

# Arrowhead Outfitters Base Camp and Staging Area

## Compliance

The proposed action is in conformance with the approved Bureau of Land Management Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan approved January 11, 1991. The project has been considered in the context of public health, safety and consistency with regards to Federal, State and local laws.

## Selected Action

It is my decision to authorize a permit for from August 27, 2013 through September 30, 2013 to Arrowhead Outfitters, for a base camp at mile post 145 on the Dalton Highway. The base camp will be temporarily parked on a hard gravel pad next to the camp site which consists of a 30 foot self-contained motorhome, 20 foot enclosed utility trailer and a pick up truck. There would be two large holding tanks which, when full would be properly disposed of at Coldfoot or BLM dump at five-mile. The base camp would also house a small generator, ATV with small trailer, 10 foot x 10 foot screened tent, 12 foot x 14 foot canvas tent, toilet tent with porta-potty, satellite dish with base and 6–8 client vehicles. They would also be authorized to install a temporary dock at Grayling Lake to assist in loading, unloading, refueling and docking their aircraft.

## Compliance with NEPA:

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with United States Department of the Interior 43 CFR §46.210 or United States Department of Interior Manual, Part 516, Chapter 11 which provides:

E. (Realty)

(9) Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorization.

## Public Involvement:

It was determined that no public involvement was needed due to the remoteness of the action

## Rationale:

The proposed action is consistent with the use of public lands under the authority of Title III of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and the regulations found in 43 CFR 2800. All concerns are appropriately addressed in the DOI-BLM-AK-F030–2013–0046–CX. This includes cultural resources and subsistence concerns (see attached ANILCA 810 findings, boundary and wilderness characteristic assessments and essential fish habitat finding.

## Appeal or Protest Opportunities:

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeal must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management Central Yukon Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. If you decide to file an appeal, you must carefully follow the procedure described on the enclosed form 1842-1. If you don't file your appeal at the locations specified on the form within 30 days, the Board may dismiss your appeal as untimely without considering its merits. Be sure to send a copy of your notice of appeal to each party named in this decision and to all of the addresses on the enclosed form 1842-1. You may also ask the Board to stay or suspend the effect of this decision while your

appeal is pending. If you desire a stay, you must enclose your request for a stay with your notice of appeal. You have the burden of showing a stay is justified. The Board will grant a stay only if you provide sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the Board grants or denies the stay,
2. The likelihood of the success of your appeal on its merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the Board does not grant the stay, and;
4. Whether the public interest favors granting a stay.

**Authorizing Official:**

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/s/ Gary M. Foreman  
for Nichelle W. Jacobson  
Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office

August 9, 2013  
Date

**Contact Person**

For additional information concerning this Finding, contact.

Robin Walthour, Realty Specialist  
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## - Essential Fish Habitat Assessment

NEPA Document No.: DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2013-0046CX

**Prepared by:** David G. Parker

**Date:** 6/26/13

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recognizes fresh waters cataloged as being used by salmon under AS 41.14.870 (*Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes*) as essential fish habitat (EFH). No waterbodies in the base camp or Grayling Lake staging area fit this criteria (ADF&G 2012). Because no anadromous species are present in the project area, the effects on EFH are expected to be nonexistent in the area encompassed by this permit.

**Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Finding:** No adverse affect. Consultation with NMFS is not required.

### References:

State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2012. An Atlas to the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes, Resource Management Region V. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Habitat and Restoration Division.

<http://extra.sf.adfg.state.ak.us/FishResourceMonitor/?mode=awc>

## — Wilderness Characteristics Assessment

**NEPA Document No.:** DOI-BLM-AK-F030–2013–0046CX

**Serial No.:** F-95417

**Applicant):** Arrowhead Outfitters, LLC

**Location:** Staging area at Grayling Lake, mile post 150.5 and base camp mile post 145 off Dalton Highway described as Secs. 20, 21 and 29, T. 19 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 23, Tps. 24 N., Rs. 13 and 14 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska, aggregating approximately 6.00 acres.

