ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
Case File No.: A-062024
AK-040-EA00-028

Applicant: Bureau of Land Management

Type of Action: Renewal for Campbell Tract Withdrawal

Location: Seward Meridian, T. 12 N., R. 3 W.

Sec. 2 W½W½E½NW¼, W½NW¼, W½E½W½SW¼, W½W½SW¼;
Sec. 3 Lots 1 through 4, inclusive, S½N½NE¼NE¼, S½NE¼NE¼, S½SE¼NW¼NE¼, S½NE¼, S½NE¼SE¼NW¼, SE¼SE¼NW¼, S½SE¼SW¼NW¼, S½SW¼SE¼NW¼, SW¼, E½SE¼
Sec. 10 NE¼NE¼, E½NW¼NE¼, NW¼NW¼NE¼, N½SW¼NW¼NE¼, N½N½N½NW¼;
Sec. 11 NW¼NW¼NW¼, W½SW¼NW¼NW¼;

Prepared By: Bureau of Land Management
Anchorage Field Office

Preparing Office: Bureau of Land Management
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Date: October 6, 2000

Case File No.: A-062024
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ACRONYMS

ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
AFO	Anchorage Field Office
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
ASDRA	Alaska Sled Dog and Racing Association
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CCSC	Campbell Creek Science Center
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CT	Campbell Tract
CTF	Campbell Tract Facility
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FNBP	Far North Bicentennial Park
FNBP-CT	Far North Bicentennial Park-Campbell Tract
FONSI	Finding Of No Significant Impact
MFP	Management Framework Plan
MOA	Municipality of Anchorage
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NASSPA	North American Skijor and Ski Pulk Association
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
PILT	Payment In Lieu of Taxes
P.L.	Public Law
PLO	Public Land Order
RAC	Resource Advisory Council
SCS	Soil Conservation Service
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
U.S.C.	United States Code
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	United States Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) maintains a 730 acre administrative site in Anchorage, Alaska. The site includes office facilities, warehouse, science center, maintenance shop, three communication sites, a 5,000 foot gravel airstrip, and heliport.

During World War II, the Federal Government set aside 7,680 acres of land southeast of Anchorage for the war effort. Commonly known as "Campbell Tract (CT)," it was part of the Fort Richardson Army Base.

In 1964, Anchorage suffered a devastating earthquake. After the quake, there was a shortage of useable land in downtown Anchorage. The Federal Government had several useable parcels, including a prime parcel used by the BLM as an administrative site. The City needed land for reconstruction and the BLM made the land available once it found a new site for its operations.

After the earthquake, the BLM asked the military for permission to move its administrative facility to the CT. The military consented and the BLM transferred its downtown property to the City. In 1965, after spending over two million dollars on new facilities, the BLM moved its administrative, fire control and warehouse operations to the CT. The military also granted the BLM permission to use the 5,000 foot gravel airstrip located on the CT.

In 1971, the Department of Defense determined it no longer needed the CT for military purposes. By that time, 2,665 acres had been transferred out of Federal ownership. The State, the City and the BLM engaged in negotiations to divide the remaining CT land. The negotiations were finalized in a January 2, 1976, amendment to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which directed the Secretary to convey the remaining 5,015 acres of the CT to the State except for:

> one compact unit of land, which he [the Secretary] determines, after consultation with the State of Alaska, is actually needed by the BLM for its present operations. *Provided*, That in no event shall the unit of land so excepted exceed 1,000 acres in size.
>
> 43 U.S.C. 1611 and P.L. 94-204(d)(2), January 2, 1976.

On February 11, 1982, Public Land Order (PLO) 6127 set aside 730 acres of the CT for use by the BLM as an administrative site. The remaining 4,285 acres were transferred to the State of Alaska and subsequently to the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA).

PLO 6127 expires on February 11, 2002. The CT continues to be important as an administrative site for management of public lands in Alaska.

The assumption was made for the purpose of the analysis that any land conveyed to the State and on to the Municipality will be managed according to the Updated Far North Bicentennial Park (FNBP) Master Plan. However, and unlike the 1982 division of the original CT, there is no legislative directive mandating that the land be used for "public parks and recreational purposes and other compatible public purposes". 43 U.S.C. 1611 and P.L. 94-204(d)(2), January 2, 1976.

A. Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action:

The CT has served as the administrative site for the BLM's Anchorage Field Office (AFO) and portions of the BLM's Alaska State Office for more than 35 years. The facilities and personnel at CT provide support for management of 16 million acres of Federal surface estate and over 240 million acres of Federal subsurface estate in Alaska. Operations based at the CT also provide Statewide field support for Federal Government programs to convey Federal land to the State and Native corporations.

The Campbell Creek Science Center (CCSC) provides for public outreach and natural science education to the local and Statewide community. The 5,000 foot gravel airstrip, traversing the center of the site, provides Federal, State, and local government with emergency air transportation facilities and staging areas. Numerous trails throughout the CT give local residents a unique opportunity for recreation in an urban environment.

The BLM has invested millions of Federal tax dollars in the creation and maintenance of the CT complex. Renewal of the withdrawal of the CT will preserve that investment and avoid the much larger expense associated with replacing it. The CT facility is essential to the mission of the BLM in Alaska.

B. Conformance With Land Use Plan:

The CT is within the geographic boundary of the Alaska Southcentral Planning Area Management Framework Plan (MFP), dated March 1980. Although the subject of withdrawals was not specifically addressed in the MFP, the Proposed Action is consistent with the rationale in Lands Activity Objective L-1.1, "When the use of the land is in the public interest, the Bureau should retain ownership."

C. Relationship to Statutes, Regulations, Policies, Plans or Other Environmental Analyses:

The Proposed Action is subject to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the regulations found at 43 CFR 2300, Land Withdrawals. Under the FLPMA, the Secretary of the Interior may, on his own motion, withdraw less than 5,000 acres of land for administrative use. 43 U.S.C. 1714(d). The Secretary may only extend a withdrawal for the purpose for which the withdrawal was first made and then only for a period no longer than the length of the original withdrawal. 43 U.S.C. 1714(f). FLPMA also allows the Secretary to withdraw public lands for use, occupancy and development by Federal departments and agencies. 43 U.S.C. 1732(b).

The management of the CT is directed by the plan titled "A Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the Bureau of Land Management Campbell Tract Facility" completed in June 1988. The CCSC development plan, "Campbell Creek Environmental Education Center Development Plan and Environmental Assessment" was completed in February 1993. The Limits of Acceptable Change monitoring plan for the CT was completed in 1995.

II. PROPOSED ACTION AND ALTERNATIVES

A. Proposed Action:

The Proposed Action is to continue the use of the 730 acre CT as an administrative site for the BLM. The legal description of the CT is as follows:

Seward Meridian, T. 12 N., R. 3 W.

