



Categorical Exclusion Documentation Form (CE Form)

Project: Land Exchange in Kantishna - NPS & Kantishna Roadhouse (Doyon Tourism Inc)

PEPC Project Number: 68304

Description of Action (Project Description):

Exchange Parties: National Park Service and Doyon Tourism, Inc

This categorical exclusion covers a federal action to exchange of two parcels of land between Doyon Tourism, Inc (Doyon) and the National Park Service (NPS) in the Kantishna area of Denali National Park and Preserve. Additional detail can be found in the associated reports and figures attached in PEPC.

The project involves acquisition of an approximately 17.8 acre parcel of the Galena Lode Claim (Galena) by the NPS. In exchange, Doyon would acquire title to up to 8.5 acres of federal lands adjoining the Kantishna Roadhouse property, including title to the Roadhouse Historic Site, built in 1919. A cash adjustment to equalize the values may be made by the owner of the less value property to bring the exchange to equal value. Conditions of the exchange would prohibit the development of any additional guest lodging, industrial uses, or commercial resource extraction on the part of Doyon or any other future owner. Details of the conditions of the exchange are found in the exchange agreement (attached in PEPC). Much of the land to be transferred to Doyon has been used by Doyon under a special use permit in support of lodge operations since the facility opened in 1983 and includes roads and buildings. This exchange places land that is already developed into private ownership while placing undeveloped land under NPS management.

The purpose of this exchange is for the NPS to acquire and protect approximately 17.8 acres at the Galena parcel, thereby precluding development at a highly visible location on the Denali Park Road (approximately milepost 91.7). This action will address a need to clarify operational and management responsibilities on the part of both the NPS and Doyon with respect to maintenance, access, and cultural and natural resource protection on the Roadhouse Addition parcel. The authority for this exchange is section 1302(h) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA, 16 U.S.C. 3192(h)) and Denali National Park Improvement Act, Public Law 113-33. Project

The NPS would manage the Galena property as any other undeveloped area in the 1980 additions to Denali. Due to the steep terrain on the parcel and the existence of cultural sites, the NPS does not have plans to develop any visitor facilities. Both the Park Road and Skyline Drive (aka Quigley Ridge Road) pass through the parcel. Skyline Drive is a primitive route used to access park lands and inholdings located east of Kantishna. Both parcels being considered are known to contain cultural resources related to Kantishna's mining history. The Roadhouse Addition contains the 1919 Roadhouse Historic Site, a two-story log structure (Historic Roadhouse), outhouse, and archaeological pit feature, as well as other sites. Cultural sites including adits (closed) and mining implements are found on the Galena parcel. NPS' current management plan of the Historic Roadhouse is benign neglect, which would result in eventual deterioration of the building and associated features.

Under the exchange, the Roadhouse Historic Site would come under private ownership. It is an adverse effect per the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to relinquish cultural resources. Additionally, without a preservation plan in place, and Historic Roadhouse would be removed from the National Historic Registrar.

To ensure that the land exchange would not diminish management of the Historic Roadhouse, NPS would take the following steps:

- NPS would enter a five-year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) that outlines mitigation measures, such as documentation of the structure, that would be inherited by Doyon with the exchange. - NPS would work with Doyon to relist the Historic Roadhouse on the National Historic Registrar. - Once sold, Doyon could continue the current management approach or could opt to stabilize, rehabilitate, or reconstruct the Historic Roadhouse and related sites. If choosing to do so, they must abide by the Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

Following the exchange, undiscovered cultural sites on the parcels would remain the property of the United States and would be assessed for subsequent treatment or disposition by park resources staff.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	Denali Borough	State:	AK
Geo. Marker:	MP 91 (Milepost)	Other:	

There are no required mitigations identified.

CE Citation: C.2 Land exchanges which will not lead to significant changes in the use of land.

CE Justification:

The land exchange includes language that Doyon will not further develop land that they receive in the exchange. Some private structures already exist on this land. Additionally, NPS has no plans to develop the acreage being received in the exchange. Currently the Skyline Drive access route crosses the property.

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: _____ **Date:** _____

Denice Swanke

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	Doyon will be receiving the Historic Kantishna Roadhouse listed on the National Register as part of this exchange, but will inherit guidelines for maintenance of the building and site as part of the deed. They may choose to continue NPS' management of benign neglect, or will follow DOI Secretary guidance to maintain the building. NPS will work with Doyon to re-list the structure on the National Historic Register.
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	Doyon will be receiving the Historic Kantishna Roadhouse listed on the National Register as part of this exchange, but will inherit guidelines for maintenance of the building and site as part of the deed. They may choose to continue NPS' management of benign neglect, or will follow DOI Secretary guidance to maintain the building. NPS will work with Doyon to re-list the structure on the National Historic Register.
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 13007)?	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	

