

DECISION RECORD AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
CAMPBELL TRACT FUEL BREAK AND DEFENSIBLE SPACE CONSTRUCTION

I. Decision:

It is my decision to create a defensible space around improvements on the Campbell Tract Facility, a shaded fuel break along the East and South perimeter of Campbell Tract (CT) and to remove hazard trees along trails and roads.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The CT is within the geographic boundary of the Alaska Southcentral Planning Area Management Framework Plan (MFP), dated March 1980. The subjects of defensible space and fuel breaks are not specifically addressed in the MFP, however, the Proposed Action is consistent with the rationale found in the MFP decisions.

The decision to implement the Proposed Action was made for several reasons. There is an increase in fire danger due to a spruce bark beetle epidemic which has killed many white spruce trees on the CT and the surrounding area. The location of the fuel break along the perimeter encompasses as much of the CT within the fuel break as possible. The perimeter location is not near established trail corridors and will not change the “wilderness” experience for CT trail users.

Placing the fuel break along the Viewpoint Trail (Alternative #1) was rejected because the impact of the clearing would be more noticeable to trail users. In addition, placing the fuel break along the trail would exclude a large portion of the CT and reduce the potential effectiveness of the fuel break..

The BLM’s mission to manage public lands in Alaska will continue into the foreseeable future. Protecting the CT by construction of the fuel break and defensible space will enable BLM to continue in this mission.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact

Based upon the analysis of the potential environmental impacts, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant and that an environmental impact statement is not required. The impacts from construction of the fuel break along the perimeter, defensible space around structures and removal of hazard trees along trails and roads were determined to be minor.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

The CT lands are Federal Public Land as defined in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 810 and fall under the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board and the Subsistence Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Wildlife on Federal Public Lands in Alaska. The CT lies within the Anchorage Management Unit of Game Management Unit 14C which under the current Subsistence Regulations noted above is closed to the taking of wildlife under both State (hunting and trapping) and Federal Subsistence Regulations. Further, the taking of wildlife on the CT is limited by Supplemental Rules issued on November 20, 1998 under 43 CFR 8365.1-6 that close the CT to the use of firearms, archery equipment, traps or snares. The CT has no documented consistent use by rural Alaskans of fish or game and no knowledge of such use has become available since the inception of the Federal Subsistence Program or the issuance of the above noted Supplementary Rules.

/s/ Peter Ditton, Acting
Anchorage Field Office Manager

August 7, 2001
Date