



# 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:  
FF095564  
2930.00 (AK012)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2012-0018-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** David Perry  
Land Agency Coordinator  
Sierra Club Outings  
85 Second Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, California 94105

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Guided Wilderness Tours in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) (2930.00).

**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicant David Perry, with Sierra Club Outings has requested authorization for field activity access and landing by a fixed wing aircraft on lands within the southern portion of the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A) to conduct a guided wilderness tours.

The trip would be a 12 day overnight backpacking trip from June 4<sup>th</sup>- June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. There would be a total of 12 people including 2 guides and 10 participants. Access to and from the area would be via a charter flight with Golden Eagle Outfitters of Kotzebue. Their original plan was to fly to Iligluruk Creek and land on an unimproved gravel bar deemed by the pilot to be suitable for tundra tire landings and take-offs. However, after reviewing the terrain have decided to start and end their trip on the Noatak National Preserve (N68 21'52.8 W158 51'18.6). Due to aircraft capacity limitations there would be 4 trips in and 4 trips out to get everyone and their gear in and out of the area. They would be carrying 240-360 ounces of white gas for their stoves and camping along the route.



**Figure 1: Applicant submitted map.**

**Legal Description:**

<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Sections</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Kateel River	34 North	1 West	3,4	<b>No BLM Managed Lands</b>
Umiat	12 South	30 West	1-36	<b>No BLM Managed Lands</b>
Umiat	12 South	29 West	1-36	<b>No BLM Managed Lands</b>
Umiat	11 South	30 West	1-36	Excluding Private Lands
Umiat	11 South	29 West	1-36	Excluding Private Lands
Umiat	10 South	30 West	1-36	Excluding Private Lands
Umiat	10 South	29 West	1-36	Excluding Private Lands
Umiat	9 South	40 West	30	
Umiat	9 South	41 West	7-8,15-17,21-26	
Umiat	9 South	42 West	2-4,10-12	

Umiat	8 South	41 West	19, 30, 31	
Umiat	8 South	42 West	17-24, 26, 27	Excluding Private Lands
Umiat	8 South	43 West	13	

### Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents: Oil and Gas Leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Final EIS (1983). 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 “FF095564 Sierra Club Summer Permit 2012 Stipulations”, United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land-Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations” and “Required Conduct near Possible Nests of Raptors (Eagles, Hawks and Falcons) in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.”

Date May 25, 2012

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

### 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.		<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;		<b>X</b>

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)].		<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 of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		<b>X</b>
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 25, 2012

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