



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Central Yukon Field Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>



In Reply Refer To:
FF-096033

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION / PLAN CONFORMANCE DOCUMENTATION AND
DECISION FOR UAF / GUIDO GROSSE RESEARCH PERMIT
FF-096033**

DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0007-CX

Proposed Action: Issue a Permit for environmental research on three arctic lakes

Location: Toolik Lake RNA, at Secs. 7, 20 & 29, T. 9 S., R. 11 E., Umiat Meridian

Applicant: University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)

Serial Number: FF-096033

Date of Proposed Action: April 1, 2012 through September 30, 2015

Description of Proposed Action:

UAF proposes to collect data on three arctic lakes located within the Toolik Lake RNA as part of a National Science Foundation funded project, the Circum-Arctic Lakes Observatory Network (CALON).

Figure 1 (next page) shows an overview of the area indicating the 3 lakes proposed for this research, designated as Too-006; Too-004; and Too-003 (Toolik Lake).

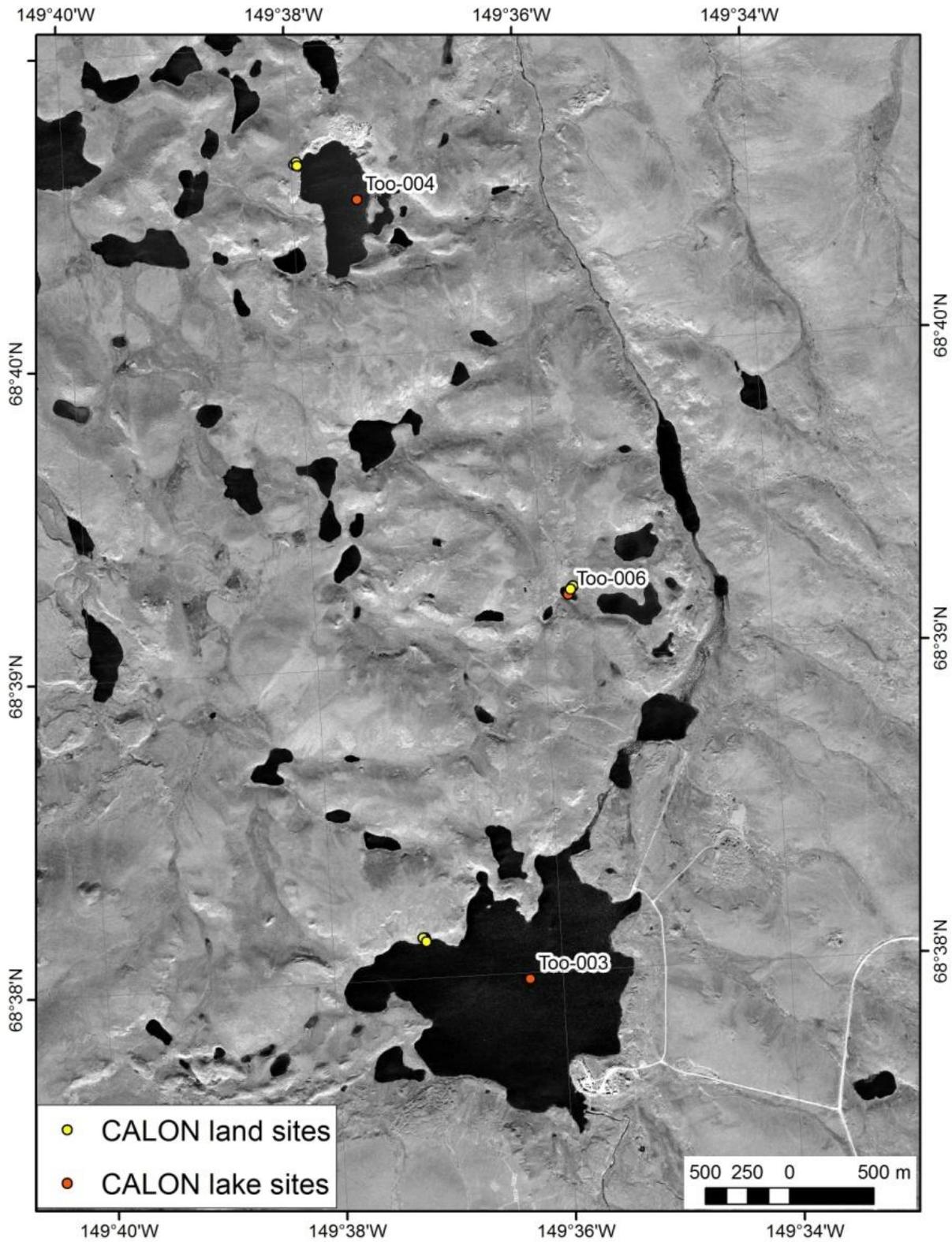


Figure 1

SITE Too-003:

