



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, Alaska 99588-0147
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: UAA – Coal Mine Road

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2014-0021-CX

Case File Number: AA093887

Location / Legal Description: Section 16, T. 14 S., R. 10 E., and Section 5, T. 17 S., R. 11 E., Fairbanks Meridian

Applicant (if any): University of Alaska, UA Facilities and Land Management

Description of Proposed Action:

University of Alaska, UA Facilities and Land Management has submitted an application to the Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office (BLM) to take over administration of already installed meteorological equipment near Ober Creek, at approximately milepost 242, Richardson Hwy, Alaska utilizing existing trails for access. The request is to be permitted from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016. This site was originally authorized to the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (AKDOT&PF) under case file AA093322, and analyzed under CX A020-2012-0028-CX. This permit request also includes a meteorological site called “Off Glacier,” which AKDOT&PF installed inadvertently on BLM unencumbered lands without authorization.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: East Alaska Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, September 2007

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):

I. LANDS AND REALTY

I-1: Goals

Provide a balance between land use (rights-of-way, land use permits, leases and sales) and resource protection that best serves the public at large.

I-2: Land Use Authorization

Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM lands such as right-of-way grants, road, temporary use permits under several different authorities: leases, permits, and easements under section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA); airport leases under the Act of May 24, 1928; and Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases.

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 or United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, which provides:

E. Realty

9. Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorizations.

20. 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 or construction is allowed, and where the proposal includes rehabilitation to restore the land to its natural or original condition.

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 |

| EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES | YES/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 |

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/ Dennis C. Teitzel

12/16/2014

Dennis C. Teitzel
Glennallen Field Manager

Date