

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
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In reply refer to:
FF095144
2930.00 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2010-0013-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Jim Campbell
Carol Kasza
DBA: Arctic Treks
P.O. Box 73452
Fairbanks, Alaska 99707

Proposed Action: Special Recreation Permit to conduct wildlife viewing in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A).

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Jim Campbell and Carol Kasza, of Arctic Treks have requested to renew their authorization for a special recreation permit to conduct wildlife guiding operations on Bureau of Land Management(BLM) lands within in the NPR-A.

The proposed action would authorize a renewal of a Special Recreation Authorization to Arctic Treks to conduct commercial rafting trips on the Utukok, Kokuk, Nigu, Etivlik and Colville Rivers. The trips would be similar in nature to those permitted the past two summers by BLM. The trips would take place between the dates of June 1 and August 31, 2010. One trip would be a rafting trip on either the Utukok or Kokolik River. The other trip would be a rafting trip on the Nigu, into the Etivlik, to its junction with the Colville. Arctic Trek is requesting authorizations for four routes; two being backup routes if the preferred routes do not work out. They anticipate having four to 12 people per trip. The groups would fly by charter air service, be dropped off and picked up on gravel bars.

Arctic Trek would practice self-contained, expedition style camping and implement Leave No Trace practices. They would carry out all trip garbage. Arctic Trek will not use fuel or gear caches. Their guides have many years of experience guiding remote wilderness trips in the Arctic and have received safety training.

Legal Land Description

Nigu Trail

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Section</u>
32 N	12 E	KM	3, 4
33 N	12 E	KM	29, 30, 32
33 N	11 E	KM	5, 6, 8, 14-17, 23, 24
34 N	11 E	KM	7, 17-20, 29,30,32,33
12 S	19 W	UM	5-8, 17-19, 29, 30
11 S	19 W	UM	6, 7, 18, 19, 29-32
11 S	20 W	UM	1
10 S	20 W	UM	36
10 S	19 W	UM	1, 2, 11, 14, 15, 20-22, 30, 31
9 S	19 W	UM	1, 12, 13,24,25,36
9 S	18 W	UM	19, 30, 31
8 S	18 W	UM	3,9,10,15,16,20,21,28,29,32
7 S	18 W	UM	2,11,14,15,21,22,27,28,33,34
6 S	18 W	UM	24-26, 35, 36
6 S	17 W	UM	17-20

Alternative Kokolik River

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Section</u>
2 S	41 W	UM	13, 14, 22-24
2 S	40 W	UM	3-5, 7-9, 17-19 BLMD
1 S	39 W	UM	5-7, 18
1 N	39 W	UM	1, 2, 11, 14, 23-25, 35, 36
2 N	39 W	UM	7-11, 13-18, 24, 25, 36
2 N	38 W	UM	19
2 N	40 W	UM	1, 2, 11-13
3 N	40 W	UM	6-89, 15, 16,21,22,26,27,34,35
3 N	41 W	UM	1

Alternative Utukok River

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Section</u>
7 S	39 W	UM	3, 10-13
6 S	39 W	UM	4, 5,8,9,16,21,28,33,34
5 S	39 W	UM	25, 26, 32-35
5 S	38 W	UM	3, 4, 8, 9, 17-20, 30
4 S	37 W	UM	1, 3-5, 8, 17, 20, 29-31
3 S	37 W	UM	33-36
4 S	36 W	UM	6

3 S	36 W	UM	3,4,9,10,15,16,20,21,28,29,31-33
2 S	36 W	UM	25-27, 33-36
2 S	35 W	UM	25-30, 32-36
2 S	34 W	UM	13, 14, 22, 23, 27-31
2 S	33 W	UM	1, 2, 10, 11, 14-19, 21, 22
1 S	33 W	UM	14, 23, 25,26,35,36

Utukok River Preferred Route

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Section</u>
6 N	39 W	UM	11-14
6 N	38 W	UM	17, 18, 20-27, 36
6 N	37 W	UM	30, 31
5 N	37 W	UM	3-6, 9-11, 13, 14, 24-26, 36
5 N	36 W	UM	19, 30-33
4 N	37 W	UM	1, 2, 12, 25
4 N	36 W	UM	7, 8,19,30,31
3 N	36 W	UM	5, 6, 8-11, 13-16, 23, 24
3 N	35 W	UM	10, 11, 13-21
3 N	34 W	UM	15-18, 21-23, 25, 26, 36
3 N	33 W	UM	31
2 N	33 W	UM	5, 6, 8,17,20,21,28,29,32
1 N	33 W	UM	5, 8,17,19,20,28,29,33
1 S	34 W	UM	1,2,12
1 S	33 W	UM	14, 23, 25,26,35,36

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
- 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 “FF095144 Arctic Trek Stipulations 2010” and “United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations.”

Date May 17, 2010

 /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.

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; 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		X

cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
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

Date May 17, 2010

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