



**Environmental Assessment**  
**National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska**  
**Special Recreation Permit**  
**2010**  
**DOI-BLM-LLAK010-2010-0006-EA**  
**Alaska Arctic Adventures**  
**Preparing Office: Arctic Field Office**

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Project Title/Type of Action: **National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Special Recreation Permit**

Case File Number: **FF095664**

Land Use Plans: **Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2008.**  
**Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (IAP/EIS) 2004.**  
**Colville River Special Area Management Plan 2008**

Applicant: **Terry Overly Jr.**  
**Gregory A. Jennen**  
**DBA: Alaska Arctic Adventures**

Address: **P.O. Box 782**  
**Tok, Alaska 99780**

Date: **April 29, 2010**

Lands Involved :

**Land Description (BLM Managed Lands)**

Legal Description (All Umiat Meridian)

**Area 1**

<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>
Kateel River	31 North	12 East	1-4,9-16,23, 24(Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	32 North	10 East	1-7, 10-15 (excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	32 North	11 East	1-16, 24 (excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	32 North	12 East	1-28,32-36 (ExcludingNoatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	8 East	1, 11-14, 23-25 (ExcludingNoatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	9 East	1-36 (ExcludingNoatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	10 East	1-36
Kateel River	33 North	11 East	1-36
Kateel River	33 North	12 East	4-9, 16-21, 28-33
Kateel River	34 North	8 East	7-30, 32, 36 (ExcludingNoatak Preserve)
Kateel River	34 North	9 East	7 - 36
Kateel River	34 North	10 East	7 - 36
Kateel River	34 North	11 East	7 - 36
Kateel River	34 North	12 East	4-9, 16-21, 28-33
Umiat	6 South	18 West	22-27, 34-36

Umiat	7 South	18 West	1-36
Umiat	8 South	18 West	5-8, 17-20, 29- 32
Umiat	8 South	18 West	1-36
Umiat	8 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	9 South	18 West	1-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	9 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	9 South	20 West	1-36
Umiat	10 South	18 West	1-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	10 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	10 South	20 West	1-36
Umiat	10 South	21 West	1-36
Umiat	10 South	22 West	1-36
Umiat	11 South	18 West	1-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	11 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	11 South	20 West	1-36
Umiat	11 South	21 West	1-36
Umiat	11 South	22 West	1-36
Umiat	12 South	18 West	1-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	12 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	12 South	20 West	1-36
Umiat	12 South	21 West	1-36
Umiat	12 South	22 West	1-36

**Area 2**

<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>
Kateel River	33 North	5 East	1-2, 11-12 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	6 East	1-22 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	7 East	4-8, 18 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	34 North	4 East	10-15 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	34 North	5 East	7-26, 28, 29, 35, 36 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	34 North	6 East	7-36
Kateel River	34 North	7 East	7-34 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Umiat	1 South	22 – 28 West	1-36
Umiat	2 South	19 – 29 West	1-36
Umiat	3 South	17 – 24 West	1-36
Umiat	3 South	25 West	1-36
Umiat	3 South	26 – 29 West	1-36
Umiat	4 South	16 – 29 West	1-36
Umiat	5 South	16 West	3-9, 17, 18
Umiat	5 South	17 West	3-10, 16-20
Umiat	5 South	18 – 29 West	1-36
Umiat	5 South	30 West	1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36
Umiat	6 South	18 – 29 West	1 - 36
Umiat	6 South	30 West	1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36
Umiat	7 South	18 – 29 West	1 - 36

Umiat	7 South	30 West	1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36
Umiat	8 South	19 – 29 West	1 - 36
Umiat	8 South	30 West	1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36
Umiat	9 South	20 – 30 West	1 - 36
Umiat	10 South	21 – 28 West	1 - 36
Umiat	10 South	29 West	1 – 36 (Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	10 South	30 West	1-5, 8-17, 21-28, 34-36 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Umiat	11 South	22 – 27 West	1 - 36
Umiat	11 South	28 West	1-29, 34-36 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Umiat	11 South	29 West	1-5, 8-15, 22-24 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Umiat	12 South	23 – 26 West	1 - 36
Umiat	12 South	27 West	1-4, 9-14 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)

