



**Environmental Assessment**  
**National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska**  
**Special Recreation Permit**  
**2012**  
**DOI-BLM-LLAK010-2012-0024-EA**  
**Alaska Arctic Adventures**  
**Preparing Office: Arctic Field Office**

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Project Title/Type of Action: **National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Special Recreation Permit**

Case File Number: **FF095664**

Land Use Plans: **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 2008**  
**Oil and Gas Leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve In Alaska Final EIS (1983)**

Applicant: **Terry Overly Jr.**  
**Gregory A. Jennen**  
**DBA: Alaska Arctic Adventures**

Address: **P.O. Box 782**  
**Tok, Alaska 99780**

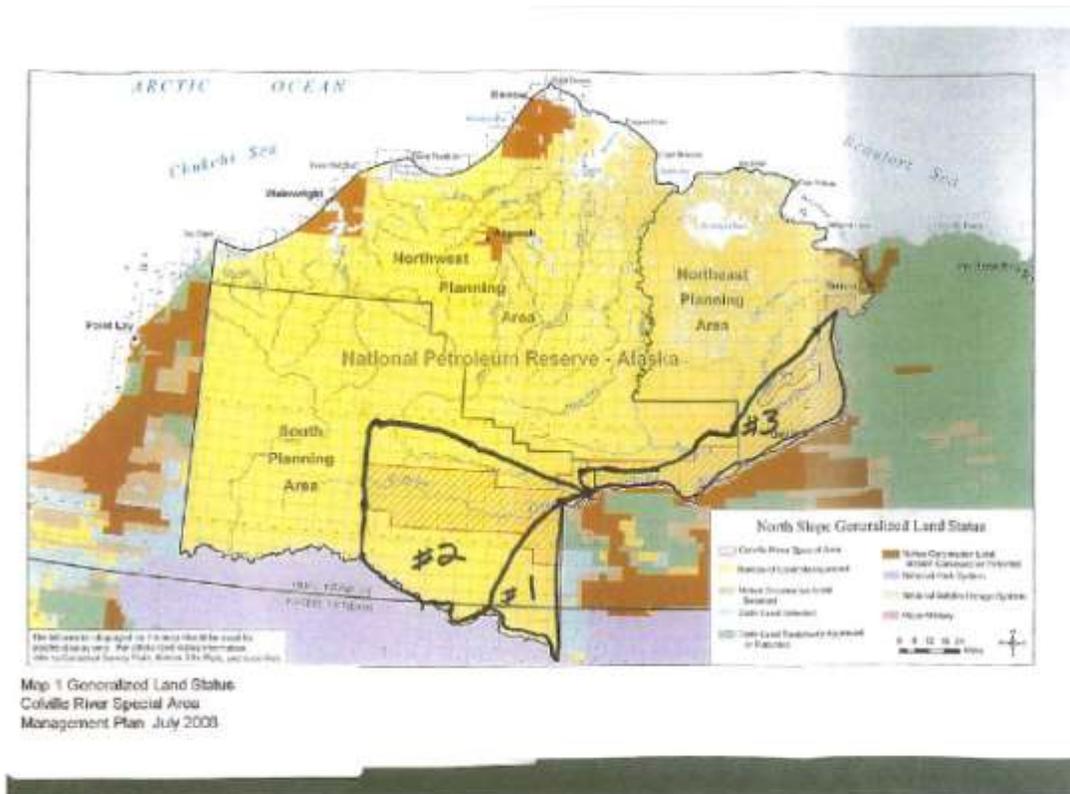
Date: **June 15, 2012**

Lands Involved : **See Appendix A**

**Environmental Assessment**  
**for a Special Recreation Permit**  
**DOI-BLM-LLAK010-2012-0024-EA**

## Chapter 1 Introduction

Mr. Gregory A. Jennen and Mr. Terry L. Overly Jr., doing business as Alaska Arctic Adventures(AAA), have requested to renew their authorization to conduct guiding operations on BLM managed lands within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). They operated under BLM Special Recreation Permit (SRP) FF095664 in 2010 and 2011 and are requesting a 5 year renewal of the permit. The area of proposed use is within the Northeast, Northwest and South NPR-A (Figure 1). AAA proposes to conduct trips from May to the end of September each year in the drainages of the Etviluk, Nigu, Ipnavik & Colville Rivers.



