

DECISION RECORD AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
SNETTISHAM POWER PROJECT

I. Decision:

It is my decision to recommend the partial revocation of Public Land Order (PLO) 5108, dated August 17, 1971, as amended, as it affects approximately 84.01 acres of land outside of Juneau, Alaska.

PLO 5108 segregated the subject lands from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including mining laws, for the Snettisham Hydroelectric Power Project. The 43-mile 138 kV transmission line connecting the project to the Juneau substation was placed into service in 1972. In February 1974, a 3.9-mile portion of the transmission line which crossed Salisbury Ridge was rendered inoperative when three aluminum towers collapsed due to high winds. This part of the transmission line was rebuilt outside of the lands withdrawn by PLO 5108. U.S. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (COE) received a BLM granted right-of-way, serial number AA-76934, for the new line segment in 1994. On May 28, 1996, the COE, submitted a Notice of Intention to Relinquish that portion of PLO 5108 that encompassed the blown down area.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The Proposed Action is to modify PLO 5108 by opening a portion of the land in order to allow conveyance to the State of Alaska, subject to the Alaska Statehood Act, as the land is no longer needed for transmission line use. The lands are within U.S. Survey 1762, Juneau Townsite Elimination Survey.

No land use plan exists for this area. However, the environmental analysis assesses the impacts of the Proposed Action and provides a basis for a decision on the proposal, 43 CFR 1610.8 (b) (1). The decision to authorize the Proposed Action will not result in undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

No significant restrictions of subsistence uses under Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) have been found.

/s/ Peter J. Ditton
Anchorage Field Manager, Acting

December 16, 2001
Date