

United States Department of the Interior

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

In reply refer to:
FF094254
2930.00 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2011-0010-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: John Walker
DBA Arctic Alaska Safaris
P.O. Box 285
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permit

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, John Walker, doing business as Arctic Alaska Safaris, proposes to conduct 2 guided big game hunts in State Game Management Area 26-12 on the Etivluk River.

The time frame for the first trip is May 10-20th. There would be 2 clients plus Mr. Walker as the guide. Access to the site would be via fixed-wing aircraft (a supercub on wheel-skis) piloted by Mr. Walker. It would take 2 trips to get people and gear to the landing site. The landing location and camp location would depend on the location of the big game animals (Bear, Caribou & Sheep). Snowshoes would be used for ground travel.

The time frames for the second trip is August 20- 27th, 2011. There would be 3 clients plus Mr. Walker as the guide. Access to the site would be by Helio Courier on floats piloted by Mr. Walker. It would take 3 trips to get people and gear to the landing site. The landing location and camp location would depend on the location of the big game animals. Hiking/backpacking would be the mode of transportation to and from camp.

Once Mr. Walker determines the location of the game he will look for the nearest landing area that would not disturb the animals. They would land and make camp then hike the next day to the animal's location. The maximum number of days at any camp site would be seven.

No fuel is proposed to be stored on BLM lands. Solid and liquid human waste would be carried out in bags.

Mr. Walker has operated as a guide in Alaska for 26 years and has had a BLM permit for at least 7 years.

The proposed activity is anticipated to take place up to 20 miles from the Etivluk River.

Legal Description:

Meridian	Township	Range	Section	Comment
Umiat	5 South	19 West	1-36	
Umiat	5 South	18 West	1-36	
Umiat	5 South	17 West	1-36	(Excluding State Selected Land)
Umiat	6 South	21 West	1-36	
Umiat	6 South	20 West	1-36	
Umiat	6 South	19 West	1-36	
Umiat	6 South	18 West	1-36	
Umiat	6 South	17 West	2-27,29-32,34-36	Contains SS Lands
Umiat	6 South	16 West	18-21,28-33	Contains SS Lands
Umiat	6 South	15 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	6 South	14 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	7 South	23 West	1-36	
Umiat	7 South	22 West	1-36	
Umiat	7 South	21 West	1-36	
Umiat	7 South	20 West	1-36	
Umiat	7 South	19 West	1-36	
Umiat	7 South	18 West	1-36	
Umiat	7 South	17 West	5-8,17-20,29-32	(Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	7 South	16 West	4,5,8,9,16,17,20,21	Contains SS Lands
Umiat	7 South	15 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	7 South	14 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	7 South	13 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	8 South	23 West	1-36	
Umiat	8 South	22 West	1-36	
Umiat	8 South	21 West	1-36	
Umiat	8 South	20 West	1-36	
Umiat	8 South	19 West	1-36	
Umiat	8 South	18 West	1-36	
Umiat	8 South	17 West	5-8,17-20,29-32	(Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	8 South	16 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	8 South	15 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	8 South	14 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	8 South	13 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	8 South	12 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	9 South	25 West	1-36	
Umiat	9 South	24 West	1-36	

Umiat	9 South	23 West	1-36	
Umiat	9 South	22 West	1-36	
Umiat	9 South	21 West	1-36	
Umiat	9 South	20 West	1-36	
Umiat	9 South	19 West	1-36	
Umiat	9 South	18 West	1-36	(Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	9 South	17 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	9 South	16 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	9 South	15 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	9 South	14 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	9 South	13 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	9 South	12 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	10 South	26 West	1-36	
Umiat	10 South	25 West	1-36	
Umiat	10 South	24 West	1-36	
Umiat	10 South	23 West	1-36	
Umiat	10 South	22 West	1-36	
Umiat	10 South	21 West	1-36	
Umiat	10 South	20 West	1-36	
Umiat	10 South	19 West	1-36	
Umiat	10 South	18 West	1-36	(Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	10 South	17 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	10 South	16 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	10 South	15 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	10 South	14 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	10 South	13 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	10 South	12 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	11 South	26 West	1-36	
Umiat	11 South	25 West	1-36	
Umiat	11 South	24 West	1-36	
Umiat	11 South	23 West	1-36	
Umiat	11 South	22 West	1-36	
Umiat	11 South	21 West	1-36	
Umiat	11 South	20 West	1-36	
Umiat	11 South	19 West	1-36	
Umiat	11 South	18 West	1-36	(Excluding Private Land)
Umiat	11 South	17 West	31-36	Contains SS Lands
Umiat	11 South	16 West	5-8,29-32	Contains RS Lands (FF019148-31)
Umiat	11 South	15 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	11 South	14 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	11 South	13 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	11 South	12 West	None	Private Lands

