

Errata Sheet

This errata sheet is for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (Revised Plan) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), dated January 2015. This sheet notes both substantial errors (those that affect content or meaning) and editorial errors (those that are typographic or grammatical in nature). Substantial errors are highlighted in gray.

Document-Wide Corrections:

Throughout the Revised Plan and Final EIS, we make reference to certain management actions or activities occurring on specific dates (e.g., the Visitor Use Management Plan will begin in 2013). The dates published in the Revised Plan were based on the assumption that the Record of Decision would be signed during 2012. Because we were delayed in releasing the Final EIS, many of the dates in the Revised Plan are no longer correct.

Dates associated with management actions and activities are relative to the date on which the Record of Decision for the Revised Plan will be signed and issued, and should be adjusted accordingly. The portions of the Revised Plan which are most affected are: Goals and Objectives (Chapter 2, Section 2.1); Implementation and Monitoring (Chapter 6, most notably Tables 6-1 and 6-2); and many of the responses to public comments (Volume 3, Section 3.1.).

1. VOLUME 1

1.1 Chapter 1

Page 1-12, Section 1.3.3: In the paragraph following the bulleted list, “and comment” should be deleted at the end of the last sentence. Comments are not being solicited on the Final EIS.

Additionally, this paragraph should include a cross-reference to other sections about interagency coordination and public involvement: Chapter 1, Sections 1.72 and 1.7.5, and Appendix B.

Page 1-13, Section 1.3.7: The second sentence should say:

“Cooperating agencies are any Federal or State agency and tribal or local government, including...”

Page 1-23, Section 1.5.1: The word “emersion” in the last sentence should be “immersion”

Page 1-23, Section 1.5.3: Arctic Refuge is inhabited by 41 terrestrial mammal species. The number given includes marine mammals.

Page 1-31, Section 1.7.4: The planning update mentioned in the second sentence was published in August 2011 as an accompaniment to the draft Revised Plan.

Page 1-31, Section 1.7.5: A sentence should be inserted in front of the third sentence:
“The draft review period started with the publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on August 15, 2011 (76 FR 50490).”

Page 1-34, Section 1.8: We identified 36 planning issues, not 37.

1.2 Chapter 2

Page 2-3, Objective 1.3, Strategy: The Ecological Review mentioned on the third line of this paragraph should have included a cross-reference to Objective 1.4.

Page 2-3, Objective 1.4, Rationale: The draft I&M and Research plans mentioned on the last line of this paragraph should have included a cross-reference to Objectives 1.2 and 1.3, respectively.

Page 2-51, Section 2.4.10.1: Secretarial Order 3226 was replaced in January 2009 with Secretarial Order 3226A. The text in this section should reference Order 3226A and not Order 3226.

Page 2-80, Section 2.5.2, Paragraph on “Appropriate Use”: The policy citation on the second line is incorrect. It should read: “Service Manual 603 FW 1.”

Page 2-82, Table 2-1, Habitat Management – Mechanical Treatment: In the Wilderness Management cell, there should be an asterisk (*) after the phrase “consistent with Section 2.3.4.” While the Service is unlikely to propose mechanical treatment anywhere on Arctic Refuge, a Minimum Requirement Analysis (MRA) would need to be completed should the Service propose such an action in designated Wilderness.

Page 2-88, Table 2-1, Helicopters: In the Wilderness Management cell, there should be an asterisk (*) after the phrase “consistent with Section 2.3.4.” If the Service were to request the use of a helicopter in designated Wilderness, an MRA would need to be completed to determine if the use is necessary to administer the area as Wilderness and is necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Refuge, including Wilderness Act purposes.

1.3 Chapter 3

Page 3-4, top of page: There is a line spacing error between the 4th and 5th lines. To clarify, the comment on the 5th line is a unique and separate comment from the preceding text.

Page 3-6, Section 3.1.2, first paragraph: The number “34” should read “33”

Page 3-31, Map 3-4: The text box for the Kongakut River is missing the phrase “same as.” The text box should read:

“Kongakut River: Same as Alternative B except no interim cap on commercial recreational guides.”

1.4 Chapter 4

Page 4-4, Table 4-1: To clarify, the Arctic Refuge acreage listed in the first row of the table (“19.66 million acres”) includes coastal lagoons. Without coastal lagoons, the acreage amounts to 19.64 million acres.

Page 4-7, Section 4.1.2.2: The following footnote should be at the end of the first paragraph of this section:

“Kaktovik is not part of Arctic Refuge even though the town site is physically inside the boundaries of the Refuge. The Refuge boundary surrounds the town site, creating a ‘doughnut-hole’ in the Refuge.”

Page 4-10, Section 4.1.3.1: In the first sentence, the word “Range” should be “Refuge.”

Page 4-17, Section 4.2.1.1: In the second sentence, there should be a semicolon after the word “terrain”

Page 4-35, Section 4.2.7.1: The map referenced in the second sentence shows the 1002 Area; however, it is not labeled as such. The 1002 Area encompasses the coastal plain within Arctic Refuge up to the boundary of the Mollie Beattie Wilderness.

Page 4-53, Section 4.3.2: There is a misspelling in the first sentence of this section; it should say “Ogilvie Mountains”

Page 4-65, Ninespine Stickleback: “Catch rates” mentioned in the second to last line on the page were obtained through sampling and should not be confused with harvest rates.

This also applies to the sections on “Arctic Cod” and “Saffron Cod” on page 4-72.

Page 4-80, Table 4-6: One of the citations in the “Notes” section at the bottom of the table is misspelled; it should say “Robertson et al. 1997”

Page 4-96, Figure 4-3: The label in the last column of the table should be “Hoofed mammals”

Page 4-105, Central Arctic Caribou Herd: There is a misspelling in the middle of the fifth paragraph; it should say “Okpilak River”

Page 4-116, Moose: The first sentence of the second paragraph should read:

“...in the upper reaches of *the* Kongakut, Firth, Coleen, and Sheenjek rivers...”

