

# Event Next Filming on Dalton

## Introduction

Event Next has filed an 2920 application to film various models of Toyota vehicles along the Dalton Highway from Yukon Crossing to Coldfoot from November 15, to 25, 2015.

## Summary

Event Next proposes to film new models of Toyota vehicles to document their performance. They would utilize Go Pro cameras mounted on the vehicles and occasionally pull off on waysides to film vehicles passing by. There would be 20 automotive engineers and 20 support staff on site as well as three (3) camera crew members. This filming would occur from November 15 through November 25, 2015 from Yukon Crossing (mile post 55) to Coldfoot (mile post 175) on the Dalton Highway.

## Decision

It is my decision to authorize a permit to Event Next to film and document Toyota vehicles from Yukon Crossing to Coldfoot, Alaska on November 15 — 25, 2015. Terms and conditions are attached to the permit.

## Management Considerations

The Categorical Exclusion and supporting documentation have been prepared consistent with the requirements of various applicable 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 September 23, 2015. No comments have been received as of October 22, 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

October 30, 2015  
Date

## — Appendix A — Essential Fish Habitat

NEPA Document No.: DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2015-0036-CX

**Prepared by:** David A. Esse

**Date:** 9/24/2015

**Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Finding:** While anadromous species are present in the project area (ADF&G 2015), it is highly unlikely the activities associated with the proposed action will have an adverse effect on EFH. Therefore, the proposed action is assigned the EFH determination: *No effect*. EFH consultation with NMFS is not required.

**References:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 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-F030-2015-0036-CX

**Serial No.:** F-97065

**Applicant:** Event Next

**Location:** Mile post 55 Yukon Crossing to mile post 175 Coldfoot, Alaska

**Prepared by:** Nichelle Jacobson

**Date:** September 23, 2015

### **Proposed Action**

Event Next proposes to film numerous Toyota vehicles travelling from Fairbanks to Coldfoot, Alaska along the Dalton Highway to document the vehicles performance from November 15 through November 25, 2015. They will utilize 2 Go Pro cameras mounted on eight (8) different Toyota vehicles and at times would pull off at waysides to film Toyota vehicles passing by. This film would be used on the website. Their crew would be composed of 20 automotive engineers and 20 support staff. K Scope is the film company and their crew would be comprised of three (3) individuals. They would use 20 various Toyota vehicles and 4 trucks (2 semi-trucks and 2 box trucks carrying supplies and equipment). They have been informed by this office of the safety issues associated with this action and are taking safety seriously.

### **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 Prospect Segment of the Nonwilderness Assessment, which covered approximately 555,000 acres total in 1980. Portions of this segment meet the 5,000 acre minimum size. However it was determined that the Prospect 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 occur in an area that has been determined not to have wilderness characteristics. The proposed action will not have any impact on 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
- \* USGS topographic maps, GIS data, Google Earth images

## — Appendix C — Section 810 Assessment

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**Location:** Mile post 55 Yukon Crossing to mile post 175 Coldfoot on the Dalton Highway, Alaska.

**Township/Range:** Beginning at Sec. 7, T. 12 N., R. 10 W., and ending at Sec. 15, T. 28 N., R. 12 W., Fairbanks Meridian encompassing multiple sections, townships and ranges.

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

**Date:** 10/9/2015 and 9/24/15

**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: Arctic grayling are common and widely harvested by subsistence users throughout the Koyukuk River drainage. The harvest takes place primarily with hook and line gear during the fall as the grayling move from their headwater summer rearing habitat to deeper wintering areas. Fall harvests using these methods can result in individual subsistence fishers taking hundreds of grayling (Anderson et al. 2004). The proposed action would not reduce harvestable fisheries resources that are available for subsistence use. The proposed action would 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:

Activities associated with the proposed action will occur in Game Management Units (GMUs) 24A and 26B. Species of wildlife that are used for subsistence harvest in the area include moose, caribou, Dall sheep, bears, furbearers, and small game. Activities associated with the proposed action are expected to occur on or immediately adjacent to the road, and these animals are not anticipated to be in the immediate vicinity. If animals are present, they will likely temporarily avoid the area when activities associated with the permitted action are occurring, but the activity will not permanently impact their distribution in the area.

Subsistence activities that are ongoing during the proposed filming time frame (mid-November) include caribou hunting and Federal subsistence trapping for some furbearer species. If personnel associated with the proposed action observe these activities ongoing, they should ensure that their actions do not interfere with these activities. 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 water, wood, or berries. The proposed action is non-consumptive and will not impact quantities of these resources. 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 affect subsistence uses and needs.

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

None. The proposed action would not alter the distribution, migration, or location of subsistence resources.

**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:**

The proposed action will occur on or immediately adjacent to the Dalton Highway. No alternative sites were proposed.

**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 on public lands. 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:**