### Area 3

<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>
Umiat	2 North	2 East	1 – 36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	1 North	1 East	1 – 34 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	1 North	2 East	1 – 11, 14-23 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	1 North	1 West	1 – 36
Umiat	1 North	2 West	1 - 36

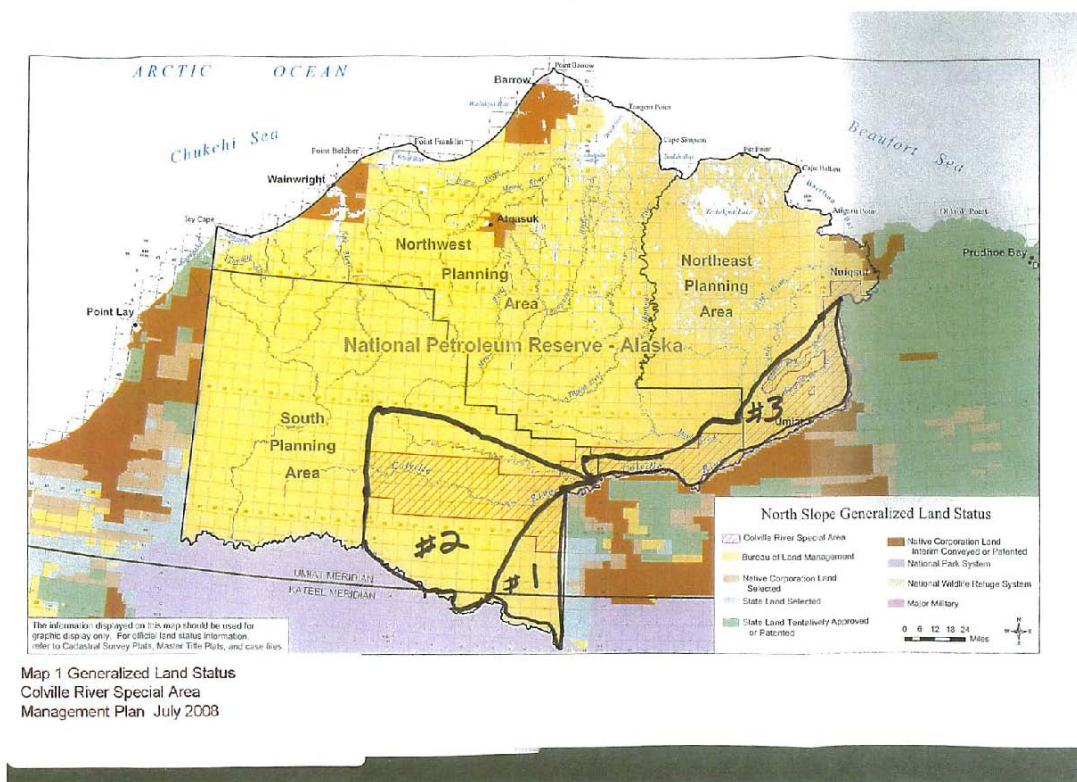
Umiat	1 North	3 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 North	4 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 North	5 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 North	6 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 South	1 East	5,6 (Excluding Public Lands)
Umiat	1 South	1 West	1-10, 15-19 (Excluding Private Lands)(Umiat)
Umiat	1 South	2 West	1-24, 27-33(Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	1 South	3 West	1-36
Umiat	1 South	4 West	1 – 36
Umiat	1 South	5 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 South	6 West	1 – 36
Umiat	2 South	3 West	1-12,15-18 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	2 South	4 West	1-24, 27-32 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	2 South	5 – 7 West	1 - 36
Umiat	3 South	5 West	2-10, 18 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	3 South	6 West	1-35(Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	3 South	7 West	1 - 36
Umiat	3 South	8 West	10-36
Umiat	3 South	9 West	25-36
Umiat	3 South	10 West	25-36
Umiat	3 South	11 West	31-36
Umiat	3 South	12 West	25-36

Umiat	3 South	13 West	25-36
Umiat	3 South	14 West	25-36
Umiat	3 South	15 West	25-28, 33-36
Umiat	4 South	6 West	2 – 6 (Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	4 South	7 West	1-12, 15-19 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	4 South	8 West	1-24,27-32 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	4 South	9 West	1 – 36
Umiat	4 South	10 West	1-29,34-36 (Excluding Reg Sel)
Umiat	4 South	11 West	1-24 (Excluding Reg Sel)
Umiat	4 South	12 West	1-30 (Excluding Reg Sel)
Umiat	4 South	13 West	1-30 (Excluding Reg Sel)
Umiat	4 South	14 West	1 – 34 (Excluding Reg Sel)
Umiat	4 South	15 West	1 – 36 (Excluding Regional Selection)