Page 4-116, *Moose*: The second sentence of the second paragraph should read:

“In 2007, biologists from Yukon Territories *began*...”

Page 4-121, *Polar Bears*: The Marine Mammals Protection Act is mentioned in the second paragraph on this page. Please note that “Mammals” should be in plural.

Page 4-121, *Polar Bears*: The three Federal Register citations in the fourth and fifth paragraphs on this page should read “76 FR 47010”

Page 4-122, *Polar Bears*: The three Federal Register citations in the third and fourth paragraphs on this page should read “76 FR 47010”

Page 4-131, *Section 4.3.7.4*: The first sentence of the last paragraph on this page should say:

“...with some showing prolonged periods of decline.”

Page 4-140, *Section 4.4.1.4*: The word “all” should be deleted between “were” and “permitted” in the second sentence.

Page 4-146, *Arctic Village*: In the second sentence of the second paragraph, there should not be a period after “Christian Village”

Page 4-175, *Section 4.4.4.1*: The first sentence of the last paragraph on this page should read:

“Federal subsistence law is based on Title VIII of ANILCA which was passed in 1980, and on regulations found...”

Page 4-177, *Subsistence Use of Marine Mammals*: The Marine Mammals Protection Act is mentioned in the first sentence of this section. Please note that “Mammals” should be in plural.

This correction also applies to the first line at the top of page 4-178.

Page 4-197, *Table 4-25*: In the table’s footnotes under “Source,” the phrase “as for Nuiqsut” should be deleted.

Page 4-207, *Wiseman*: In the second paragraph of this section, the term “sport hunters” should be changed to “general hunters”

Page 4-226, *Section 4.4.5.6*: In the last sentence on this page it should say “and objectives...are needed...”

1.5 Chapter 5

Page 5-5, Section 5.1.4, Paragraph on “National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska”: It should be noted that the final EIS for this project was released for public review on December 19, 2012. On February 21, 2013, the Secretary of the Interior signed the Record of Decision for the Integrated Activity Plan and EIS.

Page 5-6, Paragraph on “Point Thomson Project”: It should be noted that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed a Record of Decision for the Point Thomson Project on October 19, 2012, in which they selected Alternative B as the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative. A Section 404 permit was issued to ExxonMobil Corporation and PTE Pipeline LLC on October 26, 2012.

Page 5-8, Section 5.2.1.1: The word “the” is missing from the last sentence of the section. The sentence should read:

“If Congress were to designate any of the Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)....”

Page 5-24, Effects of Goals and Objectives on Subsistence: The last sentence in the paragraph at the top of page 5-24 is awkwardly worded and should be revised to read:

“...by ensuring the continuation of subsistence opportunities and providing local rural residents with the opportunity to have a meaningful role and participate in the Federal subsistence rule-making process for the conservation and use of subsistence resources.”

Page 5-32, Cultural Resources Under Alternative A: In the last line of the paragraph on Wilderness, the effects should say “site-specific to local” to be consistent with Section 5.2.2.2 “Cultural Resources Under All Alternatives”

Page 5-92, Refuge Operations Under Alternative E: In the second paragraph on this page, effects of Wilderness designation on Research should say “Refuge-wide to regional” to be consistent with Table 5-2, page 116.

Table 5-2 (page 5-108), Cultural Resources: In the Wilderness cell under Alternative A, the effects should say “site-specific to local” to be consistent with Section 5.2.2.2 “Cultural Resources Under All Alternatives”

Table 5-2 (page 5-114), Special Designations: The phrase “PUNA” should be underlined in the Wilderness issue cell under Alternative C.

Table 5-2 (page 5-115), Special Designations: In the cell for Alternative B and the Kongakut River issue, under Shublik RNA the text should read:

“No effect to negligible, short-term, local, negative.”

Page 5-123, Section 5.11.1, 2nd paragraph on the page: The phrase “Refuge users resources,” should be deleted from the first sentence of the paragraph. The sentence should read:

“To minimize potential impacts from contaminants to resources, Refuge staff requires...”

1.6 Chapter 6

Page 6-3, Section 6.3.1: The last sentence of the first paragraph should read:

“The VUMP will define desired conditions, and develop indicators and standards, which will all help measure the visitor plan’s success.”

Page 6-3, Section 6.3.1: In the last paragraph in this section the last sentence should read:

“...coincident with Refuge comprehensive conservation planning.”

Page 6-5, Section 6.3.4: The last word of this section should be “priority”

Page 6-5, Section 6.3.5: The last sentence in this section should be deleted; it duplicates information provided earlier in the paragraph.

Page 6-8, Table 6-2: In the 2013 cell, the “Objective” column should list both Objective 2.3, which refers to training staff about Wilderness, and Objective 3.5, which refers to training staff about wild and scenic rivers.

Page 6-10, Section 6.6: The fourth bulleted item should read “Marine Protected Area” (singular)

Page 6-11, Section 6.7: The last paragraph in this section should be revised to read:

“Service policy directs Arctic Refuge staff to review the Revised Plan every year to assess any need for change in management direction. Additionally, every three to five years, Refuge staff will review public comments, local and State government recommendations, research studies, and other sources to determine if revisions to the Plan are necessary. If major changes are proposed, public meetings may be held, and a new environmental analysis may be needed. Full review and revision of the Plan is scheduled to occur every 15-20 years, or more often, if deemed necessary.”

1.7 References

Page REF-7: The sixth citation on this page should be deleted; it is already listed under “Bureau of Economic Analysis” on page REF-11.

2. Volume 2

2.1 Appendix A

Page A-6, Section A.1.2.5: The footnote after “7.16 million acres” should have included the following text:

“ANILCA established an eight million-acre Wilderness area. While the boundary of the Wilderness area has not changed, newer technologies (such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS)) have changed how we estimate the area within the boundary.”

