



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Release a Prospectus for Glacier Landing Air Taxi and Glacier Landing Scenic Air Tour Services

PEPC Project Number: 58089

Description of Action (Project Description):

Denali National Park and Preserve intends to release a prospectus to advertise up to four (4) concession contracts for Glacier Landing Air Taxi and Glacier Landing Scenic Air Tour Services. The park user groups for these services are primarily climbers (air taxi) and tour participants/independent travelers (scenic).

There are currently four concessioners offering these services, and their contracts will expire on December 31, 2019. The draft contracts to be offered will be ten years in length, and will span the time frame of January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2030. There will be no changes in authorized scope from the current contract. Maps included clarify the Glacier Landing Areas open for Scenic Air Tour and Air Taxi Services.

Project Locations:

Location

County: Matanuska-Susitna Borough **State:** AK

Mitigation(s): Backside Lake will only be authorized for commercial air taxi operations to provide access to the park's backcountry. The map calling Backside Lake as a landing location for glacier landing air taxi operations was removed as it is included as a location by default in Map 1. • The term portal is not used at all in the draft prospectus nor draft contract documents. Allowable landing locations are called "Area Open to Glacier Landing". • Data regarding appropriate capacity for landings to be collected and ready to be incorporated into the 2026 round of contracting. Years 1, 4, and 6 of the contract should be years when concessioners report on flight tracks and numbers to inform the capacity discussion. This information is now included in the draft prospectus and contract documents. • Other mitigations already included in prospectus language (e.g. data reporting, basecamp manager, etc). As stated, already included in draft prospectus and contract documents.

CE Citation: A.5 Issuances, extensions, renewals, reissuances or minor modifications of concession contracts or permits not entailing new construction.

CE Justification: This CE renews the 10-year prospectus with minor modifications to scope. The new mitigation measures set in place data monitoring to be analyzed in advance of the subsequent prospectus release.

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Signature

Superintendent:


for Don Striker

Date:

22 Oct 2018

Extraordinary Circumstances:

If implemented, would the proposal...	Yes/No	Notes
A. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	No	
B. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness 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; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	No	
C. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA section 102(2)(E))?	No	
D. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	No	
E. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	No	
F. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?	No	
G. 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	
H. 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	
I. Violate a federal, state, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?	No	
J. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898)?	No	
K. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 130007)?	No	
L. 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	