



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
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In reply refer to:
FF096026
2930.00 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2012-0012-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Richard French II
DBA Alaska Alpine Outfitters
P.O. Box 190836
Anchorage, Alaska 99519

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permit

Description of Proposed Action:

The applicant, Alaska Alpine Outfitters, is proposing two commercial recreational/hunting trips in the NPR-A.

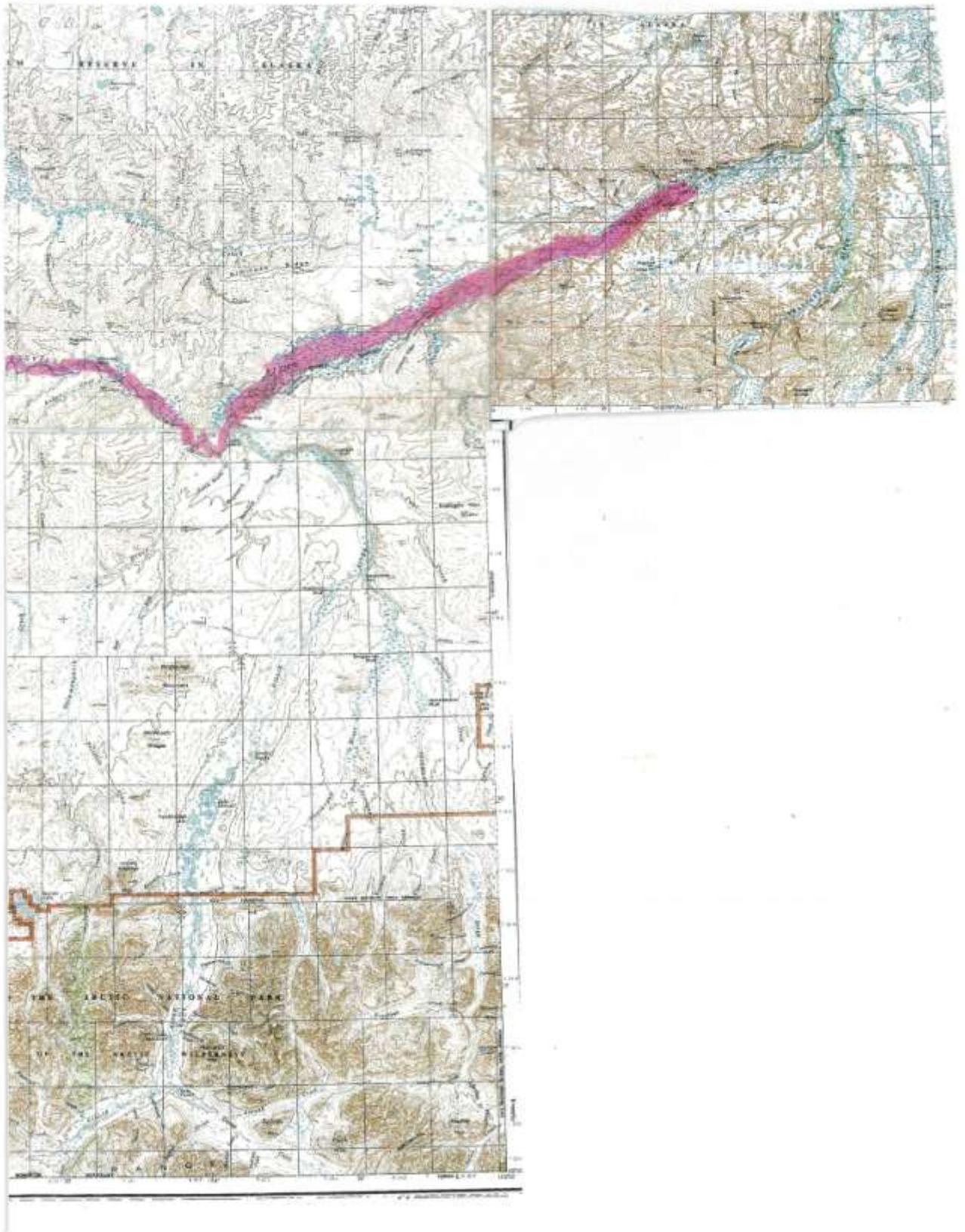
One trip would occur on the Nigu, Etivluk and Colville Rivers from September 1 to September 10, 2012 with two guests and one guide. The clients would fly via a charter fixed wing to Bettles to collect gear and groceries for the trip. From there a Dehaviland Beaver equipped with floats would take them to the headwaters of the Nigu River. They would put their rafts in at Isagok Lake in the Noatak National Preserve and float the Nigu River to the Etivluk River to the Colville River. They would float the Colville River until they get to their pick up point at Umiat. A fixed wing aircraft (Chieftan Navajo) would pick them up and fly back to Fairbanks. They may decide on a second option which would be to be picked up with a fixed wing Dehaviland Beaver on floats at the Killik Bend. The planned activities include wildlife viewing, day hiking, overnight camping and hunting. They plan on floating ten miles per day.