Sec. 2	W½W½E½NW¼, W½NW¼, W½E½W½SW¼, W½W½SW¼;
Sec. 3	Lots 1 through 4, inclusive, S½N½NE¼NE¼, S½NE¼NE¼, S½SE¼NW¼NE¼, S½NE¼, S½NE¼SE¼NW¼, SE¼SE¼NW¼, S½SE¼SW¼NW¼, S½SW¼SE¼NW¼, SW¼, E½SE¼
Sec. 10	NE¼NE¼, E½NW¼NE¼, NW¼NW¼NE¼, N½SW¼NW¼NE¼, N½N½N½NW¼;
Sec. 11	NW¼NW¼NW¼, W½SW¼NW¼NW¼

The existing withdrawal on the site would be renewed for an additional 20 years to protect the use and investment the Federal Government has made in the CT. 43 U.S.C. 1714(f).

Current uses of the CT are:

1. Office Space.
The BLM's complex at CT provides office space for over 100 employees and work areas for 16 maintenance and warehouse employees. The BLM components housed at CT include:

   a. Anchorage Field Office - The AFO manages 16 million acres of Federal surface interests in Southwest Alaska and 240 million acres of Federal subsurface interests Statewide. The office oversees energy and minerals, natural resources, and realty programs. AFO has Statewide responsibilities for oil and gas operations, mineral assessments, forestry, town sites, volunteers, and the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

   b. Campbell Creek Science Center - The CCSC is a part of the AFO. The CCSC is utilized by local school children, teachers, parents, individuals, clubs and organizations for classes, meetings and conferences on subjects related to natural resources. It is operated in partnership with the Anchorage School District and 17 other partners. Approximately 21,000 user days per year are provided at the CCSC and outdoor classroom.

   c. Branch of Field and Office Services - The Branch provides procurement and administrative support Statewide.

   d. Branch of Engineering - The Engineering Branch provides engineering services and facility management Statewide.

   e. Branch of Field Surveys - The Branch surveys land throughout the State in support of the Federal Government programs to convey land to the State of Alaska, Native Corporations and Native Allottees.

2. Maintenance Facilities.
Facilities are on site to repair and maintain pumps, saws, and outboard motors, as well as heavy equipment. Heavy equipment to maintain the gravel roads and remove snow is kept on site. The radio shop provides space to maintain all of the radio equipment used by the BLM in southern Alaska. The radio shop is also staffed by U.S. Forest Service (USFS) personnel who maintain the radio equipment of that agency.

3. Warehouse Areas.
Three warehouse buildings totaling 26,450 square feet of storage space are located on site. Equipment needed for field operations is stored and maintained on site. Warehouse space is provided for three other agencies. The warehouse is the receiving point for all the BLM shipments in Anchorage. Outdoor storage space in fenced areas provide the BLM and other agencies a place to store equipment when not in use.

   a. Warehouse Tenants - Other organizations that use the facility include:

      The National Park Service stores equipment outdoors in a fenced compound.

      The USFS stores goods and equipment inside the warehouse and the outdoor compounds.

      The Disaster Medical Assistance Team, a Public Health Service function, stores a C-130 aircraft load of medical supplies in the warehouse, ready for use in case of disaster. This Team is one of 240 such teams, nationwide.

4. Remote Fueling Operation and Maintenance.
Equipment used to set up and maintain environmentally sound remote fueling sites is maintained at CT. Remote fueling is a unique service provided by the BLM to all Department of the Interior agencies, the USFS, and on occasion State agencies. In addition, there are facilities for processing and disposing of contaminated fuel located on CT.

5. Radio Communication Sites.
   a. BLM Communication Site - The BLM's ground to air radio communication transmitter and receiver are located at the west end of the CT. The transmitter and receiver provide communications with aircraft using the airstrip and heliport. The BLM's high frequency radio and telephone links to field locations are also transmitted and received at this site. This equipment requires an area of land that is free from radio and electrical interference including that caused by motor vehicles. The required area is 1,000 feet in diameter and encompasses 18 acres of land.

b. Multi Department and Multi Agency Communication Site - CT is the site of the only meteor burst communication, master station in the State of Alaska. Of particular significance to the BLM in Alaska is the system's ability to provide reliable long range (up to 994 miles) communications when other communication systems fail.

The system is currently used by the BLM, the Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the National Weather Service. In the past, the system also received substantial use by various branches of State government including the Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). In addition to providing the BLM with time tested Statewide communication capability, remote, unmanned sensors monitor flood areas and avalanche zones throughout the State and transmit the data to the station.

Although the footprint for the meteor burst master station is relatively small, it too requires an area of land free from radio and electrical interference. In this instance that area or buffer zone has a diameter of one mile and encompasses 502.65 acres of land. The buffer zone is absolutely essential to prevent the encroachment of radio frequency interference that would jeopardize ongoing communications activities that are crucial to the BLM as well as other Federal agencies' operations in Alaska.

6. CT Airstrip.
The 5,000 foot gravel runway at CT is closed to private aircraft use but is used occasionally by public agencies, including the BLM. In the event of a catastrophic earthquake or any other disaster, the CT runway could handle medium sized disaster relief aircraft such as the C-130 Hercules. The CT runway could be easily and quickly repaired with on-site equipment. Some minor runway maintenance will be performed this year and a major rehabilitation project is planned within the next five years. The site also includes a heliport which includes parking pads for five helicopters.

7. Calibration Points.
The gravel underlying CT ensures a very stable location for calibration of geologic and geomatic instruments. Two monuments along the runway serve as accurate points for public and private surveyors to calibrate their

survey instruments. Likewise, a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Gravity Station Reference Point, located in the basement under the offices, is used to calibrate instruments and to measure minute changes in the Earth's gravity.

8. Recreation Management.
The CT is designated as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). Recreation management is guided by the "Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the BLM Campbell Tract." The BLM has developed and maintains 11.2 miles of trails and two bridges on CT. There are approximately 35,000 user days of use occurring from two primary access points. The trails connect with trail systems in the adjoining FNBP. The trail system on CT is used on a year round basis by runners, walkers, bicycle riders, mushers, and equestrians. The trail system is maintained and managed by the BLM through alliances with the Nordic Skiing Association of Anchorage, the North American Skijor and Ski Pulk Association (NASSPA), and the Alaskan Sled Dog and Racing Association (ASDRA). The BLM and the MOA have a Cooperative Management Agreement for trails running between the CT and the FNBP.

B. Alternative #1 - No Action Alternative:
The No Action Alternative is to continue use of the improved land as an administrative site as described in the Proposed Action, but without the protection provided by the withdrawal status. The State's top filed application would become a selection on any vacant, unimproved land and eligible lands would be conveyed to the State. Any improved lands not needed would be disposed of by the General Services Administration.

C. Alternative #2 - Partial Renewal Alternative:
This Alternative is to continue the use of 620 acres of the 730 acre CT as an administrative site. The existing withdrawal on 620 acres would be renewed for an additional 20 years to protect the use and investment the Federal Government has made in the CT. 43 U.S.C. 1714(f). Current uses of the CT would continue as described in the Proposed Action on the 620 acres. The 110 acres excluded would be subject to conveyance to the State of Alaska and the MOA.

III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Land Status:
On June 17, 1965, 160 acres within the SW¼ of Section 3, T. 12 N., R. 3 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska were withdrawn for use by the BLM as an administrative site under PLO 3677. Both the military withdrawal and the BLM

withdrawal segregated the 160 acres comprising the BLM administrative site. The military granted the BLM permission to use the 5,000 foot gravel airstrip which was outside of the BLM withdrawal.

