

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:
FF095704
2930.00 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2010-0025-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Paul and Sharon Allred
P.O. Box 935
142 Vail Circle
Girdwood, Alaska 99587

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

Description of Proposed Action: The applicants, Paul and Sharon Allred, of Ouzel Expeditions have requested for a special recreation permit to conduct wildlife guiding operations for members of the Wildlife Conservation Society on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands within in the NPRA.

BLM would provide a Special Recreation Authorization to Ouzel Expeditions to conduct a nine day commercial rafting/float trip on the Utukok River from June 18 to June 26, 2010. Ouzel Expeditions anticipates that 11 or 12 people, including guides, would be on the trip. The group would fly by charter air service (Golden Eagle Outfitters), be dropped off near Adventure Creek, and be picked up near Carlson Creek. Two paddle boats would be used for the trip. The float trip would also involve day hikes along the way.

Ouzel Expeditions would practice self-contained, expedition style camping. Users would filter their own water. They would carry out all trip garbage and would 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. Sanitation would be with the use of pit toilets.

Legal Land Description

Legal Description (All Umiat Meridian)

Meridian	Township	Range	Section	
Umiat	1 South	33 West	14,23,25,26,35,36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	1 South	34 West	1,2,12	
Umiat	2 South	33 West	1,2,10,11,14-19,21,22	
Umiat	2 South	34 West	13,14,22,23,27-32	
Umiat	3 South	34 West	5-8	
Umiat	3 South	35 West	1-18	
Umiat	3 South	36 West	3,4,9,10,15,16,20,21,28,29,31-33	
Umiat	3 South	37 West	33-36	
Umiat	4 South	36 West	6	
Umiat	4 South	37 West	1,3-5,8,17,19, 20,29-31	
Umiat	5 South	38 West	3,4,8,9,17-20,30	
Umiat	5 South	39 West	25,26,32-35	
Umiat	6 South	39 West	4,5,8,9,16,21,28,33,34	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	7 South	39 West	3,10-13	
Umiat	7 South	38 West	1-14,24	
Umiat	7 South	37 West	19,29-33	
Umiat	8 South	37 West	4,9,16,21-23,25,26	

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents:

- Western Arctic Resource Management Plan Situation Analysis 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 “FF095704 Ouzel Expeditions 2010 Permit Stipulations”.

Date June 7, 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 7, 2010

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