ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research & Services

Company Profile

ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research & Services (formerly Alaska Biological Research, Inc.) is an Alaskan-owned small business founded in 1976, with headquarters in Fairbanks, Alaska. ABR specializes in environmental impact studies, NEPA documentation, threatened and endangered species studies, vegetation and wetlands studies, natural resource inventories and surveys, GIS database creation and spatial analyses, permafrost studies, and ecological monitoring and restoration. Our staff of more than 30 professional scientists includes wildlife and fishery biologists, ecologists, botanists, wetland scientists, an oceanographer, and environmental scientists. Many of the senior scientists at ABR have over 15 years of experience with the company, and over 20 years experience with environmental studies in Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. ABR developed its reputation and expertise on Alaska projects, but since 1996 we have developed a strong wildlife and fisheries program in our Pacific Northwest office (Forest Grove, Oregon). In 2001, we opened a second office in Alaska in Anchorage, and in 2005, we expanded our operations to our Massachusetts office, where the initial focus will be on fisheries and macroinvertebrate studies.

***ALASKA Offices*—**ABR has undertaken more than 150 major projects ranging from the western Aleutians to the old-growth forests in Southeast Alaska. ABR scientists have worked with both state and federal resource agencies (USFS, NPS, BLM, MMS, USFWS, ADFG, ADNR), local governments, native organizations (Alaska natives and Pacific NW tribes), universities and research organizations (NSF), and industry (oil and gas, mining, timber, utilities, including wind power) on projects throughout Alaska and the USA. Most recently, our Alaska office has been involved in several major projects for mining companies, as exploration for mineral resources has increased in the state. These projects include the Jualin Mine in southeast Alaska, the Pebble Mine near Lake Iliamna, the Pogo Mine in interior Alaska, and the Rock Creek mine near Nome. We also have supported several mining companies seeking coal within the state: Arctic Coal project near Pt. Lay, Usibelli Coal Mine near Healy, and the Chuitna Mine on the west side of Cook Inlet. ABR also has conducted wetland, vegetation, and rehabilitation studies for the Ekati™ and Diavik diamond mining operations in northwestern Canada. ABR has conducted annual aerial surveys for caribou at the Red Dog Mine since 1997, assisted in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report for the new Aqqaluk deposit at the mine, and is beginning a 3-year revegetation study this year. We also continue to be leaders in research associated with the Oil and Utility industries in Alaska. Projects for the oil and utility industries have included wildlife and fisheries surveys, environmental assessments of proposed projects in northern and western Alaska, and wetlands delineations, and restoration.

***PACIFIC NORTHWEST Office*—**Beginning in 1996, with the opening of our office in Forest Grove, Oregon, ABR has expanded this office and increased the range of services we offer in the Pacific Northwest and throughout the contiguous US. Initially our Oregon office focused on developing the use of mobile radar (ornithological radar) to assess the movements and occurrence of the threatened seabird, the marbled murrelet, in old-growth forest stands in Oregon, Washington, and California. Since then, we have expanded and now conduct research on endangered species in the Pacific Northwest, Hawaii, and the intermountain West. We also have been one of the leading companies developing protocols and techniques to assess the potential impacts of wind power developments on birds and bats across the United States, as well as overseas. We are currently conducting multiple studies using ornithological radar to assessment bird and bat movements in the vicinity of proposed wind farm projects in locations ranging from

the Appalachian Mountains of West Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania, and have completed studies along the Texas Gulf Coast, in eastern Oregon, and the on Pacific coast. In addition to our avian research staff in the Pacific Northwest, we have an active fisheries and watershed studies.

MASSACHUSETTS Office—We most recently opened an office in Massachusetts that will focus initially on fisheries and macroinvertebrates studies. We fully expect this office to grow in both size and the scope of services as we build our business in the eastern USA.