Umiat	12 South	26 West	1-30	
Umiat	12 South	25 West	1-30	
Umiat	12 South	24 West	1-30	
Umiat	12 South	23 West	1-30	
Umiat	12 South	22 West	1-30	
Umiat	12 South	21 West	1-30	
Umiat	12 South	20 West	1-30	
Umiat	12 South	19 West	1-30	
Umiat	12 South	18 West	1-30	(Excluding Private Land) Contains SS Lands
Umiat	12 South	17 West	1-6,11-14	
Umiat	12 South	16 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	12 South	15 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	12 South	14 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	12 South	13 West	None	Private Lands
Umiat	12 South	12 West	None	Private Lands
Kateel River	34 North	2 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	34 North	3 East	11-14,23-24	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	34 North	4 East	7-14,23-4	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	34 North	5 East	7-26,35-36	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	34 North	6 East	7-36	
Kateel River	34 North	7 East	7-34	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	34 North	8 East	7-32,36	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
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	7-36	
Kateel River	34 North	13 East	7-36	
Kateel River	34 North	14 East	7-9,16-21,28-33	
Kateel River	33 North	2 East	None	Noatak Preserve & Private Lands
Kateel River	33 North	3 East	None	Noatak Preserve & Private Lands
Kateel River	33 North	4 East	None	Noatak Preserve & Private Lands
Kateel River	33 North	5 East	1-2,10-14,24	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	33 North	6 East	1-22	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	33 North	7 East	4-8,18	Excluding Noatak

				Preserve Lands
Kateel River	33 North	8 East	1,11-14,23-26,36	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	33 North	9 East	1-36	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	33 North	10 East	1-36	
Kateel River	33 North	11 East	1-36	
Kateel River	33 North	12 East	1-36	
Kateel River	33 North	13 East	1-36	
Kateel River	33 North	14 East	4-9,16-21,28-33	
Kateel River	32 North	2 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	32 North	3 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	32 North	4 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	32 North	5 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	32 North	6 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	32 North	7 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	32 North	8 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	32 North	9 East	1-5,11-12	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	32 North	10 East	1-7,10-15	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	32 North	11 East	1-16,24	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	32 North	12 East	1-28,33-36	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	32 North	13 East	1-36	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	32 North	14 East	2-11,14-23,26-35	Excluding Gates of the Arctic
Kateel River	31 North	2 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	3 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	4 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	5 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	6 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	7 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	8 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	9 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	10 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	11 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	12 East	1-4,9-16,23-24	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	31 North	13 East	1-3,6,7,17-22,26-29,34-36	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands
Kateel River	31 North	14 East	2-11,14-18,21-23,26-28,33-35	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands & Gates of the Arctic

				Lands
Kateel River	30 North	3 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	30 North	4 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	30 North	5 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	30 North	6 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	30 North	7 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	30 North	8 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	30 North	9 East	None	Noatak Preserve
Kateel River	30 North	10 East	None	Noatak Preserve & Gates of the Arctic
Kateel River	30 North	11 East	None	Noatak Preserve & Gates of the Arctic
Kateel River	30 North	12 East	None	Noatak Preserve & Gates of the Arctic
Kateel River	30 North	13 East	1-3,12	Excluding Gates of the Arctic
Kateel River	30 North	14 East	2-3,6-8,14-23,26-60	Excluding Noatak Preserve Lands & Gates of the Arctic

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents:

Western Arctic Resource Management Plan (RMP) evaluated 2/5/1990

Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved 1/11/1991.

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 Reserve Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled "FF094254 Arctic Alaska Safaris Stipulations 2011" and "United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land-Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations."

Date May 9, 2011

/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 in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, H-1

This proposed action qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion 1.6 under 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215

“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 of the exceptions 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.		
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.		X
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		X

the protection of the environment.		
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

Wilderness Characteristics & Wild Lands further evaluation required	Yes	No
The NPR-A was evaluated for wilderness characteristics in Section 105(c) studies during 1977 and 1978. Although activities such oil and gas leasing, subsistence practices, overland moves, excavation, recreation, aircraft use, site clean-ups, and scientific research or monitoring continue in NPR-A, most of the area remains in a natural state as it was during that study. Residents of the area do occupy seasonal dwellings or fish camps and people travel extensively by motorized vehicle over parts of NPR-A, but there are no roads outside the established communities. The overall character of NPR-A (excluding private lands) remains natural, and there are relatively few obvious signs of modern human influence or presence. A visitor to the area or an inhabitant from the settlements in or near the NPR-A can easily find opportunities for solitude (USDOI, BLM, 1978). Some areas within NPR-A contain excellent ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, and historical values.		X

Date May 9, 2011

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