In the early 1970's, the Department of Defense announced its intention to abandon its interests in the whole of CT. The State of Alaska, the City of Anchorage and the BLM entered into negotiations for division of the land. Those negotiations were finalized in the January 2, 1976, amendment to the ANCSA, which directed the Secretary to convey all of CT to the State except for that portion needed by the BLM. 43 U.S.C. 1611 and P.L. 94-204(d)(2), January 2, 1976.

On February 11, 1982, PLO 6127 set aside 730 acres of CT for use by the BLM as an administrative site. The remainder of CT was transferred to the State (see Figure 1.) PLO 6127 expires on February 11, 2002.

B. Critical Elements:

The following Critical Elements of the human environment are either not present or would not be affected by the Proposed Action or the Alternatives:

Air Quality
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)
Environmental Justice
Farm Lands (prime or unique)
Floodplains
Invasive, non-native species
Native American Religious Concerns
Wastes (Hazardous/Solid)
Water Quality (Surface/Ground)
Wetlands/Riparian
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wilderness

1. Cultural Resources:

Prehistoric Resources

No prehistoric resources have been identified on the CT. It lies within the territory claimed by the historic Dena'ina, an Athabaskan speaking people. Only spotty evidence of human use has been found indicating occupation prior to their entering the Cook Inlet area. Until approximately 11,000 years ago, glaciers covered the Anchorage bowl. The oldest site in the area dates to approximately 8,000-10,000 and 4,500 years ago at Beluga Point (Reger 1996).

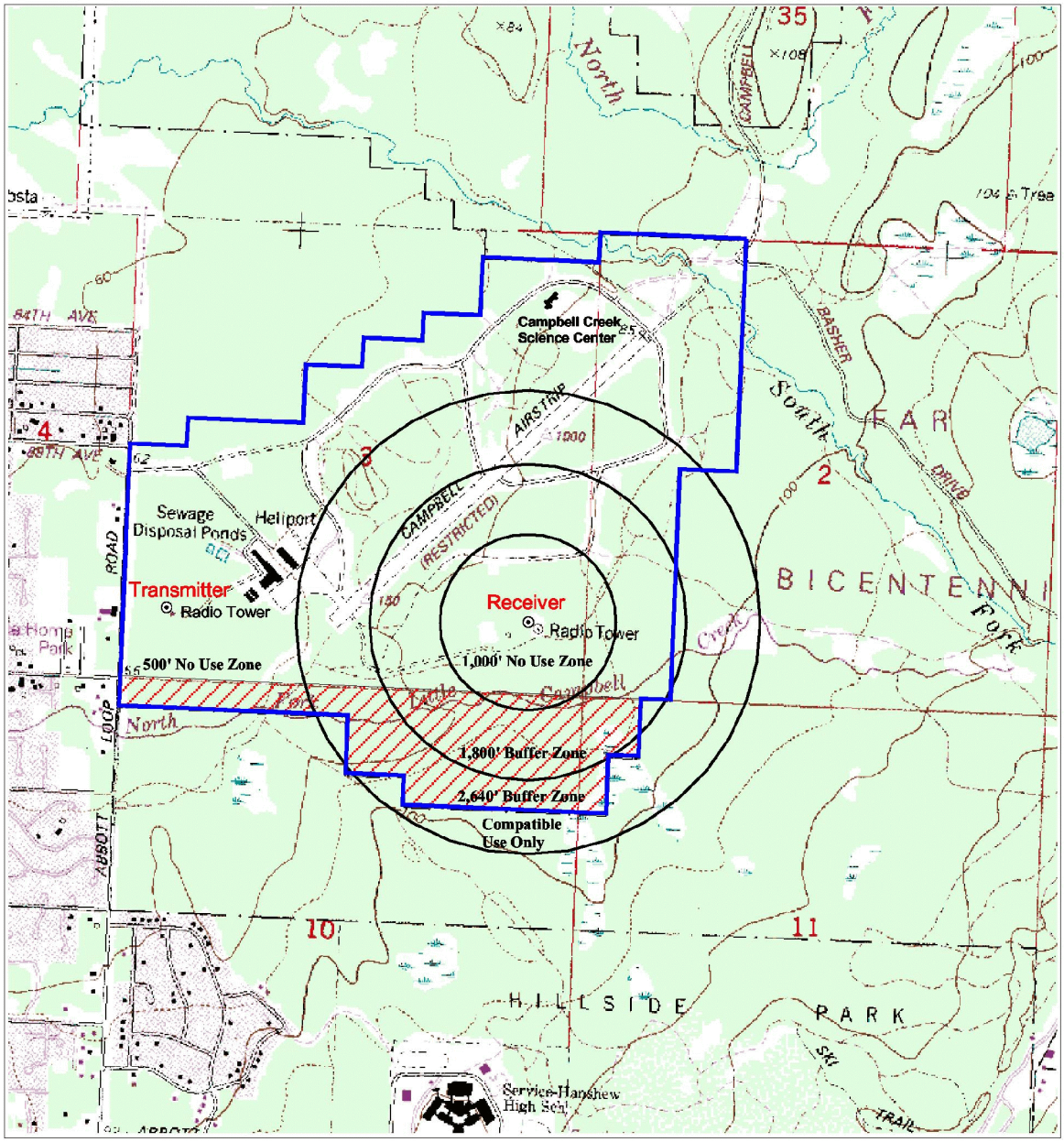

Figure 1 - Campbell Tract

Campbell Tract Boundary Line

Area Proposed for elimination from withdrawl (Alternative 2)

Early United States Period Resources

The CT takes its name from the creek that runs through it. The creek was first reported in 1906 by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). It was most likely named after Campbell Point which was named in 1794 by Joseph Whidbey, probably in honor of Sir Joseph Campbell, governor of Jamaica in 1785 (Orth 1971).

Potter Trail

The Potter or Potter Creek Trail crossed the Anchorage bowl in a north-northeasterly direction. It started at Potter and followed the railroad for approximately four miles. It then crossed to the original railroad right-of-way which was never developed. This, in part, ran along the Campbell Airstrip. After crossing Campbell Creek the trail came to a junction with another old trail following upper Campbell Creek and then to the northwest into the old Anchorage town site. Post World War II development has obliterated most traces of this trail except those which still exist in the CT and the FNBP (Carberry 1979).

World War II Resources

Construction for Fort Richardson was authorized in June 1940. By 1942 the need for satellite airfields to the base became apparent, and four satellite airfields were authorized. These 5,000 foot airfields with revetments and taxiways were located at Campbell Creek, Goose Bay, Birchwood and Willow (Bush 1984).

