

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 (023)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2010-0019-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Sierra Club
Attn: Jay Blair
85 Second Street
2nd Floor
San Francisco, California 94105-3459

Proposed Action: Guided backpacking trip. (2984.01)

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant Sierra Club Outings (Sierra Club) has requested authorization for a Special Recreation Permit to conduct a backpacking trip on BLM managed lands.

The proposed action would authorize the Sierra Club to conduct a backpacking trip on BLM managed lands in Northwest Alaska. The participants would be flown from Kotzebue to the area of proposed use in a Cessna 206 with Hageland Aviation. They anticipate 8 total flights back and forth to get all of the participants and their gear to and from the site. The total number of participants would be 7 to 10 customers and 2 Sierra Club leaders. The proposed landing and pickup site would be near the confluence of the Iliigluruk and Kokolik Rivers. The Sierra Club anticipates landing where they can view the caribou migration.

The dates of proposed use are June 7-18, with 11 nights of camping.

Location (All Umiat Meridian):

Area	Township	Range (West)	Section
10 South	43 West	1, 12, 13,24,25,36 1-3, 10-17, 19-36	NPR-A Kobuk-Seward Peninsula (SS)
10 South	42 West	5-8, 17-20, 29-31	NPR-A
9 South	43 West	1, 12, 13,24,25,36 1, 4-36	NPR-A Kobuk-Seward Peninsula (SS)

9South	42 West	3-10, 15-22, 28-32	NPR-A
8South	42 West	1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34-36	NPR-A (Excluding Private Lands)
		7-10, 15-22, 27-34	Private Lands (Excluding NPR-A)
8 South	41 West	17-20, 29-32	NPR-A

SS – State Selected Land

Applicant has received a State of Alaska Permit.

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents: Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement approved 9/2008, Western Arctic Resource Management Plan (RMP) Management Situation Analysis evaluated 2/5/1990, Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and Record of Decision approved 5/1983. 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 Outings Special Recreation Permit Stipulations 2010” and “Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills & Ethics Alaskan Tundra.”

Date June 1, 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 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 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 June 1, 2010

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