## Environmental Assessment for a Special Recreation Permit DOI-BLM-LLAK010-2010-0006-EA

### Chapter 1 Introduction

Mr. Gregory A. Jennen and Mr. Terry L. Overly Jr., doing business as Alaska Arctic Adventures(AAA), have requested authorization to conduct guiding operations on BLM managed lands within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) . The area of proposed use is within the Northeast, Northwest and South NPR-A (Figure 1). AAA proposes to conduct trips in May, August and September in the drainages of the Etviluk, Nigu, Ipnavik & Colville Rivers.



**Figure 1.** AAA proposed guide use area (Applicant designated areas #1, #2, #3).

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## **1.1 Purpose and Need**

The proposed action would authorize a Special Recreation Permit to AAA. The BLM's organic act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLMPA) (43 USC 1701), requires that the agency provide for multiple uses of the public lands. Lands in the arctic are difficult and expensive to access by the general public. Allowing commercial guiding access to arctic resources provides an opportunity to present information and first hand experience to a broader public, with minimal environmental impact. A permit is needed to provide guidelines to ensure that the resources on BLM managed lands are conserved and to minimize environmental impacts from the proposed action.

## **1.2 Laws, regulations, other EAs that influence this EA**

This EA will be based on the findings, management controls, and protective measures of the 2004 Northwest NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan (IAP)/EIS Record of Decision (ROD), the 2008 Northeast NPR-A Supplemental IAP/EIS ROD, and the 2008 Colville River Special Area Management Plan (CRSAMP), as well as other laws and regulations. The action, as proposed, is consistent with the objectives outlined in these documents and not in conflict with other resources in the area. The proposed use is in conformance with current policy of the BLM Arctic Field Office.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Northwest IAP/EIS, associated ROD, the Northeast SIAP/EIS, associated ROD, the CRSAMP, associated ROD, and the National Petroleum Reserve Product Act (NPRPA), Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Endangered Species Act, Executive Order (EO) 11988, and EO 11990.

## **1.4 The Decision to be Made**

The BLM must conduct a project-specific NEPA analysis and determine whether the proposed project should be approved, rejected, or approved with modifications, and if additional mitigation is needed. This EA will be based on the findings, management controls, and protective measures of the 2008 Northeast NPR-A SIAP/EIS ROD, 2004 Northwest NPR-A IAP/EIS ROD, 2008 CRSAMP ROD as well as other laws and regulations. The scope of this EA includes analysis that enables the BLM to select among alternatives that meet the purpose and need, and are within the BLM's jurisdiction (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1506.1(a) (2)).

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to meet requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and to support U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI) Bureau

of Land Management (BLM) decision-making on permits required to construct and implement the proposed projects. The scope of this EA includes analysis of the effects of the proposed activity and alternatives.

## 1.5 Scoping and Issues

The proposed action has been announced on the BLM Arctic Field Office website NEPA register March 18, 2010. To date no comments have been received.

BLM guidelines include a list of issues that are addressed, where applicable, in NEPA assessments, (BLM, 2004, Appendix 1), (BLM, 2008 *Section 1.11 and covered in detail in the Section 1.11 of 2005 NE NPR-A Amended IAP/EIS*) and (CRSAMP (Chapter 3). Some elements are not present in the project area and are, therefore, not discussed further. A summary listing of related issues considered by AFO Field Staff is provided in **Table 1.1**.