In June 1942, 50 men from the 138th Infantry Regiment arrived at the newly constructed Campbell Airfield. There was a temporary scarcity of Quonset huts so these soldiers constructed their own quarters off the northeastern end of the airstrip. These quarters were 10' x 16' sod huts built from locally available materials. During this early period at the airfield there were approximately 15 of these huts plus a mess hall, kitchen, guard huts and posts of the same basic construction (personal communication, F. Robert Grant). In December 1942, another camp was constructed on the south bank of Campbell Creek (Bush 1984). This garrison apparently consisted of Quonset huts and structures of more traditional building materials. Only the concrete foundations of the pump and power house identified on the 1943 Campbell Creek Garrison Map remain today. Another, more complex foundation, lies up the Viewpoint Trail from the power house, but its function and association has not been established. Elsewhere on the CT small pits have been located on the hillside overlooking the 1943 garrison camp. Several shallow, rectangular

depressions in the area of the original encampments have been identified. Two large, deep, angular pits and the remains of a latrine have been located near the revetment now used as the parking lot for the CCSC, and another latrine and some unidentified earthworks have been located between the airstrip and the CCSC road. Several burn pit/can dumps have been identified and seem to be associated with the airstrip and some of the revetments. Preliminary observations of the material in these can dumps appear to date exclusively to the 1970's when the CT was used as a center for wild fire operations, however, older material may lay deeper.

2. Subsistence:
The CT lands are Federal Public Land as defined in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Section 102 and fall under the authority of the Federal Subsistence Board and the Subsistence Regulations for the Harvest of Fish and Wildlife on Federal Public Lands in Alaska. The CT lies within the Anchorage Management Unit of Game Management Unit 14C which under the current Subsistence Regulations noted above is closed to the taking of wildlife under both State (hunting and trapping) and Federal Subsistence Regulations. Further, the taking of wildlife on the CT is limited by Supplemental Rules issued on November 20, 1998 under 43 CFR 8365.1-6 that close the CT to the use of firearms, archery equipment, traps or snares. The CT has no documented consistent use by rural Alaskans of fish or game and no knowledge of such use has become available since the inception of the Federal Subsistence Program or the issuance of the above noted Supplementary Rules.

3. Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species:
There are no Federal T&E wildlife or plant species found at the CT.

C. Fisheries:
Over 6,000 feet of the South Fork of Campbell and Little Campbell creeks run through the northeast and southern portions of the CT, respectively. Both are non-glacial systems that are listed in the ADF&G's "Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes".

Anadromous fish species that use the South Fork Campbell Creek include chinook, pink and coho salmon. The Atlas associated with the Catalog indicates that coho, chinook and pink salmon are seasonally present. The spawning and rearing phases of chinook and the rearing phase of coho have been documented as occurring in the creek. Other species inhabiting the creek include rainbow trout,

Dolly Varden, and slimy sculpin. Little Campbell Creek is a known rearing habitat for coho salmon.

D. Minerals:

The CT lands are currently withdrawn from settlement, sale, location, or entry, under the general land laws, including the mining laws under 30 U.S.C. Chapter 2. There are no mining claims or mineral leases on the CT.

The CT lies at the eastern margin of the Cook Inlet-Susitna lowland, a glaciated region currently dominated by glacial and glacio fluvial land forms. Within the Anchorage area, the lowland is underlain by thick wedges of Quaternary glacial and estuarine deposits, and by Tertiary sedimentary rocks of terrestrial origin. The Quaternary deposits reach 1,500 feet thick at the western edge of the lowland and thin eastward toward the Chugach Mountains. The Tertiary rocks crop out in the Eagle River area, about 15 miles northeast of Anchorage.

Leasable Minerals - Oil and Gas

The Anchorage lowland area has no production record for oil and gas. Subsurface geologic data within the lowland comes primarily from numerous water wells, a drill hole, and two wells drilled for hydrocarbons. No appreciable shows of hydrocarbons were discovered. The two exploratory oil and gas wells were abandoned as dry holes.

Although oil and gas production is currently restricted to areas south and west of the Anchorage lowland, data from nearby exploratory wells and stratigraphic correlations indicate the presence of reservoir rock in the subsurface of northeastern Cook Inlet. This formation is a proven gas producer and represents 18 percent of all oil production in the Cook Inlet basin.

Leasable Minerals - Coal

The Anchorage lowland lies within the Cook Inlet-Susitna coal province which contains Alaska's most accessible and second largest coal resource base. Identified resources are measured at more than 11 billion short tons, second only to the 150 billion short tons of the Northern Alaska province. Considering Alaska's vast coal resources (about half of the total coal resources of the U.S.), past production has been minimal. This is due in part to the lack of an available market and the remote location of its coal deposits. Although no coal beds are known to crop out in the Anchorage lowland area, exploratory drilling has confirmed the existence of coal or coal-like material in the subsurface.

Based on the limited drilling to date, coal beds probably occur throughout the subsurface of the Anchorage lowland, varying in thickness, number of beds, depth, and lateral extent.

Locatable Minerals

There are no known locatable mineral deposits, prospects or mineral occurrences on or near the CT. There are also no known records of locatable mineral production.

Saleable Minerals

A construction materials map of Anchorage by Schmoll and Dobrovolny (1973) shows the distribution of potential sources of gravel and sand, sand, mixed coarse and fine-grained material, clay, crushed aggregate and riprap. The map does not attempt to show exact sites for obtaining specific material, but instead, indicates areas that deserve consideration as a potential source. Of these materials, the CT contains occurrences of gravel and sand, mixed coarse and fine-grained material, silt, and clay.

E. Recreation:

The CT is a SRMA for non-motorized recreation use. Recreation management of the CT is directed by the "Management Plan for Public Use and Resource Management on the BLM Campbell Tract". There are approximately 11.2 miles of developed trails on the CT. Some of these trails link to other trails on the adjoining FNBP. The proximity of the CT to urban Anchorage places demands on the site from a variety of users. Most recreation occurs on the trails that were developed on old military tank trails and airplane taxiways. Access for recreation use occurs from the Campbell Airstrip Road and CT entrance road parking areas. Trail maintenance and signing is a cooperative effort between the user groups, the BLM and the MOA's Parks and Recreation Division.

Recreation users are primarily residents from Anchorage and surrounding communities. The estimated number of user days in 1999 was 35,000. Many users live close to the CT and use the area regularly for exercise, often with dogs or on horses, and training for dog mushing, skiing, running and cycling. Competitive events, including the Nordic Ski Club's Tour of Anchorage and World Sled Dog Championship races, attract local, national and international entrants.

The type of recreation use changes with the seasons. During the snow season, use is predominantly dog mushers, skiers, and ski jorers with lesser use by horse riders, joggers and walkers, including people walking pets. CT contains an

important part of the ASDRA trail system. In the winter, the trail is used intensively for training and competitive dog mushing events. The World Sled Dog Championship races are held annually during Fur Rendezvous on the CT and the MOA trail system. Trails are groomed by the Nordic Ski Club, the NASSPA, the ASDRA and the BLM.

During the rest of the year, walkers including people walking pets, joggers, cyclists and horse riders are the primary CT users. Few competitive and organized events are held during the snow-free season.

The CT serves as the outdoor classroom for the CCSC. There are approximately 21,000 user days at the CCSC and outdoor classroom which includes the Anchorage School District, Outdoor Week, Trailside Discovery and commercial use.

