposed site is undeveloped and south facing with a primarily Aspen vegetation component. The site also includes some white spruce mixed in. Recent infestations have killed a significant number of the aspen trees. It is estimated that nearly 5%-10% of the standing mature aspen trees are dead (see Photo 1). Due to lack of impacts no environmental components are discussed further in this section.



Photo 1

VI. Impacts: Direct, Indirect, Cumulative

Potential impacts identified through internal scoping have been addressed through clarification of the proposed action and through Standard Operating Procedures included in the Decision Record. No other mitigating measures have been identified.

VII. Consultation and Coordination

Persons/Agencies Consulted

Person	Title	Responsibility	Agency
Scott Collier-Sanuki	Applicant		Applicant
Jonathan Priday	Ranger	Enforcement officer	BLM

Person	Title	Responsibility	Agency
Collin Cogley	Outdoor Recreation Planner/Preparer	Environmental Justice, Farm Lands, Socioeconomics, Fire Management	BLM
Jim Herriges	Wildlife Biologist	ACEC's, Vegetation, Invasive, Nonnative Species, Threatened/Endangered Species, Subsistence, Wildlife/Terrestrial	BLM
Rebecca Hile	Physical Scientist	Wastes, Hazardous or Solid	BLM
Ben Kennedy	Hydrologist	Air Quality, Floodplains, Water Quality, Wetlands/Riparian, Soils	BLM
Holli McClain	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Visual Resources	BLM
Robin Mills	Archeologist	Cultural Resources, Native American Religious Concerns	BLM
Jason Post	Fisheries Biologist	Essential Fish Habitat, Wildlife/Aquatic	BLM
Matt Reece	Geologist	Minerals	BLM
Vic Wallace	Realty Specialist	Realty/Land Status	BLM
Eric Yeager	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation,	BLM
Tim DuPont	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Wilderness Characteristics, Travel Management, and Wild and Scenic Rivers	BLM

VIII.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 - Assessment of Archeological, Historical, and Paleontological Resources

Attachment 2 - ANILCA Section 810 Evaluation and Findings

Attachment 3 – Essential Fish Habitat Clearance (EFH)

/s/ Collin Cogley
Collin Cogley,
Outdoor Recreation Planner,
Preparer

11/22/13
Date