



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Anchorage Field Office  
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## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

### A. BACKGROUND

**Project Name / Type:** National Public Lands Day (2013) Volunteer Projects

**NEPA Register Number:** DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2013-0036-CX

**Case File Number:** n/a

**Location / Legal Description:** Seward Meridian, T 12N R 3W, Section 3

**Applicant (if any):** n/a

### Description of Proposed Action:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) proposes to lead a group of volunteers, supervised by BLM staff, on four National Public Lands Day (NPLD) projects. NPLD projects would occur from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on September 28, 2013 at the Campbell Tract Facility.

The following stipulations apply to all proposed NPLD volunteer projects to protect potential cultural and natural resources in the area:

- Any cultural and/or paleontological resource (historic or prehistoric site or object) discovered on public or Federal land shall be immediately reported to the authorized officer. Project leaders/volunteers shall suspend all operations in the immediate area of such discovery until written authorization to proceed is issued by the authorized officer. An evaluation of the discovery shall be made by the authorized officer to determine appropriate actions to prevent the loss of significant cultural or scientific values.
- For markers requiring ground disturbance, those locations would be reviewed and cleared or mitigated by the BLM Anchorage Field Office archaeologist prior to installation.
- If in connection with operations under this authorization, any human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects or objects of cultural patrimony as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601; 104 Stat. 3048; 25 U.S.C. 3001) are discovered, project workers will stop operations in the immediate area of the discovery, protect the remains and objects, and immediately notify the authorized officer. BLM staff will protect the immediate area of the discovery until notified by the authorized officer that operations may resume.

- All materials purchased and used for these projects will be certified weed-free. Prior to and following construction, the area would be monitored for invasive, non-native species which would be eradicated as necessary.

The four 2013 NPLD volunteer projects are described as follows:

*Project 1 - Airstrip Trail Hardening*

Currently, the Airstrip Trail is comprised of dirt and large rocks in many areas, creating uneven terrain, as well as muddy areas. Volunteers would gravel approximately 500 feet of the Airstrip Trail. E-1-size gravel, 4 inches deep and 6 feet wide, would be laid on top of the existing trail using wheelbarrows, shovels, and rakes. Prior to the NPLD event, gravel would be staged in the appropriate areas.

All materials purchased and used for this project will be certified weed-free. Prior to and following construction, the area would be monitored for invasive, non-native species which would be eradicated as necessary.

*Project 2 - Installation of Bear Resistant Trash Can and Benches*

Currently, there is no trash receptacle at the CCSC Trailhead and there are no benches at either the Campbell Airstrip or CCSC trailheads. Volunteers would install a bear resistant trash can and bench at the Campbell Creek Science Center (CCSC) Trailhead and two benches at the Campbell Airstrip Trailhead.

The project would consist of volunteers digging two holes per bench approximately 10 inches in diameter at a depth of approximately 2.5 feet using post hole diggers. Concrete would be poured into the holes to stabilize the benches and create a strong foundation. The bear resistant trash can would be bolted into a concrete base that would rest on the ground.

The trash can and benches would be similar to the trash cans and benches currently installed elsewhere at Campbell Tract Facility.

*Project 3 - Science Center Amphitheater Storm Water Drains*

Currently, during snow melt or rainy weather, the entrance path to the amphitheater is covered in standing water or ice, creating a potential safety hazard. These puddles can be several inches deep, extend over the width of the pathway, and exceed 20 feet in length.

Volunteers would install two drains adjacent to the entrance path of the CCSC amphitheater. Volunteers would dig two holes approximately 6 feet x 4 feet at a depth of 4 feet directly next to the pathway. Large cobble stones would be placed in the holes to just under ground-level then topped with smaller diameter rock to complete the drains.

*Project 4 - "Great Spectacle" Carsonite Post Replacement*

Currently, 72 Carsonite posts comprise the information stations for the "Great Spectacle" outdoor education activity. The current posts were originally installed 15 years ago and are fading, cracking, and breaking. Volunteers would upgrade the popular CCSC activity, "The Great Spectacle," by replacing some or all of the activity's Carsonite posts. New Carsonite posts would replace old Carsonite posts using a post pounder.

Recent changes to the routing of Salmon Run Trail necessitate the relocation of a number of posts to locations away from Salmon Run Trail.

## **B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE**

**Applicable Land Use Plan:** Ring of Fire Record of Decision and Approved Management Plan. Approved, March 2008.

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

## **O. Recreation**

### **O-2: Allocations**

Retain the existing Campbell Tract SRMA. Management of this administrative site would continue to be guided by *A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility* (BLM 1988), and any future amendments to this plan.

The proposed projects are consistent with the management objectives defined in the 1988 plan (p. 34):

#### Zone 2: Environmental Education Facility Zone

##### a. Description

The environmental education facility zone consists of the area of the gravel pad at the east end of the northern airstrip access road.

##### b. Management objectives

Allow development of environmental education facilities, including structures if necessary, compatible with administrative use of the airstrip and access roads and with the other public use objectives for the BLM tract, discussed previously in Part III.B.1.

#### Zone 3: Dispersed Recreation-Environmental Education Zone

##### a. Description

Zone 3 consists of lands immediately northeast of the airstrip, including the South Fork of Campbell Creek.

b. Management objectives

Manage the area for a mix of non-motorized trail opportunities and environmental education, compatible with the administrative use of the airstrip and access roads. Allow development of recreation and interpretive trails and related low-impact improvements.

Furthermore, “Recreation Management Action RM-5: Trail Maintenance” specifically states to,

Perform trail maintenance as needed.

- a. Perform routine maintenance annually.
- b. Perform corrective maintenance as necessary, including drainage and trail hardening. Complete a corrective maintenance survey and update as needed.
- c. Initiate and maintain an automated trail inventory and maintenance record (p. 43).

**C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION**

The four proposed volunteer projects are categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR 46.210 or United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11.

Department CX 1.7 applies to NPLD Projects 1, 2, and 3:

1.7 Routine and continuing government business, including such things as supervision, administration, operations, **maintenance, renovations, and replacement activities** having limited context and intensity (*e.g.*, limited size and magnitude or short-term effects).

And,

Department CX 1.11 applies to NPLD Project 4:

1.11 Activities which are **educational**, informational, advisory, or consultative to other agencies, public and private entities, visitors, individuals, or the general public.

**D. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

The proposed action must be screened against the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 43 CFR § 46.215 (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>Project 1</b>	<b>Project 2</b>	<b>Project 3</b>	<b>Project 4</b>
	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	No	No	No	No
2. 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	No	No	No
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No	No	No	No
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No	No	No	No
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No	No	No	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No	No	No	No
7. 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	No	No	No
8. 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	No	No	No
9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No	No	No	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No	No	No	No

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	Project 1	Project 2	Project 3	Project 4
	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO
11. 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	No	No	No
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or 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	No	No	No

**E. SIGNATURE**

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is an action that can be categorically excluded. The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 516 FM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and that no further environmental analysis is required.

*/s/ Alan Bittner*

Alan Bittner  
Anchorage Field Manager

September 11, 2013

Date