**Table 1.1 issues Considered in Evaluating Impacts**

<b>Resources/Environmental Considerations for Issues and Analysis</b>	<b>Determination</b>	<b>Basis of Determination (See Note )</b>
ACEC's	Not Present	Protection provided by:
Air Quality	Minimally impacted	Protection provided by: State of Alaska Air Non-Point and Mobile Program and regulations (18 AAC 50)
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act,
Environmental Justice	Not Present	Protection provided by: EO 12898
Fish	Minimally impacted	Protection provided by: Non Oil & Gas Permit Stipulations IIA, IIB, VIIIA. EFH finding "not likely to adversely affect".
Flood Plains/Wetlands and Riparian Zones	Minimally Impacted	Protections provided by: EO 11988 and EO 11990
Invasive, Non-native species	Not Present	Protections provided by: not applicable to this action
Native American Religious Concerns	Not Impacted	Protection provided by:
Recreation	Not Impacted	Protection provided by:
Socialcultural Systems	Not Present	Protection provided by:
Subsistence	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by: ANILCA, Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulations IXA
Threatened & Endangered Species Spectacled and Steller's eider	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. (J), ROP A-4, A-5, E-9 and Project Specific Stipulations 1-3.

<b>Resources/Environmental Considerations for Issues and Analysis</b>	<b>Determination</b>	<b>Basis of Determination (See Note )</b>
Threatened & Endangered Species Polar Bear	Minimally Impacted	In accordance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), ROP A-4, A-5, A-8, C-1
non-T&E birds	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulations VIII.A.1, IX.A, IX.B and IX.C
non-T&E mammals	Minimally impacted	Protection provided by Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulations VIII.A.1, IX.A, IX.B,
Vegetation	Minimally impacted	Protections provided by: Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulation VII.A.
Visual Resource Management	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by: VII A, XA, XI A,B
Water Resources	Minimally Impacted	Protections provided by: Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulation II.
Waste (Hazardous/Solid)	Potentially Affected	4 Mitigating Stipulations added to provide protections. Protections provided by State of Alaska 18 AAC 30, 60, 62, 63, 72, and 75;
Wild & Scenic Rivers	Not Present	Protection provided by:
Wilderness	Not Present	Protection provided by:

**Key to Table 1.2:**

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

EFH – Essential Fish Habitat

**Potentially Affected:** The proposed action or alternative could result in potential impacts to resource or issues to the level that additional mitigation may be required, or there is a need to evaluate potentially significant issues.

**Minimally Impacted:** Resources or issues would not be affected to a degree requiring further analysis because either the expected impacts from the proposed action and alternative would be minimal, or standard protections (e.g., ROPs and Stipulations from overriding BLM plans or other legal protections) would reduce impacts. Minimally impacted resources or issues will not be analyzed further in this EA.

**Not Present:** Resources or issues are not expected to be affected by the proposed action or alternatives because activities would occur at a different time or place. Resource or issues not present will not be analyzed further in the EA.

**Note1:** Determination tiered from: NE 2008 & NW 2004, Colville River Special Management Plan

In summary, BLM resource specialists have identified the following issues for further evaluation in this EA: 1) Waste (Hazardous/Solid)

## 1.6 Public Involvement

Development of the 2004 Northwest IAP/EIS, 2008 SIAP/EIS, and CRSAMP involved extensive input from other Federal agencies, the State, the NSB, thousands of individuals, and many institutions. A number of permits and approvals are required work in the NPR-A . These are

described in the 2004 Northwest IAP/EIS and 2008 Northwest SIAP/EIS many of which are available for public review prior to agency decision-making.

Public notification of the Environmental analysis was announced in the NEPA register on file at the Arctic Field Office Environmental Assessment web site beginning March 18, 2010. No public comments or inquiries were received through 29 April 2010.

## **Chapter 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This section describes the alternatives considered, including the no action, proposed action, and alternatives considered an eliminated.

### **2.2 Description of Alternatives**

#### **2.2.1 Alternative A: No Action**

Under no action, the BLM would not grant a special recreation permit to AAA. The current land management situation would continue. Chapter III (Affected Environment) of the Northwest NPRA AIP/EIS and Northwest NPRA SAIP/EIS provide detailed profiles of the environmental conditions in the region. The types of activities in the area are described in Chapter IV of the respective documents. Common ongoing activities include oil and gas exploration and development, research and monitoring, recreation, subsistence, and travel. These activities would continue under the no action alternative, but the special recreation permit for AAA would not be provided.

#### **2.2.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to authorize a permit that would allow AAA to conduct guided hunts in the NPR-A. The proponent is in the process of securing a lease with the State of Alaska at Umiat where they propose to base their headquarters for hunting trips. Clients would fly to and from Umiat to Fairbanks on charter flights. They would then use two small aircraft, capable of transporting one client each, to transport clients to a spike camp. The maximum number of flights anticipated is 72. This includes flights to transport harvested game. Alaska Arctic Adventures proposes to conduct two trips in May and four trips in August/September. The maximum number of hunters and guides on a particular trip would be 12. They anticipate having a total of 32 clients in the timeframe of the requested permit.