2.2 Appendix C

Page C-3, Section C.2.5: This section is updated with the following information:

The Final Integrated Activity Plan and EIS was released for public review on December 19, 2012. The Record of Decision for the plan was signed on February 21, 2013. The decision reflects the Preferred Alternative in the final EIS, but includes some modifications and clarifications. According to the Bureau of Land Management, the final action allows for the development of 72 percent of the estimated economically recoverable oil in the nearly 23-million-acre reserve, while protecting subsistence resources of Alaska Natives and wildlife habitats.

Page C-5, Section C.2.8: The word “where” should be “were” in the second sentence of this section.

Page C-5, Section C.2.9: In the first sentence, there should not be a comma after the words “original name.”

Page C-6, Section C.3.2: This section is updated with the following information:

On October 19, 2012, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) signed a Record of Decision for the Point Thomson Development Project. The Corps found that Alternative B of the final EIS, with modifications and additional mitigation measures, to be the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative and not contrary to the public interest. On October 26, 2012, the Corps issued a permit to the ExxonMobil Corporation and PTE Pipeline LLC to place fill material and structures in waters of the U.S. for the construction of the Point Thomson Project. The permit includes authorizations for: three drill pads (including one with a facility for hydrocarbon processing), ten miles of infield roads, a gravel mine, airstrip, barge docking facility, navigational structures, dredging, an emergency boat ramp, infield gathering pipelines, and an export pipeline to a facility located 23 miles to the west. According to the Corps, the permit contains 37 special conditions to minimize adverse impacts to the environment, including payment of a mitigation fee to compensate for unavoidable losses of aquatic resources.

2.3 Appendix D

Page D-4, Section D.3.1: It should be noted that the Revised Plan’s management policies and guidelines restrict domestic sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas on Arctic Refuge, subject to the promulgation of regulations for non-commercial uses. Please refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.4.12.9 and Table 2-1 (page 2-87) for more information.

Page D-4, Section D.3.3: In the last sentence the word “related” should be “relate.”

Page D-10, Section D.5.4: There should not be any quotation marks anywhere in this paragraph.

Page D-17, Section D.5.15: The word “of” should be deleted from the second to last sentence of the last paragraph of this section.

2.4 Appendix F

Page F-7, Gulls, Terns: The correct scientific name of the ivory gull is “Pagophila eburnea”

2.5 Appendix G

Page G-1, Table of Contents: The term “XE” should be deleted from the first entry.

Page G-58, Item 11: We incorrectly cited the Service’s Wilderness Policy regarding commercial services in Wilderness. The correct citation is “610 FW 2.12”

Page G-74, first paragraph: In the fifth line, the word “though” should be “through”

Page G-76, Supporting Documents: A hard return and line space is missing between two citations. The first citation is:

“U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1994. Compatibility Determination for Non-wildlife Dependent Recreational Activities. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks, Alaska.”

The second citation is:

“U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Wilderness Review, and Wild and Scenic River Review. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, June 2011. Anchorage, Alaska, USA.”

Page G-104, first paragraph under “Description of Use”: In the second to last sentence, the Federal Register citation should read “(65 FR 62484).”

Page G-115, second paragraph under “Description of Use”: The text quoted from the CFR is missing a number. The third and fourth lines of this paragraph should read:

“...may be permitted in Alaska National Wildlife Refuges as follows: (1) For live standing timber...”

Additionally, because we are quoting only a portion of the regulation, the quote should have ended with ellipsis (i.e., “...”) after the word “established.”

Page G-125, first paragraph: The word “to” is missing in the last sentence, which should read:

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) will continue to monitor such introductions.”

Page G-126, *Stipulations Necessary to Ensure Compatibility*: This entire paragraph should be replaced with the following text:

“Special use permits are not required for most subsistence activities, so there are no associated stipulations. However, subsistence users will be required to comply with any regulations in place, such as seasonal closures for resource protection. The Federal subsistence management program provides for review and design of subsistence hunting and fishing regulations that ensure protection of fish and wildlife resources on refuge lands, except for migratory birds and marine mammals. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council regulates subsistence harvest of migratory birds to ensure their conservation. The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, as amended, identifies the Service as being responsible for the management and conservation of polar bears, sea otters, and Pacific walrus. The act established a moratorium on the taking and importation of marine mammals and products made from them; however, Alaska Natives who take marine mammals for subsistence purposes are exempt from the moratorium.

“Service regulations address access, harvest of plants, and use of cabins for subsistence purposes on Alaska refuges to ensure compatibility of these uses. Use or construction of subsistence cabins also require a special use permit from the Refuge that will include provisions designed to ensure compatibility. Should use of currently used modes of motorized transportation, new cabin construction, or any other subsistence activity grow to levels where it interferes with or detracts from Refuge purposes, appropriate management steps would be taken to maintain compatibility.”

2.6 Appendix H

Page H-9, Section H.2.1.2: We incorrectly cited the Wilderness Stewardship Policy on the last line of the first paragraph. The citation should read: “(610 FW 1.2).”

This error also applies to Section H.2.2.2 on page H-11 and Section H.2.3.2 on page H-12.

2.7 Appendix I

Page I-13, Section 2.2.3, Item 6: The Federal Register citation on the first line of Item 6 is incorrect. It should read “47 FR 39454.”

Page I-27, Section 4.5.5: The Federal Register citation on the first line of the first “Management Implication” is incorrect. It should read “47 FR 39454”

Page I-33, Section 4.6.1.1: The first sentence of this section is factually incorrect. The sentence should be revised to read:

“The history of the ownership of submerged lands and river beds in Arctic Refuge begins prior to the establishment of the Arctic National Wildlife Range (Range) by Public Land Order (PLO) 2214 in 1960.”

