

National Wildlife Refuge System - Alaska
Special Use Permit Application Guidance
For Scientific Research Projects

The following guidance should be followed in completing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Special Use Application and Permit (FWS Form 3-1383) for projects involving scientific research, including biological, archaeological, and geological research, etc. Please contact the appropriate refuge headquarters office if you have any questions about completing the application form.

Block 1. Please indicate the name of the national wildlife refuges in Alaska on which you propose to conduct scientific research.

Block 2. Enter the date of the application.

Block 3. Indicate the dates when the activity on the refuge will be conducted.

Block 4. Please complete the applicant information as requested. The applicant's name should be that of the research project leader who is responsible for all aspects of the proposed project.

Block 5. Check the box for "research/monitoring."

Block 6. Submit a research proposal with your application, which describes in detail your research project, and includes the following information, where applicable (add additional sheets as necessary):

- a) Submit a map showing the location of the proposed activities. Note: If the area of use is designated wilderness, or will occur on Native or state selected lands, please see additional information below.
- b) Period of activity: Clearly state the dates that activity on the refuge will occur. If several different areas are involved, please indicate the dates that you will be working in each area.
- c) If personnel will stay overnight on refuge lands, describe the proposed camp, including the number and type of housing facilities that will be used.
- d) Describe the proposed methods of access within the refuge. For boats and aircraft, provide identifying characteristics, including type, color, registration numbers, and names, etc.

- e) Will fuel caches be needed on the refuge? If so, describe locations, amount of fuel to be stored, and containers to be used. Note: Fuel storage on the refuge must comply with the *Region 7 Fuel Storage Policy* (contact refuge for more information).
- f) Identify the number of people involved in the proposed activity, and for each person, provide name, role in the activity, and contact information.
- g) Describe your safety plan, including safety equipment (e.g., communications, first aid) available, and provide the names and contact information for individuals who will be monitoring the activity away from the field.

Block 7. Click on this button to print the application form.

Block 8. Sign and date the application and submit it to the appropriate refuge office. If the application is approved, the refuge office will provide a list of special permit conditions, which you must sign and return to the refuge office. You will then receive a signed special use permit authorizing your activity.

Animal Care and Use Approval

Projects conducted on USFWS lands that involve lethal or non-lethal capture, handling, marking, anesthesia, or surgery must have an approved Assurance of Animal Care Form prior to initiating research. An approval from another institution or agency will be accepted if it meets the USFWS Alaska Region Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) standards. In this case, principal investigators must submit a copy of their Assurance of Animal Care Form to the Alaska Region IACUC Coordinator, USFWS, 1011 E. Tudor Road, MS 211, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907-786-3384).

Additional information

Alaska Native and State Selected Lands: In accordance with the regulations at 43 CFR 2650.1, if the proposed activity would occur on Refuge lands that have been selected by an Alaska Native Corporation, the applicant is required to obtain a signed statement from each appropriate Native Corporation documenting their views, prior to the special use permit being issued. On State selected lands, permission must be obtained from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for any activities that involve construction of permanent facilities, or the removal of minerals or materials. If you are not familiar with the land status of your proposed use area, please contact the refuge office well in advance (at least six weeks) of your activity so the appropriate contacts can be made.

Wilderness Guidelines: If your proposed activity will occur on Refuge lands that are designated as wilderness, certain restrictions may apply. The Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits the use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, motorboats, or other forms of mechanical transport, the landing of aircraft, or the establishment of structures or installations. However, section 4(c) of the Wilderness Act provides for an exception to

the prohibited uses if the proposed action is “necessary to meet the minimum requirements for the administration of the area [as wilderness].” To the extent that scientific research conducted by state and federal agencies can be considered an administrative activity, prohibited uses may be authorized if the Refuge Manager determines, through a minimum requirements analysis, that they are the minimum necessary for the administration of the area. When prohibited uses are proposed, the applicant may be required to complete a *Minimum Requirements Decision Guide* (MRDG) as part of the application process. The MRDG and supporting information can be found at the Wilderness.net website at <http://www.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=MRDG>.

Non-government affiliated research may be conducted in wilderness, but access for this purpose will be limited to methods that are available to the public when engaged in traditional activities as described in section 1110 (a) of ANILCA. These include airplanes, motorboats, snowmachines, and nonmotorized surface transportation methods. Scientific research for commercial purposes is prohibited in designated wilderness areas.