



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, Alaska 99588-0147
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX)

A. BACKGROUND

Project Name / Type: Special Recreation Permit, Maximum of 300 Landings for 2015 Heli-ski Season (Winter), Haines South Block (2930 SRP)

NEPA Register Number: DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-0003-CX

Case File Numbers: AA-083491, AA-081641, and AA-081925

Location / Legal Description: Sections. 1-30, and 32-36, T. 31 S., R. 57 E, Sections 1-18, T. 31 S., R. 56 E., Sections 1-6, 8-12, and 15-16, T. 31 S., R. 55 E., Section 1, T. 31 S., R. 54 E., Sections 1-36, T. 32 S., R. 58 E., Section 1 and 12, T. 32 S., R. 59 E., Section 6, T. 33 S., R. 60 E., Sections 1-12, and 15-21, T. 33 S., R. 59 E., and Sections 1-2, and 11-13, T. 33 S., R. 58 E, Copper River Meridian.

Applicant (if any): Southeast Alaska Backcountry Adventures (SEABA), Alaska Heliski, and Alaska Mountain Guides (AMG).

Description of Proposed Action:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Glennallen Field Office has received three applications for Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) for winter helicopter-supported recreation use (heli-skiing) near Haines, AK. The BLM is considering whether to authorize three SRPs for up to 300 landings (total; divided between the applicants) subject to all stipulations and conditions included below. The SRP's would be valid for the 2015 operating season only. The total number of landings considered is a rounded average based on actual numbers of winter landings by three prior permitted BLM operators from the period 2002-2005 (this period represents the last time heli-ski authorizations were issued on BLM-managed lands in the planning area).

The SRPs would be valid for the 2015 winter/early spring operating season, February 1 through April 30, with the option to renew contingent upon the status and future decisions of the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan Haines Amendment Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Haines SEIS); compliance with permit stipulations; new information, circumstances, or changes in resource conditions; and, ultimately, the Authorized Officer's discretion.

The 300 landings would be distributed across BLM-managed lands in the southern portion of the planning area (see attached map Haines Planning Area Southern Block). The SRPs would also be subject to all ROPs/stipulations from the 2008 Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan (ROF/RMP), including modifications based on resource conditions, and additional stipulations as needed to minimize impacts to resources and to aid with compliance monitoring.

Background

Over the past five years, the BLM has not authorized any commercial helicopter-based Special Recreation Permits in the Haines area while the planning effort (Haines SEIS) has been underway. The Bureau is considering authorizing temporary one-year permits to heli-ski providers on a limited basis in 2015 and possibly future years to accommodate this recreation activity. The BLM will continue to coordinate with neighboring land managers with respect to consistent stipulations (e.g., buffers) for similar helicopter activities on adjacent lands.

Required Operating Procedures, Permit Stipulations, and Other Environmental Protection Measures

The following SRP stipulations and terms apply:

1. All operations will maintain a 1,500 meter buffer from goat groups within the permitted operating area. Current research data indicates that a minimum distance of 1,500 meters does not cause significant adverse disturbances to mountain goats; continuing research efforts may increase or decrease this minimal distance. (Cote, S., S. Hamel, A. St-Louis, J. Mainguy. 2013. Do Mountain Goats Habituate to Helicopter Disturbance? J. of Wildlife Management.)
2. All operations will maintain a 1,500 foot clearance for sensitive bird nesting sites, brown and black bears, wolves, moose, sea lions, and other marine mammals. Steepness (degree in slope) and roughness (outcrops and spur ridges) affect the ratio of elevation to horizontal distance significantly. Attempts should be made to maximize distance between ground and habitats or animals wherever possible. Pilots are not expected to compromise safety when weather conditions indicate the 1,500 foot minimum cannot be met.
3. Authorized operators shall not hover, circle, or harass wildlife in any way. This refers particularly to mountain goats, wolves, bears, eagles, sea lions, and other marine mammals, but includes all wildlife species.
4. All authorized operators will assure that their operations meet Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requirements to achieve safe air operations (routing, airspace separation and coordination with other operators).
5. All authorized operators will be required to submit and abide by a Safety and Operating Plan which will be reviewed by the BLM and will be a part of the Special Recreation Permit. The FAA may review these submissions.
6. The Authorized Officer (AO) may suspend or modify an SRP, including adaptive

management strategies, if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, or the environment or as a result of non-compliance with permit stipulations.

