

PUBLIC NOTICE. The US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is reevaluating the use of Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges for scientific research. Currently, this use, in compliance with state and federal regulations, is allowed.

Prior to reauthorizing this use, federal law requires the Service determine that it is a compatible use. A compatible use is a proposed or existing wildlife-dependent recreational use, or any other use of a national wildlife refuge which, based on sound professional judgment, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the national wildlife refuge. A compatibility determination document facilitates an evaluation of such uses.

The Service would like to know what you think about continuing scientific research on the refuge. A compatibility determination has been drafted, and is available for a thirty-day public review and comment period. All comments received by June 27, 2005 will be considered in finalizing that determination. We hope to make a final decision within thirty days following closure of the public comment period.

You can view the draft compatibility determination online at <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/index.htm> or contact Yukon Flats Refuge at yukonflats@fws.gov or 907.456.0440.