Page I-42, Section 5.1.1: The second sentence should start with, “Nearby road access....” and not “Road access...”

Page I-44, Section 5.1.2, Item #5: The text says, “The cost of CRMP development...may be offset by increased funding and staffing associated with designation.” It should be clarified that a funding/staffing increase is not likely and is not in any way guaranteed should Congress decide to include a river in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This clarification applies to similar statements on pages: I-55, I-62, I-70, I-79, I-86, I-93, I-100, I-107, and I-114.

Page I-B2, last sentence before Table B-1: The last sentence should be revised to read:

“While other evaluated waters certainly have scenic value, only the Kongakut and Okpilak rivers and the Neruokpuk Lakes complex were identified as having a Scenic ORV based on the analysis of currently available data.”

Page I-B5, first paragraph, 6th line: The sentence that mentions the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center survey should begin with the word “The” and not “he.”

Page I-B9, Section B.4, last paragraph: By “healthiest population of lake trout” we mean the population has a high weight to length ratio when compared to other populations on the North Slope of the Brooks Range.

Page I-E1, first paragraph: The first sentence should have noted that the Ivishak River is already a designated wild river.

Page I-F2, Table F-1, Habitat Management – Mechanical Treatment: In the cell for Rivers in Designated Wilderness, there should be an asterisk (*) after the phrase “with exceptions.” While the Service is unlikely to propose mechanical treatment anywhere on Arctic Refuge, a Minimum Requirement Analysis (MRA) would need to be completed should the Service propose such an action in designated Wilderness.

Page I-F6, Table F-1, Helicopters: In the cell for Rivers in Designated Wilderness, there should be an asterisk (*) after the phrase “with exceptions.” If the Service were to request the use of a helicopter in designated Wilderness, an MRA would need to be completed to determine if the use is necessary to administer the area as Wilderness and is necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Refuge, including Wilderness Act purposes.

Page I-G1, Section G.2.1, last sentence: According to Section 305 of ANILCA, the purposes of the Arctic Range still attach “except to the extent that they are inconsistent with this Act [ANILCA] or the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and, in any such case, the provisions of such Acts shall prevail.”

2.8 Appendix M

Page M-4, Comprehensive Conservation Plan: This definition is from Service Manual 602 FW 1

Page M-8, Federally recognized tribes: In the first line, the second “are” should be deleted

Page M-16, Recommended Wilderness: To clarify, the word “Secretary” refers to the Secretary of the Interior

3. Volume 3

3.1 Summary of Comments

Page 5, Table 1: The header at the top of the table should read “Speakers²” and not “Speakers2.” The header is referencing the second footnote at the bottom of the table.

Page 6, Table 2: The word “as” in the text of the first footnote should be replaced with “and are.” The footnote should read:

“Numbers are approximate and are based on affiliations....”

3.2 Substantive Comments

Page 20, Response to Group B.4: The third sentence, which starts on the sixth line of the response, is factually incorrect and should be deleted.

Page 21, Response to Group B.5: The last sentence contains an editing error. It should read:

“However, this issue will be addressed in the Wilderness Stewardship step-down planning process, which will include additional opportunities for public involvement.”

Page 34, Response to Comment 136995.001: The third sentence, which starts on the sixth line of the response, is factually incorrect and should be deleted.

Pages 41-42, Response to Comment 136796.012: The last two sentences of the second paragraph are incorrect. They should read:

“In addition, Kongakut River management under Alternatives B and C places an interim cap on use by commercial recreational guide businesses starting in 2013 and expiring at the end of 2016 or when the VUMP is implemented, whichever occurs first. Further, Alternatives B through F were modified to include a series of interim measures: 1) working with guides to reduce the number of groups on the Kongakut River during heavy use periods; 2) working with commercial air operators to disperse commuting flight paths; 3) publishing schedules of proposed guided launch dates; 4) developing additional outreach materials; conducting occasional onsite checks; 5) modifying the current monitoring program to include criteria that specifically evaluate the effectiveness of management actions; and 6) identifying, evaluating, and rehabilitating impaired and impacted sites.”

Page 51, first paragraph at top of page: The word “environmental” is misspelled on the fourth line.

Page 90, Response to Comment 137014.030: The last sentence of the first paragraph of the response uses the wrong tense and is awkwardly worded. The sentence should read:

“The following factors were considered to determine if any of the alternatives would result in a significant restriction of subsistence uses and needs:”

Page 129, Response to Comment 136809.003: On the 6th and 8th lines from the bottom of the page, the word “refuge” should have been capitalized (i.e., “Refuge”); we are referring to Arctic Refuge in these sentences.

Page 157, Response to Comment 136815.002

The second sentence of the response - “The process for requesting, negotiating, and developing an Annual Funding Agreement is found in 25 CFR 1000.170 and implemented through Service Policy 512 FW 5,” needs to be replaced with:

“Annual Funding Agreements are implemented through Federally-recognized Indian Tribes represented by its Tribal Council, participating in the Tribal Self-Governance Program established by the Secretary of the Interior under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. §§ 450-450n, as amended by §204 of the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994, now codified at 25 U.S.C. §§ 458aa-458hh.”

Page 161, Response to Comment 136846.003: In the second to last sentence of the response, we inadvertently listed the community of Fort Yukon twice and failed to list the community of Venetie. The sentence should read:

“Further, we sent planning updates and fliers announcing public meetings to every post office boxholder in Arctic Village, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik, and Venetie.”

Page 168, Response to Comment 136789.005: In the first line of our response, the word “recognized” should be “recognize.”

Page 169, Response to Comment 136816.016: In the sixth line of the response, the phrase “in the summary the goes with it” should read “in the summary that goes with it.”

Page 178, Response to Comment 136801.112: This comment response is awkwardly worded. It should read:

“The lands and resources within Arctic Refuge are already protected by their current designation as a refuge and the Refuge’s management policies and guidelines. There would be no change in benefits at the international level from any of the alternatives.”

