



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:
FF-096417

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION / PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION AND
DECISION FOR KENT KAISER / ALASKAN QUEST FILM PERMIT
FF-096417**

DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0038-CX

Proposed Action: Issue a permit for filming a guided tour on the Melozitna River

Location: Sec. 12, 22 & 27, T. 2N., R. 24E.; Sec. 34, 35 & 36, T. 3S., R. 19E. Kateel River Meridian

Applicant: Kent Kaiser / Alaskan Quest

Serial Number: FF-096417

Date of Proposed Action: September 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012

Description of Proposed Action:

Kent Kaiser of Alaskan Quest proposes to film a guided tour down the Melozitna River for a maximum of 6 days during the month of September, 2012. Mr. Kaiser has a current Special Recreation Permit (FF-095662, expiring 9/30/2015) for his guiding activities, and this additional permit would be strictly for authorization to film his already permitted guide activity.

The group will be a maximum of seven people, will fly in, hunt and fish down the Melozitna River from Bacon Creek to Hot Springs Creek, filming a maximum of six days. Most of the land through which they will travel is state land, however there is a small percentage of the route that is state selected land, not conveyed, and under BLM management, as indicated on the following map (figure 1). The total length of the river being reviewed is approximately 3 miles (2.7%) of the approximately 110 mile trip.

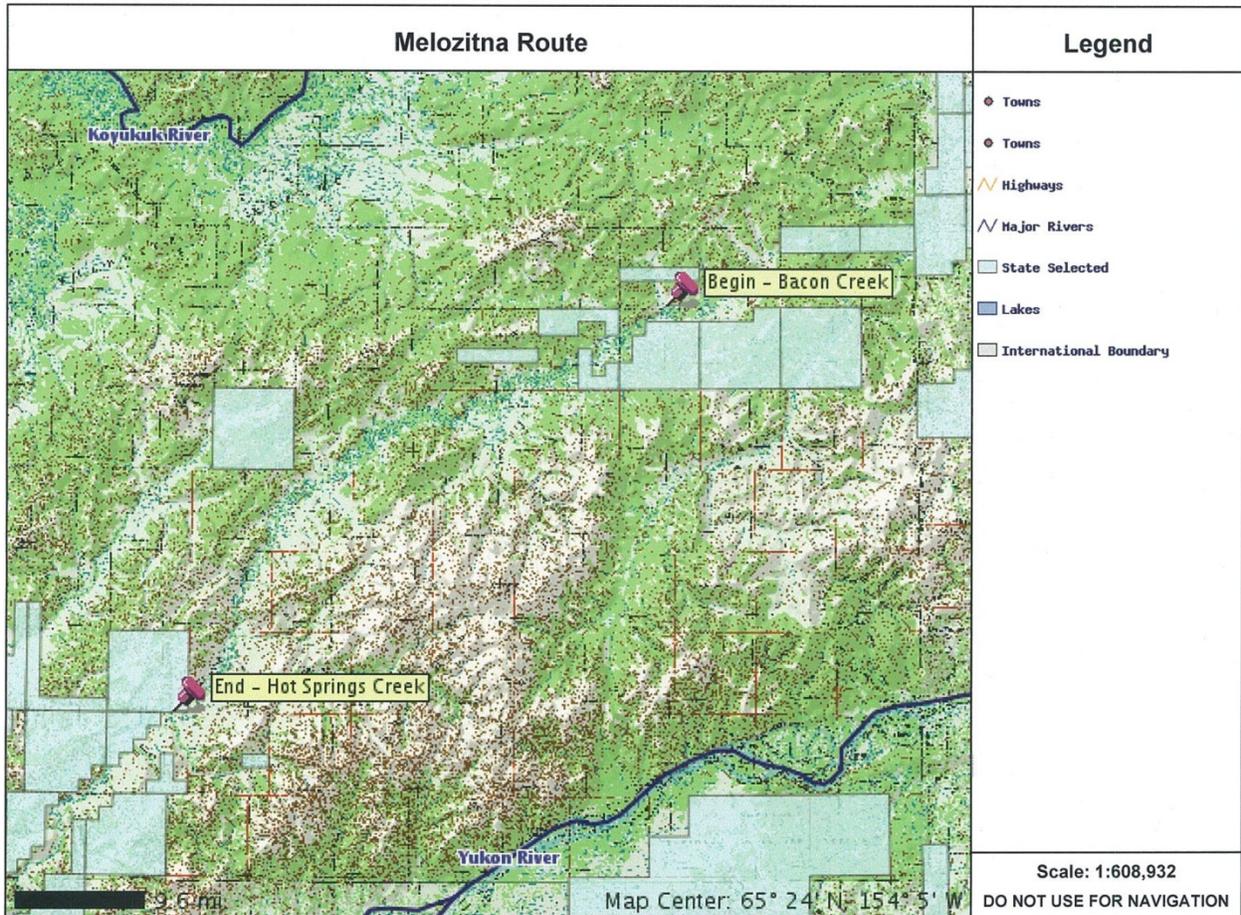


Figure 1

Land Use Plan Conformance

Central Yukon Resource Management Plan
Date Approved: September 26, 1986

The proposed action is consistent with the principles of the BLM and state plans for this area.

Compliance with NEPA:

This proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, item 1.11, which includes activities which are educational, informational, or consultative to other agencies, public and private entities, visitors, individuals, or the general public.

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.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

	YES	NO
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

Determination

I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan. I have also determined that the proposed action can be categorically excluded, none of the twelve extraordinary circumstances are triggered, and that an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is not needed.

/s/ Nichelle W. Jacobson
 Nichelle W. Jacobson, Manager
 Central Yukon Field Office

8/15/2012
 Date

**Decision for Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0038-CX
for Kent Kaiser / Alaskan Quest Film Permit**

Decision

It is my decision to approve the permit for filming as described in the proposed action. A permit will be issued for the period September 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012.

Rationale

There are no anticipated impacts to cultural resources. See Attachment #1.
The Proposed Action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. See Attachment #2.
No salmon species catalogued by the State of Alaska in the area encompassed by this permit will be impacted. See Attachment #3. The Proposed Action will not impair existing wilderness characteristics. See Attachment #4. The proposed action is expected to have no impact of floodplain or wetland areas. See Attachment #5.

Stipulations

The attached terms and conditions and stipulations will apply to this action.

Appeal Procedures

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeal must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management Central Yukon Field Office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision.

/s/ Nichelle W. Jacobson
Nichelle W. Jacobson
Field Manager
Central Yukon Field Office

8/15/2012
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review and decision, contact Peggy Thigpen, Realty Specialist, Central Yukon Field Office, at 907-474-2237.