



# United States Department of the Interior

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



In reply refer to:  
FF093060  
2930.00 (AK012)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2012-0011-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** Macgill Adams  
DBA Wilderness Alaska  
P.O. Box 113063  
Anchorage, Alaska 99511

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Special Recreation Permit

#### Description of Proposed Action:

The applicant, Wilderness Alaska, is proposing two commercial recreational trips in the NPR-A, with the possibility of a third trip. The first trip would occur on Driftwood Creek from June 4-7 with 3 guests and one guide. A base camp would be established in the upper Driftwood Creek area. Planned activities include wildlife viewing, day hiking and overnight camping. The second trip would include river rafting on the Kokolik River from June 8-17. The trip would include 7 guests and 2 guides. Proposed activities are river running, day hiking, wildlife viewing and photography and overnight camping. A third, tentative trip could occur along the Nigu/ Etivluk Rivers, starting in the upper headwaters and paddling to the Colville River. The applicant proposes up to 8 guests and 2 guides.

All logistics for all trips would be done with fixed wing airplane and not utilize any helicopters. In addition, a Caravan would be utilized at Ivotuk on June 8 and June 17 trip to stage guests for shuttles to the put-in and take-out for the Kokolik River trip.

They do not plan to use fuel caches and would carry propane (20 # bottle) to fuel their small cook stove. The primary form of recreation they would like to provide to visitors is multi day floating trips. They would use inflatable canoes to travel downstream, moving camps regularly but not necessarily every day. On occasion they would stay at the same camp area for more than one night. All food containers would be certified bear resistant by the IGBC. All trash would be backhauled to Fairbanks for disposal. On a rare occasion, burnable waste may be burned, however the applicant does not regularly have fires. When they do, they create pits in the flood zone and line them with sand to protect the rocks from scarring; they do not make fire rings. The applicant would use leave no trace standards for human waste disposal. Water will be obtained from free flowing natural sources and either boil or run water through a filter.

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

**Trip 1 (All Umiat Meridian)**

Township	Range	Section
8S	36W	1-36
8S	35W	1-36
8S	37W	1-36
7S	36W	1-36
7S	37W	1-36
9S	35W	1-36
9S	36W	1-36
9S	37W	1-36
9S	38W	1-36
10S	36W	1-36
10S	37W	1-36
10S	38W	1-36

**Trip 2 (All Umiat Meridian)**

Township	Range	Section	
1 North	39 West	13-15, 23-26, 35, 36	
1 South	39 West	5-8, 18	
1 South	40 West	11-14, 21-28, 32-34	
2 South	40 West	3-9, 17-20	
2 South	41 West	13-14, 21-24, 26-29, 32-33	Excluding State Land
2 South	42 West	36	No BLM Managed Lands
3 South	42 West	1-3, 11-12, 14-15, 22-23, 26-28, 34-36	No BLM Managed Lands
4 South	42 West	1-2, 11-14, 23-24, 25-26, 35-36	No BLM Managed Lands
5 South	42 West	5-8, 16-21, 27-28, 33-34	Excluding State Land
6 South	42 West	4-5, 8-9, 16-17, 19-20, 29-32	No BLM Managed Lands
7 South	42 West	6	No BLM Managed Lands
6 South	43 West	36	No BLM Managed Lands
7 South	43 West	1-2, 11-14, 22-27, 35-36	No BLM Managed Lands
8 South	43 West	1-2, 11-13	No BLM Managed Lands

Trip 3

<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>
Umiat	9 South	18 West	19,30,31
Umiat	9 South	19 West	24-26,35,36
Umiat	10 South	19 West	1,2,10-16,19-35
Umiat	10 South	20 West	36
Umiat	11 South	19 West	6,7,18,19,29-33
Umiat	11 South	20 West	1,12
Umiat	12 South	19 West	4-8,17-20,29,30
Kateel River	34 North	11 East	7,8,17-20,29-33
Kateel River	33 North	11 East	2-18,21-25
Kateel River	33 North	12 East	19,29-33
Kateel River	32 North	12 East	2-4,10-15,23-26,30
Kateel River	32 North	13 East	19,30 (State Selected) 31,32 (partial Noatak National Preserve)
Kateel River	31 North	13 East	Noatak National Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	14 East	Noatak National Preserve
Kateel River	30 North	14 East	Noatak National Preserve

**Part I: Plan Conformance Review**

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents:

- Western Arctic Resource Management Plan (RMP) evaluated 2/5/1990
- Colville River Special Area Management Plan (CRSAMP) approved July 2008
- 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 “FF093060 Wilderness Alaska Stipulations 2012” and “United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations.”

Date May 11, 2012

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

---

**Part II: NEPA Review**

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.

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		<b>X</b>
2.2 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.		<b>X</b>
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		<b>X</b>
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		<b>X</b>
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		<b>X</b>
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		<b>X</b>
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.		<b>X</b>
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.		<b>X</b>
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		<b>X</b>
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		<b>X</b>
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		<b>X</b>

of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
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).		<b>X</b>

Date May 11, 2012

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