Page 185, Response to Comment 136789.008: The term “Alternate’s” on the first line of the response should be “Alternatives.”

Page 204, Response to Comment 032620.012: The Federal Register citation on the first line of the response should read “76 FR 47010;” page 47041 is within the same Federal Register notice.

Page 205, Response to Comment 032612.001: The word “out” in the last line of the response should read “our”

Page 218, Response to Comment 136742.001: The term “plan” at the end of the fourth line of the response should be capitalized “Plan.” We are referring to the Revised Plan and final EIS in this response.

Page 222, Responses to Comments 032626.006 and 136826.004: There is an extra word (“we”) in the last sentence of each of these responses. The sentences should read:

“Given the 600,000 public comments we received on the draft Plan, we believe our efforts were effective.”

Page 234, Response to Comment 136805.142: The first sentence of this response is incorrect. It should read:

“We revised the discussion in Appendix C, Section C.3.2 to reflect the information in the Final EIS, which was released to the public by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in July 2012.”

Please note that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers selected the Proposed Action (Alternative B) in their Record of Decision, which was signed on October 19, 2012. A Clean Water Act Section 404 permit was issued to ExxonMobil on October 26, 2012.

Page 236, Response to Comment 136805.026: The word “refuge” on the last line of the second paragraph should be capitalized (“Refuge”). We are referring to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in this sentence.

Page 254, Response to Comment 136804.010: The following sentence should be added to the end of the response:

“There are unresolved questions about ANILCA requirements for establishing such an area.”

In addition, the word “may” in the second line of the response should be changed to “might.”

Page 260, Response to Comment 136768.001: The phrase included in parentheses on the 12th line of the response should read “(general hunters)”

Page 272, Response to Comment 136797.002: The word “federal” should be deleted from the second line of the response.

Page 273, Response to Comment 136750.007: The sentence that begins on the 8th line of the response is awkwardly worded. It should read:

“Important selecting factors include the number of clients that an applicant proposes to book and the effects of proposed operations on opportunities for continued subsistence uses by local residents.”

Page 277, Response to Comment 000038.001: The word “rewarded” on the 5th line of the response should be changed to “awarded.”

Page 288, Response to Comment 136984.002: The sentence that begins on the sixth line of the page should read:

“Through the visitor use management and Wilderness stewardship planning processes...”

Page 293, Response to Comment 136993.001: On the first line at the top of the page, the phrase “expanding the Refuge” should read “establishing the Refuge.”

Page 303-304, Responses to Group O.4 and Group O.5: The tasks outlined in each of these responses are somewhat out of order and need to be clarified:

In preparation for the environmental analysis for the administrative site at Lake Peters, the Refuge manager would develop a range of alternatives. Each alternative would include a detailed proposal of the specific actions to be taken, and if the alternative identifies any structures for removal, how and when the work would be accomplished. Required consultation, such as with the State Historic Preservation Office, would also be completed. If an alternative that removes buildings were to be selected, the project would be implemented and all work completed within four years of Plan approval. Please see Chapter 2, Section 2.1.2, Objective 2.5 for more information.

Page 305, Response to Comment 136805.128: The last sentence of the response should read:

“We now have a photo and we added it to the Administrative Facilities discussion in Chapter 4, Section 4.5.1.”

Page 306 and 307, Responses to Comments 032628.020 and 136954.001: The tasks outlined in these responses are somewhat out of order and need to be clarified:

In preparation for the environmental analysis for the administrative site at Lake Peters, the Refuge manager would develop a range of alternatives. Each alternative would include a detailed proposal of the specific actions to be taken, and if the alternative identifies any structures for removal, how and when the work would be accomplished. Required consultation, such as with the State Historic Preservation Office, would also be completed. If an alternative that removes buildings were to be selected, the project would be implemented and all work completed within four years of Plan approval. Please see Chapter 2, Section 2.1.2, Objective 2.5 for more information.

Page 332, Response to Comment 136805.094: The response is somewhat confusing as worded and should be clarified. The second sentence of the response should say:

“However, the second sentence of Chapter 2, Section 2.4.18.2 is correct.”

Additionally, the acronym for the Department of the Interior on the fourth line of the response is incorrect. “COI” should read “DOI.”

Page 343, Response to Comment 032626.059: The regulations are cited incorrectly in the third line of the response. The correct citation is “14 CFR 45.29”

Page 345, Response to Comment 137013.012: In the last paragraph of the response, we should clarify that the State of Alaska would own the submerged lands beneath any portion of the Wind or Ivishak rivers determined navigable for the purposes of title, but to date, no such determination has been made.

Pages 346-347, Response to Comment 032626.059, second paragraph: In the 2nd and 3rd sentences of this paragraph, the word “plan” should be capitalized (i.e., “Plan”); we are referring to the Revised Plan and final EIS in these sentences.

Page 374, Response to Comment 136980.005: The word “objective” on the 2nd line of the response should be plural “objectives”

Page 376, Response to Comment 032675.004: The policy citation on the last full line of the first paragraph is incorrect. It should read “610 FW 5.17”

Page 377, Response to Comment 136789.003

The second sentence of the response – “The process for requesting, negotiating, and developing an Annual Funding Agreement are found in 25 CFR 1000.170 and implemented through Service Policy 512 FW 5,” needs to be replaced with:

“Annual Funding Agreements are implemented through Federally-recognized Indian Tribes represented by its Tribal Council, participating in the Tribal Self-Governance Program established by the Secretary of the Interior under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. §§ 450-450n, as amended by §204 of the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994, now codified at 25 U.S.C. §§ 458aa-458hh.”

Page 385, Response to Comment 136789.007: In the last line of the response, the timeframe for completing the Land Protection Plan (LPP) should read “1-3 years” and not “1-5 years.”

