



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Arctic Field Office  
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>



In reply refer to:  
FF095370  
2984.01 (023)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01200-2009-0025-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** Benjamin Jones & Chris Arp  
USGS Alaska Science Center  
4230 University Drive  
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

**Proposed Action:** Non-intrusive Hydrologic Research in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). (2984.01)

**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicants Benjamin Jones & Chris Arp, with the USGS Alaska Science Center have requested authorization for field activity access and landing by a fixed wing aircraft, on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A), in support of hydrologic research. They are proposing to conduct two trips.

The dates of the first proposed trip are June 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup>. They propose to locate icy-permafrost bluffs in order to sample the ice and measure its characteristics. There would be three participants in the project. They would be flown by a fixed wing aircraft from Wrights Air Service to the Colville River, 70 miles upstream of Umiat. From the drop off point they will float the Colville River in a zodiac. Once they reach Umiat they would fly back to Fairbanks on a Wrights Air Service charter plane. They are not proposing to store fuel. They would camp along the river or sleep in the boat depending on conditions.

The second trip is proposed for July 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup>. The proposed location would be various lakes north of Teshekpuk Lake. They propose to sample water quality and take hydrologic measurements. If time permits they propose mapping lake bathymetry and mapping wood lines along the coast. They would be flown in a float plane to the various lakes, primarily lakes 29, 48, 87, 106, 107, 145 and 175 (see map). There would be two people conducting the research. The proposed base camp is the NARL cabin. If there were weather issues they would camp at the lakes. No fuel sites are proposed.

**Location (All Umiat Meridian):**

**Trip 1**

<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	
6 South	24 West	Sec 1, 2,12,13,24
6 South	23 West	Sec 16-25,36
6 South	22 West	Sec 25-36
7 South	22 West	Sec 1
6 South	21 West	Sec 25-36
7 South	21 West	Sec 1-6
6 South	20 West	Sec 31-36
7 South	20 West	Sec 1-6
6 South	19 West	Sec 11-16,20-32
7 South	19 West	Sec 1-6
6 South	18 West	Sec 1-25
6 South	17 West	Sec 1-12,16-21,30,31
5 South	17 West	Sec 31-36
6 South	16 West	Sec 1-9
5 South	16 West	Sec 12,13,21,22,24-36
5 South	15 West	Sec 3-10,16-21,28-30
4 South	15 West	Sec 25-29,32-36
4 South	14 West	Sec 25-36
5 South	14 West	Sec 3-5
4 South	13 West	Sec 19-36
4 South	12 West	Sec 13-25
4 South	11 West	Sec 13-28,30
4 South	10 West	Sec 7,8,16-22,26-29,34-36
5 South	10 West	Sec 1-2,11-13
5 South	9 West	Sec 1,7,12,13,16-18,21-28,35,36
4 South	9 West	Sec 31-36
4 South	8 West	Sec 22-29,31-36
5 South	8 West	Sec 3-7,18
4 South	7 West	Sec 1-23,30
3 South	7 West	Sec 33-36
4 South	6 West	Sec 2-8,17-18
3 South	6 West	Sec 13,23-27,31-35
3 South	5 West	Sec 1-12,14-21-30
3 South	4 West	Sec 6
2 South	4 West	Sec 13-21,25-35
2 South	3 West	Sec 1-2,8-21,30
2 South	2 West	Sec 3-6
1 South	2 West	Sec 22-28,31-35
1 South	1 West	Sec 1-11,15-21

**Trip 2**

<b>Lake #</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	
11 & 12	16 North	8 West	Sec 1-36
29	16 North	7 West	Sec 12,11,12,13,14
	17 North	7 West	Sec 36
	17 North	6 West	Sec 29-32
	16 North	6 West	Sec 5-8
48	17 North	6 West	Sec 1-3,10-16,21-27,34-36 (Excluding Private Land)
	18 North	6 West	Sec 35
62	17 North	5 West	Sec 22-27,34-36
	16 North	5 West	Sec 1-3,10-15
107	17 North	4 West	Sec 31-32
	16 North	4 West	Sec 5-8
106	17 North	4 West	Sec 20-29,32-34
	16 North	4 West	Sec 3-10
89	15 North	4 West	Sec 11-15,22-26,35-36
	15 North	3 West	Sec 19,30,31 (Excluding Private Land)
	14 North	4 West	Sec 1,12
	14 North	3 West	Sec 6,7
145	16 North	3 West	Sec 27-29,32-34
	15 North	3 West	Sec 1-5,8-12,14-16
175	17 North	2 West	Sec 21-22,26-28,33-35
	16 North	2 West	Sec 2-3,10-11
195	17 North	2 West	Sec 23 (Excluding Private Land)
190	17 North	2 West	Sec 14 (Excluding Private Land)

## Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2008, the Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2004, the Western Arctic Resource Management Plan Management Situation Analysis evaluated 2/1990, the Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (UTRMP) approved 1/1991, and the Colville River Special Area Management Plan dated July 2008. 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 “FF095370 Benjamin Jones & Chris Arp USGS Alaska Science Center 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 6/12/2009

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

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## Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Review.

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

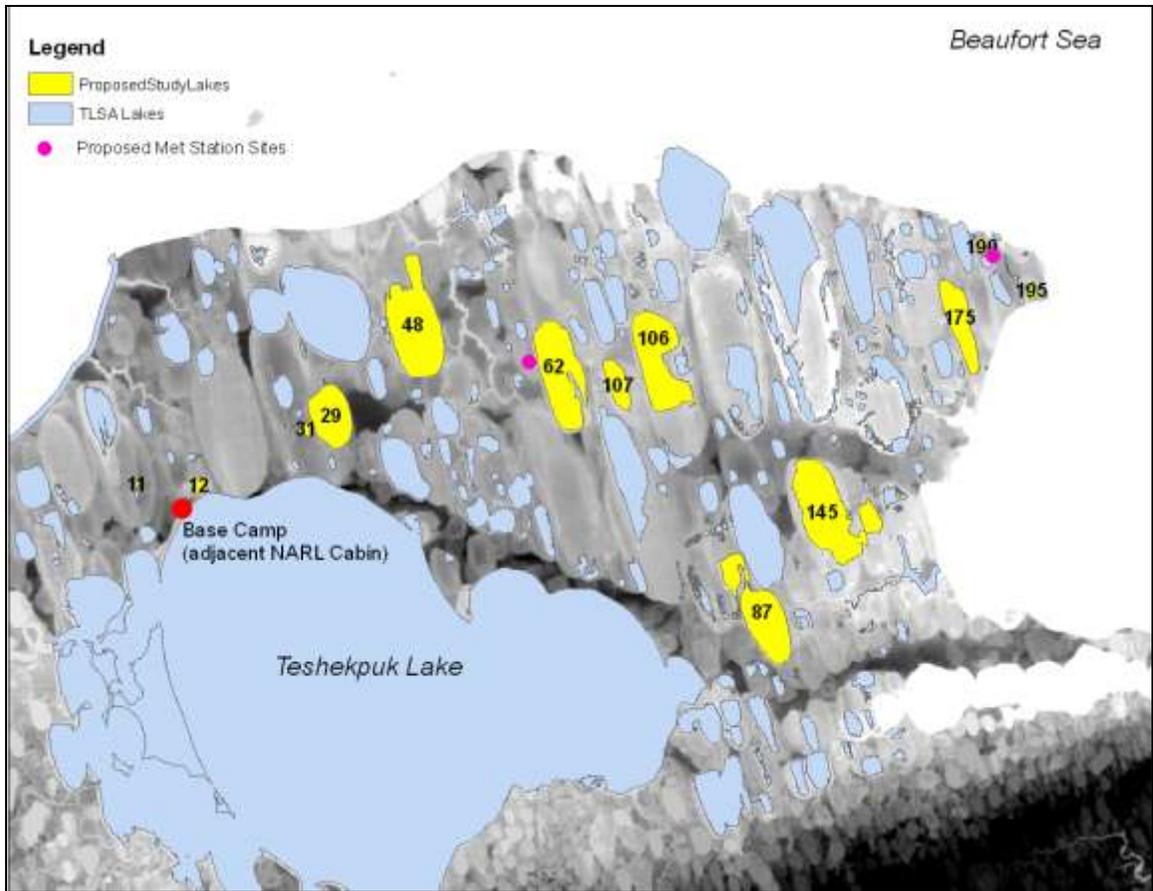
**“Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.”**

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

Date 6/12/2009

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



Map showing Base Camp and proposed study lakes