

Categorical Exclusion

DOI-BLM-AKF010-2013-0035-CX

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKF010

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF096026

Applicant: Richard French II
DBA Alaska Alpine Outfitters
P.O. Box 190836
Anchorage, Alaska 99519

Proposed Action Title/Type: Special Recreation Permit

Dates of Proposed Activity: August 28, 2013 – September 7, 2013 (1 Yr Permit Renewal)

General Location of Proposed Action: Nigu, Etivluk, Colville & Killik Rivers

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Alaska Alpine Outfitters (AAO), is proposing a commercial guided caribou and grizzly bear hunting trip in the NPR-A and south of the NPR-A.

The trip would occur on the Nigu, Etivluk and Colville Rivers from August 28, 2013 to September 7, 2013 with two guests and one guide. The clients would fly via a fixed wing charter to Bettles to collect gear and groceries for the trip. From there a Dehaviland Beaver equipped with floats would take them to the headwaters of the Nigu River. They would put their rafts (2) in at Isagok Lake in the Noatak National Preserve, float the Nigu River to the Etivluk River, and follow the Colville to the Killik Bend, which is located near the Killik River/Colville River confluence. They would be picked up with a Beaver on floats at the Killik Bend.

The planned activities include wildlife viewing, day hiking, overnight camping and hunting. They plan on floating ten miles per day. On occasion, they would like to stay at the same camp area for more than one night to hike and hunt. Water would be obtained from free flowing natural sources and either boiled or run through a filter.

They do not plan to use fuel caches and would only be carrying 2 gallons of Coleman fuel for a cook stove and a lantern. AAO would use bear resistant containers for food storage. All trash would be backhauled to Fairbanks for disposal. The applicant would dig a latrine approximately one and half to two feet in diameter and one and a half feet in depth. The latrine would be a minimum of seventy-five yards from any water source. They would use biodegradable hand/body soap for sanitation purposes. These activities would take place near the latrine to avoid dirty water directly near any water sources.

Mr. French would be the guide for the trip, is certified in CPR / first aid, and has completed survival training. He will have a GPS unit and a satellite phone, which will be stored in a waterproof container. For a contingency plan, he has an S.P.O.T., an electronic locating transmitter.

Mr. French has notified the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation lands office of his trip plans and is aware that hunting is not allowed on their lands.



Figure 1. Applicant Supplied Map

Legal Description:

Meridian	Township	Range	Section	
KRM	31N	14E	19, 20,29,30	No BLM Managed Land (Noatak)
KRM	31N	13E	4-6, 8-11,13-17,23-25	No BLM Managed Land (Noatak)
KRM	32N	13E	31, 32	Excluding Noatak
KRM	32N	12E	1-4, 9-15, 22-27, 34-36	

KRM	33N	12E	19-20, 29-33	
KRM	33N	11E	4-9, 13-17, 21-25	
KRM	34N	11E	7-8, 17-20, 29-32	
Umiat	12S	19W	4-8, 17-20, 29-30	
Umiat	11S	19W	5-8, 17-20, 29-32	
Umiat	11S	20W	1, 12	
Umiat	10S	19W	1-3, 10-15, 19-23, 27-31	
Umiat	10S	20W	36	
Umiat	9S	18W	18-19, 30-31	
Umiat	9S	19W	1-2, 11-14, 24-25, 35-36	
Umiat	8S	18W	2-4, 9-10, 15-16, 20-22, 28-33	
Umiat	7S	18W	1-3, 10-16, 21-23, 27-28, 33-34	
Umiat	6S	18W	23-26, 35-36	
Umiat	6S	17W	1-12, 16-21, 29-32	Contains SS
				Excluding State Land
Umiat	6S	16W	4-9	Excluding State Land
Umiat	5S	16W	12-14, 23-36	Excluding Reg/Sel
Umiat	5S	15W	3-10, 16-21, 28-30	Excluding Reg/Sel & Private Land
Umiat	5S	14W	3-5	No BLM Managed Land
Umiat	4S	15W	25-26, 34-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	14W	20-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	13W	21-33	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	12W	13-25	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	11W	13-25	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	4S	10W	7, 16-29, 34-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	5S	10W	1-2, 11-13	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	5S	9W	7, 12-14, 16-18, 21-28, 35-36	Excluding Private Land
Umiat	5S	8W	3-8	Excluding Private Land

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following planning documents:

National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated November 2012 and associated Record of Decision dated February 2013

Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved 1/11/1991

Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement approved 9/27/1989

Western Arctic Resource Management Plan (RMP) evaluated 2/5/1990

The proposed action is in conformance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, which allows for the authorization of uses consistent with the purposes of the Act.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The IAP/EIS Record of Decision for the NPR-A developed stipulations and best management practices applicable to all activities in NPR-A. The stipulations and best management practices applicable to the proposed action will be provided, along with project-specific mitigation, to the applicant and are entitled: “FF096026 Alaska Alpine Outfitters 2013 Stipulations” and “United

States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations.”

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9, Specifically the 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(F-10) BLM Categorical Exclusions.

“Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 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

D. Approval and Contact Information

Authorized Officer, Arctic Field Office

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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