



NASA Sounding Rockets Program Poker Flat Research Range



Environmental Impact Statement

Cooperating Agencies



University of Alaska – Fairbanks (UAF)

Poker Flat Research Range is owned by the University of Alaska. Since 1968, the range has been managed by the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In addition to launching sounding rockets, the range is home to scientific instruments designed to study the arctic atmosphere and ionosphere. The range employs a dozen full-time employees, and two part-time employees. During the launch season the personnel nearly doubles. The range also welcomes 60 to 100 scientists, technicians and other visitors annually. NASA contracts with UAF for PFRR operations and provides technical advice and range safety oversight.



Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

BLM manages and administers the use of federal public lands and resources in the area encompassed by the BLM's Eastern Interior Field Office in Alaska. BLM managed lands include the north and south units of the Steese National Conservation Area and the White Mountains National Recreation Area.

BLM would require a new permit application from UAF. If approved, the permit would authorize rocket and payload landing and recovery from BLM-administered lands.

Future Planning

The BLM and USFWS are currently preparing the following long-term plans:

- BLM Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan (RMP)
- USFWS Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) Yukon Flats CCP revisions.
- The results of these planning processes will play a substantial role in how future launches from PFRR would occur. The PFRR EIS considers the effects of each agency's respective permitting actions within the context of their long-term management objectives.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

The Alaska Region of the USFWS administers 16 National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) within the State of Alaska. These lands are administered for the conservation, management and, where appropriate, restoration of fish, wildlife and plant resources and their habitats. The primary purpose of Arctic and Yukon Flats NWRs is to conserve fish and wildlife populations and their habitats in their natural diversity.

USFWS would require a new permit application from UAF. If approved, the permit would authorize rocket and payload landing and recovery from USFWS-administered lands.