



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: Stang Free Timber Permit

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A010-2016-0004-CX

Case File Number: AA-094155

Location / Legal Description: Timber area located at:

Kateel River Meridian, Alaska

T. 7 S., R. 24 W.,
Sec. 2,3,10,11 (within).

Applicant (if any): Dan Stang

Description of Proposed Action:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would authorize Dan Stang of Nome, Alaska to harvest dead standing or downed timber on public lands near Mt. Wick east of Council, Alaska. Mr. Stang has a private residence in Council used primarily for subsistence hunting fishing and trapping and request to harvest up to 5 cords of wood annually for a heat source for his residence in Council.

The free use permit would be issued on an annual basis, subject to compliance with the initial one year permit stipulations. Access to the wood source is available on an established 17(b) easement (EIN 1a C3, D1 L) which originates in Council and follows Melsing Creek to federal lands. The applicant may need authorization from Council Native Corporation on lands if access is from other than the established ANCSA easement. Access would be by snowmobiles or OHV from Council, Alaska.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan(s): Kobuk Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan Sept. 2008

G. Forest and Woodland Vegetation and Forest Products G-3 Management Actions #2

#2

“Issue free use permits to harvest vegetative products for personal use consistent with 43 CFR 5500 on a case by case basis.”

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:

Forestry C-5. Disposal of small amounts of miscellaneous vegetation products outside established harvest areas, such as Christmas trees, wildings, floral products (ferns, boughs, etc.), cones, seeds, **and personal use firewood.**” (Emphasis added)

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	No.

Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).	
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 Bittner

1/27/16

 Alan Bittner
 Anchorage Field Manager

 Date

Attachments

1. Map of area
2. Proposed stipulations
3. Easement Map

Stipulations for Stang timber permit AA-094155

In addition to the stipulation in IM 2012-012 (attached). The following permit stipulations shall apply:

All vehicles, transport equipment used in access, construction, maintenance and operations of project must be thoroughly cleaned prior to moving equipment and gear across or onto BLM managed lands. Washing and/or brushing equipment and gear to remove material that can contain weed seeds or other propagates helps to insure equipment that is being transported across or onto BLM managed lands are weed and weed seed free. High pressure washing is recommended to treat the insides of bumpers, wheel wells, undercarriages, inside belly plates, excavating blades, buckets, tracks, rollers, drills, buckets, shovels, any digging tools, etc., to remove

Site reclamation must be implemented as soon as possible after construction using the original organic layer. This organic layer is to be removed and set aside upon initial site disturbance, and replaced on disturbed areas in potential weeds, seeds, and soil carrying weed propagules, and vegetative material. All gear, tool bags and accessories must be free of all plant debris, mud, and materials that can be the source of non-native invasive plants and pathogens.

In lieu of revegetation with non-local materials, certified weed-free mulch, hay or straw is required in areas needing mulch. Sources for weed free mulch can be found by calling the Plant Materials Center: 907-745-4469. Revegetation Guidance can be found at: http://www.dnr.state.ak/ag/pmcweb/PMC_reveg

Should any area used in operations have invasive plant infestations prior to activities authorized you must immediately confer with the land administrator by contacting the BLM Anchorage Field Office 907-267-1246.