

# State of Alaska Fish Sonar Research

## A. Background

**BLM Office:**Central Yukon Field Office

**Case File No.:**F-96765

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Fish Sonar Research

**Location of Proposed Action:**Lot 2, U.S. Survey No. 10012, within Secs. 28 and 29, T. 2 N., R. 16 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska containing 159.94 acres.

### **Description of Proposed Action:**

The State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game has already established a fisheries research sonar station on a piece of property that is currently owned by the State of Alaska but will be conveyed to BLM and title accepted on March 18, 2014. This proposed authorization will cover the time that title is accepted by the Bureau of Land Management until the time that BLM conveys it to the heirs of the Native applicant. The purpose of the sonar project is to estimate the daily passage of Chinook, chum and coho salmon migrating up the Tanana River. Data from this project will be used to manage the Yukon River commercial and subsistence salmon fisheries. They propose to use this site for three (3) years beginning every year June through October, the first year was June 2013. Current improvement onsite consists of a sonar tent, cook tent, gear tent, six (6) sleep tents, water/shower shed, and two (2) outhouses. The structures are not permanent and the wall tents are on plywood platforms. Additionally, storage of approximately 237 gallons of gasoline would be stored in three (3) 55 gallon drums and 12 6 gallon boat and generator cans. Approximately 150 gallons of diesel fuel would be stored in ten (10) 15 gallon containers and are used for the heating stoves. All fuel would be placed in secondary containment. Additional equipment onsite includes three (3) outboard skiffs, satellite antenna mounted on a tree behind the sonar tent, an ATV for moving fuel, water and equipment, small gasoline generators, cable to connect transducers and rotators to equipment in sonar tent, a fish lead approximately 40 feet long, constructed of galvanized metal pipe tripods and aluminum pickets and a sonar transducer mounted on an aluminum pod 4 feet tall and 4 feet wide, placed in the water approximately 3 feet deep and 30 feet from the left bank shore.

## B. Land Use Plan Conformance

**Land Use Plan Name:**Central Yukon Resource Management Plan, Kuskokwin SubUnit

**Date Approved/Amended:** September 26, 1986

**The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision.**

## 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 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9,

Page 38, Chapter 1, Leases and Permits

The BLM grants leases and permits for a wide range of activities under a variety of authorities. Uses which may be authorized include residential, agricultural, industrial and commercial uses.

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

#### **D. Approval and Contact Information**

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David Parker  
Acting Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office

March 11, 2014

#### **Contact Person**

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