



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In reply refer to:
FF095560
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01000-2009-0023-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Trevor Haynes
University of Alaska Fairbanks
School of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences
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Proposed Action: Fish Studies in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). (2984.01)

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant Trevor Haynes, with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) has requested authorization for field activity access and landing by a floatplane, on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A), in support of fish research.

The proposed action would authorize Trevor Haynes to study the distribution of fish species in lakes within the NPR-A. He proposes to sample 70 lakes over a two year period for all species that may be present to determine the occurrence of each species over the study area relative to environmental characteristics. However, the action being evaluated only covers the 2009 summer season. UAF proposes to sample fish using various sampling techniques including fyke nets, minnow traps, gill nets, jug sets and beach seine. The fish would be anesthetized and released after capture except for instances when fish would be taken to sample for contaminants. The information would be used to construct habitat models for each species in relation to lake characteristics. They propose that the information would allow for a better understanding of fish community distribution throughout the study region which in turn would give insight into how top predators may distribute themselves across the landscape relative to fish prey and how human impacts on lakes may affect fish communities.

The proposed sites for this season are within the 15 plats that Joel Schmutz with the United States Geological Service applied for and were included in DOI-BLM-LLAKF01200-2009-0020-CX. However this activity would take place on a total of 60 sites within the 15 plats. For the UAF work there will be 6 people in the field, 3 crews of 2. Access will be via floatplane with 4 landings per site. As with the Schmutz proposed action, Trevor Haynes will be refueling at

Atqasuk and is not requesting storage of fuel on BLM managed lands. The crew will camp at each study site for approximately 2 days per site.

Location (All Umiat Meridian):

Area	Township (North)	Range (West)	Section	
11	17	14	23-26,31-35	
	16	14	3 to 10	
	16	15	1,2,11,12	
17	16	12	20-29,32-36	
	15	12	1-5,8-17	
20	16	13	26-35	
	15	13	2-11,14-23	
	15	14	1,12,13,24	
	16	14	25,36	
27	15	11	26-35	
	14	11	2-11,14-23	
	15	12	36	
	14	12	1,12,13,24	
29	14	17	1-5,6-17,20-29	
30	15	10	31-35	
	14	10	2-11,14-23,26-30	
32	14	13	19,30,31	
	13	13	6,7	
	14	14	21-28,33-36	
	13	14	1-4,9-12 7-8,17-20,29-	
39	13	18	32	
	13	19	10-15,22-27,34-36	
40	13	10	3-10,15-22,27-30 1,2,11-	
	13	11	13,24,25	
60	11	15	1-5,8-12	
	12	15	20-29,32-36	
76	11	19	19,29-32	Excluding private lands
	11	20	23-28,33-36	
	10	20	1-4,9-16	Excluding private lands

	10	19	5-6,7,8,17,18	Excluding private lands
77	10	17	1-4,9-16	
	11	17	21-28,33-36	
	10	16	6,7	
	11	16	19,30,31	
80	10	14	5-8,17-18	
	11	14	29-32	
	10	15	1-3,10-15	
	11	15	25-27,34-36	
90	10	17	20-29,32-36	
	9	17	1-5,8-12	
	10	16	31	
	9	16	6,7	
107	8	17	3-10,15-22	
	8	18	1,2,11- 14,23,24	
	9	17	31-35	

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents: Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated 10/07/1998, and Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated 1/22/2004. The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled “FF095560 Trevor Haynes, UAF Summer Stipulations 2009”, “Required Conduct near Possible Nests of Raptors (Eagles, Hawks and Falcons)”, and “Polar Bear Interaction Guidelines.” The authorization will also be subject to the USFWS PROGRAMMATIC BIOLOGICAL OPINION for the Bureau of Land Management Summer Activities in 2009 in Undeveloped Areas of the National petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Date June 17, 2009

/s/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Review.

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215

“Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.”

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any of the exceptions described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

Date June 17, 2009

/s/Donna L. Wixon
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office