The applicant has a license to conduct guided hunts in Guide Unit 26A with-in the NPR-A. They propose to conduct guided hunts along the Etivluk, Nigu, Ipnarik and Colville River drainages. Alaska Arctic Adventures anticipates the majority of the hunts would take place near

Howard Pass and north of Etivlik Lake and the Nigu River. They would avoid entering lands in the upper Nigu controlled by the Park Service. The spring hunts would be conducted for grizzly bear and the fall hunts would be conducted for grizzly bear, caribou and moose.

They anticipate visiting each spike camp two times. Mr. Jennen and Mr. Overly, who are experienced guides, would also have two other guides working the hunts. Each guide would be assigned two clients. All the guides have taken 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and CPR classes. Each guide would have a satellite phone with them at all times.

Cooking propane would be the only fuel proposed to be stored on BLM managed lands. Aviation fuel would be stored or purchased at the Umiat airfield (State of Alaska permit or UIC camp). All trash would be removed from the field at the end of each hunt. Human waste would be disposed on using “leave no trace” principals. No excavating or other disturbance of vegetation/soil would occur. The applicants propose to transfer any meat not taken by clients to needy residents in the local areas of Bettles, Fairbanks or Tok using a transfer of possession form. Bear hides would be fleshed and salted, and a temporary sealing form would be completed before removal of the hide from the field.

## **Chapter 3 Affected Environment**

Environmental characteristics of the general project area have been extensively described in the 2004 Northwest NPR-A IAP/EIS (Vol. 1, Chapter 3), the 2008 NE NPR-A SIAP/EIS (Vol 1 Chap 3), the 2008 CRSAMP (Chapter3) to which this analysis is tiered. The affected environment related to specific issues is described below.

Based on the proposed project and the issues analysis in Section 1.5, the following discussion of the affected environment covers issue 1, issue 2, and issue 3.

### **3.1.1 Issue 1 Waste (Hazardous/Solid)**

The Etivluk, Nigu, Ipnarik and Colville River drainages are used for recreation. See CRSAMP Section 3.2.8 for a summary of recreational activities that occur on these rivers (the information presented in CRSAMP are incorporated by reference). Access is through charter aircraft, and most travel is by float trips on the rivers, in addition to some light hiking. As of 2008 three groups, totaling 46 people and 95 user days had recreation permits on the Colville and it's tributaries including the Etiviluk and Nigu drainages. These areas are also used by subsistence hunters and for monitoring or research.

Known or Suspected Solid/Human/Hazardous Materials Contamination or Occurrences in the Vicinity of the Proposed Action: No documentation exists indicating that solid wastes, fuel, human or hazardous wastes spills or contamination have been identified within the proposed operations area. Although the area is considered to be relatively pristine and undeveloped, the disposal of human excreta or waste is regulated by the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) and the Clean Water Act(16). These regulations require human waste to be properly disposed to protect human health. It is prohibited to dump waste on the ground, in surface waters, or in a landfill.

## **Chapter 4 Environmental Impacts**

The following analysis will focus on impacts due to the proposed action and no action alternatives. Additional details on related impacts are discussed in the respective EIS/IAPs for Northwest and Northeast NPR-A and CRSAMP, and the analyses from those documents are incorporated by reference.

The proposed action is similar to activities analyzed in previous NEPA documents (i.e., the Northwest and Northeast NPR-A IAP/EISs). And protections from recreational impacts were incorporated into the Colville River Special Area Management Plan (CRSAMP) and its associated EA (BLM 2008b). This EA will focus on project specific and site specific impacts of the proposed action and no action alternatives.

### **4.1 Direct and Indirect Effects**

Analysis of impacts from the proposed action and no action alternative is based on observations and information gained from decades of similar operations on the North Slope. This EA is tiered from the 2004 Northwest IAP/EIS, the 2008 NE NPR-A SIAP/EIS, the CRSAMP and their respective RODs. Related discussions of impacts are found in: 2004 Northwest NPR-A IAP/EIS, Vol. 2, Chapter 4.6 (Environmental Consequences of Alternative D, the preferred alternative) and 2008 Northeast NPR-A SIAP/EIS, Section 4.6.16.