**Figure 1.** AAA proposed guide use area (Applicant designated areas #1, #2, #3).

## **1.1 Need for Action**

The need for action is established by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of FLPMA of 1976 (FLPMA) direction to respond to requests for authorizations and to grant authorizations to qualified individuals or agencies.

## **1.2 Purpose of Action**

The purpose for action is to provide access and use of public lands within the NPR-A in a manner that protects the natural resources of public lands and prevents unnecessary or undue degradation. The objective of the proposed action is to allow the applicant to conduct guided hunts on BLM managed lands.

## **1.2 Laws, regulations, other EAs that influence this EA**

This EA will be based on the findings, management controls, and protective measures of the 2004 Northwest NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan (IAP)/EIS Record of Decision (ROD), the 2008 Northeast NPR-A Supplemental IAP/EIS ROD, and the 2008 Colville River Special Area Management Plan (CRSAMP), as well as other laws and regulations. The action, as proposed, is consistent with the objectives outlined in these documents and not in conflict with other resources in the area. The proposed use is in conformance with current policy of the BLM Arctic Field Office.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Northwest IAP/EIS, associated ROD, the Northeast SIAP/EIS, associated ROD, the CRSAMP, associated ROD, and the National Petroleum Reserve Product Act (NPRPA), Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA), Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Endangered Species Act, Executive Order (EO) 11988, and EO 11990.

## **1.4 The Decision to be Made**

The BLM must conduct a project-specific NEPA analysis and determine whether the proposed project should be approved, rejected, or approved with modifications, and if additional mitigation is needed. This EA will be based on the findings, management controls, and protective measures of the 2008 Northeast NPR-A SIAP/EIS ROD, 2004 Northwest NPR-A IAP/EIS ROD, 2008 CRSAMP ROD as well as other laws and regulations. The scope of this EA includes analysis that enables the BLM to select among alternatives that meet the purpose and need, and are within the BLM's jurisdiction (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1506.1(a) (2)).

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to meet requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and to support U.S. Department of Interior (USDOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) decision-making on permits required to construct and implement the proposed projects. The scope of this EA includes analysis of the effects of the proposed activity and alternatives.

## 1.5 Scoping and Issues

The proposed action was announced on the BLM Arctic Field Office website NEPA register May 21, 2012. To date no comments have been received. Development of the 2008 NE SIAP/EIS involved extensive input from other Federal agencies, the State, the NSB, thousands of individuals, and many institutions.

BLM guidelines include a list of issues that are addressed, where applicable, in NEPA assessments, (BLM 2008). Some elements are not present in the project area and are, therefore, not discussed further. A summary listing of related issues considered by AFO Field Staff is provided in Table 1.1.

**Table 1.1 Issues Considered in Evaluating Impacts**

<b>Resources/Environmental Considerations for Issues and Analysis</b>	<b>Determination</b>	<b>Basis of Determination (See Note )</b>
ACEC's	Not Present	Protection provided by:
Air Quality	Minimally impacted	Protection provided by: State of Alaska Air Non-Point and Mobile Program and regulations (18 AAC 50)
Cultural and Paleontological Resources	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Non Oil & Gas Stipulations VA, VB, VC.
Environmental Justice	Not Present	Protection provided by: EO 12898
Fish	Minimally impacted	Protections provided by: Non Oil & Gas Permit Stipulations IIA, IIB, VIIC, VIIIA, XIC. EFH finding "not likely to adversely affect".
Flood Plains/Wetlands and Riparian Zones	Minimally Impacted	Protections provided by: EO 11988 and EO 11990
Invasive, Non-native species	Not Present	Protections provided by: not applicable to this action
Native American Religious Concerns	Not Impacted	Protection provided by: Native American Religious Freedom Act
Recreation	Not Impacted	Protection provided by:
Socialcultural Systems	Not Present	Protection provided by:
Subsistence	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by: ANILCA, Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulations IXA
Threatened & Endangered Species Spectacled and Steller's eider	Not Present	Protection provided by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. (J)
Threatened & Endangered Species Polar Bear	Not Present	In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA),
non-T&E birds	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulations III.A & B IV.C, VII.A X.A, XI.B.1-3, XI.C.3,6&7, XI.D, XII.A-C and Project Specific Stipulation #1
non-T&E mammals	Minimally impacted	Protection provided by Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulations III.A, III.D, III.E.1&2, IIIF, XI.B.1, XII.A&B.

