



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



In Reply Refer To:  
FF090596

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0024-CX  
DOI-BLM-LLAK010-2012-028-CX**

Art Mortvedt  
Peace of Selby, Inc.  
PO Box 86  
Manley Hot Springs, AK 99756

**A. Background**

Offices: Central Yukon (CYFO) and Arctic Field (AFO) Offices  
Case File Number FF090596 held by AFO

Proposed Action Title/Type: Commercial Recreation Permit for hunting and wilderness tours  
2930 Special Recreation Permit

Location: The location of the proposed activity is on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Guide Use Area (GUA) 23-04 (Kobuk River and Pah River), GUA 24-01 (Hogatza River), and 26-12 (Nigu, Etivlik, and Colville Rivers).

Proposed Action:

The applicant has applied for a permit to conduct guided hunting and wilderness tours on BLM managed lands within the Arctic Field Office (AFO) and Central Yukon Field Office (CYFO). The applicant plans to work in two GUAs (23-04, 24-01) on BLM lands within the CYFO boundaries and one (GUA 26-12) on BLM lands in the AFO. Mr. Mortvedt has been permitted to conduct commercial recreational activities on BLM lands since 1992 and has been in compliance with permit regulations during this time.

The base of operations for Peace of Selby, Inc. is located in their lodge on Selby Lake on private lands. Transportation to the field for clients is provided by Mr. Mortvedt using his Cessna 180 tail number N9089M. Spike camps are set up as needed in support of recreational and hunting activities. The maximum number of

clients per spike camp is four (4). No fuel would be stored on BLM managed lands.

Typical dates each year for recreational activities is June 1 – September 30 and annual hunt dates will be from August 1 – September 30. The hunts are focused on moose, caribou and bear. Recreational activities can include fishing, river trips, and day hikes. The duration of the permit will be for five years ending on December 31, 2017.

## **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.

2. The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents:  
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 (CRSAMP) approved July 2008  
Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved 1/11/1991  
Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement approved 9/27/1989  
Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and Record of Decision approved 5/1983  
The National Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976

The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled “FF090596 Peace of Selby Special Recreation Stipulations 2012 -2017” and “United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations.”

### **C. 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.

**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 Art Mortvedt, Peace of Selby, Inc., with GUA 23-04, 24-01, and 26-12 and find that there is no potential for significant impacts to BLM lands.

	July 13, 2012
/s/Nichelle Jacobson	Date
Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	

	July 13, 2012
/s/Alonzo Kelly	Date
Manager, Arctic Field Office	