

Decision Record

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI-BLM-AKF010-2015-0012-EA) to evaluate the effects of a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) to Riley Pitts, Doing Business as Big Game Backcountry Guides (BGBG).

MAJOR LAWS PERTINENT TO DECISION

Major laws pertinent to the decision to accept the environmental assessment are: the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Sustainable Fisheries Act, and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. CERCLA, Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA).

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

The BGBG proposed action includes authorization to conduct guided hunts within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) and south southeast of the NPR-A on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BGBG proposes to conduct guiding operations from August 20, 2015 through September 10, 2015

The proposed action meets the purpose and need of the EA. Neither the no action alternative nor alternatives considered and eliminated would meet the purpose and need. The no action alternative would prevent the applicant from receiving a SRP on BLM managed lands.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. See FONSI for more information.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The proposed action was announced on the BLM Arctic Field Office website NEPA register beginning March 23, 2015. No comments have been received. No major issues with the proposed SRP program were identified.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The decision to allow the proposed action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation of the public lands. The proposed action is in conformance with the objectives outlined in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated November 2012, the 2008 Colville River Special Area Management Plan (CRSAMP), the Western Arctic Resource Management Plan (RMP) evaluated 1990, the 1991 Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP), and the 1989 Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). This EA is tiered to these documents and the documents incorporated by reference. All practicable alternatives and measures to reduce or eliminate impacts to wetlands and floodplains, done in compliance with

