

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Anchorage Field Office  
**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM**

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CX No.: AK-040-02-CX-016

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-083891 (2860)

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Proposed Action Title/Types: Right-of-way to place a Remote Tracking Station to detect radio-tagged chinook salmon swimming by the site.

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Location of Proposed Action: T. 22 N., R. 60 W., Section 30, SW1/4 SE1/4, Seward Meridian

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**Description of Proposed Action:**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division requested a Right-of-way (ROW) to place a Remote Tracking Station (RTS) on public lands to detect radio-tagged chinook salmon. The development plan for the site is to erect a three-leg tripod tower within a 10-foot diameter circle. The three guy wires will brace the upper part of the 20-foot high tower. The self-supporting platform will support the antennas and electronic equipment. The legs of the tripod tower will rest on the land surface supported by a total of three, 3-inch long by 1-inch diameter earth anchors mounted 24 inches in the soil. These anchors are used to attach guy cables to support the upper portion of the tower against wind. A covered fiberglass tub (2-foot by 3-foot) holding six non-spillable gelled-electrolyte batteries will be placed on the land surface at the base of the tripod tower. All equipment and materials will be removed from the site before the expiration of the ROW grant. Access to the site will be by helicopter. The site is devoid of vegetation; therefore, no clearing will be necessary to land the helicopter. The tower site is a potential nesting habitat for peregrine falcons, a State and Federal sensitive species. Breeding peregrines are vulnerable to nest abandonment from disturbances while establishing nest sites, egg laying and tending young from May to mid-August. Efforts must be made to minimize aircraft disturbance of nest sites.

This RTS is adjacent to a tower located in Section 29, of T. 22 N., R. 60 W., SM along the Yukon River (see attached map). The site is needed from April 1, 2002 through April 1, 2005. Depending on weather conditions, the installation will take place no later than May 2002 and will be completed in one day.

Applicant (if any): State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game, Commercial Fisheries Division

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**PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW**

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southwest MFP.

Date Plan Approved: November 1981

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Remarks:

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**PART II - NEPA REVIEW**

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A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1. or 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4. E.19.

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.

The following Departmental List of Exceptions apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

- |   | YES                      | NO                                  |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Flood plain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

YES NO

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10. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. \_\_\_\_\_ X

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Adverse Energy Impact Compliance

This action has been analyzed, as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053, to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

Preparer(s): \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ Dorothy Bonds \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 04-01-02 \_\_\_\_\_

**PART III - DECISION**

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: Peregrine falcons may be nesting on the cliffs above the river, south of the site from May to mid-August. Helicopter approaches and landings must be to or from the north to minimize disturbance to any nest sites. No flights will occur below 1,500 feet over the cliff nest areas.

Remarks:

Authorized Official: \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ Peter J. Ditton \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ 04-08-02 \_\_\_\_\_