Page 391, Response to Comment 132801.084: The parenthetical citation on the fourth line should read: “(Chapter 2, Section 2.4.16).” Similarly, the opening phrase of the second paragraph should read: “Per Chapter 2, Section 2.4.21.1, new administrative facilities....”

Page 394, Response to Comment 136805.088: To clarify, the opening phrase of the last sentence on this page should read: “As stated in Chapter 2, Section 2.4.14.7 of the Plan,...”

Page 397, Response to Comment 136695.084: The first word of the response should be “There”

Page 414, Response to Comment 136978.001: The phrase “rocket sounding program” on the second to last line of the response should read “Sounding Rockets Program”

Page 416, Response to Comment 136816.025: The first sentence is missing a word. The end of the first sentence should read:

“...Chapter 2, Sections 2.4.14.1 and 2.4.13.1, and is consistent with ANILCA Section 1110.”

Page 432, Response to Group S.5: The second to last sentence in the first paragraph contains typographical errors that resulted in words being scrambled. The sentence should read:

“Objective 8.1 (Chapter 2, Section 2.1.8) on Collaboration, Partnerships, and Traditional Knowledge was broadened to acknowledge that the Refuge will continue to consult with local tribal governments and Native corporations and work with Native organizations, Native elders, and others....”

Page 435, Response to Group S.10: The brackets “[]” in the second to last line of the response should be deleted and the cross-reference should read:

“...we added the following text to Chapter 4, Section 4.4.6 (Interpretation and Environmental Education)....”

Page 439, Response to Comment 136988.001: The last sentence of the response should be deleted. We did not conduct an analysis of the potential effects of each of the Plan’s alternatives on natural quiet and soundscape. Rather, we analyzed the potential effects of each of the Plan’s alternatives on wilderness characteristics, and natural quiet is a component of wilderness characteristics (see Appendix M).

Page 441, Response to Comment 032626.001: The cross-reference on the 3rd line of the response should read: “...are discussed in Chapter 4, Section 4.3.7.”

Page 443, Response to Comment 136800.006: The acronym “NGOs” on the third line should be replaced with “non-governmental organizations.”

Page 456, Response to Comment 032628.008: The third line of the response is missing the word “and” before the phrase “will be.” Additionally, the phrase “Refuge species and ecosystems” should be revised to read “species and ecosystems within the Refuge.”

Page 460, Response to Comment 136801.032: The last sentence of the response should read:

“The Refuge plans to expand educational efforts related to public use and minimum impact techniques, such as Leave No Trace practices, as specified in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.9, Objective 9.2.”

Page 462, Response to Comment 136805.052: To clarify the cross-references in the response, Objective 2.1 and Section 2.3.3 are both located in Chapter 2 of the Revised Plan. On the 5th line of the response, we are referring the reader to the term “wilderness characteristics” as it is defined in Appendix M.

Page 465, Response to Comment 032626.013: The objectives cited in the response are located in Chapter 2, Sections 2.1.2 and 2.1.5.

Page 472, Response to Comment 136817.017: The phrase “times lines” on the first line of the response should be changed to “timelines”

Page 475, Response to Comment 136805.060: The response is awkwardly worded; it should read:

“Subsistence Objective 4.1 from the draft Plan was revised to address the State’s recommendations. It was renumbered as Objective 4.2 Subsistence Opportunities, in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.4 of the Revised Plan.”

Page 476, Response to Comment 136998.009: The word “instrument” should be plural “instruments”

Page 478, Response to Comment 032619.003: To clarify, Goal 5 and Objective 5.1 are located in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.5. Also, the response is missing quotation marks around the text quoted from Objective 5.1 (i.e., “Refuge managers will continue to provide...river floating, and mountaineering.”)

Page 481, Response to Comment 136801.041: The phrase “may be” at the end of the first line on the page should be “to be”

Page 481, Response to Comment 136801.042: The response does not fully address the comment. The following sentences should be added to the response:

“Table 6-1 in Chapter 6 of the Revised Plan outlines the estimated start and completion dates for all the proposed step-down plans, including the Visitor Use Management Plan. We will begin visitor use planning immediately upon approval of the Revised Plan, and we anticipate it will take 3-5 years to complete.”

Page 485, Response to Comment 136805.066: The phrase “on them” should be deleted from the last sentence of the response.

Page 486, Response to Comment 136805.069: The phrase “in the planning process” at the end of the response should read “through the planning process.”

Page 490, Response to Comment 136816.014: The word “that” is missing after the word “experiences” in the last sentence of the response. The last sentence should read:

“During that process, we will identify the desired conditions and experiences that will meet refuge purposes...”

Page 492, Response to Comment 136801.048: The word “to” is missing before the phrase “Objective 8.1” in the second sentence of the response. The second sentence should read:

“Further, we direct your attention to Objective 8.1 (in Chapter 2, Section 2.1.8), which also addresses....”

Page 501, Response to Comment 136801.054: In the last sentence on the page, the phrase “a commitment of complete” should be “a commitment to complete”

Page 504, Response to Comment 136817.019: The National Interest Study will be conducted once every 15 years, not once every 10 years as written in the last line of the response.

Page 506, Response to Comment 136952.006: The brackets “[]” in the second line of the response should be deleted, and the cross-reference should read:

“In the second paragraph of Chapter 2, Section 2.4.16 (Public Use Facilities)....”

Page 511, Response to Comment 032665.001: For clarification: Alaskans have provided comments that have added great value to the planning process. However, because Arctic Refuge is Federal land, we must give equal consideration to all commenters, including those who do not live in Alaska.