At site Too-003 applicant would install a floating meteorological station (see figures 2 & 3),

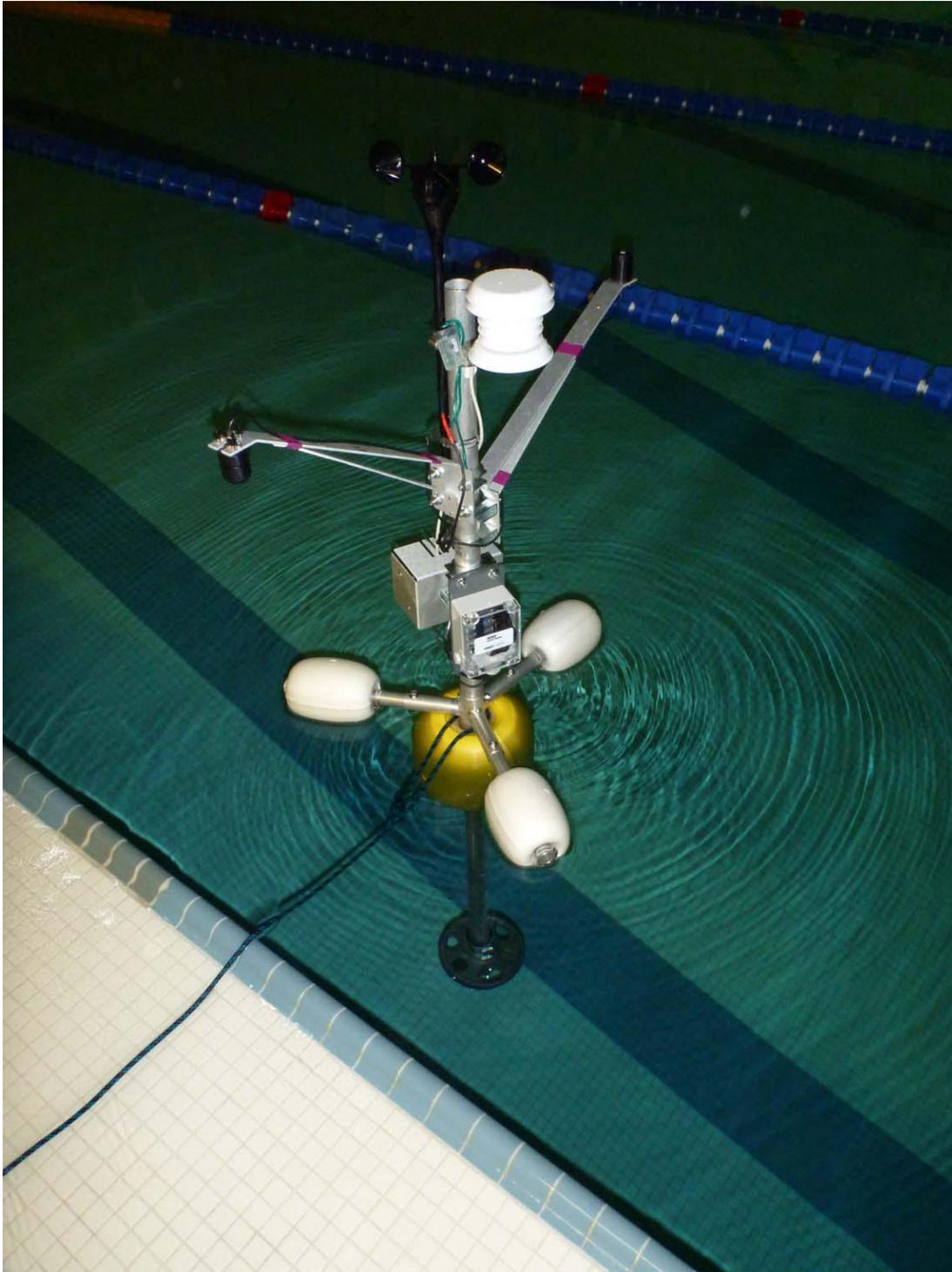


Figure 2

Lake Buoy installation - Enhanced

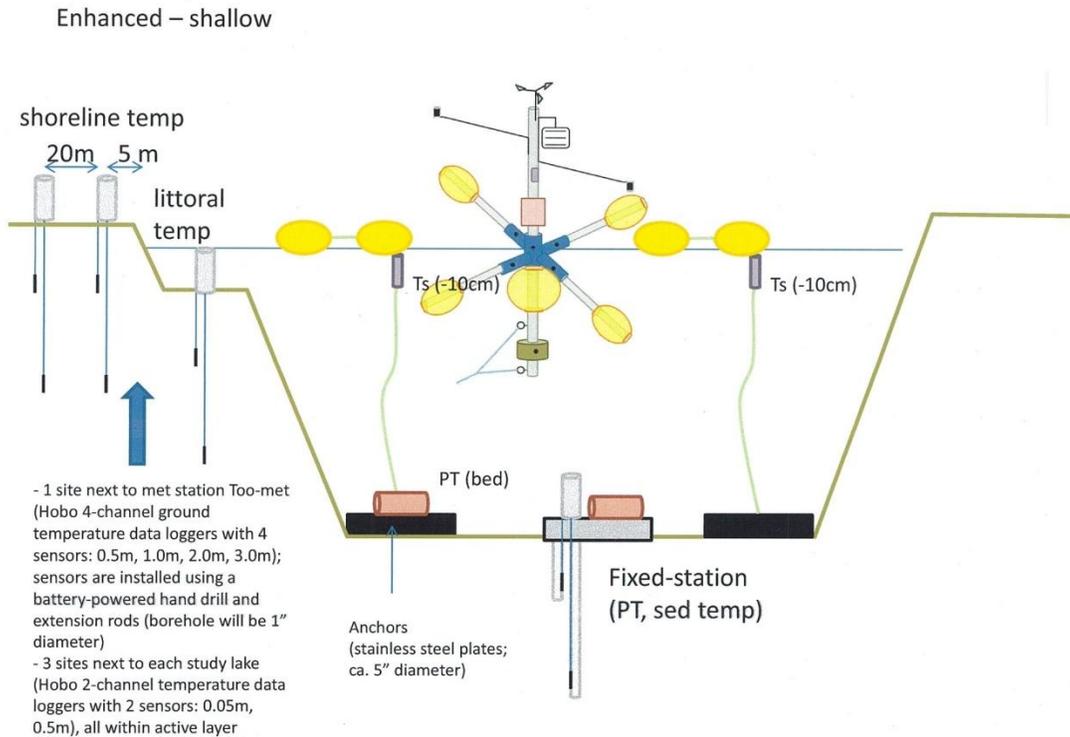


Figure 3 – NOTE: station ‘Too-met’ referenced in the above diagram is on DNR managed lands, and is not pertinent to the action analyzed in this CX.

Also at this lake, one of two 2 meter high tripods will be placed, anchored with rebar and guy wires, supporting a time lapse camera facing the lake. The camera will transmit images in real-time via a network connection to the internet.

Next to each of the 3 lakes, temperature data loggers will be installed into the ground to a depth of .05 and .5 meters as indicated in the above diagram (Figure 3). This will be done at 3 separate stations for each lake – at the shoreline; at 5 meters out; and at 20 meters out. Temperature sensors will be installed using a battery powered hand drill and extension rods; borehole will be 1" diameter. Coordinates for installation at station Too-003 are:

- 1.) 68.635295, -149.619792
- 2.) 68.635368, -149.619848
- 3.) 68.635479, -149.619946

and for camera tripod are:

Cam 68.635486, -149.620273

as shown on the map in Figure 4, next page.

