

Decision Record Memorandum

Three (3) crew/man camps

Introduction

Summary

Alaska Maritime Excavation proposes to establish three (3) 50' x 100' crew/man camps at mile posts 86, 261 and 267 off the Dalton Highway working as a subcontractor for the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The three (3) proposed camp locations are within Secs. 14, 15 and 22, T. 16 N., R. 13 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Sec. 15, T. 13 S., R. 12 E., and Secs. 9 and 16, T. 12 N., R. 12 E., Umiat Meridian. They propose up to 10 persons occupying these camps with 5 personal RVs onsite. Additional equipment onsite would be small gasoline powered Honda generators for the RVs. All solid waste would be hauled back to Fairbanks and liquid wastes will be disposed of at the RV dump by the Hot Spot and/or hauled back as well. They propose to occupy these camps from June 1 through October 31, 2016.

Decision

I have decided to issue a permit for a 10 person crew/man camp to Alaska Maritime Excavation at mile posts 86 and 267 off the Dalton Highway within Secs. 14, 15 and 22, T. 16 N., R. 13 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Sec. 15, T. 13 S., R. 12 E., and Secs. 9 and 16, T. 12 S., R. 12 E., Umiat Meridian, Alaska for five (5) months from June – October 31, 2016. All mitigation measures have been addressed in the terms and conditions 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 area there would be no impact to the general public. Additionally, this document was published to the electronic Central Yukon Field Office NEPA Register on May 18, 2016. No comments have been received as of June 6, 2016.

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, 222 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 do not 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 Recommendation

Having considered a full range of alternatives, associated impacts, and public and agency input, I recommend the adoption and implementation of the attached Approved Plan as the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan.

<i>/s/ William H. Hedman</i> For Timothy J. La Marr Field, Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	Date June 10, 2016
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Appendix A - Essential Fish Habitat Determination

NEPA document: DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2016-0033-CX

Case File No.: F-97105

Title: Three (3) crew/man camps at mile posts 86, 261 and 267 Dalton Highway

Prepared by: David G. Parker

Date: 05/26/16

The proposed action lies within the general range of Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma*); arctic char (*S. alpinus*); Lake Trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*); burbot (*Lota lota*); and whitefish (Coregonid spp.). Arctic grayling (*Thymallus arcticus*) and slimey sculpin (*Cottus cognatus*) are ubiquitous throughout the region (ADF&G 1978). Northern pike (*Esox lucius*), Alaska blackfish (*Dallia pectoralis*), longnose sucker (*Catostomus catostomus*) and ninespine stickleback (*Pungitius pungitius*) are also found in select streams and lakes in the area (BLM 2010 and Mecklenberg et al. 2002). Chinook (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), coho (*O. kisutch*), and chum salmon (*O. keta*) are listed as present in adjacent watersheds. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recognizes fresh waters cataloged (ADF&G 2014) as being used by salmon under AS 41.14.870 (Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes) as essential fish habitat (EFH).

Alaska Maritime Excavation proposes to establish three (3) 50' x 100' crew/man camps at mile posts 86, 261, and 267 off the Dalton Highway working as a subcontractor for the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. They propose up to 10 persons occupying these camps with 5 personal RVs onsite. They propose to occupy these camps from June 1 through October 31, 2016. Adherence to the stipulations listed in this CX will limit any negative impacts on adjacent anadromous water courses. Therefore, there is no anticipated deleterious effect on EFH.

Essential Fish Habitat Finding: *No adverse effect.* EFH consultation with NMFS is not required.

References:

- Bureau of Land Management, 2010. Fish Streams Along the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, A Compilation of Selected References with Current TAPS Stationing. BLM Open File Report 105. 43 p.
- Mecklenburg, Catherine W., T. Anthony Mecklenberg, and Lyman K. Thorsteinson, 2002. Fishes of Alaska. American Fisheries Society. Bethesda, Maryland. 1037 p.
- State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1978. Alaska's Fisheries Atlas. Volume 2. Edited by R. McLean and K. Delaney. Alaska Department of Fish and Game.
- State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2014. An Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes, Resource Management Region V. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat and Restoration Division.

<http://extra.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/FishResourceMonitor/?mode=awc>

Appendix B - Wilderness Characteristics Assessment

NEPA Document No.: DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2016-0033-CX

Applicant: Alaska Maritime Excavation

Serial No.: F-97105

Location: Mile posts 86, 261 and 267 on the Dalton Highway

Township/Range: Secs. 14, 15 and 22, T. 16 N., R. 13 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Sec. 15, T. 13 S., R. 12 E., and Secs. 9 and 16, T. 12 S., R. 12 E., Umiat Meridian off the Dalton Highway, Alaska.

Evaluation by: Robin Walthour

Date: May 18, 2016

Proposed Action: Alaska Maritime Excavation proposes to establish three (3) 50' x 100' crew/man camps at mile posts 86, 261 and 267 off the Dalton Highway working as a subcontractor for the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. The three (3) proposed camp locations are within Secs. 14, 15 and 22, T. 16 N., R. 13 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Sec. 15, T. 13 S., R. 12 E., and Secs. 9 and 16, T. 12 N., R. 12 E., Umiat Meridian. They propose up to 10 persons occupying these camps with 5 personal RVs onsite. Additional equipment onsite would be small gasoline powered Honda generators for the RVs. All solid waste would be hauled back to Fairbanks and liquid wastes will be disposed of at the RV dump by the Hot Spot and/or hauled back as well. They propose to occupy these camps from June 1 through October 31, 2016.

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 Yukon Segment of the Nonwilderness Assessment, which covered approximately 725,000 acres total in 1980. Portions of this segment meet the 5,000 acre minimum size. However it was determined that the lands where the proposed

action will occur did not meet the standards for naturalness due to roads, camps, airfields, pipelines, material sites and associated facilities.

Finding:

The proposed action will occur on lands identified as lacking 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
- USGS topographic maps, GIS data, Google Earth images
- Personal knowledge of the site and 2013 aerial survey and site visit

Appendix C - Compliance with ANILCA Section 810

NEPA Document No.: DOI-BLM-AK-030-2016-0033-CX

Applicant: Alaska Maritime Excavation

Case File No.: F-97105

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Location: Mile posts 86, 261 and 267 within Secs. 14, 15 and 22, T. 16 N., R. 13 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Sec. 15, T. 13 S., R. 12 E., and Secs. 9 and 16, T. 12 S., R. 12 E., Umiat Meridian off the Dalton Highway, Alaska.

Evaluation by: Erin Julianus and Dave Parker

Date: 5/26/2016

Type of Assessment/Sources:

Effect of the proposal on subsistence uses and needs

Fisheries:

The proposed action would not alter the distribution, migration, or location of harvestable fisheries resources. Approved mitigation measures would prevent degradation of adjacent water sources and fisheries habitat. The proposed action will not create any legal or physical barriers that would limit access by subsistence users of the fisheries resources.

Wildlife:

The proposed action would not alter the distribution, migration, or location of harvestable wildlife resources. The proposed action will not create any legal or physical barriers that would limit access by subsistence users of wildlife resources.

Other resources:

The proposed action would not alter the distribution or abundance of other subsistence resources such as wood, water, or berries.

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

None

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

None

Finding:

The proposed action will not impact the abundance of, access to, or availability of subsistence fish and wildlife resources.