



United States Department of the Interior

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



In reply refer to:
FF095577
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01200-2009-0035-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Alaska Science Center
United States Geologic Survey
Dan Ruthrauff
4210 University Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Proposed Action: Bar-tailed Godwits Breeding Research in the NPR-A. (2984.01)

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant Alaska Science Center (ASC) United States Geologic Survey (USGS), Dan Ruthrauff has requested authorization for field activity access and landing by a helicopter, on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A).

The proposed action would authorize Mr. Ruthrauff to conduct summer work on NPR-A lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). To facilitate future research the USGS proposes to conduct a scouting effort during the 2009 Bar-tailed Godwits Breeding Season. If unable to locate the species on state land they propose to search on BLM managed lands between the Kogosukruk and Colville Rivers, north of Umiat.

The USGS would conduct air and ground reconnaissance efforts in early July based out of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game cabin at Galbraith Lake. The helicopter would conduct systematic aerial surveys of the region and deploy ground crews to search for breeding godwits. The proposed action consists of looking for suitable habitat for the Godwits then walking around looking for birds. Crews on the ground would visit the site for less than 8 hours with the possibility of camping for 1 to 2 nights to thoroughly assess the site. They anticipate having only one or two point-to-point trips with the helicopter. The majority of the work consisting of ground surveys would be conducted by a 2-person crew.

The proposed sites are in the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The proposed activity would take place approximately from July 1st through July 9th, 2009.

Location (All Umiat Meridian):

5 North 1 East Sections 1-36
5 North 2 East Sections 2-11,13-36 (NPR-A lands only)
6 North 1 East Sections 1-36
6 North 2 East Sections 2-11, 14-23, 26-36 (NPR-A lands only)
7 North 1 East Sections 1-36
7 North 2 East Sections 3-9, 15-22, 27-35 (NPR-A lands only)

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated July 2008, and the Colville River Special Area Management Plan. 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 "FF095577 Dan Ruthrauff, USGS Summer Stipulations 2009".

Date June 30, 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 30, 2009

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