Resources/Environmental Considerations for Issues and Analysis	Determination	Basis of Determination (See Note )
Vegetation	Minimally impacted	Protections provided by: Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulation X.A&B.
Visual Resource Management	Minimally Impacted	Protection provided by: VII A, XA, XI A,B
Water Resources	Minimally Impacted	Protections provided by: Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulation II.
Waste (Hazardous/Solid)	Minimally Impacted	Protections provided Non Oil and Gas Permit Stipulations in Sec. XI, and by State of Alaska 18 AAC 30, 60, 62, 63, 72, and 75;
Wild & Scenic Rivers	Not Present	Protection provided by:
Wilderness	Not Present	Protection provided by:

**Key to Table 1.2:**

AAC- Alaska Administrative Code

ACEC- Area of Critical Environmental Concern

ADFG- Alaska Department of Fish and Game

ANILCA- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

EFH – Essential Fish Habitat

EO- Executive Order

EPA- Environmental Protection Agency

ESA- Endangered Species Act

NPDES- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

ROP- Required Operating Procedure

SPCC- Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures

**Potentially Affected:** The proposed action or alternative could result in potential impacts to resource or issues to the level that additional mitigation may be required, or there is a need to evaluate potentially significant issues.

**Minimally Impacted:** Resources or issues would not be affected to a degree requiring further analysis because either the expected impacts from the proposed action and alternative would be minimal, or standard protections (e.g., ROPs and Stipulations from overriding BLM plans or other legal protections) would reduce impacts. Minimally impacted resources or issues will not be analyzed further in this EA.

**Not Present:** Resources or issues are not expected to be affected by the proposed action or alternatives because activities would occur at a different time or place. Resource or issues not present will not be analyzed further in the EA.

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

EFH – Essential Fish Habitat

**Note1:** Determination tiered from: NE 2008 & NW 2004, Colville River Special Management Plan

In summary, BLM resource specialists have not identified issues for further evaluation in this EA. Environmental characteristics of the general project area have been extensively described in the 2008 NE NPR-A IAP/EIS (Vol. 1, Chapter 3), to which this analysis is tiered.

## 1.6 Public Involvement

Development of the 2004 Northwest IAP/EIS, 2008 SIAP/EIS, and CRSAMP involved extensive input from other Federal agencies, the State, the NSB, thousands of individuals, and many institutions. A number of permits and approvals are required work in the NPR-A. These are

described in the 2004 Northwest IAP/EIS and 2008 Northwest SIAP/EIS many of which are available for public review prior to agency decision-making.

Public notification of the Environmental analysis was announced in the NEPA register on file at the Arctic Field Office Environmental Assessment web site beginning May 21, 2012. No public comments or inquiries were received through 15 June, 2012.

## **Chapter 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This section describes the alternatives considered, including the no action, proposed action, and alternatives considered an eliminated.

### **2.2 Description of Alternatives**

#### **2.2.1 Alternative A: No Action**

Under no action, the BLM would not grant a renewal of a special recreation permit to AAA. The current land management situation would continue. Chapter III (Affected Environment) of the Northwest NPRA AIP/EIS and Northwest NPRA SAIP/EIS provide detailed profiles of the environmental conditions in the region. The types of activities in the area are described in Chapter IV of the respective documents. Common ongoing activities include oil and gas exploration and development, research and monitoring, recreation, subsistence, and travel. These activities would continue under the no action alternative, but the special recreation permit for AAA would not be provided.

#### **2.2.2 Alternative B: Proposed Action**

The proposed action is to authorize a permit that would allow AAA to conduct guided hunts in the NPR-A for five years. The proponent would continue to base their headquarters for hunting trips on State of Alaska lands at Umiat. Clients would fly to and from Umiat to Fairbanks on charter flights. They would then use two small aircraft, capable of transporting one client with gear, to a spike camp. AAA expects up to eight take offs and landings per week when they are operating. This includes flights to transport harvested game. Alaska Arctic Adventures proposes to conduct both spring and fall hunts. Typically the spring hunts would involve no more than 15 hunters and take place from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>. The fall hunts would involve no more than 25 hunters and take place the last week of July through the end of September. They anticipate 36 days of activity on BLM managed lands. The spring hunts would be conducted for grizzly bear and the fall hunts would be conducted for grizzly bear, caribou and moose.

