



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
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Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: ADF&G Unalakleet Fish Enhancement Permit

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2015-0011-CX

Case File Number: AA-94019

Location / Legal Description:

Camp location:
Kateel River Meridian, Alaska
T. 17 S., R. 6 W.,
Sec. 9, S $\frac{1}{2}$ (within).

Applicant (if any): Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Description of Proposed Action:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has submitted an application to enhance Chinook salmon escapement numbers in the Unalakleet River through a cooperative project with the Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation (NSEDC) for a three year period. NSEDC and ADF&G have a cooperative agreement in place to conduct these activities (COOP-13-045).

ADF&G proposes to collect eggs from 20 female Chinook salmon in the Unalakleet River and the Old Woman River. The eggs will be transported to an existing NSEDC Fish Plant in Unalakleet located on private lands, to undergo fertilization. A portion of the gametes will be harvested for pathology samples while the fertilized eggs will be transported back to the Unalakleet South River for release.

A temporary camp will be necessary during egg collection operations. The temporary camp would be composed of two 10 feet by 12 feet by 15 feet weather port tents, four sleeping tents (each of four man capacity) an outhouse for human waste approximately 2 feet by 3 feet by six feet made of plywood and a temporary gas storage area for fuel consisting of up to three 15 gallon containers (less than 50 gallons total). Propane will be used for cooking, either a twenty pound cylinder or five one pound cylinders. ADF&G requests a winter storage shed for equipment and gear to save on back hauling of equipment on an annual basis. The winter storage would be 20 feet by 20 feet and made of plywood.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan(s): River Management Plan for the Unalakleet National Wild River, October 1983

Part III Management Actions, ITEM 7 Fishery Management

“The BLM will be available to assist the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on projects required to maintain or enhance the Unalakleet fishery and will work jointly with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game on inventory, monitoring, and other activities or projects.”

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:

Realty E-20.

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.

Further the proposed action is also 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:

A. Fish and Wildlife

“5. Routine augmentations, such as fish stocking, providing no new species are introduced.”

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. 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/ Alan Bitter

9/24/2015

 Alan Bittner
 Anchorage Field Manager

 Date

Attachments

1. Unalakleet ADF&F Camp Location Map
2. Unalakleet ADF&F Camp site components Google Map
3. Stipulation for ROW AA-94019