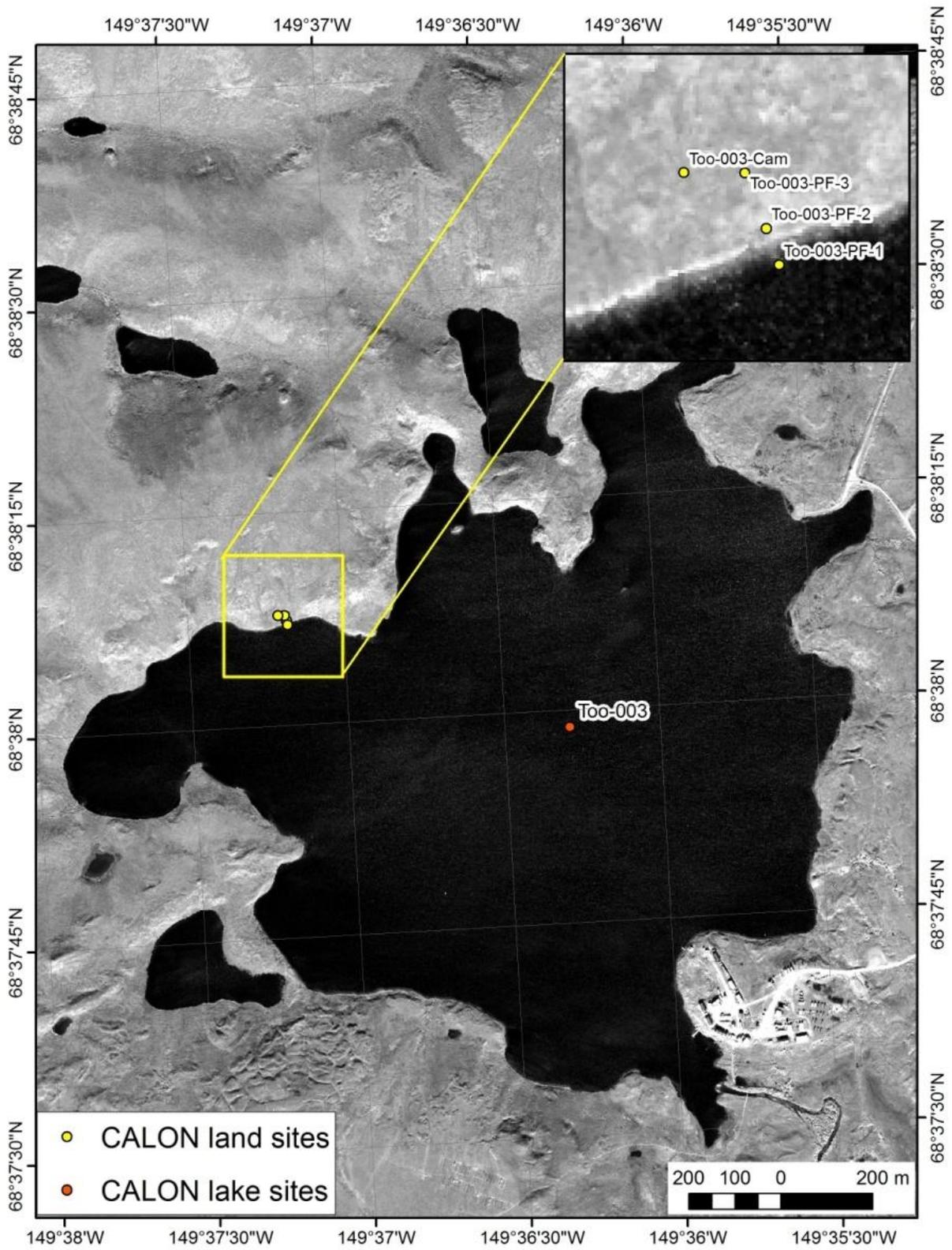


Figure 4

SITE Too-004:

At site Too-004 applicant would install an underwater pressure/temperature logger weighted by a 5” diameter stainless steel plate, and attached to a buoy which would keep an additional temperature logger near the surface of the water. See Figure 5, below.

