



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In reply refer to:
FF094462
2897.07 (023)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01200-2009-0038-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Abby Powell
United States Geological Survey
Alaska cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
209 Irving I Building
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-7020

Proposed Action: Avian Research in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).
(2897.01)

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant Abby Powell, with the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has requested authorization for field activity access and landing by a helicopter, on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A), in support of Avian Research.

Ms. Powell proposes to capture king eiders for an ongoing satellite telemetry study. The objective of the work is to collect information on eider nest survival by studying the reproductive parameters of King Eiders and determining the degree that King Eiders rely on endogenous reserves for egg formation. Data on population parameters are critical for evaluating and modeling eider populations to better manage the declining species.

The number of people participating would be from 6 to 8. They would capture up to 30 successfully breeding female King Eiders and fledglings to mark them with leg bands and/or implantable satellite transmitters. This is a continuation of work started in 2001. The difference between previous work and current work is the site location. The proposed work would be authorized with an amendment to the current Right of Way Grant.

They would have a field camp set up (tents, weather port) during this period. Access would be via helicopter with two landings to deliver crew and gear and two landings to pick up crew and gear.

No fuel sites are requested. The dates of the proposed action are Aug 19 – 29th.

Location (All Umiat Meridian):

Township	Range	
13 North	3 West	Sec 25,26,34-36
12 North	3 West	Sec 1-3

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 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 “FF095586 Abby Powell USGS Summer Stipulations 2009”, “Polar Bear Guidelines” and “Subsistence Use in the NPR-A.”

Date August 5, 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 1.6 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 August 5, 2009

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