In addition, all permittees will be required to:

1. Submit a post-use report, including a log of all activities, wildlife sighted, etc.
2. All helicopters shall be equipped with satellite/GPS transponders with web based flight tracking capability. The flight following system shall have the ability to view both live and historic flight data for the duration of the permitted use. The permittee shall give BLM full access to the flight tracking system and historic data, including log-in information if necessary.

B. LAND USE PLAN CONFORMANCE

Applicable Land Use Plan: Ring of Fire Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (2008)

The proposed action is in conformance with plan because it is specifically provided for in the following planning decisions:

O. Recreation

O-1: Goal

Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities. Opportunities for commercial recreation will be provided consistent with area objectives for recreation management (Approved RMP, p. 15).

Haines Block SRMA

Goals:

- i. Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of opportunities.
- ii. Provide opportunities for commercial recreation consistent with the area objectives for recreation management.

Preliminary Management Objectives:

- i. Manage the SRMA (special recreation management area) to maintain a diversity of opportunities, including designated ROS (recreation opportunity spectrum) classification.
- ii. Maintain the area for designated VRM (visual resource management) classification.
- iii. Develop further guidance for management of OHV (off-highway vehicle) use.
- iv. Manage commercial recreation activities to maintain the quality of user experience, avoid adverse effects on wildlife resources, and minimize disturbance to adjacent communities.
- v. Work collaboratively with landowners in the area, recreation users, and

adjacent communities to develop management strategies and define enforcement responsibilities. (Record of Decision, p. 10).

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. Recreation Management

1. 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. 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.

1. *Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety.*

No. The proposed activity would occur in very remote, unpopulated areas in southeast Alaska. The permitted helicopter operators would be required to follow Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight requirements. Furthermore, neither fuel storage nor refueling activities would be permitted on BLM-managed lands.

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. The proposed activity does not authorize ground disturbance. Noise impacts would be intermittent and temporary, distributed across the planning area, and limited to late winter/early spring. The noise impacts of 300 landings would not be significant on any one resource or in any one area. The other resources listed are not present on BLM-managed lands (i.e., prime farmlands, wetlands) or will not be present at the time of the proposed activity (i.e., migratory birds).

3. *Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].*

No, as a temporary authorization and at this scale (300 landings), the proposed activities' effects are not anticipated to be highly controversial. The BLM is applying new research data that maintains a 1,500 meter buffer from goat groups which does not cause significant adverse disturbances to mountain goats; continuing research efforts may increase or decrease this minimal distance.

4. *Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.*

No. Similar to the responses for the previous Extraordinary Circumstance reviews: the number of landings offered would be limited; the landings would be distributed across the planning area so as not to concentrate use in any one area; and permit required operating procedures and stipulations would minimize potential for effects to resources. As a temporary authorization and at this scale (300 landings), the proposed activities' effects are not highly uncertain or potentially significant.

5. *Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.*

No. As described in the proposed action description, the proposed activity does not constitute a new use of/in the Planning Area. The proposed SRPs would be issued consistent with past authorizations and would be based on historic actual landing counts. The SRPs would be valid for the 2015 winter/early spring operating season, February 1 through April 30, with the option to renew contingent upon future decisions reached in the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan Haines Amendment Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Haines SEIS); compliance with permit stipulations; new information, circumstances, or changes in resource conditions; and, ultimately, the Authorized Officer's discretion.

6. *Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.*

No. The three SRPs under consideration are independent of all other land uses occurring in the Planning Area. The proposed action is similar to other types of activities occurring in the planning area, including both on/off BLM-managed lands, but it is not dependent on any other activities for its utility (and, vice versa). However, the proposed action would offer a conservative number of landings consistent with historical numbers of authorized landings. The proposed action would not measurably contribute to overall cumulative effects.

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. The helicopter take-off and landing areas and ski routes would be covered in rock, snow, and/or ice. Given the snow/ice cover and the fact that the proposed activity does not entail ground disturbance, the proposed action would not 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.

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. Two Threatened and Endangered species are found near the Planning Area. The humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) and Steller sea lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*) occur in coastal waters near, but not within, the Planning Area. The proposed activities would have no effect on these species as all BLM-managed lands are inland from Lynn Canal and coastal waters. No critical habitat has been designated in Lynn Canal for either species.

9. *Violate Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.*

No. The proposed action would not violate any laws imposed for the protection of the environment (i.e., Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, etc.).

10. *Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).*

No. There are no known Environmental Justice concerns related to this proposed activity. Within the Planning Area, BLM-managed lands are not adjacent to areas with minority or low-income populations that would be disproportionately affected by the SRP decision.

