



United States Department of the Interior



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

Temsco Helicopter Inc./Alaska Mountain Guides, Special Recreation Permit Renewal DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-0023-DNA

Case Files: AA76601 / AA81925

Applicants: Temsco Helicopters Inc. and Alaska Mountain Guides

DECISION RECORD

Background

The BLM Glennallen Field Office has received two Special Recreation Permit (SRP) renewal applications. Alaska Mountain Guides (AMG) offers commercially guided ski mountaineering tours and Temsco provides glacial landing tours on BLM-administered lands near Haines/Skagway, Alaska. Temsco and AMG are currently the only BLM-permitted air tour operators within the Planning Area, though other operators may choose to submit permit applications in the future. Temsco has been permitted by the BLM to conduct air tours and glacier landing tours in the Planning Area since 1995, and AMG has been permitted to conduct guided trekking trips in the Planning Area since 2000.

The requested permits would help meet public demand for guided recreational activities in the region. These permits would be valid for three years 2015-2017, May 1st through September 30th. If approved commercial recreational operations would continue to occur on BLM-managed lands in the Haines/Skagway area.

Decision

It is my decision to authorize the requested SRPs to the applicants listed above as well as in the attached Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-0023-DNA).

Specifically, it is my decision to authorize:

- Two Three-year SRPs for 2015-2017 summer operating seasons (May 1st - September 30th) on BLM-administered lands near Haines and Skagway, Alaska to Temsco Helicopters Inc. and Alaska Mountain Guides.
- All stipulations in the 2002 and 2000 Environmental Assessments apply to these permits unless otherwise approved by the BLM.

- Up to 300 additional landings may be authorized for summer activities in order to meet demand for this type of recreational activity.

Two Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were prepared in 2000 and 2002, respectively, documenting that the selected alternative, authorization of an SRP for commercially guided ski mountaineering tours and glacial landing activities would have no significant effects.

The Proposed Action, consisting of authorizing two Special Recreation Permits for commercially guided ski tours and glacial landing tours, is identical to the alternatives selected in the 2000 and 2002 Environmental Assessments (#EA AK-040-02-EA-022 # EA AK-040-00-005), therefore the preparation of a new FONSI is not necessary. The 2000 and 2002 FONSI's indicate that the current Proposed Action has been analyzed in an EA(s) and has been found to have no significant environmental effects.

Rationale for the Decision

Since the 2000 and 2002 Decision Records for the initial SRP authorizations, the Bureau of Land Management has completed the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan (RMP) 2008. The Ring of Fire RMP and FLPMA are the decision documents and legal basis for the integrated long term resource planning and management direction on BLM Lands.

The Ring of Fire RMP states as one of its recreation management objectives to “Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities. Opportunities for commercial recreation will be provided consistent with area objectives for recreation management.” (ROF Chapter 2 page 2-28)

These authorizations will help meet public demand for summer recreational activities in the region. The purpose underlying the BLM's consideration of these permit renewals is to retain commercial activities such as helicopter-supported recreation, backcountry ski touring as part of the range of quality recreational opportunities offered on BLM-managed lands within the Haines/Skagway area.

ANILCA Section 810 Compliance

The Proposed Action will not result in a significant restriction in abundance, availability, or access of harvestable resources used for subsistence purposes

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for wilderness characteristics and was found to contain a least one condition for meeting lands with wilderness characteristics. The stipulations and conditions attached to this authorization will ensure existing wilderness characteristics, such as size, naturalness; solitude and opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation will not be impaired.

Consultation and Coordination

Internal scoping was conducted by the Glennallen Field Office staff and included threatened and endangered species, cultural clearances and ANILCA 810 analysis.

Compliance and Monitoring

Compliance and monitoring of these authorizations will be conducted by the BLM Glennallen Field Office. Inspections and annual performance evaluations shall be documented and saved within the case file for these authorizations.

Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR § 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Glennallen Field Office, P.O. Box 147, Milepost 186.5 Glenn Highway, Glennallen, Alaska 99588, within 30 days from the date of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the Anchorage Field Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile or email.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR § 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR § 4.413); Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

/s/ Elijah Waters (for Dennis Teitzel)

5/4/2015

Dennis C. Teitzel, Glennallen Field Manager

Date

Attachments

DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-023-DNA
2015 Permit Stipulations