

## NEPA – External Project Scoping

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Action: Issue Big Game Guiding Special Recreation Permit (SRP) on BLM lands (Glacier Mountain Area)

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## Purpose and Need for the Proposed Action

### BLM Purpose and Need

The purpose for the action is to determine whether or not to issue a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for commercial big game hunting activities on BLM-managed lands in the Fortymile subunit (Figure 1) for the 2012 season. The need for action is established under the authority of Section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976 and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2930. The FLPMA directs the BLM to regulate the use, occupancy, and development of public lands. The purpose of the regulations found in 43 CFR 2930 is to determine when a permit is required to use public lands for recreational purposes and to establish procedures for the orderly and timely processing of permit applications.

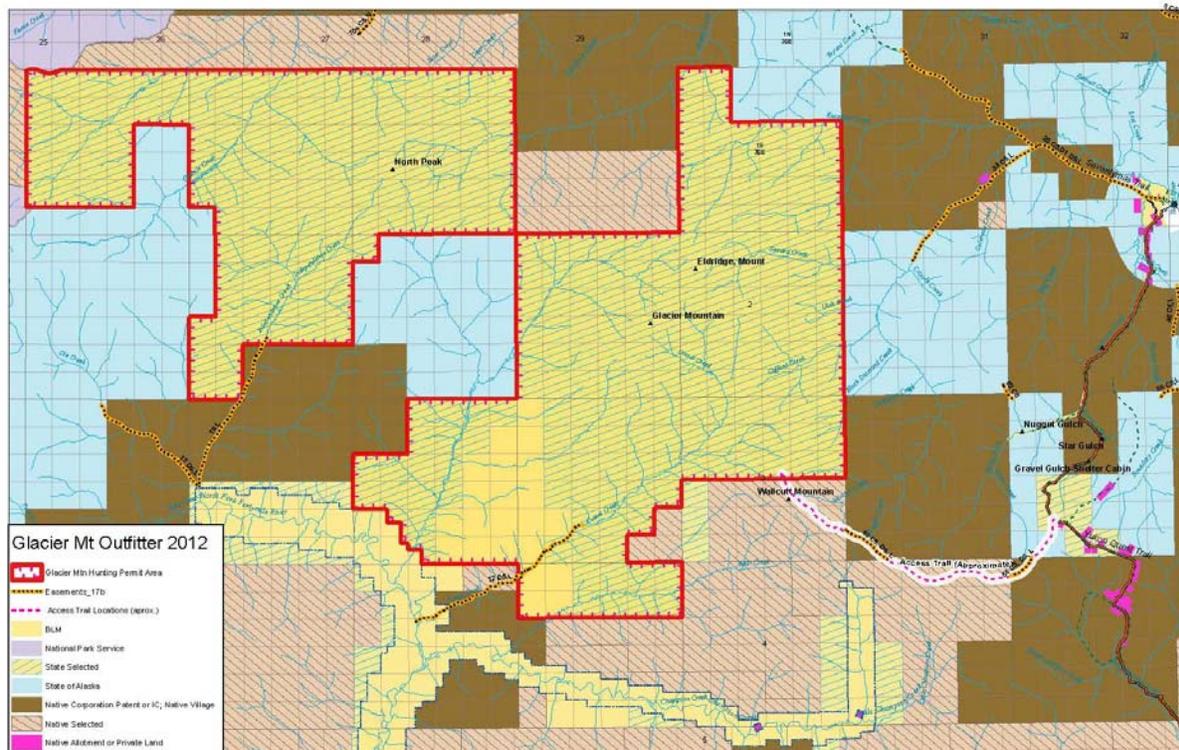


Figure 1. Glacier Mountain proposed guide area.

## Applicant's Purpose and Need

Mr. Jeff Burwell with Alaska Peak Air Adventures has applied for a SRP for the purpose of providing guided fall hunting trips for sheep, caribou and grizzly bear hunts for up to six (6) clients this season in the Glacier Mountain area. Mr. Burwell needs to obtain a SRP in order to authorize his commercial guiding activities. Guided hunting trips and supporting activities are scheduled to be conducted between early August and late October.

## BLM Decision to be Made

The BLM will decide whether or not to issue a 2930 SRP for the applicant's commercial big game hunting operation. If a SRP is issued, the BLM will determine the terms, conditions and stipulations prior to issuance.

## Description of Proposed Activities

The proposal by Alaska Peak Air Adventures (APAA) is to run a limited number of guided hunting expeditions in the Glacier Mountain and Mount Eldridge area. They will offer trips that will include hunting Sheep, Caribou, and Grizzly Bears on BLM-managed lands. They will incorporate the use of horses and aircraft to conduct the hunts. Access to the hunt area will be overland via the "Mini-cut"/Wallcut Mountain Trail, west off of American Summit.

APAA plans to take up to a total of six hunters on BLM-managed lands in the proposed area with no more than a total of three of the hunters hunting sheep. The operating season will run from August through October. APAA hunting activities will be in compliance with all state hunting regulations including the non-motorized restrictions for this area. Clients will be under their care and supervision for the entire duration of the hunt. Provisions will be provided for 10 day trips per group.

While operating on BLM lands, APAA will incorporate "Leave No Trace" and "Pack it in – Pack it out" ethics. They will be using short-term, primitive, small spike camps. Camps will not be of permanent type or considered damaging to the environment. No storage of fuel in larger than 5 gallon gas cans will be used at any time. Human waste will be handled using "cat holes" with a minimum of 200 feet from the nearest water sources. No live standing timber will be cut and fresh water will be filtered from local streams. Pack trips will utilize no more than 10 animals per trip. If necessary, horses and mules will be tethered to live trees using the "highline" method and will be naturally grazing and eating certified "weed free" pellets or hay. Aircraft will be utilized prior to August 5 and after September 20 for support and/or cleanup. During the season, aircraft will be utilized to check the status and safety of clients and guides, as required by Alaska Guide Regulations. APAA plans to offer adventures that are of the highest quality while considering safety and security of their clients as priority. The APAA will provide the BLM with a list of all personnel in the field along with a copy of any applicable licenses and proposed trip dates and any changes that may occur up to the time of the hunt.

## Location, Land Status and Conformance with Land Use Plans

Location: The proposed action will take place in all or portions of Townships 1S 25E, 1S 26E, 1S 27E, 1S 28E, 1S 30E, 2S 27E, 2S 29E, 2S 30E, 3S 28E, 3S 29E, 3S 30E, and 4S 29E Fairbanks Meridian. See attached map (Figure 1).

Land Status: The majority of the proposed acreage is selected by the State of Alaska. No selected native corporation lands are included in the proposed action.

Conformance with Land Use Plans: The proposed action is in conformance with the Fortymile Management Framework Plan (September 1980), even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the goal of the plan which is stated in the Summary of Land Use Decisions and Management Direction: "This Plan has been written with the goal of providing the most appropriate management for each area and situation, in accordance with the principals of multiple use". Issuance of special recreation permits is clearly consistent with the principals of multiple use.