

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION /PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION

DOI-BLM-AK-F020-2015-0010-CX

A. Background

Proposed Action: Issue a Right of Way Grant to Alexei Kuzmin to authorize a one-time/one-way movement of heavy equipment (a John Deere 330 CLC Excavator and a Case 1550 Dozer) across public lands located within the Eastern Interior Field Office geographic area.

Date of Proposed Action: Spring of 2015 (sometime between April 9 and April 18, 2015).

Location: The subject lands are located near milepost 87 of the Taylor Highway within the Wade Creek section of the Fortymile River Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The lands involved are located within section 9 of Township 27North, Range 20 East, Copper River Meridian.

Applicant: Alexei Kuzmin.

Serial Number: FF096972

Description of the Proposed Action

Mr. Alexei Kuzmin has applied for a Right of Way Grant to authorize his movement of heavy equipment (John Deere 330 CLC Excavator and a Case 1550 Dozer) from his State of Alaska mining claims across approximately 600 feet of public lands to his federal mining claims adjacent to the Taylor Highway. The move is planned to occur over an unauthorized existing trail and during a period of time when the ground is frozen with adequate snow cover to prevent any damage to the land and/or resources. The Excavator and Dozer will be driven out under their own power. Travel to the current location of the Excavator and Dozer will be via snowmachine or four-wheeler.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Fortymile Management Framework Plan of 1980.
Fortymile River Management Plan of 1983.

Date Approved: September 8, 1980
October 11, 1983

The proposed action is in conformance with Objective 1 of the Fortymile Management Framework Plan. Objective 1 of that plan is to “Make lands available for intensive use and public purposes.” The Rationale for that objective states that “Demand exists for use of public lands, especially for recreation, commercial development and public purposes along the Taylor Highway.

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) (19) which is:

"Issuance of short-term (3 years or less) rights-of-way or land use authorizations for such uses as storage sites, apiary sites, and construction sites 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.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
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 Objective 1 of the Fortymile Management Framework Plan and the consideration given to winter and early spring movement of heavy equipment noted under Surface Transportation of the Fortymile River 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, Realty Specialist
Eastern Interior Field Office

4/8/2015
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/ Alan Peck Acting For
Lenore Heppler
Field Manager
Eastern Interior Field Office

4/8/2015
Date

Contact Person

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