For more information on ABR and our other services please visit our website at http:\\www.abrinc.com

ABR Office Locations and Contact Information

MAIN OFFICE
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ABR SERVICES PROVIDED UNDER EACH SIN

SIN 899-1: Environmental Planning Services and Documentation

ABR will provide operational services, advice, and/or guidance in support of environmental planning for specific projects and general activities. We have assembled a highly qualified team of experienced scientists able to provide a variety of environmental planning services and documentation. ABR scientists have specialized experience in the analysis of environmental impacts, with a proven record of effectiveness in designing and reporting objective research. In our 30 years of operation, we have fulfilled the needs of clients in both private industry and public agencies in a broad variety of projects throughout Alaska and the USA.

ABR has prepared environmental assessments and environmental impact statements in compliance with NEPA regulations and lead agency procedures, and our scientists have participated as expert members on interdisciplinary teams in the preparation of such documents. Our **NEPA projects** have included **environmental impact statements** (EIS) for the Northern Intertie powerline alignment between Healy and Fairbanks, the Trans–Alaska Gas System, road access to an in-holding in Denali National Park and Preserve, the backcountry management plan for Denali NP&P, King Cove–Cold Bay access development, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve vessel quotas, and the Unalaska Airport. Our experience in the preparation of **environmental assessments** (EA) includes those for a airport projects for the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities; a visitors center in Fairbanks, AK; a variety of facility upgrades in the Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk oilfields; the proposed Sunfish oil development in Cook Inlet; Trans-Alaska pipeline replacements at Atigun Pass and on the Chandalar Shelf; airport facility planning at the Palmer, Alaska, Airport; new road construction in the Eureka-Rampart, Alaska, area; and spill containment repairs at Eareckson AFB on Shemya Island, western Aleutian Chain. ABR has participated in all areas of the NEPA process from initial **scoping meetings** with agencies and the public, writing EA and EIS documents, **public meetings** to review draft documents, and addressing final comments from EA/EIS reviewers.

Our specific environmental impact services include

- NEPA Documentation (EIS, EA, Categorical Exclusions)
- Pre-construction Baseline Studies
- Post-construction Monitoring
- Mitigation Planning
- Permitting Consultation
- Information Retrieval and Synthesis
- Expert Testimony

To complement our services in the environmental impact area, ABR can draw on its reputation for conducting **wildlife studies** and providing **environmental services** to federal, state, and private clients. We have state-of-the-art capabilities in the use of conventional and satellite telemetry, radar, and specialized sampling and census procedures. We have designed empirical studies to assess potential impacts of powerlines, roads, pipelines, mining, and oilfield facilities on migratory birds, big game, and furbearers. Our services include **species inventories/censuses**,

capture and marking, **radio telemetry**, life history studies, disturbance and behavioral studies, **endangered species surveys**, animal control studies, and migration and habitat studies.

ABR also has developed a diverse team of biologists and creative approaches to identify, delineate, and solve problems associated with **threatened and endangered species** (TES). We have worked in Alaska, Colorado, California, Texas, the Pacific Northwest, the eastern US, and Hawaii on projects ranging from basic inventories to complex species-facility disturbance studies. In addition to our survey work for threatened and endangered species, ABR scientists have prepared **biological assessments** (often required by the Endangered Species Act) for clients and have conducted more intensive species-specific studies of several endangered species, including assessing effects of low-flying jet aircraft on nesting peregrine falcons and monitoring breeding spectacled eiders on Alaska's North Slope. ABR's expertise in endangered species has been used by federal agencies in the **recovery planning** process for several species: an ABR scientist was a member of the recovery team for the spectacled eider and ABR scientists prepared the draft recovery plan for the Steller's eider under contract to the USFWS.

ABR also has a team of scientists with expertise in **wetland delineations and functional analysis, plant ecology, soil science**, **mitigation**, **environmental monitoring**, and **wetland restoration and creation**. ABR's wetland scientists have received extensive training in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wetland delineation procedures and in **HGM analyses**. Our wetlands expertise, in concert with our excellent in-house GIS capabilities, has allowed ABR to be a market-leader in the preparation of high-quality wetland mapping products that can be used for environmental planning and impact assessments. Our specific wetland services include

- Wetland Delineations and Jurisdictional Determinations
- Functions and Values Analysis
- Wetland Restoration
- Site and Regional Assessments
- Regulatory Compliance and Permit Consultation (Section 404)
- Mitigation and Restoration Planning
- Ground-water Monitoring
- Soils Description and Analysis

