

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
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<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

In reply refer to:
FF093060
2930.00 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2010-0042-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: McGill Adams
DBA: Wilderness Alaska
P.O. Box 113063
Anchorage, Alaska 99511

Proposed Action: Special Recreation Permit for wildlife viewing along the Nigu River

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, McGill Adams of Wilderness Alaska, has requested authorization for a special recreation permit for wildlife viewing along the Nigu.

The proposed action would authorize Wilderness Alaska to conduct a river rafting trip on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management for the purpose of viewing wildlife. Wilderness Alaska was previously authorized a BLM Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct guided wilderness viewing trips on the Colville and Nigu Rivers in 2000 and 2004. They also have conducted similar trips in other areas of the State of Alaska.

The trip would start at the Headwaters Lake in Gates of the Arctic National Park floating to the pickup point at the Lower Lake on the Etivluk River (68° 38.554N 156° 11.595 W). Figure 1 shows the map submitted by the applicant for a previous authorization. The area is the same as requested for this authorization. Access to and from the area would be a float plane out of Bettles, Alaska. The number of anticipated participants is 10. They would use inflatable canoes and camp at several locations which would be determined by weather conditions. They propose to practice minimum impact camping techniques and store all food in federally certified bear proof containers. They do not propose to have any food or fuel caches along the way and would not stay at any one location for more than 2 nights.

Figure 1: 2004 Map submitted by Applicant at end of this document

Location (Legal Description)

Meridian	Township	Range	Section
Umiat	9 South	18 West	19,30,31
Umiat	9 South	19 West	24-26,35,36
Umiat	10 South	19 West	1,2,10-16,19-35
Umiat	10 South	20 West	36
Umiat	11 South	19 West	6,7,18,19,29-33
Umiat	11 South	20 West	1,12
Umiat	12 South	19 West	4-8,17-20,29,30
Kateel River	34 North	11 East	7,8,17-20,29-33
Kateel River	33 North	11 East	2-18,21-25
Kateel River	33 North	12 East	19,29-33
Kateel River	32 North	12 East	2-4,10-15,23-26,30
Kateel River	32 North	13 East	19,30 (State Selected) 31,32 (partial Noatak National Preserve)
Kateel River	31 North	13 East	Noatak National Preserve
Kateel River	31 North	14 East	Noatak National Preserve
Kateel River	30 North	14 East	Noatak National Preserve

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

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 "FF093060 Wilderness Alaska Stipulations 2010", "United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations" and "Leave No Trace Outdoor Skills & Ethics Alaskan Tundra."

Date **8/9/2000**

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

Date August 9, 2010