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. Government to Government consultation with the affected Federally Recognized Tribes, including Skagway Village and the Chilkat and Chilkoot Indian Tribes, has not revealed any properties meeting the definition for Indian sacred sites in the proposed project's vicinity.

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. The helicopter take-off and landing areas and ski routes would be covered in rock, snow, and/or ice. Given the timing of the activity (winter when seed heads are not present) and the nature of the areas used (under snow/ice cover for much of the year), the proposed action would not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of weeds or non-native species in the Haines Planning Area.

E. LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

Inventories of the lands within this Planning Area were conducted in 2012. The tract of lands (southern block) located southwest of Haines, along the border of Glacier Bay National Park and Wilderness, is 66,239 acres. All of the lands inventoried retain their natural appearance, and are without permanent improvements and human habitation. Opportunities for solitude and for primitive, unconfined recreation are present due to the lack of roads and trails, and because

access to the Planning Area is possible only with aircraft or on foot. The inventory notes other values present in Planning Area, including scenic and geological features associated with natural landscapes, rugged mountain peaks, glaciers, spires, high tundra, deep valleys, wild rivers, and viewable wildlife.

In conclusion, all BLM-managed lands in the Planning Area have wilderness characteristics and are identified as Lands with Wilderness Characteristics (LWCs). Given the temporary duration, intermittent use, dispersed landing areas, the expanse of public lands in the Planning Area, no land disturbing activities, and the permit stipulations, the proposed action may temporarily impact but not impair the wilderness characteristics of the area.

F. 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/ Karen Kelleher

12/16/2014

Karen Kelleher
Anchorage District Manager

Date

Attachments

Haines Planning Area Southern Block Map



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, Alaska 99588-0147
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

Special Recreation Permit, Maximum of 300 Landings for 2015 Heli-ski Season (Winter), Haines South Block (2930 SRP)

Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-0003-CX

Case File, AA-083491, AA-081641, and AA-081925AA

DECISION RECORD

Background

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Glennallen Field Office has received three applications for Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) for winter helicopter-supported recreation use (heli-skiing) near Haines, AK. The BLM has considered whether to authorize three temporary (one season) SRPs for up to 300 landings (total; divided between the applicants) to conduct winter heli-skiing operations, subject to all stipulations and conditions included below and attached. The total number of landings to be authorized is a rounded average based on actual numbers of winter landings by three prior permitted BLM operators for the period 2002-2005 (this period represents the last time winter landing authorizations were issued on BLM-managed lands in the planning area).

The SRPs would be valid for the 2015 winter/early spring operating season, February 1 through April 30, with the option to renew contingent upon the status and future decisions of the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan Haines Amendment Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Haines SEIS); compliance with permit stipulations; new information, circumstances, or changes in resource conditions; and, ultimately, the Authorized Officer's discretion.

The 300 landings would be distributed across BLM-managed lands in the southern portion of the planning area (see attached map Haines Planning Area Southern Block). The SRPs would be subject to all Required Operating Procedures (ROPs)/stipulations from the 2008 Ring of Fire Approved Resource Management Plan Record of Decision (ROF/RMP/ROD), including modifications based on resource conditions, and additional stipulations as needed to minimize impacts to resources and to aid with compliance monitoring.

Decision

It is my decision to implement the proposed action as described in the attached Categorical Exclusion documentation, DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-0003-CX. The proposed action is in conformance with the ROF/RMP/ROD; BLM 2008. Planning Decision, Recreation Goal O-1,

calls for managing to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities and states opportunities for commercial recreation will be provided consistent with area objectives for recreation management.

Specifically, it is my decision to authorize:

- Commercial Heli-skiing within the southern block of the Haines Planning Area
- Issuance of three temporary (one season) Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)
- A date window of heli-ski operations from February 1 through April 30, 2015
- Up to 300 landings within the permitted area (total; divided between the applicants).
- Implement a 1,500 meter buffer from goat groups

The authorization would also be subject to all special stipulations for commercial heli-skiing activities. (attached below)

Rationale for Decision

Over the past five years, the BLM has not authorized any commercial helicopter based Special Recreation Permits in the Haines area while the Haines SEIS planning effort was underway. During this time period three commercial recreation providers interested in providing heli-skiing opportunities have applied for Special Recreation Permits. The Bureau is authorizing temporary one-year permits to helicopter based recreation providers in 2015 to accommodate for this recreation activity and need.

