

**Decision Record  
and  
Finding Of No Significant Impact  
Sitka Magnetic Observatory – Withdrawal Extension**

I. Decision:

It is my decision that the Director of BLM recommends to the Secretary of the Interior that the withdrawal of 117.37 acres of land in Sitka, Alaska, for use as a magnetic and seismologic observatory site be extended for twenty years. The subject lands are described as Lot 4, U.S. Survey 2545, Section 36, T. 55 S., R. 63 E., Copper River Meridian. This extension will be made pursuant to Section 204 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1714.

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The Sitka Magnetic and Seismologic Observatory site provides a significant, historic base line of data for research purposes. The site is also a component of a larger system of fourteen sites maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey for scientific purposes. These sites are in turn part of a global system that measures earth's magnetic and seismological anomalies. The data gathered has been used for navigation and scientific purposes from 1939 to the present. The site is necessary to continue this vital government service.

No land use plan exists for this area. However, this 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). The decision to authorize the extension of the withdrawal will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that 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 the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (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/ Mike Zaidlicz, Acting  
June Bailey  
Anchorage Field Manager

July 11, 2003  
Date