Issues specifically identified in Section 1.5 for further analysis in this EA are discussed below.

#### **4.1.1 ISSUE 1 Waste (Hazardous/Solid)**

**4.1.1.1 No-Action Alternative A** No direct or indirect effects to the lands and water quality in the proposed use area would be anticipated as a result of denying a special recreation use permit.

**4.1.1.2 Proposed Action Alternative B** Direct impacts to land and water quality at Leave No Trace camp/disposal sites situated within riparian zones would be temporary deterioration of water quality during high water events.

Direct or indirect impacts to NPR-A lands and water quality would be relatively light considering the dispersed and low impact use levels on these rivers (less than 60 person days per summer season) camp sites with Leave No Trace practices. However, along river corridors even with Leave No Trace, it can be anticipated that several camping groups (both commercial and private) would tend to choose the same site, if it is of high quality for camping and is unoccupied, and if the river entry and exit points are similar.

As proposed, most spike camps would be utilized for less than an average of 36-person days. However, up to a maximum of 120-person days occupancy at two of the spike camps could occur. Direct impacts to land and water quality at heavily used (more than 60 person days per summer season) camp/disposal sites situated beyond riparian zones would be fecal and urine stench (odors), unsanitary conditions/disease transmission, and—during high water runoff events—migration of fecal matter and/or coliforms to surface waters resulting temporary water quality degradation. Degradation of the visitor experience at the camp as visitors dig into or discovered widely scattered previously deposited wastes.

## **4.2 Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental addition of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. Each action may be individually minor by itself, but when added to others could become significant over a period of time.

The time frame for the proposed action for the NPR-A portion of the project area is 1977 (designation of NPR-A) to 10 years into the future, assuming that the relatively low level of activity and management would remain at about the same level as present. Due to the limited scope and intensity of the proposed action the geographic area would be limited within 1 mile of the proposed river travel corridor, camps, and staging areas.

Due to the remoteness of the areas, the activity levels are limited by available transportation. There is minimal recreation, research and subsistence use in the area. However, there has been an increase in use of the area in the last couple of years. The proposed action is anticipated to have very little if any impact as all the applicants will be using leave no trace principles.

### **4.2.1 ISSUE 1 Waste (Hazardous/Solid)**

In addition to the proposed action, these rivers are may be used by subsistence hunters, non-guided recreationists, and researchers or resource monitoring crews. Recreational use of the rivers appears to be increasing.

Human waste could result in disease impacts and degradation of aesthetic and water quality. River use, camps, and hiking in the general area are experiencing increasing use each year. Camp hygiene and the physical and biological environments could be negatively impacted if no controls on disposal sites are placed. Urine can attract animals seeking salt—plants can be defoliated by animals attracted to the salt residue left by human urine. Toilet paper left in the wild is an animal attractant even if buried, and remains for years. Toilet paper left in the arctic environment degrades visitor experience.

As proposed, the Leave No Trace (LNT) method of digging individual catholes spread over a wide area at least 200 feet from running water, camp, trails, and drainages would be utilized and is an environmentally acceptable practice for camping sites with less than 60-person days use during the season. The disadvantages of the LNT method include: In the arctic, microbes are slow to break down feces in the soil; it can be difficult to dig 6 to 8 inches down in rocky or frozen ground; concentrations of buried feces can occur in commonly used areas. This method may lead to water quality degradation at camp sites situated in riparian areas.

Nevertheless, the proposed action (with implementation of stipulations) is not anticipated to result in significant incremental cumulative impacts due to the remoteness of the portion of the NPR-A where the activity would occur, the low impact levels associated with the activity (and other past, present, and future activities, and the short-term time frame of the proposed action.

### 4.3 Residual Impacts

With appropriate mitigation (Section 4.4), impacts to Wastes (Hazardous and Solid) would be relatively negligible.

### 4.4 MITIGATION AND MONITORING

The stipulations for the proposed action are a subset of the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision Required Operating Procedures, the Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision Required Operating Procedures, Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, The Colville River Special Area Management Plan, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and Record of Decision approved 5/1983. *Special Recreation Permit holders meet most requirements by following the guidelines in Leave No Trace, Alaskan Tundra ]*

- (1) Toilet paper: Toilet paper must be packed out, or a natural alternative used. Natural options for toilet paper include snow, smooth stones or sticks, leaves and moss. Natural TP options should be disposed of the same as the human waste. Feminine hygiene products and diapers must also be packed out.