F. Socio-economics:

Anchorage's population has tripled since Statehood, from 83,000 in 1960 to more than 259,000 today. Between 1990 and 1999, Anchorage added almost 33,000 residents, less than in any other decade since 1950. As the State's chief trade, transportation, and distribution center, Anchorage's prosperity is tied to national and international markets for oil, gas, minerals, timber, and seafood. In 1997, per capita income was 18 percent above the national average, and the cost of living was about 13 percent higher.

Anchorage is the State's primary transportation, communications, trade, service, and finance center. Anchorage makes up 42 percent of the State's population, but accounts for 47 percent of the employment. Nine of the ten largest private employers in the State are headquartered here. More than 70 percent of the State's legal, business, engineering and management service employment is based in Anchorage. Anchorage is also the State's government center with 8,300 State employees, compared to 5,300 in Juneau, the State capitol. In 1998, Anchorage's 10,100 Federal employees accounted for nearly 60 percent of the Statewide Federal employee total.

The use and management of the CT facility contributes directly to the economy of Anchorage. Annual income of staff adds over six million dollars to the local economy. Figures for expenditures for goods and services spent in the community are not available, but amount to several million dollars annually. Management of the CT recreation and education programs provides over $500,000 worth of value annually to the community. The MOA receives annual Payment in Lieu of Taxes

(PILT) for the 730 acre CT which totaled $69,900 in 2000 and increases each year as land values increase.

G. Soils:

The soils of CT are typically gravelly, well drained glacial drift with an overlying mantle of silty loess about 15 to 18 inches thick. These soils typically have a thin, gray silt upper layer over reddish brown to yellowish brown layers about 6 to 12 inches thick. The lower part of these layers and the substratum consist of very gravelly sand or sandy loam that contains many stones and boulders. Soils along Campbell Creek are moderately deep to deep and well drained. They support a forest of cottonwood, white spruce and birch with an understory of alder, willow and other shrubs. In a few places these same soils are less well drained and form wet depressions sometimes filled with water and support mainly black spruce, low shrubs, mosses and sedges.

Well drained sites have few or moderate limitations for building or other types of construction and are capable of producing commercial stands of timber. (USDA, SCS Exploratory Soil Survey of Alaska, 1979.)

H. Vegetation:

The native vegetation on the CT is a result of the maritime subarctic climate, soil types, and previous disturbance. Plant communities that are typical of south-central Alaska and the subarctic environment are found on the CT. The vegetation mosaic is the result of human activities, primarily military use during the 1940's and 1950's, that disturbed existing native plant communities. Abandoned, disturbed areas are gradually following a successional pattern back to climax forest conditions.

The under story vegetation consists of forbs, lichens, mosses and fungi, and occasional woody shrubs. Most of the CT has well-drained soils with a dominant over story of mature white spruce and white birch. In areas previously disturbed, alder and other hardwoods such as birch, aspen and cottonwood have become established. Areas with poorly drained soils generally support an over story of black spruce with an under story of sphagnum moss and sedges. Riparian areas near Campbell Creek support a population of black cottonwood and mixed spruce/hardwood forest with a diverse under story of alder and other woody shrubs.

A high percentage of the mature white spruce on the CT have been killed by spruce bark beetles. Many trees greater than eight inches in diameter will eventually die as a result of beetle attacks. As these trees fall, less susceptible

younger spruce and birch will tend to replace the spruce. Mixed spruce/hardwood stands will tend to become dominated by birch or other hardwoods.

I. Visual Resources:

Scenic quality is best described as the overall impression retained after traveling through or being within an area of land. The visual resources on the CT can be divided into two categories of scenic quality. The area surrounding the administrative compound, which includes administrative offices and warehouse buildings, is Class C scenic quality and the remaining, less developed area, is Class B.

The visual resource scenic quality of the area near the offices and warehouse contains features fairly common to the physiographic area, in this case the Anchorage bowl. This area is managed under a Class III Objective; to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change allowed to the characteristic landscape could be moderate.

The views to the east of the offices and warehouse are dominated by the Chugach Mountains. This area is relatively open to the north and east to accommodate administrative uses. Although this area is clearly developed, it also promotes some of the best viewing of the Chugach Mountains. There are homes viewable from the area, but they are far away and non-contrasting. The influence from off-site factors, such as the Hilltop Ski Area lights, detract from the natural character and setting of CT.

The remaining less developed portions of the CT area contain a combination of outstanding features and some features fairly common to the region. This area is managed under a Class II objective; to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low.

The less developed portions of CT contain areas that have been historically disturbed by man-made intrusions. These include an airstrip, taxi-ways, airplane parking pads, tank trails, secondary roads and communication sites. With the exception of the airstrip, the road to the CCSC, and maintained multiple use trails, these areas have largely re-vegetated. In many cases, the open areas have contributed to the scenic quality of the area by offering vistas of the Chugach Mountains and visual relief from the surrounding thick woods and forest canopy. Overall there is a predominant rural visual setting within this area. Recreation use that occurs on the designated trail system can be assured a quality visual experience free from modern intrusions.

J. Wildlife:

The CT provides habitat for most of the terrestrial animal species found in south central Alaska. Moose are common and use the CT for calving in spring and wintering habitat. Black bear, brown bear and wolf use the CT and move from higher elevations during seasonal changes, or in search of food sources such as berries, salmon and moose calves. Snowshoe hares are abundant and support a lynx population that cycles with the hare population. Coyotes are seen or heard regularly and breed in the area. Other animals that live and breed on the CT include beaver, red fox, porcupine, red squirrel, wood frog and several species of microtine rodents.

There are 20 bird species that are year-round residents, and an additional 21 migrant species that breed here. Three species of owl breed in the CT's forest habitats, and bald eagles nest in adjacent areas and use the CT's prey base to raise young. Thirty-three species of resident and migrant land birds have been documented using the CT's forest and shrub habitats during fall migration through studies using mist netting and bird banding. The olive-sided flycatcher, gray-cheeked thrush, Townsend's warbler and blackpoll warbler move through the CT during fall migration and are included on the State of Alaska's list for Species of Special Concern.

CT provides cover habitat and food for many wildlife species. It serves as a buffer and migration corridor, particularly for moose and bear, between urban areas and Chugach State Park reducing wildlife conflicts with people. The CT is a recognized watchable wildlife site, and is key to the "Living with Wildlife in Anchorage" cooperative planning effort which includes a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with three State and six Federal agencies.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Impacts of the Proposed Action:

1. Critical Elements:

a. Cultural Resources:

The management of the cultural resources on CT would remain the same as currently exists. All Federal laws pertaining to cultural resources would be in effect. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated with continued use of the CT as an administrative site.

b. Subsistence:

The Proposed Action would not measurably restrict subsistence uses, decrease the abundance of subsistence resources, alter the distribution of subsistence resources, or limit subsistence user

access from currently existing conditions. Presently, there are no known users of subsistence resources.

2. Fisheries:
Impacts to the South Fork of Campbell Creek are related to recreational use within the stream corridor. Trail use along isolated portions of the South Fork of Campbell Creek has resulted in accelerated bank erosion. Little Campbell Creek flows through the more remote southern portion of the CT, consequently the aquatic habitat of the creek has been impacted to a far lesser extent than the South Fork of Campbell Creek. The renewal of the existing withdrawal would not increase impacts on the fish resources or habitat of the South Fork of Campbell and Little Campbell Creeks.

