

PUBLIC NOTICE

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is evaluating the use of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge for limited 2D seismic survey data gathering. This use would be conducted in compliance with all state and federal regulations, permits, and authorizations.

Before authorizing this use, federal law requires that the Service must 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 for which the refuge was established. A compatibility determination document facilitates an evaluation of such use.

The Service would like to know what you think about allowing limited 2D seismic survey data gathering on refuge lands adjoining privately owned land within the refuge boundaries. A compatibility determination has been drafted and is available for a 14-day public review and comment period. All comments received by March 25, 2010 will be considered in finalizing the determination.

You can view the draft compatibility determination online at <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/completed.htm> then scroll to Yukon Flats Refuge, or by contacting Yukon Flats Refuge online at yukonflats@fws.gov or calling (907) 456-0440.

Comments on the draft compatibility determination must be received by March 25, 2010 and may be sent electronically to yukonflats@fws.gov, or by mail to: Refuge Manager, Yukon Flats Refuge, 101 12th Avenue, Room 264, Fairbanks, AK 99701, or FAX (907) 456-0447 (attn: Refuge Manager).