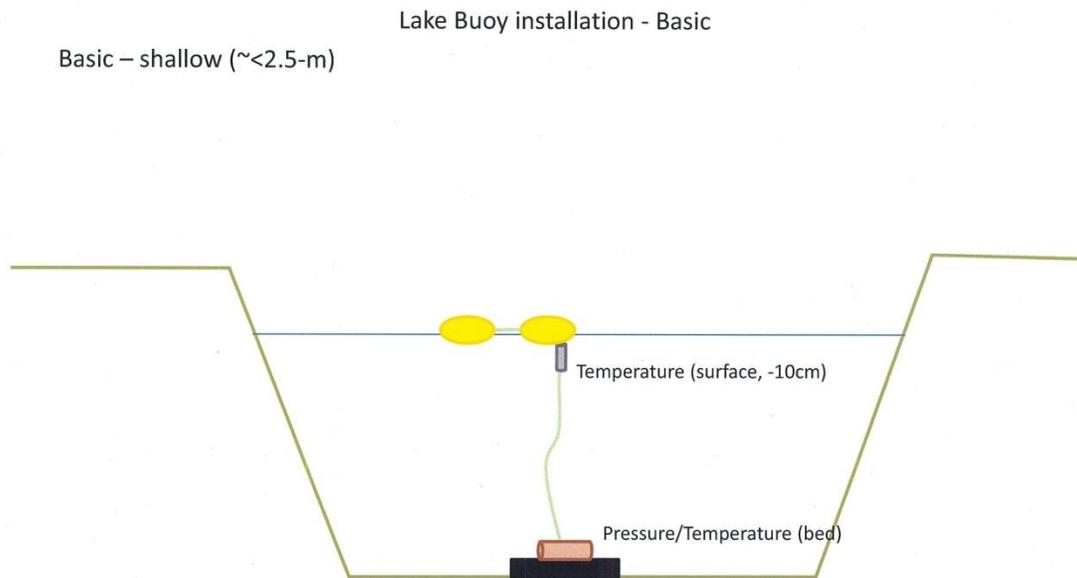


Figure 5

This lake will also have ground temperature data loggers and a camera tripod as at the previously described lake, at the following coordinates:

- 1.) 68.676975, -149.632490
- 2.) 68.677010, -149.632731
- 3.) 68.677047, -149.632961

and for camera tripod are:

Cam 68.677159, -149.632596

as shown on the map in Figure 6, next page.