They anticipate having seven spike camps which would not necessarily be located on BLM managed lands. It is possible that they would be at a camp for 2 plus weeks at a time, and then move with a maximum of five weeks at one place. The applicant would limit the time if required by the BLM. Typically each client would only stay at one spike camp and only three people would be at a camp at one time, with the maximum number of five. Mr. Jennen and Mr. Overly,

who are experienced guides, would also have two other guides working the hunts. Each guide would be assigned two clients. All the guides have taken 1<sup>st</sup> Aid and CPR classes. Each guide would have a satellite phone with them at all times.

The applicant has a license to conduct guided hunts in Guide Unit 26A with-in the NPR-A. They propose to conduct guided hunts along the Etivluk, Nigu, Ipnarik and Colville River drainages. Alaska Arctic Adventures anticipates the majority of the hunts would take place near Howard Pass and north of Etivlik Lake and the Nigu River. They would avoid entering lands in the upper Nigu controlled by the Park Service.

Cooking propane would be the only fuel proposed to be stored on BLM managed lands. Aviation fuel would be stored or purchased at the Umiat airfield (State of Alaska permit or UIC camp). All trash would be removed from the field at the end of each hunt. Human waste would be disposed on using “leave no trace” principals. No excavating or other disturbance of vegetation/soil would occur. The applicants propose to transfer any meat not taken by clients to needy residents in the local areas of Bettles, Fairbanks or Tok using a transfer of possession form. Bear hides would be fleshed and salted, and a temporary sealing form would be completed before removal of the hide from the field.

### **Chapter 3 Affected Environment**

Environmental characteristics of the general project area have been extensively described in the 2004 Northwest NPR-A IAP/EIS (Vol. 1, Chapter 3), the 2008 NE NPR-A SIAP/EIS (Vol 1 Chap 3), the 2008 CRSAMP (Chapter3) to which this analysis is tiered. The affected environment related to specific issues is described below.

Review of the proposed project for potential issues (Section 1.5) indicated no or minimal impacts to air quality, cultural and paleontological resources, fish Flood Plains/Wetlands and Riparian Zones Native American Religious Concerns, Recreation, subsistence, non threatened/endangered birds and mammals, vegetation, visual resource management, water resources, or waste management (See Table 1.1 for complete list of issues considered).

### **Chapter 4 Environmental Impacts**

BLM resource specialists have not identified issues for further evaluation in this EA. Review of the proposed project for potential issues (Section 1.5) indicated no or minimal impacts to air quality, cultural and paleontological resources, fish Flood Plains/Wetlands and Riparian Zones Native American Religious Concerns, Recreation, subsistence, non threatened/endangered birds and mammals, vegetation, visual resource management, water resources, or waste management (See Table 1.1 for complete list of issues considered).

## 4.2 Cumulative Effects

Cumulative impacts result from the incremental addition of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions. Each action may be individually minor by itself, but when added to others could become significant over a period of time.

The time frame for the proposed action for the NPR-A portion of the project area is 1977 (designation of NPR-A) to 10 years into the future, assuming that the relatively low level of activity and management would remain at about the same level as present. Due to the limited scope and intensity of the proposed action the geographic area would be limited within 1 mile of the proposed river travel corridor, camps, and staging areas.

Due to the remoteness of the areas, the activity levels are limited by available transportation. There is minimal recreation, research and subsistence use in the area. However, there has been an increase in use of the area in the last couple of years. The proposed action is anticipated to have very little if any impact as all the applicants will be using leave no trace principles.

## 4.4 MITIGATION AND MONITORING

The stipulations for the proposed action are a subset of the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision Required Operating Procedures, the Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision Required Operating Procedures, Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, The Colville River Special Area Management Plan, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and Record of Decision approved 5/1983. Special Recreation Permit holders meet most requirements by following the guidelines in *Leave No Trace, Alaskan Tundra* ]

## 4.5 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

There were no potential issues identified in the evaluation of the proposed action (see Table 1.1).

## Chapter 5 Consultation and Coordination

### 5.1 Agencies, Organization, Persons Consulted

Public notification of the Environmental analysis will be on file at the Arctic Field Office and available on the Arctic Field Office Environmental Assessment web site.

