

# Galbraith Lake Crew Camp

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2015-0025-CX

## Introduction

Cruz Construction, Incorporated purchased Alaska Interstate Construction which had an authorization for a 20 person crew camp in the Galbraith Lake pit for three (3) years. This permit expired on December 31, 2014.

## Summary

Cruz Construction proposes to use the existing crew camp (old AIC camp) located at the Galbraith Lake material pit for one more summer to house crew completing maintenance on the Dalton Highway from June 2015 through October 2015.

## Alternatives Considered

The No Alternative Option is the only alternative considered and was not selected as it would not allow Cruz Construction, Inc., to house a crew camp in support of the Dalton Highway maintenance.

## Decision

I have decided to authorize a permit on public lands for the purpose of operating a 24 person crew camp in support of the Dalton Highway maintenance from June 2015 through October 2015 at the Galbraith Lake material pit. Improvements authorized are attached to the permit.

## Management Considerations

The Categorical Exclusion and supporting documentation have been prepared consistent with the requirements of various statutes and regulations, including but not limited to:

- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA)
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA)

One BLM land use plan applies to the overall project area, the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan.

## Public Involvement

It was determined that due to the remoteness of the action, there would be no impact to the general public. Additionally, this document was published to the electronic Central Yukon Field Office NEPA Register on June 1, 2015. No comments have been received as of June 8, 2015.

## Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeal must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management Central Yukon Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. If you decide to file an

appeal, you must carefully follow the procedure described on the enclosed form 1842-1. If you don't file your appeal at the locations specified on the form within 30 days, the Board may dismiss your appeal as untimely without considering its merits. Be sure to send a copy of your notice of appeal to each party named in this decision and to all of the addresses on the enclosed form 1842-1. You may also ask the Board to stay or suspend the effect of this decision while your appeal is pending. If you desire a stay, you must enclose your request for a stay with your notice of appeal. You have the burden of showing a stay is justified. The Board will grant a stay only if you provide sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the Board grants or denies the stay,
2. The likelihood of the success of your appeal on its merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the Board does not grant the stay, and;
4. Whether the public interest favors granting a stay.

**Approval from Authorized Official:**

**Field Office Manager Decision**

Having considered a full range of alternatives, associated impacts, and public and agency input, I have decided to adopt and implement the attached Approved Plan in conformance with the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan.

/s/ Nichelle W. Jacobson  
Signature  
Nichelle W. Jacobson  
Field Manager  
Central Yukon Field Office

June 18, 2015  
Date

## — Appendix A — Essential Fish Habitat

NEPA Document No.: DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2015-0025

**Prepared by:** David A. Esse

**Date:** 6/1/15

**Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Finding:** There are no anadromous species in the area encompassed by this permit (ADF&G 2015) and impacts beyond the area encompassed in this permit are unlikely. Based on these findings the proposed action is assigned the EFH determination: *No effect*. EFH consultation with NMFS is not required.

### **References:**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). 2015. Fish distribution database. Internet website at: <http://www.sf.adfg.state.ak.us>.

## — Appendix B — Wilderness Characteristics Assessment

**NEPA Document No.:** DOI-BLM-AK-F030–2015–0025–CX

**Serial No.:** F-96994

**Applicant:** Cruz Construction, Incorporated

**Location:** Sec. 26, T. 11 S., R. 11 N., Umiat Meridian, Alaska, near Galbraith Lake campground mile post 275 Dalton Highway

**Prepared by:** Robin Walthour

**Date:** June 1, 2015

### **Proposed Action**

Cruz Construction, Incorporated purchased Alaska Interstate Construction which had an authorization for a 20 person crew camp in the Galbraith Lake pit for three (3) years. This permit expired on December 31, 2014. Cruz Construction proposes to use the existing crew camp for one more summer to house crew completing maintenance on the Dalton Highway from June 2015 through October 2015. They propose to house 24 crew with the supporting improvements described on Attachment “A” attached to the terms and conditions. Some of the existing improvements are already onsite. Because they propose to have over 1,320 gallons of fuel onsite, the SPCC Plan has been requested and would be in the case file prior to issuance of the authorization for the camp. All other measures for refueling etc., would be followed such as duck ponds under all vehicles and equipment, spill absorbents onsite at all time and especially during refueling