In making this decision the following factors were taken into account:

- The need to act upon permit requests while the Haines SEIS planning effort is ongoing
- The number of permitted landings (300) is based on past historical use of BLM managed lands that continue to remain in federal ownership
- The decision considers recent scientific literature concerning helicopter impacts to goat groups which determined a 1,500 meter buffer from goat groups does not cause significant adverse disturbances to mountain goats. (Cote, S., S. Hamel, A. St-Louis, J. Mainguy. 2013. Do Mountain Goats Habituate to Helicopter Disturbance? Journal of Wildlife Management)
- The commercial operations authorized by this decision have been authorized in the past under BLM Special Recreation Permits.

The decision does not preclude future BLM considerations and management alternatives in relation to the Haines Planning Area and Haines SEIS. As new scientific information becomes available pertaining to goat or goat habitats it will be incorporated into future management decisions for the planning area.

Laws, Authorities, and Land Use Plan Conformance

This categorical exclusion and supporting documentation have been prepared consistent with the Ring of Fire Approved Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (2008). The proposed action is in conformance with the plan because it is specifically provided for in the following planning decisions:

O. Recreation

Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities. Opportunities for commercial recreation will be provided consistent with area objectives for recreation management (Approved RMP, p. 15).

Haines Block SRMA

Goals:

- iii. Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of opportunities.
- iv. Provide opportunities for commercial recreation consistent with the area objectives for recreation management.

Preliminary Management Objectives:

- vi. Manage the SRMA (special recreation management area) to maintain a diversity of opportunities, including designated ROS (recreation opportunity spectrum) classification.
- vii. Maintain the area for designated VRM (visual resource management) classification.
- viii. Develop further guidance for management of OHV (off-highway vehicle) use.
- ix. Manage commercial recreation activities to maintain the quality of user experience, avoid adverse effects on wildlife resources, and minimize disturbance to adjacent communities.
- x. Work collaboratively with landowners in the area, recreation users, and adjacent communities to develop management strategies and define enforcement responsibilities. (Record of Decision, p. 10).

Consultation and Coordination

On October 7-9 2014 BLM staff from the Glennallen Field Office travelled to Haines, Alaska, and met with various stakeholders within the Haines Planning Area. Stakeholders were briefed on various BLM projects and planning efforts. The topic and issues surrounding commercial heli-skiing activities were discussed with the following entities:

- Alaska Heli Ski
- Chilkat Indian Village
- Chilkoot Indian Tribe
- Haines Borough
- South East Alaska Backcountry Adventures
- Lynn Canal Conservation
- Takshanuk Watershed Council

The proposed action was reviewed by BLM Glennallen Field Office staff on November 25, 2014. Appropriate stipulations (see attached) have been developed as a condition of operation

for the duration of the permit. Based on the attached Categorical Exclusion review, I have determined that the proposed action involves no significant impact to the human environment and no further analysis is required.

Appeal Opportunities

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR § 4. To appeal you must file a notice of appeal at the BLM Glennallen Field Office, P.O. Box 147, Milepost 186.5 Glenn Highway, Glennallen, Alaska 99588-0147, within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appeal must be in writing and delivered in person, via the United States Postal Service mail system, or other common carrier, to the BLM Glennallen Field Office as noted above. *The BLM does not accept appeals by facsimile, email, or other electronic means.* The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

If you wish to file a petition pursuant to regulation 43 CFR § 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) for a stay of the effectiveness of this decision during the time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards: (a) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied, (b) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits, (c) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and (d) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (see 43 CFR § 4.413); Office of the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508; at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

/s/ Karen Kelleher

12/16/2014

Karen Kelleher
Anchorage District Manager

Date

Attachments

Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK-A020-2015-0003-CX
Permit stipulations
Map Haines Planning Area Southern Block

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, Alaska 99588-0147
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

SPECIAL STIPULATIONS

In addition to the standard recreation permit stipulations for commercial operations, the following special stipulations are adopted and shall apply to this permit

1. The special use permit will include an advisement from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game Statute 16.05.940 which defines “taking” to include pursuing or deliberately disturbing of fish and game. Operators and guides shall comply with this statute at all times. Hovering, circling or harassing wildlife, raptors, or any other wildlife species with the use of a helicopter is a violation of this statute.
2. Helicopters, operators, guides, clients and custodial pets shall maintain a minimum of 1,500 feet from all observed wildlife at all times including under the following special circumstances:
 - a. From any active eagle and osprey nest (April 15 to the end of the heli-ski season)
 - b. From any bear or wolverine dens that may have been observed or located through radio telemetry.

