

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Case File No.: AA-012854 (2352)

AK-040-EA00-009

Type of Action: Revocation of the Department of Commerce, U.S. Coast Guard,
Administrative Site Withdrawal, Executive Order No. 7032, dated May 1,
1935, containing 98 acres of land at Sanak Harbor, Alaska

Location: Located in Sections 3 and 10, T. 66 S., R. 91 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska

Applicant: Department of Commerce, U.S. Coast Guard

Prepared By: Dorothy J. Bonds, Realty Specialist

Preparing
Office: Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office
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Date: August 9, 2000

I. INTRODUCTION:

The subject land of the Proposed Action was withdrawn by Executive Order (EO) No. 7032 dated May 1, 1935. The EO states that “all of two unnamed, unsurveyed islands in Alaska”, be withdrawn for use by the Department of Commerce, (U.S. Coast Guard) for lighthouse purposes. The withdrawal is referred to as the Sanak Island Lighthouse Reserve. One unnamed island, containing approximately eight acres, and a larger island, containing approximately 98 acres, are within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), which is under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (F&WS). On March 17, 1977, in accordance with 43 CFR 2372.1, the U.S. Coast Guard submitted a Notice of Intent to Relinquish approximately 98 acres of land on the larger unnamed island. The U.S. Coast Guard has requested that eight acres of land on the smaller island, on which the Pavlof triangulation station is located, be retained for use by the Coast Guard

A memo from the F&WS dated October 5, 1999, states that five concrete pads, approximately 24" by 24" with iron braces protruding from them, are located on the lands to be returned to the jurisdiction of the F&WS. The F&WS stated that due to the extremely remote location of the island, access being limited to air or boat, and the absence of any inhabitants in the vicinity, they did not consider it necessary to require the removal of these concrete pads and iron braces. As a consequence, the F&WS has no objection to the final processing of the Notice of Intent to Relinquish lands set aside under EO No. 7032.

A. Need for the Proposed Action:

The partial revocation of EO No. 7032 dated May 1, 1935, is needed because the administrative site withdrawal is not being used for the purposes for which it was withdrawn. The remaining eight acre island within the EO No. 7032 withdrawal, will continue to be withdrawn for use by the Coast Guard, and will remain under the U.S. Coast Guard’s jurisdiction.

B. Conformance With Land Use Plan:

No land use plan exists for this area. However, the environmental analysis assesses the impacts of the Proposed Action and provides a basis for a decision on the proposal (43 CFR 1610.8 (b)(1)).

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVE:

A. Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to partially revoke EO No. 7032, dated May 1, 1935,

containing 98 acres of land. The land description is as follows:

Seward Meridian, Alaska
T. 66 S., R. 91 W.,
Sections 3 and 10

This area described contains 98 acres of public land.

Upon partial revocation of the withdrawal (approximately 98 acres), the Coast Guard will be relieved of accountability for the land. The land will be under the jurisdiction of the F&WS.

B. No Action Alternative:

The No Action Alternative would leave EO No. 7032, at Sanak Harbor, Alaska as it is, under the administration of the U.S. Coast Guard.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:

A. General Setting:

A site inspection of the 98 acre island was conducted by the F&WS on August 23, 1999. A memo from the F&WS dated October 5, 1999, states that five concrete pads, approximately 24" by 24" with iron braces protruding from them, were observed and inspected. The lands involved are not only encompassed by an island, but the island is remote and uninhabited.

The dominant vegetation consists of willow, crowberry and other low shrubs and forbs. In areas sheltered from high winds, grass and alder are dominant. Sedges and mosses are the principle plants in depressions.

B. Critical Elements:

The following critical elements of the human environment have been analyzed and are either not present or will not be affected by the Proposed Action:

Air Quality
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
Cultural Resources
Environmental Justice
Farmlands (Prime or Unique)
Floodplains
Invasive, Non-native Species
Native American Religious Concerns
Subsistence
Threatened and Endangered Species

Wastes (Hazardous/Solid)
Water Quality (Ground/Surface)
Wetlands/Riparian Zones
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wilderness

1. Threatened and Endangered Species Clearance:
The Proposed Action has been analyzed and was determined to have no significant effect on any threatened and endangered species or their habitat.
2. ANILCA Section 810 Clearance:
The Proposed Action is administrative in nature and does not alter the current status of the lands regarding the Federal Subsistence authority and regulation. Therefore, the Proposed Action was determined to have no significant effect on subsistence uses and needs under Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).
3. Cultural Section 106 Clearance:
The Proposed Action has been analyzed under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and was determined to be in compliance with pertinent historic preservation laws and regulations.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES:

- A. Impacts of the Proposed Action:
There are no impacts of the Proposed Action. The proposed partial revocation of the U.S. Coast Guard Administrative Site withdrawal EO No. 7032, at Sanak Harbor, Alaska, containing approximately 98 acres is administrative in nature and would have no effect on the human environment.
- B. Impacts of the No Action Alternative:
There are no impacts under the No Action Alternative. The action is administrative in nature and no on-the-ground action will occur.
- C. Mitigation Measures:
There are no mitigation measures needed for the Proposed Action.
- D. Residual or Cumulative Impacts:
There are no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts for the Proposed Action or the No Action Alternative.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION:

A. List of Preparers:

Donna Redding, Archaeologist

Jeff Denton, Wildlife Biologist

Bruce Seppi, Wildlife Biologist

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