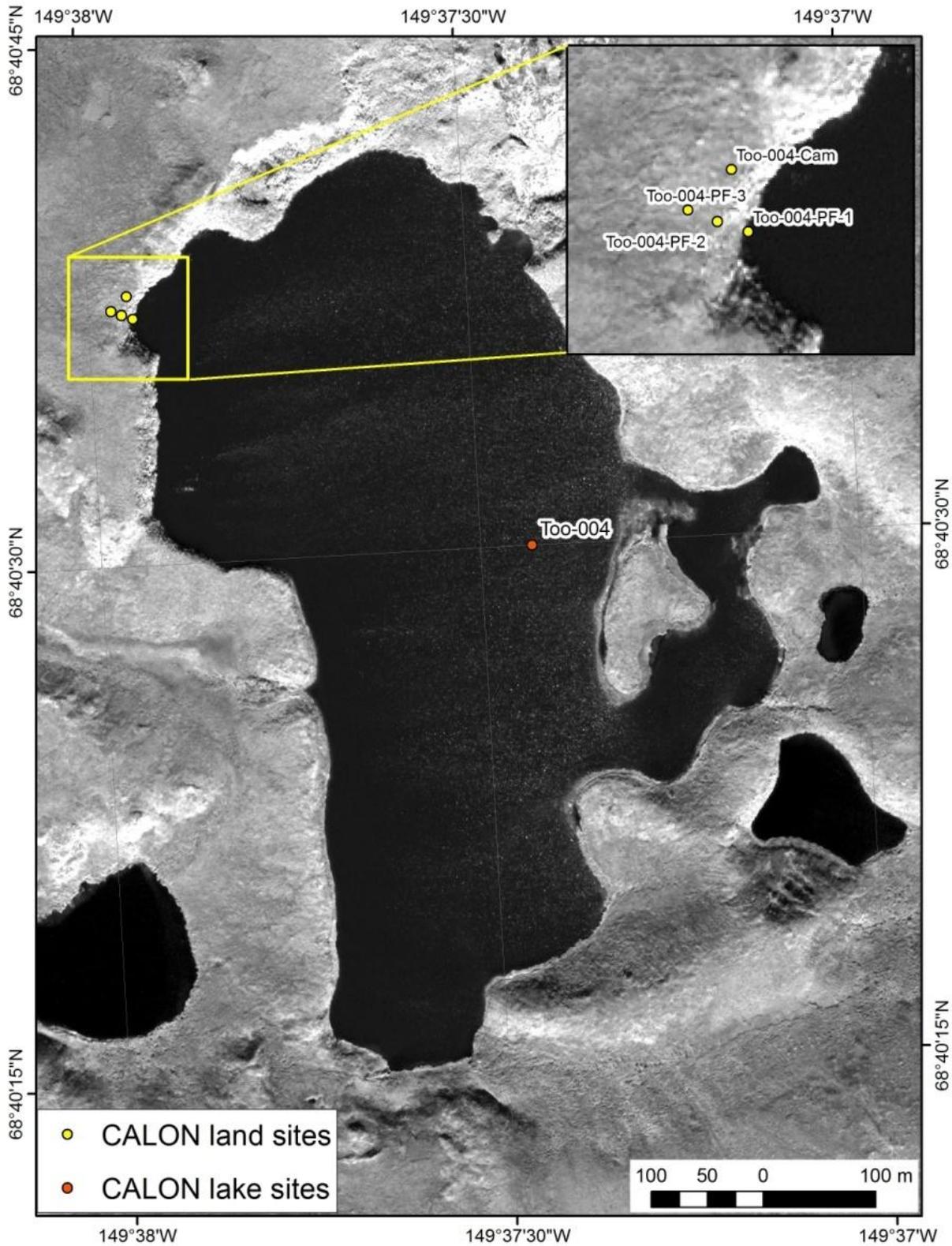


Figure 6

SITE Too-006:

