

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION /PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION

DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2015-0007-CX

A. Background

Proposed Action: Harvest up to five cords of firewood near Davidson Ditch MP 57 Steese Highway.

Date of Proposed Action: January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015

Location: Davidson Ditch, MP 57 Steese Highway

Applicant: Manfred Nolywaika

Serial Number: FF095781 (551001)

Description of the Proposed Action

Mr. Nolywaika has applied for a free use wood cutting permit to harvest up to five cords of personal use firewood for his home in the Nenana area. The proposed harvest site is at mile 57 of the Steese Highway (see attached map). The site is within the boundary of the 2004 wildfire. There are an estimated 30 to 40 cords per acre of fire-killed spruce in the area. Mr. Nolywaika is proposing to cut only fire-killed trees north and east of the wayside. He does not plan to use any Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs) to retrieve the wood; it will all be done by hand and foot. He also proposes to cut stumps low to the ground or root mass, avoid the ditch siphon area and scatter limb debris. This permit will expire on 12/31/15.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan (LUP) Name: White Mountains Resource Management Plan/Record of Decision

Date Approved/Amended: 2/2/1986

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Forestry Resources section, page 16,

Management Direction: Forest products would be reserved for local use only. No commercial timber harvest would be permitted.

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 (C-5) which states: “Disposal of small amounts of miscellaneous vegetation products outside established harvest areas, such as Christmas trees, wildings, floral products (ferns, boughs, etc.), cones, seeds, and personal use firewood.”

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.		X
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.		X
3) May have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4) May have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5) Might establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6) May have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
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.		X
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.		X
9) Might violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10) May have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
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).		X
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).		X

Recommendation

I have found that the Proposed Action is compatible with the White Mountains Resource Management Plan, and is an action that can be categorically excluded. 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 that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement is not needed.

/s/ Colin Cogely
Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Eastern Interior Field Office

3/12/2015
Date

Concurrence

I concur that the above action is in conformance with the White Mountains Resource Management Plan, does not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances, and qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion.

/s/ Alan Peck Acting For
Lenore Heppler
Field Manager
Eastern Interior Field Office

3/13/2015
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact Collin Cogley, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Eastern Interior Field Office, at 907-474-2382.