## 5.2 List of Preparers

### **BLM**

#### **Arctic Field Office:**

Dave Yokel, Wildlife Biologist  
 Michael Kunz, Archaeologist  
 Susan Flora, Environmental Scientist  
 Richard Kemnitz, Hydrologist  
 Donna Wixon, Natural Resource Specialist  
 Debbie Nigro, Wildlife Biologist  
 Matthew Whitman, Fisheries Biologist  
 Stacey Fritz, Anthropologist/Subsistence Specialist  
 Roger Sayre, NEPA Specialist

### Appendix A Legal Description

#### Area 1

<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>
Kateel River	31 North	12 East	1-4,9-16,23, 24(Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	32 North	10 East	1-7, 10-15 (excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	32 North	11 East	1-16, 24 (excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	32 North	12 East	1-28,32-36 (ExcludingNoatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	8 East	1, 11-14, 23-25 (ExcludingNoatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	9 East	1-36 (ExcludingNoatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	10 East	1-36
Kateel River	33 North	11 East	1-36
Kateel River	33 North	12 East	4-9, 16-21, 28-33

Kateel River	34 North	8 East	7-30, 32, 36 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	34 North	9 East	7 - 36
Kateel River	34 North	10 East	7 - 36
Kateel River	34 North	11 East	7 - 36
Kateel River	34 North	12 East	4-9, 16-21, 28-33
Umiat	6 South	18 West	22-27, 34-36
Umiat	7 South	18 West	1-36
Umiat	8 South	18 West	5-8, 17-20, 29- 32
Umiat	8 South	18 West	1-36
Umiat	8 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	9 South	18 West	1-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	9 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	9 South	20 West	1-36
Umiat	10 South	18 West	1-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	10 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	10 South	20 West	1-36
Umiat	10 South	21 West	1-36
Umiat	10 South	22 West	1-36
Umiat	11 South	18 West	1-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	11 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	11 South	20 West	1-36
Umiat	11 South	21 West	1-36
Umiat	11 South	22 West	1-36
Umiat	12 South	18 West	1-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	12 South	19 West	1-36
Umiat	12 South	20 West	1-36
Umiat	12 South	21 West	1-36

Umiat	12 South	22 West	1-36
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**Area 2**

<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>
Kateel River	33 North	5 East	1-2, 11-12 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	6 East	1-22 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	33 North	7 East	4-8, 18 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	34 North	4 East	10-15 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	34 North	5 East	7-26, 28, 29, 35, 36 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Kateel River	34 North	6 East	7-36
Kateel River	34 North	7 East	7-34 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Umiat	1 South	22 – 28 West	1-36
Umiat	2 South	19 – 29 West	1-36
Umiat	3 South	17 – 24 West	1-36
Umiat	3 South	25 West	1-36
Umiat	3 South	26 – 29 West	1-36
Umiat	4 South	16 – 29 West	1-36
Umiat	5 South	16 West	3-9, 17, 18
Umiat	5 South	17 West	3-10, 16-20
Umiat	5 South	18 – 29 West	1-36
Umiat	5 South	30 West	1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36
Umiat	6 South	18 – 29 West	1 - 36
Umiat	6 South	30 West	1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36
Umiat	7 South	18 – 29 West	1 - 36
Umiat	7 South	30 West	1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36
Umiat	8 South	19 – 29 West	1 - 36
Umiat	8 South	30 West	1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36
Umiat	9 South	20 – 30 West	1 - 36
Umiat	10 South	21 – 28 West	1 - 36
Umiat	10 South	29 West	1 – 36 (Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	10 South	30 West	1-5, 8-17, 21-28, 34-36 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Umiat	11 South	22 – 27 West	1 - 36
Umiat	11 South	28 West	1-29, 34-36 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Umiat	11 South	29 West	1-5, 8-15, 22-24 (Excluding Noatak Preserve)
Umiat	12 South	23 – 26 West	1 - 36
Umiat	12 South	27 West	1-4, 9-14 (Excluding Noatak

			Preserve)
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**Area 3**

<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>
Umiat	8 North	2 East	2-4, 9-11, 15, 16, 21-23, 27-29, 31-34 (Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	7 North	2 East	3-9, 15-22, 27-35 (Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	7 North	1 East	1-2, 11-14, 22-27, 34-36
Umiat	6 North	2 East	2-11, 14-23, 25-36 (Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	6 North	1 East	1-5, 7-36
Umiat	6 North	1 West	13-36
Umiat	5 North	2 East	2-11, 13-36 (Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	5 North	1 East	1-36
Umiat	5 North	1 West	1-36
Umiat	5 North	2 West	1-36
Umiat	5 North	3 West	11-16, 20-36
Umiat	4 North	2 East	1-36 (Excluding Selected Land)
Umiat	4 North	1 East	1-36
Umiat	4 North	1 West	1-36
Umiat	4 North	2 West	1-36
Umiat	4 North	3 West	1-36
Umiat	4 North	4 West	1, 12-14, 23-27, 34-36
Umiat	3 North	3 East	6-8, 17-20, 29-32 (NPR-A lands only)
Umiat	3 North	2 East	1-36
Umiat	3 North	1 East	1-36
Umiat	3 North	1 West	1-36
Umiat	3 North	2 West	1-36
Umiat	3 North	3 West	1-36
Umiat	3 North	4 West	1-4, 8-36
Umiat	2 North	3 East	6, 7, 18, 19, 30