3. Minerals:
There are no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to the mineral resources by the Proposed Action.

4. Recreation:
Recreation use would increase over time under the Proposed Action. As population increases in Anchorage and in particular the area surrounding CT, more demand for solitude type recreation is expected. Since the CT is one of the few remaining local sites offering this type of opportunity, an increase in the demand on trail use is expected. An increase in use would result in greater interaction between users and a gradual lessening of the quality of solitude. Unless trails are hardened, additional use would result in soil compaction and vegetation damage from more frequent trail use. Social trails (trails developed by people walking off established trails) would continue to be an ongoing problem. Some erosion would be caused by an increase in trail use. Trails, parking areas, kiosks, and bridges would continue to be maintained as they have in the past.

5. Socio-economics:
The continuation of the CT as an administrative site would not change the socio-economic contribution of the BLM to the area.

6. Soils:
Soils on the CT have been impacted by roads, building sites, airfield, trails and staging areas. Some of these areas have grown over with vegetation, but the soil profile remains altered and would not return to pre-disturbance levels.

Impacts to soils would remain in step with variations in present use levels. Some improvement would occur as new methods to minimize impacts of human use are developed and initiated.

7. Vegetation:

Mature spruce would continue to decline due to spruce bark beetle infestation. Stands of spruce would tend to be replaced by a mixed hardwood stand of paper birch, aspen, and small diameter white spruce. Riparian areas would continue to be dominated by black spruce, cottonwood and other hardwoods. Since timber harvesting is not allowed, dead spruce would contribute to a short-term increase in the potential for wildfire. As hardwood stands become more established with a lesser spruce component, potential for wildfire would decrease. Species diversity would be maintained at current levels under the Proposed Action with no loss through clearing caused by land tenure adjustments.

Vegetation on the CT is at different successional stages due to historic use by the military and the more recent use as an administrative site. Disturbed areas would progress to a climax community, if no other impacts occur. However, normal maintenance activities such as road and airfield improvements and trail maintenance would set back succession or even eliminate vegetation within the project areas. Increased recreational visitation would subject the more accessible areas to trampling damage. The overall impacts on the integrity of the vegetation within the CT with renewal of the withdrawal would be minimal.

Due to the disturbance of vegetation and soils in the subdivision developments adjacent to the CT, weedy invasive plant species numbers would increase.

8. Visual Resources:

Visual quality surrounding the administrative offices would remain the same as there are no plans for additional buildings or major construction. The remaining area of the CT would experience little change of the visual quality. This area would remain under the Class III Objective which is to retain the existing character of the landscape. It is expected that as trees and large shrubs grow there would be less viewing opportunity of the Chugach Mountains and associated foothills from areas that currently offer such views. Certain areas such as Viewpoint Trail offer vistas that overlook mature stands of white spruce and birch. These views would not change. The Proposed Action would allow for the continued natural

revegetation of the man-made intrusions such as the airplane parking pads, old tank trails and other secondary roads. This would add to the visual experience of CT by adding to the overall rural visual setting.

9. Wildlife:
The integrity of wildlife habitat would be maintained under the Proposed Action. Over time, however, as lands outside the CT are developed, there would likely be increased human use. This would increase stream bank erosion and impact vegetative growth near trails which would degrade wildlife terrestrial and riparian habitats. The increasing demand for environmental education at the CCSC would also degrade wildlife habitat unless use is closely monitored. Moose populations would likely remain high, causing some over browsing and the decline of some deciduous shrubs. The continued administrative use would have a neutral or slightly beneficial impact on resident and migrant birds since habitat would be maintained.

10. Cumulative Impacts of the Proposed Action:
Impacts from continued use on the CT would not change with renewal of the existing withdrawal. There are few changes in administrative use, other than routine maintenance on the facilities. Recreation use by the public would increase over time as the population grows and the demand for outdoor recreation increases. The importance of the CT as a natural area and wildlife habitat would increase as the loss of natural vegetation and development continue in Anchorage.

11. Mitigation Measures for the Proposed Action:
No mitigation measures are required . Management of the CT would continue to be guided by the 1988 Campbell Tract Facility (CTF) Management Plan and Limits of Acceptable Change Monitoring Plan for the full 730 acres. Any new action would be subject to a new Environmental Analysis or other NEPA document.

B. Impacts of Alternative #1 - No Action Alternative:

1. Critical Elements:

a. Cultural Resources:
The State of Alaska has laws protecting cultural resources. However, land conveyed by the State to other entities would not be covered by such laws. Actions proposed in the 1985 Updated FNBP Master Plan, including the CT, would impact the World War II encampment sites if the long-term active recreation areas

are developed. Some actions in the Updated FNBP Master Plan would impact the configuration of the taxiways and resources surrounding five of the revetments located on the western portion of the CT.

b. Subsistence:
The No Action Alternative would alter the distribution and abundance of subsistence wildlife resources depending on the extent of habitat conversion to long-term active recreation area identified in the Updated FNBP Master Plan. The unimproved CT lands would become validly selected and conveyed to the State of Alaska. These lands would no longer meet the ANILCA Section 102 definition of Federal Public Land and no longer fall under the authority of the Federal Subsistence Program. There are no known current users of subsistence resources.

2. Fisheries:
Lands adjacent to both creeks have been identified as preservation wetlands in the Updated FNBP Master Plan and set aside as a green belt in the generalized land use plan. Under the plan, trail development would be permitted within preservation areas. Additional trails would increase access to the South Fork of Campbell Creek which could affect the integrity of the stream bank. The currently remote southern portion of the CT, through which Little Campbell Creek flows, has been identified for various types of development in the plan. Development in the riparian area of this remote section of the CT would impact aquatic habitat of Little Campbell Creek. The impacts would be associated with erosion and bank stability affecting the water quality and channel characteristics of the creek. Increased public use in riparian zones and loss of forest would increase stream bank erosion and impact the streams' fisheries.

3. Minerals:
There are no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to the mineral resources under this alternative. Ownership of the mineral estate would change for those lands conveyed to the State.

4. Recreation:
Impacts would be similar to the Proposed Action for those acres remaining under the BLM management. Lands conveyed to the MOA would be subject to the Updated FNBP Master Plan which calls for the development of active recreation for much of the CT. This would be a change from the

solitude type recreation that currently exists. Any development would eliminate solitude type recreation from those lands and increase the magnitude of use. Current users attracted to the undeveloped character of the CT would be displaced or would find themselves competing for use on less acreage suitable for their needs. More people and vehicles would be attracted to confined spaces and the associated traffic, noise and interaction between individuals, would increase. Depending on the amount of recreational development and its location, trail use could be affected resulting in relocation or elimination of some existing trail segments. Heavily used areas such as proposed ball fields and tennis courts would require additional lands for parking and visitor services. Maintenance needs would increase proportionately to the amount of increased use. Traffic, noise and dust would likely increase under this alternative.

