

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

CX No.: AK-040-03-CX-009

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-077729

Proposed Action Title/Types: Ceremonial Iditarod Race on Campbell Tract

Location of Proposed Action: ~~Campbell Tract: Seward Meridian, T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Section 3:~~
USGS topographic map Anchorage A-8.

Description of Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to allow the 2003 Ceremonial Start of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race to utilize Campbell Tract (CT) as the terminus for their March 1, 2003 event. The normal terminus for the annual ceremonial race that commences in downtown Anchorage is Eagle River. Due to safety concerns related to a lack of snow on the Eagle River route, the Iditarod sponsors seek to end the race, disembark dignitary and honorary riders, and disassemble and load dog teams and gear, from the southwest ramp area of the Campbell Airstrip adjacent to the Anchorage Field Office (AFO) on CT.

Up to 80 dog teams, each with a musher and rider, will terminate their race at the AFO ramp area, to be met by support crews and vehicles to transport riders, equipment, and animals off-site. The first sled is scheduled to depart downtown Anchorage at 10:00 AM followed by successive teams in a staggered fashion. Teams will arrive individually on Campbell Tract throughout the morning and afternoon of the event for a period of approximately six hours after the start of the event. Vehicles associated with dog teams, dignitary transportation, and administrative officials will be staged out of the AFO employee parking lot, and will drive to the ramp area to assist their specific teams as they arrive on-site. A maximum of approximately 20 vehicles are expected to be parking in the employee lot and operating in the ramp area at any given time during the event.

Crews will install temporary barriers and a snow fence in the ramp area and may provide water to their dogs in this area. Access to the AFO parking lot and ramp area will be restricted to race crews, dignitary transportation, and administrative race and BLM officials only. Iditarod Trail Committee staff will provide for security and control access into the AFO compound at the main AFO gate. Race checkers and security officials will control the ramp and parking areas. Portable toilets will be installed in the ramp area. Race participants will clean up all waste and materials associated with the event.

Applicant (if any): Iditarod Sled Dog Race Committee

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

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

Southcentral Management Framework Plan, March 1980

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

Remarks: The Proposed Action is in conformance with section R-4 of the South Central MFP.

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

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. H.5

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. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 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. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. | ___ | <u>X</u> |

- 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. ___ X

- 9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Flood plain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. ___ X

- 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: none

Preparer(s): Douglas Ballou Date: 2-20-2003

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:

Special stipulations for Campbell Tract attached to CX and Letter of Authorization apply.

Authorized Official: /s/ Clinton E. Hanson, Acting Field Manager Date: 02-27-03

Special Stipulations for Campbell Tract

1. Only race-related vehicles will be allowed into the Anchorage Field Office (AFO) administrative area at 68th Avenue and Abbott Loop Road to access the race terminus area. Race officials will monitor the main AFO gate for the duration of the event to prevent unauthorized vehicles from entering.
2. The race terminus area is described as the large dirt pad east of the AFO parking lot and immediately west of the newly constructed airstrip ramp pad (see attached map). Up to 80 sled dog teams may disembark passengers and dismantle and remove sleds and equipment in this area.
3. Race officials and members of the media vehicles will park in the warehouse receiving parking lot. Dog sled support crew and Iditarider transportation crew will park in the AFO employee parking lot located between the maintenance facility and cadastral offices until their respective dog sleds arrive. Support vehicles may then drive to the edge of the race terminus area to load passengers, dogs, and equipment.
4. Race officials will install temporary barriers and fences, and coordinate safe traffic flow in the established parking and race terminus areas.
5. Portable restrooms will be temporarily placed in the race terminus area for use by race officials, dog sled team members, and riders.
6. Race representatives will be stationed at the Old Rondy Trail/airstrip junction and the Coyote Trail/airstrip junction to perform crowd control and ensure spectator and dog sled team safety. Temporary barriers may be placed as appropriate.
7. Participants must be vigilant for aircraft seeking emergency use of the airstrip and prepared to cease race operations on or near the airstrip at any time. All vehicles are prohibited on the airstrip and newly constructed airstrip ramp pad east of the race terminus area.
8. All litter, dog waste, and hay will be cleaned up and removed from parking lots and the race terminus area at the end of the event.