



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: Haines Highway Mile Post 7 Dump Site Cleanup

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-0016-CX

Case File Number: AA-084223

Location / Legal Description: Lot 3, USS 906, Alaska

Applicant (if any): Glennallen Field Office

Description of Proposed Action:

The BLM Glennallen Field Office proposes to contract reclamation of Lot 3, USS 906, located at mile 7 of the Haines Highway. The objectives of BLM's actions at this site are to protect health and safety while enabling conveyance of Lot 3 USS 906 to the State of Alaska. The work will include removal of lead and antimony contamination residual from use of the site as an unauthorized shooting range, and removal of a treated lumber boardwalk from wetlands. The removals will be conducted pursuant to Title 18 Alaska Administrative Code, Chapter 75, Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Control. All waste generated will be properly disposed. The total proposed Affected Environment for this project is less than one acre.

The proposed action is located in Game Management Unit 1D within Lot 3, USS 906, a 14.88 acre rectangular shaped parcel of BLM managed land surrounded by State of Alaska and Alaska Native Corporation lands. The Haines Highway runs parallel to a long side of the site; the first 60 feet of the site is within the highway right-of-way. The site is thought to have originated as a mineral borrow area during construction of the Haines Highway in the 1940s. The site experiences heavy use by persons and vehicles such that vegetation is prevented from growing back across an approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ acre area where recreational shooting and trash dumping is most prevalent. The BLM has opened two Unauthorized Occupancy cases for this property since 2000.

Reclamation of the shooting and dumping area will consist of replacing lead-antimony alloy bullet contaminated surface soil with clean fill. The removed soil will be packaged and disposed at a permitted facility in the contiguous United States. The fill placed over the area will promote

native vegetation regrowth. An existing eight-foot high chain-link fence type temporary enclosure will remain in-place until vegetation has grown-in.

Removal of the boardwalk will consist of removing approximately 300 feet of a two-foot wide copper-arsenic treated lumber boardwalk from wetlands within Lot 3. The boardwalk is not authorized or maintained by BLM. Copper-arsenic treated wood is thought to negatively impact water quality, and the health of juvenile salmon in the wetlands. The boardwalk's state of repair presents a safety hazard for hikers. Users must park automobiles on the highway shoulder causing additional safety concerns. Removing the boardwalk will be accomplished by hand; no motorized equipment will be used in or on the wetlands. Salvageable removed lumber will be made available at the project site free to the public, any remaining will be properly disposed by BLM's contractor prior to demobilization.

It is standard practice and included in the contract statement of work that all equipment and materials be properly cleaned/decontaminated before mobilizing to the Site and at demobilization from the Site to prevent spread of noxious and invasive weeds. Any grass seed used to promote vegetation will be of the appropriate type for the location and certified weed-free, as per standard practice for hazmat projects.

To mitigate possible worker exposure to contaminants of concern (COC) during removal, site workers will be trained on and don appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Appropriate PPE will be determined in a site specific, OSHA compliant Health and Safety Plan (HASP) developed by the contractor. To mitigate potential for spread of (COC) during removal, best management practices (BMPs) will be included in the contractors work plan. BMPs for control of fugitive dust during removal, and surface water runoff due to storm events will be included. The HASP and work plan are standard requirements of BLM hazmat response contracts.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: Ring of Fire Record of Decision and Approved Management Plan, March 2008.

The proposed action is in conformance with the plan because it is provided for in Hazardous Materials Goals and Management Actions. Specifically:

G-2.1: "Adverse effects resulting from past hazardous materials management on BLM-managed lands within the planning area will be mitigated subject to the availability of funds."

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:

"J. Other

(10). *Removal of structures and materials of no historic value, such as abandoned automobiles, fences, and buildings, including those built in trespass and reclamation of the site when little or no surface disturbance is involved.*

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
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. LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

The proposed action has been reviewed for the following Wilderness Characteristics and found to not contain one or more of the characteristics:

- 1) Size: Roadless areas of over 5000 acres of contiguous BLM lands.

- 2) Naturalness: Affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the works of humans substantially unnoticeable to the average visitor
- 3) Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.
- 4) Supplemental values: If size, naturalness, and solitude/outstanding opportunities are met, then consider if the area contains ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value. Supplemental values are not required to be present in order to classify an area as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics.

F. 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 Teitzel

6/10/15

Dennis Teitzel
Glennallen Field Manager

Date