This stipulation is in addition to the 1,500 meter buffer identified for goat groups within the Decision Record of Categorical Exclusion, DOI-BLM-AK020-2015-0003-CX.

3. Heli-ski operators and guides shall report all wildlife sightings (number of individual wildlife, precise location, and date/s observed) to the BLM Glennallen Field Office with their post use report.
4. The use of explosives is prohibited for avalanche control on permitted lands.
5. Heli-ski operators and/or guides shall use GPS equipment and maps to ensure that their permitted activities are occurring within designated areas (heli-ski regions) on Bureau of Land Management lands.
6. All helicopters shall be equipped with satellite/GPS transponders with web based flight tracking capability. The flight following system shall have the ability to view both live and historic flight data for the duration of the permitted use. The permittee shall give BLM full access to the flight tracking system and historic data, including log-in information if necessary.
7. Any spill of petroleum products shall be reported and cleaned up in accordance with the rules and regulations established by the Alaska Department of Environmental

Conservation and the Environmental Protection Agency. All costs incurred in reporting the spill and clean up shall be the responsibility of the party responsible for the spill.

8. There shall be no disturbance of any archaeological or historical sites, including graves, telegraph lines and poles as well as remains of cabins or other structures. There shall be no collection of artifacts whatsoever. Also, the collection of vertebrate fossils, including mammoth and mastodon bones, tusks etc., is strictly prohibited.
9. If heritage or paleontological resources are encountered during the permitted activities, then these items will be respectfully left in their locations and the BLM Glennallen Field Office's Cultural Resource staff will be notified.
10. All helicopters will maintain a 2500-foot vertical and horizontal distance from all observed users as weather and ceilings allow. If weather or other conditions do not allow compliance with the above distances, the helicopter will maintain the greatest vertical distance that is safe for users and helicopter pilots and passengers.
11. Flights will be conducted in a manner to limit encounters between parties (including unguided parties).
12. All helicopter skiing operations will occur between sunrise and sunset.
13. All Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) rules shall be adhered to.
14. No snowcat trail construction or brushing is authorized.
15. As part of their special recreation permit requirement, permittees will be required to prepare an Operation and Safety Plan for BLM review. This plan will include:
 - i. Avalanche safety addressing client safety and the safety of other backcountry users in the area.
 - ii. Helicopter safety.
 - iii. Emergency rescue, and
 - iv. Guide requirements
16. Permittees will be required to participate in a communication plan, revised annually, that will have as a goal the continuation of close communication and cooperation between operators. The emphasis will be on safety and reasonable sharing of available operating areas for all operators.
17. A complete post season use report must be filed within 30 days of completion of operations. Late reports will be subject to late fees of \$50.00 per month and will reflect negatively on the permittee's performance record.
18. The Bureau of Land Management reserves the right to schedule mandatory pre or post season meetings to discuss any issues or items associated with this permit. Each permittee (or a representative of the organization) shall be expected to attend and participate in these meetings.

19. Maps distributed annually to the helicopter skiing operators are not to be reproduced without expressed written permission from the BLM Glennallen Field Office Manager.
20. Commercial filming may be authorized in conjunction with this permit only when the activity takes place at the same time, location, and in association with your activities permitted under this SRP. In this instance, both the SRP fee and commercial filming fee will be charged and submitted to the BLM.
21. Unless expressly stated, the SRP does not create an exclusive right of use of an area by the permittee. The permittee shall not interfere with other valid uses of the federal land by other users. The United States reserves the right to use any part of the area for any purpose.
22. The permittee cannot, unless specifically authorized, erect, construct, or place any building, structure, or other fixture on public lands. Upon leaving, the lands must be restored as nearly as possible to pre-existing conditions.
23. The permit, or copies thereof, shall be kept with the authorized individual(s) and presented to any BLM representative upon request as proof of authorization.
24. The AO, or a duly authorized representative of the BLM, may examine any of the records or other documents related to the permit, the permittee or permittee's operator, employee, or agent for up to 3 years after expiration of the permit.

I declare I have read and understand all of the stipulations associated with this Special Recreation Permit. I acknowledge that as signee of the permit and these stipulations that I am fully responsible for all of the mitigation measures and compliance with stated permit stipulations and that non-compliance with any permit stipulations will be grounds for denial of future permits, and/or cancellation, and/or prosecution of applicable Federal, State and/or Local laws.

Applicant's Name (Print)

Signature

Date