**Prepared by:** Lisa Shon Jodwalis

**Date:** July 3, 2013

### Proposed Action

Arrowhead Outfitters, LLC proposes to renew their permit to stage float planes at Grayling Lake and a base camp for their business approximately five (5) miles south of Grayling Lake from August 27, 2013 through September 30, 2013.

The base camp will be temporarily parked on a hard gravel pad next to the camp site which consists of a 30 foot self-contained motorhome, 20 foot enclosed utility trailer and a pickup truck. There would be two large holding tanks which he dumps the RV holding tanks into; he can go for three-four weeks before he would need to dump holding tanks at Coldfoot or BLM dump at Five Mile. The base camp would also house a small generator, ATV with small trailer, 10 foot x10 foot screened tent, 12 foot x 14 foot canvas tent, toilet tent with porta-potty, satellite dish with base and 6–8 client vehicles. The camp is located about five miles south of Grayling Lake at the expired Recreation & Public Purpose lease F-78201. The area is off road to material sites F-95107 (Alyeska) and F-93007 (ADOT& PF). This lease was for a sanitary landfill in an old gravel pit and has expired. The camp site is on the entrance road to the landfill site and was not part of the landfill.

At the Grayling Lake location they propose to stage two floatplanes M6 Maule-235 (N56458) and M7 Maule-235 (N770XR) while conducting their flight operation for approximately 35 hunting clients. Note: previous permit authorized one floatplane. They also propose to install a temporary dock due to an accommodation for a physical limitation to assist him in loading, unloading, refueling and docking their aircraft. When not in use, the ATV would be parked out of sight of the public. The dock consists of wood 4 foot x 60 foot which would be removed at the end of the season. The following equipment would be staged at the aircraft tie down area — a very small generator for heating up the aircraft during very cold temperatures, stored in a storage container and under a tarp when not in use. A plastic tote containing absorbent pads, aircraft cowling cover and wing covers, paper towels and miscellaneous items. A small containment box with a few quarts of aviation oil, funnel and extra five gallon gas cans. 275 gallon temporary fuel storage tank containing aviation gas would be located near the lake's edge in approved proper containment. Crew will consist of five (5) persons, 2 pilots, 2 ramp/camp crew and office manager. They propose to fly approximately 35 clients from this site.

## **BLM Purpose and Need**

## **BLM Decision**

## **Evaluation**

The basis for this evaluation is BLM Manual 6310-Conducting Wilderness Characteristics Inventory on BLM Lands, and BLM Manual 6320 - Considering Lands with Wilderness Characteristics in the BLM Land Use Planning Process, which direct offices to conduct and maintain inventories regarding the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics, and to consider identified Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC) in land use plans and when analyzing projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Effects on wilderness characteristics on BLM lands within the Utility Corridor are evaluated according to the Nonwilderness Assessment, a special project approved by the BLM Director and conducted by the BLM along portions of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) corridor in 1980. This assessment identified lands under BLM administration that were considered lacking in the wilderness characteristics as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964. The assessment was conducted in a manner that met the requirements of Section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA).

The Dalton Highway and Trans-Alaska Pipeline parallel each other for the entire length of the Utility Corridor. The pipeline is 48" in diameter and elevated above ground for much of its length so it is highly visible. The Dalton Highway supplies Alaska's arctic oilfields and supports considerable industrial traffic year-round. These man-made features and associated human activities are highly visible and audible. Permitted activities such as gravel- and gold mining occur throughout the area and have expanded in some locations. These developments are substantially noticeable and alter the natural character of lands in the Utility Corridor.

The action being considered is located within the Prospect Segment of the Nonwilderness Assessment, which covered approximately 555,000 acres total in 1980. Portions of this segment meet the 5,000 acre minimum size. However it was determined that the Prospect Segment did not meet the standards for naturalness due to roads, camps, airfields, pipelines, material sites and associated facilities. These disturbances bisect the entire length of the segment.

