

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-01-CX-031 **Case File No.:** A-023002

Proposed Action Title/Types: Renewing Davis Range, Tract M, Withdrawal

Location of Proposed Action: Within Secs. 6, 7, and 18, T. 12 N., R. 1 W., and Secs. 1, 2, 3, 11, 12, and 13, T. 12 N., R. 2 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska.

Description of Proposed Action:

The U.S. Department of the Army requested to extend Public Land Order No. 6244 for a 20-year period. This order withdrew public land from operation of the surface land and mining laws, for military purposes at the Fort Richardson Military Reservation known as the Davis Range, Tract M.

This withdrawal was made for cold weather survival and infantry tactical training purposes. Public Land Order No. 6244 will expire on May 13, 2002.

Applicant: U.S. Department of the Army

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southcentral MFP, Activity Objective L-1.

Date Plan Approved: March 1980.

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Remarks:

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5, 5.4.E.(1).

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B. Departmental Exceptions Review.

The following Departmental List of Exceptions apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents **MUST BE PREPARED** for actions which may: *(Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)*

- | | <u>YES</u> | <u>NO</u> |
|---|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 2. Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, Floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 3. Have highly controversial environmental effects. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 5. Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 6. Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 7. Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 8. Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 9. Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Flood plain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |
| 10. Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment. | <u> </u> | <u> X </u> |

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I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Preparer(s): /s/ Jerri Sansone Date: 10-12-01

PART III - DECISION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks:

The Department of the Army shall control and manage off-road vehicle use to minimize and prevent disturbance to fragile slopes and soils.

The Department of the Army shall not allow further unexploded ordnance contamination. Prior to returning the lands to public land status, the lands shall be made safe for non-military use.

Any water use, which may or may not be needed for the identified training, will not vary from the original withdrawal use.

Remarks:

Authorized Official: /s/ Peter Ditton Date: 10-12-01