



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In reply refer to:
FF095585
2984.01 (023)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01200-2009-0037-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Dr. Patrick Druckenmiller
University of Alaska Museum
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P.O. Box 756960
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Proposed Action: Field Reconnaissance to Locate New Sites in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). (2984.01)

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant Dr. Patrick Druckenmiller, with the University of Alaska (UAF) Museum has 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 Field Reconnaissance.

Dr. Druckenmiller proposes to conduct field reconnaissance to locate new sites and new material to expand an existing data set. He would be looking for new specimens of vertebrates, invertebrates, and plant remains from outcrops that can be safely explored by foot and from the gravel bars along the Colville River where eroded material has accumulated. No large scale excavations are proposed during the field survey. The activity this summer would be to locate areas for future work.

The outcrops that Dr. Druckenmiller is interested in are between Umiat and Ocean Point. There would be 4 – 6 people working on the project. Aircraft for the project would consist of two flights into Umiat, one flight out mid-trip, and two flights out near Ocean Point via fixed wing for all people and gear. The group would float the Colville with inflatable rafts and camp along the river. Daily field reconnaissance would be conducted by foot and would consist of prospecting on outcrops for vertebrate or other fossil remains. They would explore as much of the outcrop as possible, from river level up to the top of the outcrops, limiting their search to areas that are safely accessible and would avoid areas that land managers identify as potential for disturbing wildlife. If a site with a vertebrate fossil is located, the material exposed on the ground surface would be collected and a

limited amount of surface brushing and excavation (not more than one meter by one meter, by one meter in size) would be done to determine the amount and extent of the material in the horizon. If the specimen continues into the rock and more extensive excavation is immediately required, an appropriate BLM representative would be contacted as soon as practical before other work occurred. Full excavation would not be accomplished via this authorization.

If a limited amount of surface collecting is undertaken, hammers, chisels, shovels, and brushes would be employed. Small, medical style plaster wraps would be used to encase the fossil and rock if necessary.

For every specimen located, and/or collected, the following data will be recorded:

1. tentative identification, condition, amount of material, and elements preserved.
2. a unique field number would be given (includes date, collector name, and daily number; for example PSD 7.04.08-01).
3. an exact field location would be recorded on a USGS topographic map (1:63,000 scale).
4. GPS coordinates would be recorded (Lat/Long. In degrees and decimal minutes), and a legal description provided (Township, Range, Section, ¼ ¼ Section).
5. formation and member and associated geologic data such as lithology, associated fossils, taphonomic comments, and any other pertinent information.
6. photographs of the fossils and of the site in general.
7. a map of the specimen prior to removal, if any limited excavation occurs.
8. additional relevant data, such as a measured section, site hazards, etc...

Fuel for the project would consist of fuel for a boat engine and Coleman white gas for cooking. The boat fuel would be stored in the boat and excess fuel removed at night and stored in secondary containment “duck pond”. The cooking fuel would be stored in the secondary containment with the boat fuel.

The dates of the proposed action are Aug 15 – 30th.

Location (All Umiat Meridian):

Township	Range	
1 South	1 West	Sec 1, 2,3,10,11(Includes Selected Lands)
1 South	1 East	Sec 3-7 (Excluding private lands) Includes Selected Lands)
1 North	1 East	Sec 24-36 (Excluding Private Lands) Includes Selected Lands)
1 North	2 East	Sec 1,2,11-14,19-30 (Includes Selected Lands)
1 North	3 East	Sec 6,7,18 (Includes Selected Lands)
2 North	3 East	Sec 5-8,16-21,28-32 (Includes Selected Lands)
2 North	2 East	Sec 36 (Includes Selected Lands)
3 North	3 East	Sec 4-9,16-21,28-33 (Includes Selected Lands)
4 North	2 East	Sec 1,12,13,24 (Includes Selected Lands)
4 North	3 East	Sec 6,7,18-20,29-33 (Includes Selected Lands)
5 North	2 East	Sec 2,11,14,23-25,36(Excluding Private Lands)
6 North	2 East	Sec 2,11,14,23,26,35,36 (Excluding Private Lands)
7 North	2 East	Sec 1-4,9-16,22-27,34-36 (Excluding Private Lands)

8 North	2 East	Sec 1-2,11-15,22-27,34-36 (Excluding Private Lands)
8 North	3 East	Sec 3-10 (Excluding private lands)
9 North	2 East	Sec 35 – 36 (Excluding Private Lands)
9 North	3 East	Sec 31-33 (Excluding Private Lands)

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, 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 “FF095585 UAF Museum Dr. Patrick Druckenmiller Stipulations 2009”, “Required Conduct near Possible Nests of Raptors (Eagles, Hawks and Falcons)” and “Subsistence Use in NPR-A.”

Date July 24, 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 July 24, 2009

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