

DECISION RECORD and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Gary Nelson - Timber Harvest

I. Decision:

It is my decision to authorize the sale of timber to Gary Nelson on the affected lands described as: Lot 2 of Section 5, Lot 2 of Section 6, N½ of Section 7 and Lot 3 of Section 8, T. 17 N., R. 53 W., and Lots 3 and 4 of Section 1, T. 17 N., R. 54 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska. The sale area is located adjacent to the south bank of the Kuskokwim River. The total affected acreage is estimated at between 15 and 20 acres.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The purpose and need of the Proposed Action is to provide logs for Mr. Nelson's sawmill at Chuathbaluk, Alaska, thereby providing lumber and employment opportunities to residents of the area.

The lands are within the boundary of the area described in the Southwest, Management Framework Plan (MFP), dated November 1981.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact:

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

No significant restrictions of subsistence uses under Section 810 of ANILCA have been found.

V. Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

/s/ Clinton E. Hanson, Acting
June Bailey, Anchorage Field Manager

12-19-02
Date

3 Attachments

- 1-AK-040-03-EA-006
- 2-Map
- 3-Stipulations

Stipulations

1. The operator will be required to meet State and Federal requirements for handling of fuels and other hazardous materials including a requirement to have secondary containment devices, spill abatement material, and trained personnel available for spill remediation. The permittee will not be allowed to change oil on equipment on the harvest area.
2. Harvest operations will be suspended during periods of high fire danger:

When Fine Fuel Moisture Contents (FFMC) are low to medium (0-86) logging operations are not restricted. When the FFMC is High (87-90) the operator will be required to post a one hour fire watch in the area of operations for that day.

When the FFMC is Extreme (90+) the operator will cease all operations and if operations had been ongoing the operator will post a one hour fire watch.

The above conditions apply when there is less than four inches of snow on the unit.
3. All internal combustion engines must have approved spark arresters that are serviceable.
4. No cutting of timber will be allowed within 100 feet immediately adjacent to an anadromous or high value resident fish water body.
5. Log skidding operations will be restricted during times of high soil moisture to prevent potential erosion. Landings and concentration areas will be located at least 100 feet away from streams, rivers or other water bodies.
6. Once the operation is complete, the trail(s) used for skidding the logs should be "broken-up" by falling or dragging timber across this path so as to obscure the visual intrusion of new trails.
7. During timber harvest operations, care must be taken to avoid all raptor nests, particularly those of bald eagle and osprey, usually found in tall spruce and cotton wood trees along the river. No raptor nest trees will be cut. When nests are encountered, no clearing or cutting of trees will be done within 1,500 feet of an active nest. Active nests may not have birds present from September to March.
8. If any cultural resources are discovered during the activity, operations will cease and the discovery will be reported to an authorized BLM representative.