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- (2) Urine: Urine can attract animals seeking salt: avoid urinating on plants that can be defoliated by animals attracted to the salt residue. Urinate 200 feet away from camps and trails on rock, bare ground, or water sources.
- (3) Recommended human excreta disposal in riparian areas: Packing out human excreta is the most eco-friendly means of waste disposal and the toilet can be located wherever is most appropriate. This method helps areas that receive high-levels of use retain their naturalness, and preserves pristine areas. Disadvantages include: it incurs cost and requires logistical considerations.
- The WAG (Waste Alleviation and Gelling) Bag has become the overall term for any pack-it-out bag system. It generally involves one bag with which holds the excrement and another sturdier, sealable bag. Commercial vendors of waste bag kits, powders and supplies include ReStop, Biffy Bags, and Cleanwaste.
- (4) Human excreta disposal at camp sites experiencing 60 person-days use or greater in 2010: A designated latrine site should be developed. Dig a long cat hole (e.g. six feet) trench. Start excrement disposal at one end and cover up as deposits are made. Siting must be a minimum of 200 feet away from water, trails, and campsites. The bottom of the trench must be above groundwater. Alternatively, a pit toilet per Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Water Program Guide Pit Privy Design, Operation and Closure requirements (<http://dec.alaska.gov/water/pdf/07CampApplicationWorksheet.pdf>) should be constructed, operated and then properly closed at the end of the season.

## 4.5 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The potential issues that were identified in the evaluation of the proposed action for this EA were Waste (Hazardous/Solid).

## Chapter 5 Consultation and Coordination

### 5.1 Agencies, Organization, Persons Consulted

Public notification of the Environmental analysis will be on file at the Arctic Field Office and available on the Arctic Field Office Environmental Assessment web site.

## 5.2 List of Preparers

### **BLM**

#### **Arctic Field Office:**

Dave Yokel, Wildlife Biologist

Michael Kunz, Archaeologist

Susan Flora, Environmental Scientist

Mike Worley, Realty Specialist

Richard Kemnitz, Hydrologist

Donna Wixon, Natural Resource Specialist

Debbie Nigro, Wildlife Biologist

Matthew Whitman, Fisheries Biologist

Stacie McIntosh, Anthropologist/Subsistence Specialist

Roger Sayre, NEPA Specialist

FF095664  
2930.00

***Finding of No Significant Impact***

Type of Action: Special Recreation Permit

Serial Number: FF095664

Environmental Assessment Number: DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2010-0006-EA

Applicant: Terry Overly Jr. & Gregory A. Jennen  
Alaska Arctic Adventures

Address: P.O. Box 782  
Tok, Alaska 99780

District: Arctic Field Office

Planning Unit: Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated  
Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2008.  
Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (IAP/EIS)2004.  
Colville River Special Area Management Plan 2008

Lands Involved: See Case File for Description (Within Game Management Units: 26-10,  
26-11, 26-12

***Context and Intensity of Environmental Impacts***

Based upon a review of the EA prepared by the Arctic Field Office and the supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance as defined at 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. We reviewed the context of the proposed action and found that it would not result in any significant effects to resources and values. The mitigation measures and environmental protections would ensure that the Proposed Action would not add significantly to incremental impacts.

The need for this project is to allow Alaska Arctic Adventures access to arctic resources providing an opportunity to present information and first hand experience to a broader public, with minimal environmental impact. The following factors were considered in the EA to evaluate the significance of this proposal (40 CFR 1508.27): Beneficial and adverse impacts; effects on public health and safety; unique cultural or ecological areas within or near the project area: potentially controversial or uncertain effects; whether the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effect; cumulative effects; adverse impacts to important scientific, cultural or historical resources; effects to endangered or threatened species or habitat; or whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, local or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements:

### ***Monitoring and Mitigation***

BLM will monitor on the ground activities periodically. Mitigation measures will be implemented as described in the attached authorization stipulations.

#### **APPROVED:**

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/s/Lon Kelly  
Arctic Field Office Manager

6/11/2010

Date