



Categorical Exclusion Form

Project: Conduct site characterization and soil treatment at Crooked Creek

PEPC Project Number: 85632

Description of Action (Project Description):

The scope of this project is to excavate an area of petroleum impacted soil and to perform on-site treatment at the Crooked Creek site, with follow up monitoring in future years, if found to be necessary.

Crooked Creek, in the Kantishna Hills area of DENA, is the site of abandoned mining debris, including fuel barrels (55-gal drums), water supply pipe, and other debris. The drums contained small amounts of petroleum, and most sat in wet floodplain areas or impoundment waters of beaver-dammed Crooked Creek. In 2007, a consultant identified two drums, a battery and an area of approximately 1.3 cubic yards of fuel contaminated soil that required removal. Even though a sample was not collected from the contaminated soil site, the consultant smelled petroleum. Subsequent to this work in 2007, the drums containing fluids and the battery were removed, leaving the soil contamination.

Plan as of March 2019: Collect samples from five hand auger locations to determine the extent and concentration of contamination and not do any excavation of contaminated soils initially. If the soils are really rocky and the hand auger won't work, it is possible that 5 test pits would have to be hand dug to maybe as deep as 4 feet. Previous plan - could still be needed based on contamination levels: In the first phase of this proposed project, a contractor shall conduct a site visit, collecting soil samples for analysis, treating the soil onsite by excavating the soil and treating using a chemical oxidant and placing the treated soil back in the excavation. Samples will be collected from the side walls and bottom of the excavation and from the excavated soils to determine contaminant nature and concentrations. If contaminant concentrations exceed state cleanup levels during this first phase of work, a consultant will conduct a site visit in a later year to determine the status of contamination after treatment.

This site is accessible by helicopter, at a remote location at the West end of Denali National Park. Because of the high cost of access, both site investigation and remediation work are proposed in the first phase work. The EDL number for this site is 5AR2700 and the EDL Rank for the site is 87.

Project Locations:

Location

County:	Denali Borough	State:	AK
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Mitigation(s): Place flights in Geoform. 106 monitor on site during project.

CE Citation: E.4 Removal of non-historic materials and structures in order to restore natural conditions.

CE Justification:

Ongoing treatment of contaminated soils in areas with past mining. Samples to be submitted to ADEC.

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:

Donce Swanke
Don Striker

Date:

27 MAR 2019

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	

