

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION /PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION

DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2014-0003-CX

A. Background

Proposed Action: Issue a site Right-of-Way Grant to Faith Chapel for the use of 2.0± acres of BLM-managed land to operate and maintain a summer camp for kids called Shen Bible Camp.

Date of Proposed Action: January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2033.

Location: The site is located on land adjacent to Four Mile Lake just east of milepost 4 of the Taylor Highway, approximately 13 (straight-line) miles northeast of Tok, Alaska. Location of the parcel is within NE1/4 Sec. 8, T.18N., R.15E., CRM.

Applicant: Faith Chapel, Troy Abel, Pastor, P.O. Box 57, Tok, Alaska 99780

Serial Number: FF096760

Description of the Proposed Action

Faith Chapel has applied for a site Right-of-Way Grant for the operation and maintenance of the existing Shen Bible Camp. Shen Bible Camp is a non-profit church camp for children and is operated during the summer months, usually from July 1 through August 15 of each year. It has been authorized since March, 1998 by means of a Land Use Permit under the regulations found in 43 CFR 2920. No new type of use, new construction, or modification of the existing facilities has been requested.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Fortymile Management Framework Plan of 1980.

Date Approved/Amended: September 8, 1980.

The proposed action is in conformance with Objective 1 of the Land Use Plan. Objective 1 of the Plan is to “Make lands available for intensive use and public purposes.” The Rationale for that objective states that “Demand exists for use of public lands, especially for recreation, commercial development and public purposes along the Taylor 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 11.9 (E-16) which states:

"Acquisition of easements for an existing road or issuance of leases, permits, or rights-of-way for the use of existing facilities, improvements, or sites for the same or similar purposes."

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.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
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 consistent with the purpose and objectives of the Bureau of Land Management and with Objective 1 of the Fortymile Management Framework Plan. It will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. 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 have concluded that neither an Environmental Assessment nor Environmental Impact Statement is needed.

/s/ Vic Wallace
Vic Wallace, Realty Specialist
Eastern Interior Field Office

4/16/2014
Date

Concurrence

I considered the fact that the proposed action is simply to issue a different type of authorization over a longer period of time for an existing use and for facilities which have been in place for several years. Previous authorization was by Land Use Permit under regulations found in 43 CFR 2920. No new use and no new construction or modification of facilities has been requested.

I concur that the above action is consistent with the policies, purpose and objectives of BLM, does not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances described above, and qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion.

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

4/16/2014
Date

Contact Person

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