## **FINDING**

The proposed action will occur in an area that has been determined not to have wilderness characteristics. The proposed action will not have any impact on wilderness characteristics.

## **Type of Assessment/Sources**

U.S. Department of Interior, BLM, 1980. Nonwilderness Assessment: The Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, Final Decision. Anchorage, Alaska

USGS topographic maps, GIS data, Google Earth images

## — Section 810 Analysis

**NEPA Document No.:** DOI-BLM-AK-F030–2013–0046CX

**Applicant:** Arrowhead Outfitters LLC

**Serial No.:** F-95417

**Proposed Action:** Arrowhead Outfitters, LLC proposes to renew their permit to stage two float planes at Grayling Lake (mile post 150.5 Dalton Highway) and a base camp for their business (mile post 145 Dalton Highway) from August 27, 2013 through September 30, 2013. The base camp will be temporarily parked on a hard gravel pad next to the camp site which consists of a 30 foot self-contained motorhome, 20 foot enclosed utility trailer and a pick up truck. There would be two large holding tanks which, when full would be properly disposed of at Coldfoot or BLM dump at five-mile. The base camp would also house a small generator, ATV with small trailer, 10 foot x 10 foot screened tent, 12 foot x 14 foot canvas tent, toilet tent with porta-potty, satellite dish with base and 6–8 client vehicles. They also propose to install a temporary dock due to an accommodation for a physical limitation to assist him in loading, unloading, refueling and docking their aircraft. When not in use, the ATV would be parked out of sight of the public. A 275 gallon temporary fuel storage tank containing aviation gas would be located near the lakes edge in approved proper containment. Crew would consist of five (5) persons, 2 pilots, 2 ramp/camp crew and office manager. They propose to fly approximately 35 clients from this site.

**Location:** Staging area at Grayling Lake, mile post 150.5 and base camp mile post 145 off Dalton Highway.

**Township/Range:** Secs. 20, 21 and 29, T. 19 N., R. 14 W., Sec. 23, Tps. 24 N., Rs. 13 and 14 W., Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska, aggregating approximately 6.00 acres.

**Evaluation by:** David G. Parker (Fisheries) and Erin Julianus

**Date:** 6/26/13

**Type of Assessment/Sources:**

### **Effect of the proposal on subsistence uses and needs**

Fisheries: The proposed action would not significantly reduce harvestable fisheries resources that are available for subsistence use. Fly-in guided hunt activity will focus on big game hunting. Any fishing activity will be secondary and minor. The proposed action would not alter the distribution, migration or location of harvestable fisheries resources. Approved mitigation measures would prevent degradation of adjacent water sources and fisheries habitat. The proposed action will not create any legal or physical barriers that would limit access by subsistence users of the fisheries resource.

Wildlife: The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. No reasonably foreseeable and significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources or in the distribution of harvestable resources, and no reasonably foreseeable limitations on harvester access, will result from the proposed action. .

Other resources:

The proposed action is not anticipated to change or impact any other harvestable resources such as wood, water, berries, or vegetation since no collection of these resources is planned for under the proposed action.

**Expected reduction, if any, in the availability of resources due to alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location:**

None. Fish and wildlife resources may temporarily avoid the project area while the permittee and associates are present. However, there is no expected reduction in the availability of resources due to alteration in resource distribution, migration, or location.

**Expected limitation, if any, in the access of subsistence users resulting from the proposal:**

None. Access to subsistence resources will not be hampered by the proposed action.

**Availability of other lands, if any, for the purpose sought to be achieved:**

This application is for continued activity in an area with an area used in previous years. Therefore, no other lands were considered for this use.

**Other alternatives, if any, which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes:**

There is no substantial evidence that would indicate a significant impact on subsistence will result from the proposed action. No other alternatives were evaluated.

**Findings:**

The proposed action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. No reasonably foreseeable and significant decrease in the abundance of harvestable resources or in the distribution of harvestable resources, and no reasonably foreseeable limitations on harvester access have been forecasted to emerge as a function of the action that is analyzed in this document.

**References**