



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glennallen Field Office
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Glennallen, Alaska 99588
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: Alaska Frontier Guides and Stephan Lake Holdings LLC
Special Recreation Permit (2930)

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2013-0012-CX

Case File Number: AA-093549

Location / Legal Description: Talkeetna Mountains
T30N. R3E. Sections 23-27, 34-36
T30N. R4E, Section 25, 26, 35, 36
T29N. R3E, Sections 1-4, 9-12, 13-36 Seward Meridian

Applicants: Ben Stevenson, dba (Alaska Frontier Guides)
John Madsen, dba (Stephan Lake Holdings LLC)

Description of Proposed Action:

Registered Guide, Ben Stevenson, and business partner John Madsen, owner of Stephan Lake Lodge, have submitted an application for a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to conduct guided hunting and other recreational opportunities such as hiking and wildlife viewing on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management, Glennallen Field Office. Clients would travel from the privately-owned Stephan Lake lodge to temporary spike, tent camps throughout the area. The proposed activities would be located in Guide Use Area (GUA) 13-01 within Game Management Unit (GMU) 13E. All guided activities would be subject to BLM and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations. If the BLM approves this permit, the permittee would be issued an initial one-year probationary authorization with the option to renew.

The proposed activities would occur between May 1st and September 30th each year in line with dates defined in the current Alaska Department of Fish and Game regulations. A typical hunt would target brown and black bear. Hunts would last from 7 to 10 days with a maximum of four to six clients per season. Trash would be packed out and human waste buried in appropriate manner. "Leave No Trace" camping techniques would be utilized on all trips. The access for the proposed use areas would occur by float plane, snow machine, and foot. All camps would be temporary tent sites and would be completely removed after each trip. No onsite storage or caching of supplies would be permitted.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) and Record of Decision (ROD), September 2007

The proposed action is in conformance with the plan even though it is not specifically provided for because it is clearly consistent with the following planning decisions (EARMP ROD, p. 35):

M. Recreation

M-1: Goal

Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities.

6. Other Areas

Areas outside those identified above would be managed as Extensive Recreation Management Areas, with recreation management based on maintenance of existing ROS classes in the areas. Inventory and monitoring could occur and standards may be identified for trail density in these areas based on monitoring and inventory information. Some education/interpretation at trailheads may occur, particularly at 17(b) easement trailheads within these areas.

C. CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR 46.210 or United States Department of the Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11, which provides:

H.1: Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 (cumulative) staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan. This CX cannot be used for commercial boating permits along Wild and Scenic Rivers. This CX cannot be used for the establishment or issuance of Special Recreation Permits for “Special Area” management (43 CFR 2932.5).

D. EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The proposed action must be screened against the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 43 CFR § 46.215 (listed below). Any “yes” finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
1. Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.	No
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.	No

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES	YES/NO
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].	No
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	No
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	No
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	No
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.	No
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.	No
9. Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	No
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).	No
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).	No
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or 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).	No

E. SIGNATURE

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable land use plan and is an action that can be categorically excluded. The Proposed Action does not trigger any of the Extraordinary Circumstances found in 516 FM Chapter 2, Appendix 2. I recommend that the Proposed Action be allowed and that no further environmental analysis is required.

/s/ Elijah Waters

May 7, 2013

Acting Glennallen Field Manager

Date