

Categorical Exclusion Rational

Groundwater Research near Galbraith Lake Airport

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2016-0027-CX

Date: June 7, 2016

Case file: F-97124

Title III of FLPMA, 43 CFR 2920

Section 1.1 Impacts on Public Health and Safety

IMPORTANT: Appropriate staff should review the circumstances listed below, comment and initial for concurrence. Rationale supporting the concurrence should be included where appropriate.

NOTE: Answers to the Extraordinary Circumstances questions below will affect the level of NEPA required for this project.

1. If the answer to all Extraordinary Circumstances is NO, the use of the CX is appropriate.
2. If the answer to any one Extraordinary Circumstance is MAYBE or UNKNOWN, an EA is the appropriate NEPA document.
3. If the answer to any Extraordinary Circumstance is YES, an EIS is required.

| Extraordinary Circumstances <i>Does the proposed action...</i> | No/Maybe Or Unknown/ Yes and Rationale (If appropriate) | Review/Title | Name of Team Member Assigned | Initial and Date |
|---|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Have significant impacts on public health and safety? | | | | |
| | No | Wastes, Hazardous or Solid | Kevin Church | kc 6/3/16 |
| | No | Realty | Robin Walthour | rw 5/20/16 |

Section 1.2 Impacts on Natural Resources or Unique Geographic Characteristics

2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study 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 (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?

| | | | | |
|--|----|--------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| | No | Cultural/Paleontological | Bill Hedman | wh 6/6/16 |
| | No | Recreation/WSA/WSR | Kelly Egger | ke 6/3/16 |
| | No | Wildlife | Erin Julianus | ELJ 6/6/2016 |
| | No | Fish Biology | Dave Parker | DP 5/13/16 |

Section 1.3 Level of Controversy

3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?

| | | | | |
|--|----|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | No | Fish Biology | Dave Parker | DP 5/13/16 |
| | No | Botany/Invasives | Jennifer McMillan | ELJ 6/6/2016 |
| | No | Minerals | Darrel VandeWeg | DAV 3-Jun-16 |
| | No | Recreation/WSA/WSR | Kelly Egger | ke 6/3/16 |
| | No | Visual Resource Management | Kelly Egger | ke 6/3/16 |

Section 1.4 Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown Environmental Risks

4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?

| | | | | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------|--|
| | | For all team members | Robin Walthour | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------|--|

Section 1.5 Precedent Setting

5. Establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?

| | | | | |
|--|----|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | No | Birds/Wildlife habitat | Erin Julianus | ELJ 6/6/2016 |
| | No | Recreation/WSA/WSR | Kelly Egger | ke 6/3/16 |
| | No | Botany/Invasives | Jennifer McMillan | ELJ 6/6/2016 |

Section 1.6 Cumulatively Significant Effects

6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?

| | | | | |
|--|----|----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | No | For all team members | Robin Walthour | rw 6/7/16 |
|--|----|----------------------|----------------|-----------|

Section 1.7 Impacts on Cultural Properties

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 | Archeology/Cultural Resources | Bill Hedman | wh 6/6/16 |
|--|----|-------------------------------|-------------|-----------|

Section 1.8 Impacts on Federally Listed Species or Critical Habitat

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 | Birds/Wildlife/habitat | Erin Julianus | ELJ 6/6/2016 |
| | No | Fisheries/habitat | Dave Parker | DP 5/13/16 |
| | No | Plants/habitat | Jennifer McMillan | ELJ 6/6/2016 |

Section 1.9 Compliance With Laws

9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?

| | | | | |
|--|----|----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | No | For all team members | Robin Walthour | rw 6/7/16 |
|--|----|----------------------|----------------|-----------|

Section 1.10 Environmental Justice

10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?

| | | | | |
|--|----|----------------------|----------------|-----------|
| | No | For all team members | Robin Walthour | rw 6/7/16 |
|--|----|----------------------|----------------|-----------|

Section 1.11 Indian Sacred Sites

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 | Native American Coordinator/Cultural Resources | Bill Hedman | wh 6/6/16 |
|--|----|--|-------------|-----------|

Section 1.12 Noxious and Non-Native Invasive Species

12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the 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 | Invasive and Non-Native Weeds | Jennifer McMillan | ELJ 6/6/2016 |
|--|----|-------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|