



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Alaska Fire Service
P.O. Box 35005
Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703-0005
<http://fire.blm.gov/afs/>

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: AFS Obstacle Course Removal

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2014-0020-CX

Location / Legal Description: Alaska Fire Service site, 1541 Gaffney Road, Fort Wainwright, Alaska 99703

Case File / Project Number: N/A

Description of Proposed Action:

BLM will remove and rebuild an obstacle/physical fitness course near Engineer Park on Fort Wainwright. The obstacles currently in place are confirmed to have lead-based paint over the leaching limit of 5 mg/L (or part per million, ppm). The objective of this project is to remove the obstacles with lead-based paint and properly dispose of waste in accordance (IAW) the Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA). All metal debris will have loose lead-based paint chips removed and will be turned in to C&R Pipe in Fairbanks for recycling/reuse. All solid waste that does not have lead-based paint (cement or other material used to secure the equipment) will be disposed of at the Fairbanks North Star Borough landfill, and all waste wood and paint chips will be disposed of as a characteristic hazardous waste (DOO8, Lead [Pb]) through the hazardous waste contractor for the Fort Wainwright military installation. Removal and disposal actions will take place around September 2014. A comprehensive soil sample was tested in 2014 and was below regulatory limit for Lead (Pb). BLM will rebuild the obstacle course during the summer of 2015 or 2016, in the same location. See attached map.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: The Alaska Fire Service completed a Master Plan for the Alaska Fire Service site on Fort Wainwright supported by an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in April 2007. Regular facility maintenance and facility upgrades (including repair by replacement) are in compliance with this plan. Additionally, this proposed action is in compliance with the Fairbanks North Star Borough Comprehensive Plan's goals for military land and the U.S. Army Garrison Real Property Master Plan (RPMP).

C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

The proposed action is 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 (f) which provides:

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

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.

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

* Invasive Species – To ensure the proposed action does not result in significant impacts from non-native invasive species, equipment shall be washed prior to transporting to the site so as to avoid spreading non-native invasive species.

* Historic District – This project is not within the Ladd Field National Historic Landmark or Cold War Historic District. No historic properties are affected. No further consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is required. If any cultural resources are disturbed or discovered during this undertaking, the DPW Environmental Division Cultural Resources Manager shall be notified.

* Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act – Activities during construction must comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. This project would likely not result in the intentional removal or “intentional take” of a migratory bird or an active nest as no land or vegetation clearing will occur. However, there is a very low probability that this project may inadvertently cause accidental or “incidental take” of migratory birds. The following measures will be implemented as required by the DOD MBTA Final Rule and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOD and USFWS to reduce the risk of “take”:

a. During the delineation of the project site boundaries, any visible migratory bird or eagle nests, including ground nests, will be flagged or otherwise identified so the equipment operator can avoid disturbing the nest. If an inactive bald or golden eagle nest is suspected within the footprint of the project, consider moving the project 660 feet away from the nest site.

b. Immediately prior to construction, the area will be resurveyed to locate any migratory birds, bald or golden eagles or their nests. Any active nest locations will be flagged or otherwise identified to the equipment operator for avoidance.

c. During construction the equipment operator will pay attention and avoid any visible nests or birds.

* Chena River Floodplain – The project site is located within the Chena River 100-year floodplain. Building within a floodplain is prohibited by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 unless there is no practicable alternative. No practicable siting alternatives outside the boundaries of the floodplain exist due to the fact that the entire cantonment area is situated within the 100-year floodplain. The project area is protected by the Corps of Engineers Chena River Flood Control Project levee system.

* Potential Contamination – Due to the nature and type of surface use conducted in the past (especially prior to 1986), previously unidentified contamination could be found. All work involving the modification of facilities or excavation of any kind shall be coordinated via the USAG FWA “Dig Clearance” a minimum of five working days prior to mobilization to the site and shall be conducted in accordance with Fort Wainwright Garrison Policy #38, Land Use Controls/Institutional Controls. Coordination requirements are outlined on the form. Any potentially contaminated soil, debris, or groundwater encountered during this action shall be segregated, sampled, analyzed, and containerized in approved containers (specified in 49 CFR 178.500). Soil and groundwater shall not be removed from any part of the installation or transported off the installation, regardless of whether it is clean or contaminated, without written authorization from an appointed USAG FWA representative.

If contaminated soils, drums, or unusual debris (i.e. construction debris, scrap metal, unexploded ordnance, discarded military munitions, or munitions debris) are encountered at any

time on or around the work site, the contractor shall stop work immediately and notify DPW Environmental Division. Work in the suspected contaminated areas will not resume until released by the DPW Environmental Division. Contaminated soils or groundwater shall be segregated, sampled, analyzed, and containerized for transportation, and taken off-site for disposal within 90 days. If soil is scheduled for remediation off-post, it shall be returned to the installation after treatment after certified laboratory analyses, conducted by the treatment facility, are reviewed and accepted by the DPW Environmental Division to confirm the material does not exceed a regulatory cleanup level.

**Spill Response – All military units, civilian employees, and contractors using the sites will be required to possess and have available appropriate spill response materials for the types and quantities of hazardous materials they may transport. All spills/releases will be reported to Fort Wainwright’s Fire Department and the DPW Environmental Division. The DPW Environmental Division will provide the necessary notifications to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR). All appropriate remediation measures will be accomplished.*

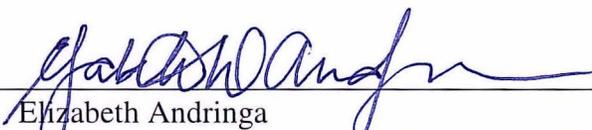
**Airfield Operations – The effects of the proposed action were considered and determined unlikely to negatively impact airfield operations.*

E. LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

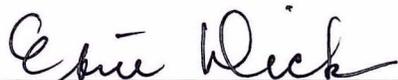
Not Applicable.

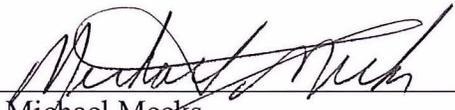
F. SIGNATURE

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.

Prepared by:  9/5/2014
Elizabeth Andringa Date
Environmental Coordinator, BLM, Alaska Fire Service

Reviewed by:  9/4/2014
Matthew Sprau Date
NEPA Branch Chief, Fort Wainwright, AK

Reviewed by:  9/4/2014
For Clifford Siebel Date
Chief, Environmental Division, Fort Wainwright, AK

Approved by:  _____ 4 Sept 14
Date
Michael Meeks
Director, Directorate of Public Works, Fort Wainwright, AK

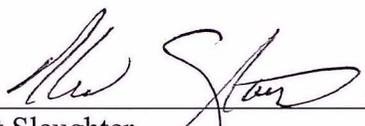
Approved by:  _____ 5 Sept 2014
Date
Kent Slaughter
Manager, BLM, Alaska Fire Service

Figure 1 – Location of BLM AFS Obstacle Course

