

Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Minor Amendment to the 1997 Frontcountry Plan

PEPC Project Number: 64520

Description of Action (Project Description):

There is language in the Frontcountry Plan that is based on limiting guided hiking in the Kantishna area to concession contracts awarded to Lodges in Kantishna. No rationale was given as to why other guided visitor services could not be offered in the Kantishna area under Commercial Use Authorizations. Park Management wishes to broaden visitor opportunities in the Kantishna Area by revising the language on page 44 of the Final Entrance Area and Road Corridor Development Concept Plan/Environmental Impact Statement from:

"Guided hiking by the two Kantishna limited concession permit holders would be allowed in designated areas along the park road west of mile 84, the Wonder Lake campground access road, and the McKinley Bar trail. These guided activities would therefore be available only for overnight guests of the two permit holders. A maximum of two permits would therefore be available for guided hiking. These restrictions would not apply to the historic operator in Kantishna."

to: "Commercial authorization would permit guided activities in 1980 Park and Preserve Additions including the Kantishna Hills and designated areas along the park road west of mile 84, the Wonder Lake campground access road, and the McKinley Bar trail. These guided activities would therefore be available for all park visitors. The commercial authorization and activity-specific stipulations would adhere to current management plans and the indicators and standards for the applicable management areas. This amendment does not limit the historic operator in Kantishna."

Project Locations:

Location

County: Denali Borough

Geo. Marker: Kantishna Area (Subsection)

State: AK

Other:

Mitigation(s):

- Mitigation: Kantishna-area monitoring per the indicators in the Backcountry Management Plan should be initiated or continued.

CE Citation: B.1 Changes or amendments to an approved plan, when such changes would cause no or only minimal environmental impact.

Explanation:

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:

Don Striker

Date:

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	