5. Socio-economics:
There would be little change to the socio-economics assuming the BLM would continue to manage the improved portions of the CT. Any part of the CT conveyed would proportionately decrease the PILT payments to the MOA. If the BLM totally vacated the CT and depending on where it relocated, part or all of the economic contribution to the area could be eliminated. Relocation and replacement of the facilities would cost the Federal taxpayers over ten million dollars.

6. Soils:
Given the range of uses the CT would be subjected to under the Updated FNBP Master Plan, impacts to soils would increase. Development would alter or destroy soil profiles and productivity. Changes in soil profiles would result in vegetation and wildlife habitat changes.

7. Vegetation:
The Updated FNBP Master Plan indicates that much of the currently forested areas would be converted to “active recreation areas” which include ball fields, parking areas, and roads. Land clearing associated with this alternative would remove much of the existing mature forest component. Land clearing activities would subject the remaining trees to windthrow. Species diversity within the Anchorage bowl would decline since the CT represents one of the last large, relatively natural areas within the Anchorage Bowl.

Harvest and disposal of timber would be necessary to accomplish any land clearing objective. Temporary increases in dust, smoke, and noise would be expected as a result of the timber harvest operation. Current market conditions for timber are poor. Disposal of merchantable and sub-merchantable material (stumps, tops, limbs, rotten logs) could prove to be difficult and expensive. If slash and other non-merchantable material are burned on site, air quality would be negatively affected.

Land clearing would remove much of the shrub and forb species and replace them with grass, gravel and hard top roads. Construction activities could further impact vegetation by removal, smothering, compacting and trampling.

Weedy and invasive plant species would increase under this alternative due to the large acreage of land that would be disturbed. Any revegetation/landscaping could include exotic cultivated species which could eventually replace some native vegetation on portions of the CT.

8. Visual Resources:

This alternative would likely result in the manipulation of the vegetative resources which make up the visual and overall rural experience people seek from this area. The 1985 Updated FNBP Master Plan identifies many of the non-wetland areas of the existing CT for active recreation which could include sports fields and court facilities. The airport revetment roads have been identified as access roads to athletic fields and to areas that would be reserved for long-term active recreation areas.

The visual resources surrounding the administrative buildings would likely remain unchanged. The remaining heart of the CT would be subject to changes that would detract from the current visual resource ratings and the associated management. The construction of active recreation facilities and the associated access roads would alter the natural re-vegetation that has occurred over the last 30 years.

Using the BLM Visual Resources Management Program Handbook, it is estimated that a decrease in a scenic quality rating of 4 to 12 points would occur in active recreation areas. This would be a result of cultural modifications that are discordant or work in disharmony with the current landscape.

9. Wildlife:
This alternative would result in conversion of the unimproved portion of the CT to active recreation. The conversion of forest and shrub to compacted roads and parking areas, grass fields and long-term recreational facilities represent fragmentation or direct loss of wildlife habitat.

CT currently serves as a buffer for wildlife between Chugach State Park and adjacent residential areas. This buffering affect would be reduced or eliminated and could in more human/wildlife conflicts, particularly with moose and bears in residential areas. Greater numbers of people concentrated at recreational facilities and edges of green belts would also increase conflicts with remaining wildlife. Loss of habitat would displace moose and reduce thermal, forage, calving and escape cover. Brown and black bears, which are seasonally attracted to the area by the food source provided by salmon runs in Campbell Creek and moose calves, would create more human conflicts with wildlife. All of these conflicts could result in increases of the killing of bears for defense of life and property. Even large areas of green belts and riparian buffers are not totally effective as wildlife habitat due to the large amount of edge and lack of cover.

The clearing of forest for active recreation would result in the immediate loss of habitat for nesting and migrating forest birds and small mammals. The conversion of forest to open grass fields would attract migrating geese, creating more human conflicts. The clearing of forest would reduce the area and effectiveness of the remaining watershed protection.

Watchable wildlife values would decline as birds and large mammals decline, while the demand for such areas would increase. Fall bird migration banding research conducted by the BLM would cease, and various plant and animal monitoring inventories associated with the CCSC would end. The reduction of habitat would be detrimental to the Living with Wildlife in Anchorage Plan.

10. Cumulative Impacts of Alternative #1 - No Action Alternative:
On those portions of the CT that continue as an administrative site, no new cumulative impacts are anticipated. Any development of portions of the site for active recreation described in the 1985 Updated FNBP Master Plan would reduce the acreage of undeveloped recreation sites in the area and cause a shift and increase in use to other locations. There would be a loss of natural vegetation and subsequent loss of wildlife habitat that would add to the incremental losses that are already occurring in the Anchorage

area. An increase in noise and human interaction would result in any areas developed.

11. Mitigation Measures for Alternative #1 - No Action Alternative:
No mitigation measures are required. Any lands conveyed to the State would be managed according to State or Municipal laws.

C. Impacts of Alternative #2 - Partial Renewal Alternative:

1. Critical Elements:

a. Cultural Resources:
No cultural resources are known for the 110 acres proposed for deletion from the CT. The probability of previously unknown cultural resources being discovered in the area are low.

b. Subsistence:
The distribution and abundance of subsistence wildlife resources depend on the extent of habitat conversion on the 110 acres excluded from the existing withdrawal. The unimproved CT lands would become validly selected and conveyed to the State of Alaska. These lands would no longer meet the ANILCA, Section 102 definition of Federal Public Land and no longer fall under the authority of the Federal Subsistence Program. There are no known current users of subsistence resources on this portion of the CT.

2. Fisheries:
The currently remote southern portion of the CT, through which Little Campbell Creek flows, has been identified for various types of development in the plan. Development in the riparian area of this remote section of the CT would impact aquatic habitat of Little Campbell Creek. The impacts would be associated with erosion and bank stability affecting the water quality and channel characteristics of the creek.

3. Minerals:
There are no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to the mineral resources under Alternative 2. Ownership of the mineral estate would change for those lands conveyed to the State.

4. Recreation:
Impacts would be similar to the Proposed Action for the 620 acres that would continue to be used as an administrative site. Of the 110 acres not

retained, approximately 60 acres are shown as a green belt in the Updated FNBP Master Plan. The remaining 50 acres are shown as active recreation. This area would be subject to development for active recreation but because of location would be less desirable than other areas of the CT for development. Any development that did take place would have impacts similar to those described in the No Action alternative.

5. Socio-economics:
There would be little change to the socio-economics under this alternative. PILT payments to the MOA would be reduced proportionately.

6. Soils:
A portion of the 110 acres of land could be developed for active recreation uses. Soils horizons would be altered on the area developed. Impact to the remaining 620 acres would be the same as the Proposed Action.

7. Vegetation:
Impacts would be the same as those identified under the Proposed Action for the 620 acres retained by the BLM. The 110 acres near Little Campbell Creek are proposed in the 1985 Updated FNBP Master Plan to be partially developed for active recreation and partially retained for watershed values. Approximately 55 percent of the area is identified as a green belt with little to no development activity proposed.

Part of the acreage easterly past the intersections of Abbott Loop Trail with the Homestead and Viewpoint Trails, is fairly steep down to the creek. Areas westerly to Abbott Loop Road could support development. Native trees and shrubs could therefore be replaced on approximately 50 acres. The impacts to portions developed for active recreation would be similar to those described in the No Action Alternative.