The second trip would also begin roughly September 1 to September 10, 2012 near the headwaters of the Etivluk River. They would put in and float a raft down the Etivluk River to the Colville River and on to Umiat following the same route as trip 1 once they reach the Etivluk River. Their activities (viewing wildlife, day hiking, overnight camping and hunting) would be similar to the first trip described above. This trip would include 1 guide and 1 hunter. Fixed wing aircraft would be used for transportation to the drop-off and pick up sites.

They plan no fuel caches and would only be carrying 2 gallons of Coleman fuel for a cook stove and a lantern. They would also carry five gallons of gasoline for a 15hp boat motor. The hunt would be for grizzlies and caribou. They would be using inflatable rafts to travel downstream moving camps

regularly but not necessarily every day. On occasion they would like to stay at the same camp area for more than one night to hike and hunt. Group size on these trips would be 3 people in one group and 2 in another group. At no time would there be more than 10 people in a group (which would include all people working for or associated with Alaska Alpine Outfitters).

They propose to use food containers which are certified bear resistant by the IGBC. All trash would be backhauled to Fairbanks for disposal. The applicant would use leave no trace standards for human waste disposal. Water would be obtained from free flowing natural sources and either boiled or run through a filter.



Legal Description: (field camp, activity, access on BLM Lands)

Trip 1

Meridian	Township	Range	Section	
KRM	31N	14E	19, 20,29,30	No BLM Managed Land (Noatak)
KRM	31N	13E	4-6, 8-11,13-17,23-25	No BLM Managed Land (Noatak)
KRM	32N	13E	31, 32	Excluding Noatak
KRM	32N	12E	1-4, 9-15, 22-27, 34-36	
KRM	33N	12E	19-20, 29-33	
KRM	33N	11E	4-9, 13-17, 21-25	
KRM	34N	11E	7-8, 17-20, 29-32	
Umiat	12S	19W	4-8, 17-20, 29-30	
Umiat	11S	19W	5-8, 17-20, 29-32	
Umiat	11S	20W	1, 12	
Umiat	10S	19W	1-3, 10-15, 19-23, 27-31	
Umiat	10S	20W	36	
Umiat	9S	18W	18-19, 30-31	
Umiat	9S	19W	1-2, 11-14, 24-25, 35-36	
Umiat	8S	18W	2-4, 9-10, 15-16, 20-22, 28-33	
Umiat	7S	18W	1-3, 10-16, 21-23, 27-28, 33-34	
Umiat	6S	18W	23-26, 35-36	
Umiat	6S	17W	1-12, 16-21, 29-32	Contains SS Excluding State Land
Umiat	6S	16W	4-9	Excluding State Land
Umiat	5S	16W	12-14, 23-36	Excluding Reg/Sel
Umiat	5S	15W	3-10, 16-21, 28-30	Excluding Reg/Sel & Private Land
Umiat	5S	14W	3-5	No BLM Managed Land
	5S	13W		
Umiat	4S	15W	25-26, 34-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	14W	20-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	13W	21-33	Excluding Private Land

Umiat	4S	12W	13-25	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	11W	13-25	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	10W	7, 16-29, 34-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	5S	10W	1-2, 11-13	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	5S	9W	7, 12-14, 16-18, 21-28, 35-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	5S	8W	3-8	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	8W	22-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	7W	9-23, 30	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	6W	2-8, 17-18	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	3S	6W	13, 23-27, 34-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	3S	5W	1-12, 14-21, 30	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	3S	4W	6	No BLM Managed Land
Umiat	2S	4W	13, 14, 21-35	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	2S	3W	1, 9-13, 19-21, 30	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	1S	2W	22-28, 31-35	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	2S	2W	3-7	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	1S	1W	1-12, 15-21	Excluding Private Land

Trip 2

Meridian	Township	Range	Section
KRM	33N	8E	
KRM	33N	9E	3-4, 9-10, 15-17, 20-22
KRM	34N	9E	11-14, 22-24, 26-27, 34-35
Umiat	12S	21W	24-25
Umiat	12S	20W	5-8, 17-20, 30
	11S	20W	1-3, 9-11, 14-17, 20-22, 28-33

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents:
Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (IAP/EIS) 2004
Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2008

Colville River Special Area Management Plan (2008)
 Western Arctic Resource Management Plan (RMP) evaluated 2/5/1990
 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 “FF096026 Alaska Alpine Outfitters 2012 Stipulations” and “United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations.”

 /s/Donna L. Wixon
 Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

Date 6/22/2012

Part II: NEPA Review and Decision

Categorical Exclusion Review.

This proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 national Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 4- H. BLM Categorical Exclusions.

“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 has been reviewed to determine if any extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

The proposed action will not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances listed below.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands;		X

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.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 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
2.8 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
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 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
2.12 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

/s/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

Date 6/22/2012