

## LEGAL NOTICE

### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announces the availability for public review of a Draft Environmental Assessment for a proposed 3-Dimensional seismic survey to be conducted on lands within the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge). The Service has received an application for a special use permit to conduct the seismic survey from Apache Alaska Corporation (Apache). 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 coal, oil and gas resources and other subsurface estate 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.

The Draft Environmental Assessment is available on the following websites: <http://bit.ly/YnpPMB> (this file is 15MB) and <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/nepa.htm>. Hard copies are available at the Kenai NWR Headquarters, Ski Hill Road, Soldotna, Alaska.

Comments on the draft Environmental Assessment must be received by May 31, 2013, and may be sent electronically to [kenai@fws.gov](mailto:kenai@fws.gov); by mail to Refuge Manager, Kenai NWR, Soldotna, AK 99669; or by fax to (907)262-3599 (attention Refuge Manager).