SIN 899-7: Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

ABR will provide operational services, advice, and/or guidance in support of the agencies' **geographic information systems (GIS)** needs for specific projects and general activities. ABR employs state-of-the-art software and hardware for a variety of GIS mapping needs. Our GIS Department has extensive experience in a variety of systems on multiple stations including *ArcGIS*, *Arc/Info*, *ArcView*, *ER Mapper*, *Erdas Imaging*, and *AutoCAD*. Our experience with **remote-sensing** formats includes high-resolution aerial photography, IKONOS, Landsat, SPOT, MODIS, QuickBird, and AVHRR imagery. ABR routinely produces maps meeting or exceeding USGS map standards and can use GPS techniques to improve map registration. Our combination of field and computer experience allows us to effectively integrate scientific knowledge with spatial information. This expertise could be used in developing a number of report or map

products required for permit compliance (wetland delineations for CWA Section 404 Permits), NEPA documentation (resource mapping and study area depiction; scoping/public meetings; final EIS graphics), and other environmental service needs. Specific uses of our GIS could include:

- Wetlands, Vegetation, Geomorphological Mapping
- Spatial Analyses (vegetation and wildlife integration)
- Habitat Modeling (ESA species, HCP development)
- GPS Integration and Map Control
- GPS/GIS Geodetic Map Control
- Ecological Land Classification
- Satellite and Aerial Image Analysis
- Historic Ecological Comparisons
- Remote Impact Monitoring

ABR's GIS personnel are experienced in all aspects of **photointerpretation**, **digital image processing**, and metadata documentation standards for digital media. ABR has been a pioneer in the development of **Ecological Land Classifications** (ELC) for military bases in Alaska. ELCs use an integrated-terrain unit (ITU) approach that involves classifying and mapping basic ecosystem components: terrain (landform, soils), surface-forms (slope, aspect), and vegetation. Digital data are provided that conform to Tri-Service Standards and metadata files can be provided along with all final digital data in ESRI *ArcView* or *ArcInfo* format on CD.

In addition to our basic GIS services, ABR has extensive experience integrating vegetation, wetland, and wildlife studies into a GIS framework and managing large multi-disciplinary databases. ABR worked on the first GIS-based oil-spill response system developed for the oilfields on Alaska's North Slope and integrated multiple years of wildlife data, vegetation and wetland descriptions, and identified sensitive habitat and wildlife use areas for spill planners. Our GIS services also have been used extensively for developmental planning for new oilfields and mining prospects in northern and interior Alaska, including preparation of permitting documents and environmental assessments.

SIN 899-99: New Services—Radar Ornithology and Avian Collision Studies

An important component of ABR's environmental services program includes evaluating the interactions of birds and bats with man-made structures. To perform this service we have developed **mobile radar laboratories**, comprised of marine radars to help measure the magnitude, direction, and altitude of movements; and we have supplemented this technical expertise with experienced biologists that use night-vision equipment to help determine composition of movements. We also have used these mobile radars to assess the populations of several threatened and endangered birds, including marbled murrelets in the Pacific Northwest, and endangered petrels and other seabirds on the Hawaiian Islands.

In the past decade, we have become a leader in developing and using innovative ways of detecting and monitoring bird activity at proposed and existing powerlines, wind turbines and wind farms, antenna fields, airports, and communication towers. More recently, we have expanded our studies to include impacts on bats, which may be plentiful at some sites. Our team

has worked during the **permitting, site assessment, impact identification,** and **mitigation** phases of projects. In the process, we have improved our techniques and developed mobile radar laboratories equipped with state-of-the-art radar and night-vision equipment. Specific services and products we can offer include

- Site assessments for turbine, tower, and powerlines
- Monitoring rates of nocturnal and diurnal bird and bat migration/movements in relation to existing structures or proposed developments
- Identifying migration and movement corridors for birds and bats in relation to existing structures or proposed developments
- Monitoring bird and bat activity near existing structures
- Measuring behaviors of birds and bats interacting with structures
- Identifying time periods or conditions when low-altitude flights occur
- Estimating mortality due to collisions with structures
- Inventorying threatened and endangered birds and bats and monitoring populations
- Testing existing visual protocols for estimating populations of birds and bats
- Recommending mitigative strategies to reduce or eliminate wildlife impacts

