

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
Draft Environmental Assessment for a proposed 3-Dimensional Seismic Survey
Available for comment

We have received an application from Apache Alaska Corporation (Apache) for a special use permit to conduct a 3-D seismic survey. The purpose of the seismic survey is to obtain high quality imagery of subsurface geological features which may contain recoverable oil and natural gas owned by Cook Inlet Region Incorporated (CIRI) within the Refuge. The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act requires that the Service provide for “adequate and feasible” access to the privately-owned mineral resources within the Refuge. Legal agreements between CIRI and the U.S. Department of the Interior also require the Service to allow for access for exploration and development of CIRI-owned subsurface estate of coal, oil and gas resources within the Refuge. In addition, the Tyonek Native Corporation has proposed allowing use of their surface ownership within the Refuge by Apache for conducting seismic survey activities associated with imaging off-Refuge subsurface resources. The Service must decide on permit stipulations governing Apache’s seismic survey activities which will best protect Refuge resources and minimize conflicts with public uses of the Refuge.

Please send your comments on the draft Environmental Assessment by May 31, 2013. Comments may be sent by post, E-mail, or fax to the Refuge Manager at the addresses below

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The draft plan and environmental assessment are available at: <http://fws.gov/refuge/kenai> and <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/nepa.htm>. Hard copies are available at the Kenai NWR Headquarters, Ski Hill Road, Soldotna, Alaska.

Please direct comments or requests for further information to:

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