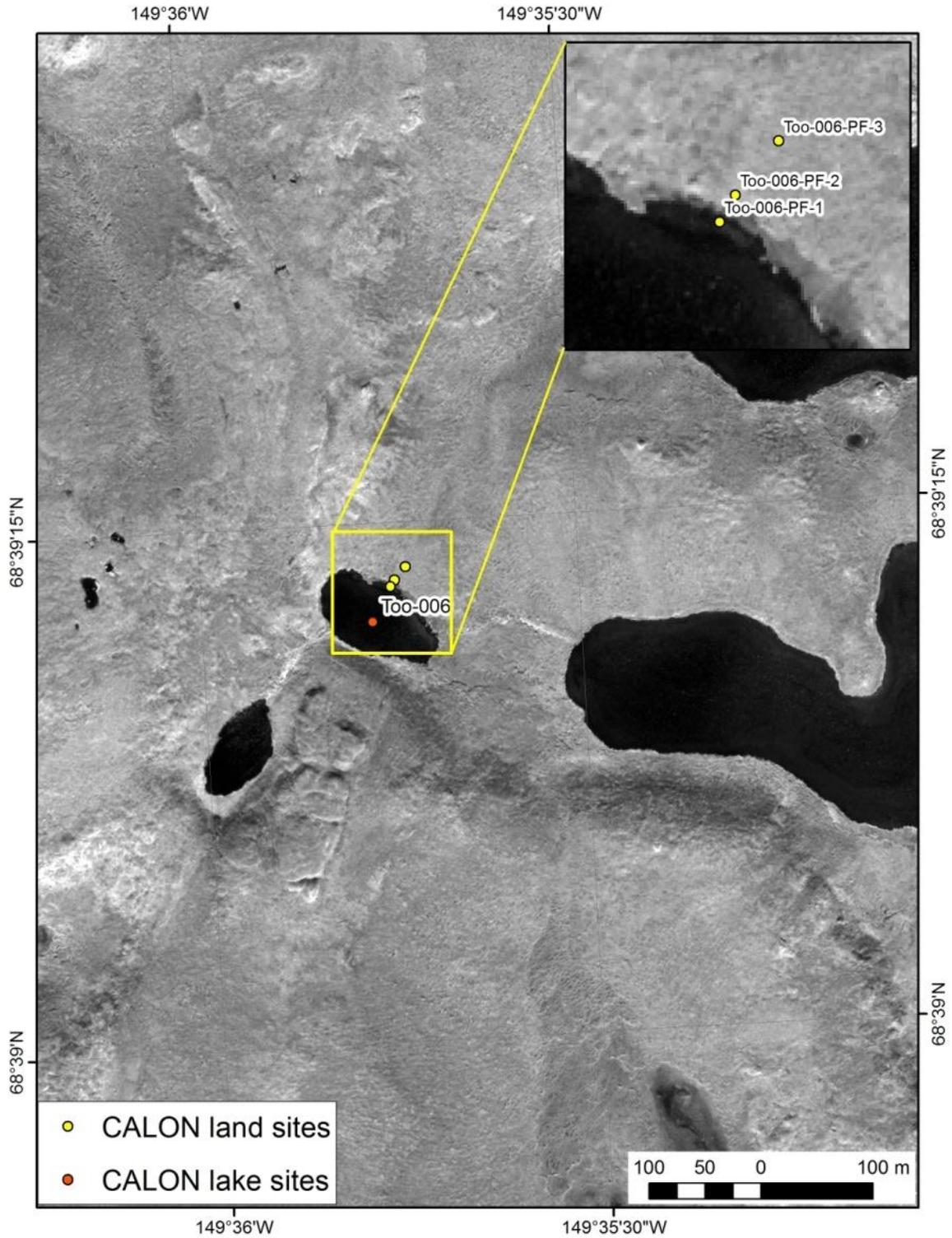


Figure 7

At site Too-006 applicant would install an underwater pressure/temperature logger weighted by a 5” diameter stainless steel plate, and attached to a buoy which would keep an additional temperature logger near the surface of the water as described for Site Too-004 and shown in Figure 5 on page 6.

Ground temperature data loggers for this lake will be installed at the following coordinates:

- 1.) 68.653651, -149.595943
- 2.) 68.653702, -149.595849
- 3.) 68.653803, -149.595601

as shown on the map in Figure 7 on previous page (page 8).

Access to the sites will be twice per year, one site visit each April and one site visit each August. As distance requires, April access will be by snowmachine, and August access by helicopter. This will be accomplished utilizing snowmachines and helicopters available at and through Toolik Field Station.

Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP:

Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan Date approved 01/11/91

In Appendix N, Lands and Realty Program Objective 1 states: “provide for, authorize, or restrict the use of public lands in compliance with existing laws, regulations, withdrawals, BLM policy, and consistent with the goals and objectives of this RMP.” Chapter 2, Toolik Lake ACEC/Research Natural Area Management Objective states: “To protect a natural lake and tundra biome extensively used for arctic natural resources research.”

Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1
1.6 - Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.

The proposed action must be screened against the extraordinary circumstances found in 43 CFR 46.215 and listed below. Any “yes” finding requires that an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the Proposed Action.

EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES

	YES	NO
1) May have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2) May have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3) May have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4) May have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5) Might establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6) May have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7) May have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8) May have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9) Might violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10) May have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
11) Might limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
12) Could contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

Determination

I have determined that the proposed action is in conformance with the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan. I have also determined that the proposed action can be categorically excluded, none of the twelve extraordinary circumstances are triggered, and that an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement is not needed.

 /s/ Tim Hammond Acting for
 Nichelle W. Jacobson, Manager
 Central Yukon Field Office

 3/30/2012
 Date

**Decision for Categorical Exclusion DOI-BLM-AK-03000-2012-0007-CX
for University of Alaska Research Permit**

Decision

It is my decision to approve the permit for research as described in the proposed action. A permit will be issued for the period June, 2011 through September 30, 2012.

Rationale

There are no anticipated impacts to cultural resources. See Attachment #1.
The Proposed Action will not significantly restrict subsistence uses. See Attachment #2.
No salmon species catalogued by the State of Alaska in the area encompassed by this permit will be impacted. See Attachment #3.

Stipulations

The attached terms and conditions and stipulations will apply to this action.

Appeal Procedures

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, in accordance with 43 CFR Part 4 and DOI Form 1842-1. The notice of appeal must be filed in the Bureau of Land Management Central Yukon Field Office (at the above address) within 30 days from receipt of this decision.

/s/ Tim Hammond Acting for
Nichelle W. Jacobson
Field Manager
Central Yukon Field Office

3/30/2012
Date

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review and decision, contact Peggy Thigpen, Realty Specialist, Central Yukon Field Office, at 907-474-2237.