

DECISION RECORD

Adoption of Environmental Assessment: This office has reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and found that it adequately analyzes the impacts of the proposed action and alternatives. This EA has been assigned Bureau of Land Management (BLM) NEPA document # DOI-BLM-AK-F020-0025-EA.

Decision: It is my decision to issue a Land Use Permit to the Native Village of Tanacross to conduct remediation of contaminated soils on BLM-managed lands within the Tanacross Airfield within the Eastern Interior Field Office area. This is the Removal Action Alternative identified in the EA. The permit would also provide for access to the sites via the airfield access road. The term of the permit will be for one year. Mitigation measures identified during the NEPA process have been formulated into permit stipulations. This decision incorporates by reference the attached Land Use Permit stipulations (Attachment A).

There are no impacts that approached the threshold of significant. Therefore, a Finding of No Significant Impact was completed, documenting that an Environmental Impact Statement was not required.

Rationale for Decision: The decision to allow the proposed action is consistent with the use of public lands under the authority of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy Management Act and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2900.

All mitigation measures are being carried forward in stipulations attached to the Land Use Permit.

All concerns are appropriately addressed in the USACE EA. This includes the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.

/s/ Lenore Heppler
Lenore Heppler
Manager, Eastern Interior Field Office

8/30/2013
Date

Appeal Provision: 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 Central Yukon Field Office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision. This decision shall take effect immediately upon the date it is signed by the authorized officer and shall remain in effect while any appeal is pending unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals issues a stay (43 CFR 2801.10(b)).

Contact Information: For additional information concerning this decision, contact Tom Beaucage at the BLM, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska, 99709; by telephone at 907-474-2350; or by email at tbeaucage@blm.gov.

Attachment A – FF096410 Land Use Permit Stipulations

1. Permittee shall coordinate with other Tanacross Airfield permittees/lessees during removal operations.
2. The installation of monitoring wells is not authorized. Permittee shall obtain a separate Bureau of Land Management (BLM) authorization prior to installation of monitoring wells.
3. To mitigate for the possible spread of Non-native Invasive Plant (NIP) species all vegetation treatments and re-vegetation of surface disturbance on BLM managed lands will require an approved site-specific plan designed to prevent the introduction of non-native invasive plants, and achieve desired conditions. Specific requirements of the plan can be obtained from BLM. Whenever possible, treatments will use native vegetation and seed. The re-vegetation plan must be approved by BLM prior to operations.
4. Non-native vegetation and seed may be used with specific approval from the BLM Authorized Officer (AO), and in the following cases (1) where native species are not available in sufficient quantities; (2) where native species are incapable of maintaining or achieving the objectives; or (3) where non-native species are essential to the functional integrity of the site. Seed must meet Alaska certification standards (11 AAC 34.020 Prohibited and Restricted Noxious Weeds) and any amendments to the existing seed laws or new seed legislation. To eliminate, minimize, or limited the spread of noxious and non-native invasive plants, only feed and mulch certified as weed-free through the Alaska Weed-Free Forage certification program (or other programs with approval from the BLM AO will be authorized on BLM managed lands. Where Alaska certified sources are not available, locally produced forage and mulch may be used with approval from the BLM AO. If no certified weed-free or local sources are available, other products may be used with the approval of the BLM AO.
5. All equipment, including vehicles and personal gear, should be cleaned at the point of origin to remove all plant material, mud and debris that may harbor seeds. Equipment being moved over the snowpack in the winter should be thoroughly cleaned before freezing temperatures make it difficult to remove mud and debris that may harbor NIP seed. Heavy equipment being transported from Fairbanks, Anchorage, or other road based areas are most likely to carry NIP seeds. Pressure wash and a collection system work best for cleaning heavy equipment and vehicles, such as a commercial vehicle wash a facility that accommodates large equipment. Portable wash stations with collection systems are a viable option. Stiff brushes and/or scraping tools may remove mud from tracks and treads in lieu of a portable wash system; however the undercarriage also harbors mud and debris and would most likely be missed without high pressure water.
6. The permittee will assure that non-native invasive species are not introduced or spread due to staging or winter overland exploration. The best practices are to clean all equipment at site of origin before moving to staging areas and along the authorized route and avoid areas known to be infested with NIP.

7. Transportation and storage of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) shall be handled in a manner to ensure the products minimize the effects to the environment and human health. Gasoline, diesel, oils, greases and hydraulic fluids are a few of the most common POL. All containers that are transferred to remote locations for everyday operations are to be stored within a containment area which has been constructed to contain 110% of the volume of the largest container (volume of an area is calculated by length x width x height). The containment area should be lined with an impermeable liner which is free of cracks or gaps and sufficiently impervious to contain leaks or spills. The containers shall be covered to eliminate the collection of rainwater within the containment area throughout the storage period. (OSHA 1910.106(b)(2)(vii) and International Fire Code 2704.2.2.4)
8. A site Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Plan shall be written for the site if the amount of petroleum products stored exceeds 1,320 gallons. The plan will be submitted to the AO for review and approval prior to storage of petroleum products greater than 1,320 gallons. A SPCC will not be required within the permitted area, if the aggregate above ground storage capacity of petroleum products is less than 1,320 gallons.
9. Transfer of POL to equipment shall be completed in a secure manner to minimize the possibility of contamination to the surrounding environment. At a minimum POL type absorbent pads shall be placed under the location to catch overflow or assist the operator in containing a spill, if one occurs. In the case where refueling cannot be avoided within 100 feet of a water body the permittee should exercise caution while refueling to ensure no release of POL to the water body. Equipment that has been identified as having a fluid leak should have a drip basin under the leak area to ensure no release to the surrounding environment.
10. Equipment repair by the permittee is allowed on the basis of the necessity to operate equipment on the site located within this permit. Equipment repair that has the potential to release fluids should be completed over an impermeable liner to ensure fluid migration to the environment does not occur.
11. All spills shall be contained and cleaned up as soon as the release has been identified. The release of POL to any water body is to be reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) as soon as the person has knowledge of the release (in Fairbanks 457-2121 or 1-800-478-9300 outside normal business hours). Within 48 hours of a spill on public lands the permittee shall contact the AO, Shelly Jacobson (907-474-2356) or Rebecca Hile (907-474-2371).
12. All hazardous materials storage containers must be labeled with the following information: Permittee's name, contents of the container (name of the product that you put in the container, if not in the original container from the manufacturer), date the product was purchased/put in the container (e.g. Northern Guides, Diesel Fuel, 2009).
13. Permittees and casual users will be held financially responsible for any actions or activity that results in a wildland fire. Costs associated with wildland fires include, but are not

limited to, damage to natural or cultural resources and costs associated with any suppression action taken on the fire.

14. The BLM will not be held responsible for protection of permittee's structures or their personal property from wildland fire. It is the responsibility of the permittee to mitigate and minimize risk to their personal property and structures from wildland fire, following the condition of their permit.
15. Gas-powered equipment must be equipped with manufacturer approved and functional spark arrestors.