

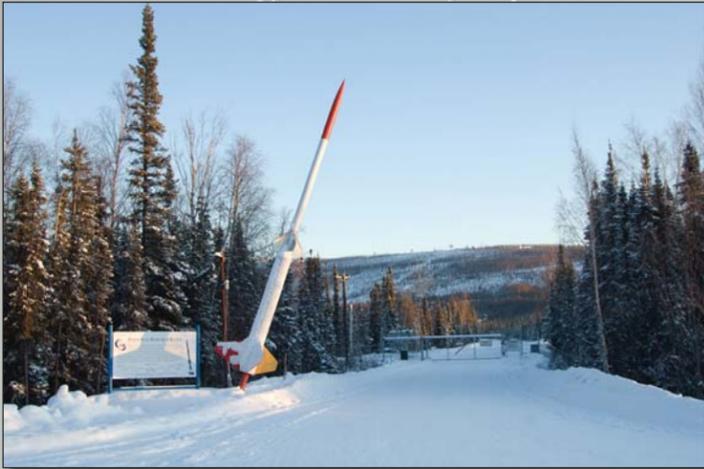


NASA Sounding Rockets Program Poker Flat Research Range



Environmental Impact Statement

Purpose and Need



- Ensure NASA and the global science community have a U.S. based capability to conduct high-latitude sounding rocket launches to aid in the understanding of phenomena affecting the ionosphere, the aurora borealis, and the sun-earth connection.
- Provide sufficient information to support USFWS and BLM decision-making to permit sounding rocket landings and recovery of rocket stages and payloads on federally managed lands, as appropriate.

Alternatives

Under all five alternatives, NASA would continue to fund UAF's PFRR and conduct scientific investigations using sounding rockets. Launches would be conducted during the winter months, with most occurring at night or in darkness.

➤ No Action Alternative

- Launches** – Same as in recent past; average 4 per year, 8 maximum
 - Avoid planning impacts within designated Wilderness Area(s)
- Recovery** – Only if part of research objectives



➤ Alternative 1

- Launches** – Same as No Action Alternative
- Recovery** – Implement funded Recovery Program for historic and future items
 - Maintain ability to leave all or part of item in downrange lands should conditions warrant

➤ Alternative 2

- Launches** – Same as No Action Alternative
- Recovery** – Same as Alternative 1, except all located items must be fully removed if safe for the recovery team



➤ Alternative 3

- Launches** – Same as No Action Alternative, except
 - No planned impacts within designated Wild or Scenic River corridors
- Recovery** – Same as Alternative 1

➤ Alternative 4

- Launches** – Same as Alternative 3
- Recovery** – Same as Alternative 2

