

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
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In reply refer to:
FF095274
2930.00 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01000-2010-0014-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Juliette Boselli
DBA: Too-Loo-uk River Guides
P.O. Box 106
Denali National Park, Alaska 99755

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

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Juliette Boselli, of Too-Loo-uk River Guides(Too-Loo), has requested authorization for a special recreation permit for wildlife viewing in the southern NPR-A.

The proposed action would authorize Too-Loo-uk River Guides to conduct two river rafting trips in the NPR-A. The trips would start on the Utukok River about 3 ½ miles south of the confluence of the Utukok River and Nimwutik Creek. The take out location would be on the Utukok near Eskimo Hill.

The first proposed float trip would consist of three rafts and 11 people, including guides. The second proposed float trip would consist of four rafts and 13 people, including guides. During the trips Too-Loo would take their clients on day hikes away from the river. The dates of proposed use are June 8, 2010 – June 17, 2010 and June 23,2010 through July 2, 2010. Access to and from the site would be by a charter flight with Coyote Air.

Drinking water would be obtained from the river and filtered with a ceramic commercial water purifier. Too-Loo would make use of a fire pan to burn burnable garbage. Non burnable garbage, which would be cleaned of any food or smells, would be carried out. Human waste would be buried by each individual in a deep cathole at least 100 yards from water and toilet paper would be brought back to camp and burned.

All food would be stored in airtight and waterproof containers with most stored on the boats when in camp. Clients are not allowed to bring food in their tents or in their personal gear. Too-Loo would make every effort to avoid impacts to the riparian areas and would try to camp on gravel bars or other

durable surfaces rather than sensitive tundra areas. Rocks for securing tents would be spread around and put back in their natural place to minimize the appearance of a once used camp.

Too-Loo makes pepper spray and air horns available for use as bear deterrents to all of their clients. At least one guide would have a firearm for bear protection. Too-Loo would advise their clients not to disturb any archeological site and stress the importance of leaving any remains where they are found.

Location (All Umiat Meridian)

Township	Range	Section
1 South	33 West	14,23,25,26,35,36 (Excluding Private Lands)
2 South	33 West	1-3,10-23
2 South	34 West	13-15, 20-24, 27-32
2 South	35 West	25-36
2 South	36 West	25-28, 33-36
3 South	36 West	3,4,9,10,15,16,20,21,28,29,31-33
3 South	37 West	33-36
4 South	37 West	1-5, 7,8,17-20,29-31
4 South	36 West	6
5 South	38 West	3,4,8,9,17,19,20,30
5 South	39 West	25,26,32-35
6 South	39 West	4,5,8,9,16,21,28,33 (Excluding Private Lands)
7 South	39 West	3,4,10

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
- 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 “FF095274 Too-Loo-uk River Guides Stipulations 2010” and “United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations.”

Date May 18, 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.

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.		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 May 18, 2010

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