



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Installation: seasonal FAA weather cameras - 5 year programmatic approval 2017-2021 (Kahiltna Glacier)
PEPC Project Number: 70515

Description of Action (Project Description):

This project would permit seasonal installation and removal of two FAA weather cameras for up to 5 years (2017-2021), following a successful trial period of operation during the 2015 & 2016 seasons.

The cameras are located at ~6,200-feet on the Kahiltna Glacier, proximate to the Kahiltna Ice Fall and ~5,700-feet on the Ruth Glacier proximate to the Sheldon Amphitheater. Working in conjunction with the FAA, park staff would temporarily place the FAA 4-camera devices on the flank of the southern most spur of the West Ridge of Mount Hunter and the south ridge of the formation locally known as "Final Ridge" (see coordinates). The cameras would be removed in approximately mid-September each year. From these locations, the cameras provide near real time weather information that allow NPS staff to make accurate go/no-go decisions for aviation operations. This information would also be made available, via the FAA, to the public. The locations selected provide views from areas that are typically the point in which flights must turn around due to poor weather conditions. In addition to increasing operational safety and efficiency, it is expected that such information leads to less overflight noise as pilots are able to use this information prior to takeoff avoiding the need to get 'eyes on' therefore reducing the number of aborted flights. The size of the temporary weather camera/stations is about 3 square meters. Proposed Locations: Kahiltna: 62° 55.91' N, 151° 12.84' W and Ruth: 62°59'51.57"N 150°43'54.31"W

Project Locations:

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

Mitigation(s):

- No mitigations identified.

CE Citation: E.5 Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.

CE Justification: 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: Donna Swanke **Date:** 27 Feb 2017
Don Striker

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	