Current and Recent (2004–2006) U.S. Government Contracts

Contracting Agency	Location	Type of Work	GSA Contract?
Bureau of Land Management	Alaska Northern Region	Endangered Species surveys (Steller's Eider)	Yes
Bureau of Land Management	Northern Region, AK	Caribou literature review	Yes
Bureau of Land Management	40-Mile River	Peregrine Falcon survey	Yes
Fish and Wildlife Service	Tanana River, AK	Raptor surveys	Yes
Fish and Wildlife Service	Yukon River basin, AK	Raptor studies (Peregrine Falcon)	No
Forest Service	Chugach NF	Repeat Landscape Photography	Yes
Minerals Management Service	Colville River Delta, AK	Arctic cisco fisheries and population study	No
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Gulf of Alaska	*Exxon Valdez* and GLOBEC studies	No
National Park Service	Denali National Park & Preserve	Effects of dust palliative on roadside vegetation	Yes
National Park Service	Denali National Park & Preserve	Landscape change in the park	Yes
National Park Service	Arctic Network, Alaska Inventory & Monitoring Program	Coastal landscape and geomorphology modeling	No
National Park Service	Arctic Network, Alaska Inventory & Monitoring Program	Ecological land survey	Yes
National Park Service	Southwestern Alaska Network, Alaska Parks Inventory & Monitoring Program	Historical and current photographic comparisons identifying long-term landscape changes	Yes
National Park Service	Wrangell–St. Elias National Park & Preserve, AK	Ecological landscape characterization	Yes
National Science Foundation	Central Alaska	Permafrost degradation	No
National Science Foundation	Northern Alaska	Coastal dynamics	No
U.S. Air Force	Tin City, AK	Sandhill Crane migration study	Yes
U.S. Air Force	Attu and Near islands, Aleutians, AK	Aleutian Canada Goose habitat study	Yes
U.S. Air Force	LRRS Sites, northern AK	Threatened Eider Surveys	Yes
U.S. Army	Tanana River flats, AK	Airboat disturbance study (vegetation & wildlife)	Yes
U.S. Army	Fort Richardson, AK	Ecosystem management plans	Yes
U.S. Army–AK National Guard	Stewart River Training Area, western AK	Breeding-bird surveys	Yes
U.S. Coast Guard	Hawaii	Radar study at towers	No
U.S. Coast Guard	Pahoa, Hawaii	Radar study of endangered shearwaters	No

Contracting with ABR, Inc. under the GSA System

Please contact our main office in Fairbanks, Alaska, for information on contracting with ABR for the SINs described herein. We prepare our proposals, bid documents, and contract specifications to meet our customer's specific needs. Our primary contact in the Fairbanks office is Tom DeLong (tdelong@abrinc.com), Contracts Manager, phone: 907-455-6777.

ABR, Inc., Price List, 2006 (Rates effective MOD PS-0003)

Job Classification	Oregon Hourly Rate (in US dollars)	Alaska Hourly Rate (in US dollars)
Senior Scientist V Principal	117.66	124.27
Senior Scientist IV	102.27	107.77
Senior Scientist III	90.64	95.70
Senior Scientist II	85.32	89.33
Senior Scientist I	72.92	76.93
Resource Specialist	84.41	88.59
GIS Specialist III	68.91	72.91
GIS Specialist II	59.92	62.83
GIS Specialist I	51.82	54.17
Research Biologist IV	66.63	69.47
Research Biologist III	58.49	61.63
Research Biologist II	53.55	56.70
Research Biologist I	49.00	51.00
Contract/Office Manager	81.38	85.77
Asst. Office Manager	47.60	50.40
Technician IV	43.81	45.72
Technician III	39.00	40.95
Technician II	34.92	36.92
Technician I	30.25	31.27
Word Processor	44.00	46.18
Clerical	30.00	31.50
Intern	18.00	18.90