

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION /PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION

DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2015-0004-CX

### A. Background

Proposed Action: Issue a Land Use Permit to Yukon Route Productions, Inc. to authorize their commercial filming activities on public lands located within the Eastern Interior Field Office geographic area.

Date of Proposed Action: August 23, 2014 through August 25, 2014.

Location: The subject lands are located within the White Mountains National Recreation Area within the Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River corridor approximately 66 miles northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. The lands involved are located within sections 26, 34 and 35 of Township 11North, Range 4 East, Fairbanks Meridian and within section 3 of Township 10 North, Range 4 East, Fairbanks Meridian.

Applicant: Yukon Route Productions, Inc.

Serial Number: FF096877

#### **Description of the Proposed Action**

Yukon Route Productions has applied for a Land Use Permit to authorize their use of public lands for commercial filming activities. Filming occurred at eleven different sites over a three day period of time. The filming crew consisted of two camera operators and two producers. The purpose of filming was to document the activities of two hunters, while hunting for sheep, for a cable television series entitled “Yukon Men” which supposedly takes place in the vicinity of Tanana, Alaska. Travel to and from the area of filming was via small charter plane by Wright Air Service. All other travel was on foot and three nights were spent in tents and a lean-to.

### B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Resource Management Plan for the White Mountains National Recreation Area of 1986.

Date Approved: February 6, 1986.

It is also consistent with Goal 3 of the White Mountains National Recreation Area Resource Management Plan which is to “Provide for multiple use where compatible with primitive and semi-primitive recreation”.

### **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) (20) which is:

*"One-time issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations which authorize trespass action where no new use of construction is allowed, and where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition."*

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.

<b>EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES</b>	<b>YES/NO</b>
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. It is also consistent with Goal 3 of the White Mountains National Recreation Area Resource Management 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

1/16/2015  
Date

## **Concurrence**

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

1/23/15  
Date

## **Contact Person**

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