### **Evaluation**

The basis for this evaluation is BLM Manual 6310-Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands, and BLM Manual 6320 - Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process, which direct offices to conduct and maintain inventories regarding the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics, and to consider identified Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) in land use plans and when analyzing projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Effects on wilderness characteristics on BLM lands within the Utility Corridor are evaluated according to the Nonwilderness Assessment, a special project approved by the BLM Director and conducted by the BLM along portions of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) corridor in 1980. This assessment identified lands under BLM administration that were considered lacking in the wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964. The assessment was conducted in a manner that met the requirements of Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

The action being considered is located within the Sagavanirktok Segment of the Nonwilderness Assessment, which covered approximately 512,000 acres total in 1980. Portions of this segment meet the 5,000 acre minimum size. However it was determined that the Sagavanirktok Segment did not meet the standards for naturalness due to roads, camps, airfields, pipelines, material sites and associated facilities. These disturbances bisect the entire length of the segment.

## **FINDING**

The proposed action will not occur on lands identified as having wilderness characteristics and therefore will not affect wilderness characteristics.

### **Type of Assessment/Sources**

- U.S. Department of Interior, BLM, 1980. Nonwilderness Assessment: The Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, Final Decision. Anchorage, Alaska
- U.S.G.S. topographic map Philip Smith Mountains; GIS data; Google Earth images.
- Aerial surveys in 2013 and personal knowledge of the area.

## — Appendix C — Section 810 Assessment

**NEPA Document No.:** DOI-BLM-AK-F0302015-0025-CX

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**Serial No.:** F-96994

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They propose to house 24 crew with the supporting improvements described on Attachment “A” attached to the terms and conditions.

Some of the existing improvements are already onsite. Because they propose to have over 1,320 gallons of fuel onsite, the SPCC Plan has been requested and would be in the case file prior to issuance of the authorization for the camp. All other measures for refueling etc., would be followed such as duck ponds under all vehicles and equipment, spill absorbents onsite at all time and especially during refueling.

**Location:** Mile post 275 Dalton Highway near Galbraith Lake.

**Township/Range:** Sec. 26, T. 11 S., R. 11 N., Umiat Meridian, Alaska.

**Evaluation by:** Erin Julianus and David Esse

**Date:** 6/3/2015 and 6/1/2015

**Type of Assessment/Sources:**

Review of application materials, subsistence database, local knowledge, interviews with staff knowledgeable about the area and the proposed action.

### **Effect of the proposal on subsistence uses and needs**

Fisheries:

The proposed action would not reduce harvestable fisheries resources that are available for subsistence use since this activity will not affect fish or their habitat. The proposed action will not alter the distribution, migration or location of harvestable fisheries resources. The proposed action will not create any legal or physical barriers that would limit access by subsistence users of the fisheries resource.

Wildlife:

The proposed action is located in Game Management Unit (GMU) 26B. Species of wildlife that are used for subsistence harvest in the area include moose, sheep, bears, furbearers, and small game. These species may temporarily avoid the area when activities and personnel associated with the permitted action are present, but the activity will not permanently impact their

distribution in the area. Although subsistence activity occurs throughout the area, the proposed action will not significantly affect subsistence uses and needs.

Other resources:

The proposed activity will not significantly impact other resources such as wood, water, or berries. Subsistence activities that target these resources occur in a much broader area than where the proposed action is to take place. Therefore, the proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses and needs.

**Expected reduction, if any, in the availability of resources due to alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location:**

The proposed action will not significantly alter the distribution, migration or location of harvestable wildlife resources, nor would it create any legal or physical barriers that would limit subsistence harvest and access.

**Expected limitation, if any, in the access of subsistence users resulting from the proposal:**

None. Access to resources by subsistence users will not be limited by the proposed action.

**Availability of other lands, if any, for the purpose sought to be achieved:**

Other public lands are available for the purposes to be achieved. However, the proposed will occur on at a site capable of housing a 20 person crew camp without permanent site modification. Therefore, no other alternatives were considered.

**Other alternatives, if any, which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes:**

The only alternative that would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes is to not allow or permit any activities that conflict with subsistence uses. However, such an alternative is not viable because the BLM manages public lands for multiple uses.

**Finding:**

The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. Access to subsistence resources will not be hampered by the proposed activity. There is no reasonably foreseeable significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources and in the distribution of harvestable resources due to the proposed action

**References:**