Page 514, Response to Group T.1: Step-Down Plans: The second paragraph contains incorrect information. The paragraph should be revised to read as follows:

“The alternatives were revised to address immediate concerns about conditions on the Kongakut River. Now all the alternatives commit to completing a step-down plan for visitor use of the Refuge; the 1988 Plan committed to completing a Public Use Management Plan, and this was added to Alternative A (current management). “Alternatives B through F were modified to include a series of interim management measures for the Kongakut River: 1) working with guides to reduce the number of groups on the Kongakut River during heavy use periods; 2) working with commercial air operators to disperse commuting flight paths; 3) publishing schedules of proposed guided launch dates; 4) developing additional outreach materials; conducting occasional onsite checks; 5) modifying the current monitoring program to include criteria that specifically evaluate the effectiveness of management actions; and 6) identifying, evaluating, and rehabilitating impaired and impacted sites. These measures will be used in the interim to manage visitor use on the Kongakut River until the VUMP is developed and ready to be implemented. Additionally, Chapter 2 includes new Objective 2.7, Restoration of Impacted Sites, which was added to address the issue of cleaning up and restoring impacted sites across the Refuge, in both designated Wilderness and Minimal

Management areas. Please also see Chapter 2, Section 2.1.2, Objective 2.4 and Section 2.1.5, Objective 5.4.”

Page 515, Response to Comment T.3: The header says this is the response to comment “AR.3.” This is a typographic error that should read “T.3.”

Page 517, Response to Comment 136822.004: The second sentence should say:
“An environmental assessment was completed...”

Page 517, Response to Comment 032628.036: The last sentence should read:
“However, this issue will be addressed in the Wilderness Stewardship step-down planning process, which will include additional opportunities for public involvement.”

Page 518, Response to Comment 221407.001: The second sentence is awkwardly worded and should be revised to read:

“In the Revised Plan, these two step-down plans are our top priority; they will be started immediately upon approval of this Revised Plan and will address visitor use holistically throughout the entire Refuge.”

Page 518, Response to Comment 136813.005: The third to last sentence should read:

“Information gained from the public early in these step-down planning processes will also be helpful in drafting the VUMP and the WSP.”

Page 520, Response to Comment 032626.051: The second line on the page should read:

“Through the visitor use management and Wilderness stewardship planning processes...”

Page 520, Response to Comment 032626.051: The second paragraph contains incorrect information. The paragraph should be revised to read as follows:

“The alternatives were revised to address immediate concerns about conditions on the Kongakut River. Kongakut River management under Alternatives B and C places an interim cap on use by commercial recreational guide businesses starting in 2013 and expiring at the end of 2016 or when the VUMP is implemented, whichever occurs first. Alternatives B through F were modified to include a series of interim measures to manage visitor use on the Kongakut River until the VUMP is developed and is ready to be implemented: 1) working with guides to reduce the number of groups on the Kongakut River during heavy use periods; 2) working with commercial air operators to disperse commuting flight paths; 3) publishing schedules of proposed guided launch dates; 4) developing additional outreach materials; conducting occasional onsite checks; 5) modifying the current monitoring program to include criteria that specifically evaluate the effectiveness of management actions; and 6) identifying, evaluating, and rehabilitating impaired and impacted sites. Additionally, Chapter 2 includes new Objective 2.7, Restoration of Impacted Sites, which was added to address the issue of

cleaning up and restoring impacted sites across the Refuge, in both designated Wilderness and Minimal Management areas.”

Page 524, Response to Comment 136796.013: In the middle of the paragraph it should say “...consistent with the Refuge’s special values...”

Page 527, Response to Comment 032624.001: Replace the last sentence in the third paragraph with:

“Additionally, Alternatives B through F were modified to include a series of interim management measures: 1) working with guides to reduce the number of groups on the Kongakut River during heavy use periods; 2) working with commercial air operators to disperse commuting flight paths; 3) publishing schedules of proposed guided launch dates; 4) developing additional outreach materials; conducting occasional onsite checks; 5) modifying the current monitoring program to include criteria that specifically evaluate the effectiveness of management actions; and 6) identifying, evaluating, and rehabilitating impaired and impacted sites.”

In addition, the third sentence in the second paragraph should read:

“Through the visitor use management and Wilderness stewardship planning processes...”

Page 532, Response to Comment 000056.001: In the first sentence, the word “further” should be deleted.

Page 534, Response to Comment 136815.003: The third sentence is awkwardly worded and should be revised to read:

“Rather, they were used as examples of the different geographic availability and abundance of species and the subsequent barter and exchange among villages most proximate to Arctic Refuge.”

Additionally, a cross-reference should be added to the last sentence of the response: “(see Chapter 4, Section 4.4.3.8).”

Page 537, Response to Comment 222173.001: The last sentence of the second paragraph should read:

“These regulations have been in place for several decades...to ensure they provide a continued opportunity...”

Page 537, Response to Comment 136676.001: The first line is missing a word and should read:

“...to provide the best available information....”

Additionally, the second sentence should be reworded as follows:

“Our photographic resources regarding subsistence and cultural uses of our neighboring communities are quite limited.”

Page 538, Response to Comment 136815.005: The second to last sentence (that which starts with “Section 4.4.4.2 further acknowledges...”) should be deleted; it is already in the previous paragraph.

Page 539, Response to Comment 136846.001: In the second to last line on the page, the word “use” should be deleted before the phrase “subsistence use”

Page 540, Response to Comment 136846.001: The first two sentences on the page should read:

“The draft Plan in Chapter 4, Section 4.4.1.2 describes the earliest prehistoric archeological records for areas south of the Brooks Range that remained ice-free during the last glaciations. Bones that were possibly modified by humans from Old Crow Flats in the Yukon Territory may date to as old as 27,000 years ago.”

Page 540, Response to Comment 136846.001: The third to last sentence on the page should read:

“Reverend Albert Tritt from Arctic Village, a Neets’aii Gwich’in born in 1880, wrote that his people led a nomadic life, traveling to the arctic coast, Rampart, Old Crow, the Coleen River, and Fort Yukon in the 1880s and 1890s (see Chapter 4, Section 4.4.4.2).”

