



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Central Yukon Field Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

In Reply Refer To:  
FF095083

## **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0046-CX**

Troy Kitchel  
Kitchel's Alaska Guide Service  
205 East Dimond Blvd., #570  
Anchorage, AK 99515

### **A. Background**

Office: Central Yukon (CYFO)

Proposed Action Title/Type: 2930 Special Recreation Permit for commercial guiding.

Location: The location of the proposed activity is on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Guide Use Area (GUA) 21-03 in the Kateel River drainage.

Proposed Action:

This is a permit renewal request by the applicant. This CX is linked to an Environmental Assessment #025-07-023. The applicant has been in good standing with his operation on BLM lands.

The applicant request to continue guiding for moose and bear on BLM managed lands within the Central Yukon Field Office (CYFO). The proposed hunt area is in the Kateel River drainage and displayed on the attached map.

#### Access

Transportation to the field for clients is done by use of 16 ft. flat bottom boats that depart from Galena and travel the river system to the base camp. Spike camps are set up as needed in support of recreational and hunting activities.

#### Camping

The base of operations is located at coordinates 65 31.158N, 158 15.446W and has been used in past years by the applicant. Camping will be done at the base camp with a platform tent and at spike camps using backpack tents. Stipulations

are provided to reduce impacts on the local environment by camping activities. The maximum number of clients per spike camp is four (4).

Hunting dates

The applicant request to continue operation in GUA 21-03 and conduct two – ten day hunts (Sept. 5 – 15 and Sept. 15-25) for up to four hunters per trip on BLM lands. The applicant will follow state of Alaska regulations on hunt dates for specific species.

**B. Land Use Plan Conformance**

1. Land Use Plan Name: Kobuk/Seward Peninsula RMP  
Date Approved/Amended: September 2008

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

M-1: Goal Approved RMP page 31: “On BLM-managed lands, improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities, ensure a quality outdoor experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources, and provide for and receive fair value in recreation.

The action, as proposed, is consistent with the objectives outlined in these CYFO documents and not in conflict with other resources in the area. The proposed use is in conformance with current policy of the Fairbanks District Office, BLM.

**B. Compliance with NEPA**

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with the NEPA Handbook Appendix 4, 516 DM 11.9 (H), which states, “Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”

The proposed action must be screened against the extraordinary circumstances found in 43 CFR 46.215 and listed below. Any “yes” finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

**Affected Resources**

The following table identifies those Elements that could be affected by the proposed action. **Following the table is a more detailed description of those affected elements. Elements where no affect is anticipated will not be discussed further.**

**EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES**

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>
1) May have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2) May have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3) May have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4) May have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5) Might establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6) May have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7) May have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8) May have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9) Might violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10) May have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
11) Might limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
12) Could contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

**A. Signature**

I considered the proposed action of providing access for Troy Kitchel, Kitchels Alaska Guide Service, within GUA 21-03 and find that there is no potential for significant impacts to BLM lands.

Authorizing Official: /s/ Joyce Voight for Nichelle Jacobson Date: 9/18/2012  
Manager, Central Yukon Field Office

DECISION RECORD  
BLM Fairbanks District  
Arctic Field Office & Central Yukon Field Office  
2930 – Special Recreation Permit  
Case File #FF095083  
Troy Kitchel  
Kitchels Alaska Guide Service

DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0046-CX

Decision:

1. It is our decision to approve a 2930 Special Recreation Permit for the use of BLM lands by Troy Kitchel for commercial guiding activities on the Kateel River drainage in GUA (21-03) on BLM within the Central Yukon Field Office. This permit authorizes no more than eight (8) hunters per year and four hunters per trip. Authorized use dates for permitted activities is September 1 – October 1, 2012-2016.

Authorizing this Proposed Action will facilitate an acceptable and permitted practice by the BLM and is compatible with the: Kobuk/Seward Peninsula RMP  
Date Approved/Amended: September 2008

The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 43 CFR 46.21 516 DM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. In addition, the decision to process this application as a Categorical Exclusion falls within the guidance provided in Appendix 4 NEPA Handbook Appendix 4, 516 DM 11.9 (H) 1, as described above in 'Compliance with NEPA'.

Rationale:

1. Authorizing the permit is provided for in the planning documents listed above.
2. The action is categorically excluded and does not trigger any of the extraordinary circumstances found in CFR 46.215.
3. There will be no restriction to subsistence use (See attached ANILCA 810 documentation).
4. There will be no adverse impacts to cultural resources (See attached Assessment of Archaeological and Historic Resources Sec. 106 documentation).
5. There will be no impact on Essential Fish Habitat (see attached EFH determination).
6. There will be no impacts to wilderness characteristics (see attached Wilderness Assessment).