8. Visual Resources:
The 110 acres are unique in comparison to the rest of CT. This area contains a small canyon and steep slopes with Little Campbell Creek at the base.

Scenic quality of the 110 acres is high. Because most of the land is fairly steep, limited area is available for active recreation development. Any change in vegetation by clearing would detract from the scenic values of this area by disrupting the natural skyline of trees and distant views of the Chugach Mountains.

9. Wildlife:
This 110 acre area is a unique part of the CT, as it is covered with mature white spruce, has few maintained trails, and provides excellent wildlife escape cover. It is transected by nearly one mile of Little Campbell Creek, which runs through a small canyon and represents more than half of the riparian habitat within CT. This portion of the CT has experienced the least amount of human impacts since the area was originally withdrawn for military purposes.

The 1985 Updated FNBP Master Plan describes much of this area as a green belt, but shows a trail head and community park outside the southwest boundary of the CT. Development there and on the adjoining CT would negatively impact the riparian zones along Little Campbell Creek, and reduce riparian habitat and escape cover for moose and bear, and nesting and forage habitat for forest birds. This area currently acts as a buffer for wildlife and residential development on the southern portion of the CT. Development in this area would increase bear and moose conflicts with nearby residential development.

10. Cumulative Impacts of Alternative #2 - Partial Renewal Alternative:
Cumulative impacts would be minimal as described for the Proposed Action. Any development of the 110 acres for active recreation would add cumulative impacts as described for the No Action Alternative.

11. Mitigation Measures for Alternative #2 - Partial Renewal Alternative:
No mitigation measures are required. Management of the CT would continue to be guided by the 1988 CTF Management Plan and Limits of Acceptable Change Monitoring Plan for the 620 acres under the BLM management. Any new action would be subject to a new Environmental Analysis or other NEPA document. Any lands conveyed to the State would be managed according to State or Municipal laws.

V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

The BLM received 325 E-mail comments on the CT web site between June 1 and September 30, 2000. Another 110 comments were received in letters by regular mail in addition to numerous verbal comments over the telephone. The content of the written comments was echoed during the September 9, 2000, open house public comment session. Thirty-five residents spoke during the comment session, many of who had commented in writing prior to the meeting.

The content of all written and verbal comments, with the exception of two, may be summarized as follows:

Residents said the CT offers a wide range of non-motorized, quiet recreational opportunities not available at most municipal park lands.

They said the CT provides critical open space, which is increasingly hard to find in a growing city such as Anchorage.

The CT also provides high value habitat for wildlife, while habitat continues to disappear in other parts of the City.

Residents value the CT's "wild" qualities and oppose plans for future development of any part of the CT.

A great many felt the CCSC was an important educational resource to the community used by many different groups.

Residents said the BLM had been a good steward of CT lands, had managed the lands compatibly with the adjacent City park, had listened to residents and practiced good public involvement.

Some residents expressed distrust in the City's public involvement practices, felt City officials were not responsive to their concerns and often failed to seek adequate public involvement.

Residents expressed concerns about budget shortfalls in City government, felt the City would lack funds to manage CT.

An overwhelming majority of residents said they were pleased with the BLM's management of the CT and would support the 20 year extension.

Two dissenting comments were offered:

One written comment said the City should eventually manage the CT once management practices stabilized at City government. However, the resident said he supported the 20 year extension in the interim.

The Office of the Mayor submitted a formal letter of objection to the proposal on the basis that: the withdrawal was never intended to be permanent; an extension is incompatible with a "home rule" municipality; the BLM operations at the CT no

longer require 730 acres; other gravel airstrips are available within the MOA in the event of emergencies; and Anchorage residents themselves should decide how the CT is managed.

A. Chronology of Public Participation:

2000

February 24	AFO Field Manager, Nick Douglas, gave a presentation for Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC) concerning the withdrawal process.
May 9	AFO Realty Supervisor, Stuart Hirsh, briefed the Mayor's office and Heritage Land Bank Director concerning the withdrawal.
May 26	The BLM published notice of the proposed extension in the Federal Register and began soliciting public comments.
June 9	Public Notice of the proposed extension published in the Anchorage Daily News.
June 12	News release sent to all Anchorage media announcing the Proposed Action and calling for public comment.
June 29	Second briefing for the RAC. The RAC decided to pursue a resolution at their next meeting.
July 25	Web site established to provide information to the public about the withdrawal and give them the opportunity to comment on-line.
August 1	First edition of "The Campbell Tract LEAF" produced and mailed to interested groups, organizations, and individuals throughout Anchorage, including those who had commented to date.
August 17	AFO staff participated in a panel discussion concerning the withdrawal during a meeting of the Abbott Loop Community Council at the request of the Council President.
August 28	The BLM Alaska State Director, Fran Cherry, and AFO managers briefed Mayor George Wuerch and staff on the progress of the withdrawal effort.

August 28	AFO Resources Group Manager, Clinton Hanson, informed the FNBP-CT Users Group of the upcoming Open House on September 9 and answered questions about the withdrawal renewal effort.
August 31	Response E-mailed to all on-line commentors acknowledging their comments and ensuring that all comments would receive consideration.
September 1	Press release sent to all Anchorage media advising of the September 9 open house and public comment session.
September 1	Post card invitations sent to all commentors inviting them to open house and advising of the public comment session.
September 7	The BLM and the MOA representatives participated in a radio call-in talk show on the withdrawal issue. Members of the public called in their views or asked questions about the CT.
September 8	The BLM ran a paid ad in Anchorage Daily News inviting residents to the open house and public meeting the following day.
September 9	Open house and public meeting held at CCSC from noon to 4 p.m. At least 222 persons attended and 35 spoke during comment session. Many others submitted on-line comments throughout the open house.
September 21	AFO Realty Supervisor, Stuart Hirsh, gave a presentation on the withdrawal for a Central Middle School class at the request of the instructor.
September 21	AFO Realty Supervisor, Stuart Hirsh, provided an update for the RAC on the withdrawal prior to the council passing a resolution in favor of the withdrawal extension.
September 23	AFO staffed a public comment station during National Public Lands Day at the CCSC to answer questions from the public and take on-line or written comments.

October 3 AFO Recreation Planner, Nancy Stimson, met with members of the FNBP-CT User's Group and answered questions about the progress of the withdrawal effort.

October 4 Second edition of "The Campbell Tract LEAF" produced and mailed to inform public of progress of the withdrawal process, including September 9 open house, number of comments received to date, and that the BLM will use those comments during preparation of the environmental assessment.

B. List of Preparers:

Debbie Blank - Vegetation
Jeff Denton - Subsistence
Bill Diel - Minerals
Martin Hansen - Lands
Dave Kelley - Soils
Jim Moore - Lands
Donna Redding - Cultural Resources
Jake Schlapfer - Visual Resources
Mike Scott - Fisheries
Bruce Seppi - Wildlife
Richard Stephenson - Graphics, Illustration
Nancy Stimson - Recreation
Mike Zaidlicz - Vegetation/Forestry

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