Page 547, Response to Comment 136684.001: The first sentence of the response should read:

“Use of airplanes for access to the Refuge is authorized by...”

Page 550, Response to Comment 136804.005: The word “refuge” in the second sentence should not be capitalized because we are talking about any national wildlife refuge in Alaska.

Page 551, Response to Comment 136816.019 In the second paragraph second sentence we refer to “the application.” To clarify, we are referring to a special use permit application. Persons or groups who have an inholding may apply for a permit to access this inholding.

Page 570, Response to Comment 137013.003: “Refuge” should be capitalized in the last sentence because it refers to Arctic Refuge.

Page 573, Response to Comment 032627.042: The word “river” in the second sentence should be singular:

“The Revised Plan includes a wild and scenic river review...”

Page 581, Response to Comment 032628.015: This response should read:

“We appreciate your concerns regarding the effects of visitor use (including impacts from aircraft landings) in areas of the Refuge other than the Kongakut River. The proposed

Visitor Use Management and Wilderness Stewardship step-down plans will address, among other things, aircraft landing impacts (see Chapter 2, Section 2.1.2, Objective 2.4, and Section 2.1.5, Objectives 5.4 and 5.9). Together, these step-down plans will allow the Service to address visitor use concerns for the entire Refuge in a holistic manner. The Refuge is committed to completing these plans and has elevated their priority: the planning processes are scheduled to begin immediately following approval of the Revised Plan.

“The alternatives were revised to address immediate concerns about conditions on the Kongakut River. Kongakut River management under Alternatives B and C places an interim cap on use by commercial recreational guide businesses starting in 2013 and expiring at the end of 2016 or when the VUMP is implemented, whichever occurs first. Alternatives B through F were modified to include a series of interim measures to manage visitor use on the Kongakut River until the VUMP is developed and is ready to be implemented: 1) working with guides to reduce the number of groups on the Kongakut River during heavy use periods; 2) working with commercial air operators to disperse commuting flight paths; 3) publishing schedules of proposed guided launch dates; 4) developing additional outreach materials; conducting occasional onsite checks; 5) modifying the current monitoring program to include criteria that specifically evaluate the effectiveness of management actions; and 6) identifying, evaluating, and rehabilitating impaired and impacted sites. Additionally, Chapter 2 includes new Objective 2.7, Restoration of Impacted Sites, which was added to address the issue of cleaning up and restoring impacted sites across the Refuge, in both designated Wilderness and Minimal Management areas.

We acknowledge that the draft Plan did not adequately identify and describe the significant problems that may adversely affect fish and wildlife populations and habitats according to ANILCA Section 304(g)(2)(E). This has been remedied and the Revised Plan now contains Section 1.10 (Chapter 1) which includes a discussion of the effects of visitor access and activities on fish, wildlife, and their habitats.”

Page 582, Response to Comment 136711.001: “Processes” in the last sentence of the first paragraph should be singular, “process.”

Page 583, Response to Comment 137013.001: In the second sentence, the phrase “a wild rivers” should be changed to “wild rivers” (i.e., delete the word “a”).

Page 584, Response to Comment 032621.008: The second sentence has a grammatical error and a misspelling. It should read:

“The river may also be a corridor for some waterfowl movement and migration, but it has not been identified as an exemplary resource for wildlife migrations.”

Also, the word “that” in the second to last sentence should be deleted.

Page 585, Response to Comment 032663.001: The word “that” in the second sentence should be deleted.

Page 591, Response to Comment 032626.081: The text in the middle of the paragraph should read:

“The Jago River’s scores for number of habitat types and diversity of species were similar to the scores of other coastal plain rivers...”

Page 594, Response to Comment 136858.001: The first sentence is awkwardly worded and should be revised to read:

“The effects of each alternative, including the effects of potential wilderness recommendations, are described in Chapter 5 of the Revised Plan.”

Page 598, Response to Comment 136805.012: In the first sentence of the third paragraph, the word “Wilderness” should be capitalized in the phrase “Wilderness character;” we are referring to designated Wilderness.

This also applies to the second sentence of “Response to Comment 136805.021” on page 601.

Page 607, Response to Comment 136749.001: The cross-reference in the first sentence is to Appendix H, Section H.2 of the Revised Plan.

Page 607, Response to Comment 136805.015: The response should read as follows:

“In examining the potential positive and negative effects of Wilderness designation, the Service carefully considered effects upon the wildlife conservation and management programs conducted by both the Service and the State. Research projects proposed by the Service, the State, or other cooperators, that preserve Wilderness character to the greatest extent possible would be permitted and encouraged. Wilderness designation would not affect the jurisdiction or responsibilities of the State with respect to fish and wildlife management, although activities would have to be determined through a Minimum Requirement Analysis (MRA) to be the minimum requirement necessary to manage the area as Wilderness, whether or not a normally prohibited use is considered. Routine operations, for example most fish and wildlife surveys, would only require periodic updating of an initial programmatic MRA; thus, the long-term time commitment would be minimal.”

Page 611, Response to Comment 136805.150: The first sentence should read:

“Potential oil and gas resources underlying the 1002 Area are not listed among the Refuge’s special values...”

Page 608, Response to Comment 136805.148: The policy citation on the third line contains a typographic error. It should read “610 FW 4.4”

Page 615, Response to Group Y.1: Wildlife: In the second sentence, the word “refuge” should be lower case; the statement applies to all the national wildlife refuges in Alaska.

4. Volume 4

CD Version: Appendix O, P, and Q – Comments that required a response from the Service are not highlighted in gray, but rather are highlighted in light or dark yellow. Preambles to comments are highlighted in light blue.

Print Version: Appendix Q was inadvertently included twice in Volume 4. The volume contains all of the intended appendices, and no appendix is missing.