Umiat	2 North	2 East	1 – 36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	2 North	1 East	1-36
Umiat	2 North	1 West	1-36
Umiat	2 North	2 West	1-36
Umiat	2 North	3 West	1-36
Umiat	2 North	4 West	1-36
Umiat	1 North	1 East	1 – 34 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	1 North	2 East	1 – 11, 14-23 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	1 North	1 West	1 – 36
Umiat	1 North	2 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 North	3 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 North	4 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 North	5 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 North	6 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 South	1 East	5,6 (Excluding Public Lands)
Umiat	1 South	1 West	1-10, 15-19 (Excluding Private Lands)(Umiat)
Umiat	1 South	2 West	1-24, 27-33(Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	1 South	3 West	1-36
Umiat	1 South	4 West	1 – 36
Umiat	1 South	5 West	1 - 36
Umiat	1 South	6 West	1 – 36
Umiat	2 South	3 West	1-12,15-18 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	2 South	4 West	1-24, 27-32 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	2 South	5 West	1 – 36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	2 South	6 West	1 - 36
Umiat	2 South	7 West	1 - 36
Umiat	3 South	5 West	2-10, 18 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	3 South	6 West	1-35(Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	3 South	7 West	1 - 36
Umiat	3 South	8 West	10-36
Umiat	3 South	9 West	25-36
Umiat	3 South	10 West	25-36
Umiat	3 South	11 West	31-36
Umiat	3 South	12 West	25-36
Umiat	3 South	13 West	25-36
Umiat	3 South	14 West	25-36
Umiat	3 South	15 West	25-28, 33-36
Umiat	4 South	6 West	2 – 6 (Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	4 South	7 West	1-12, 15-19 (Excluding Private Lands)

Umiat	4 South	8 West	1-24,27-32 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	4 South	9 West	1 – 36
Umiat	4 South	10 West	1-29,34-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	4 South	11 West	1-24 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	4 South	12 West	1-30 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	4 South	13 West	1-30 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	4 South	14 West	1 – 34 (Excluding Private Lands)
Umiat	4 South	15 West	1 – 36 (Excluding Private Lands)

FF095664  
2930.00

***Finding of No Significant Impact***

Type of Action: Special Recreation Permit

Serial Number: FF095664

Environmental Assessment Number: DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2012-0024-EA

Applicant: Terry Overly Jr. & Gregory A. Jennen  
Alaska Arctic Adventures

Address: P.O. Box 782  
Tok, Alaska 99780

District: Arctic Field Office

Planning Unit: 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 2008

Lands Involved: See Case File for Description (Within Game Management Units: 26-10,  
26-11, 26-12

***Context and Intensity of Environmental Impacts***

Based upon a review of the EA prepared by the Arctic Field Office and the supporting documents, I have determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. No environmental effects meet the definition of significance as defined at 40 CFR 1508.27. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. We reviewed the context of the proposed action and found that it would not result in any significant effects to resources and values. The mitigation measures and environmental protections would ensure that the Proposed Action would not add significantly to incremental impacts.

The need for this project is to allow Alaska Arctic Adventures access to arctic resources providing an opportunity to present information and first hand experience to a broader public, with minimal environmental impact. The following factors were considered in the EA to evaluate the significance of this proposal (40 CFR 1508.27): Beneficial and adverse impacts; effects on public health and safety; unique cultural or ecological areas within or near the project area: potentially controversial or uncertain effects; whether the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effect; cumulative effects; adverse impacts to important scientific, cultural or historical resources; effects to endangered or threatened species or habitat; or whether the action threatens a violation of federal, state, local or tribal law, regulation or policy imposed for the protection of the environment, where non-federal requirements are consistent with federal requirements:

### ***Monitoring and Mitigation***

BLM will monitor on the ground activities periodically. Mitigation measures will be implemented as described in the attached authorization stipulations.

#### **APPROVED:**

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/s/Lon Kelly  
Arctic Field Office Manager

June 15, 2012

Date