



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:
FF095587
2920.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01200-2009-0039-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Shiklomanov Nikolay I
Department of Geography
George Washington University
1922 F Street, NW (Old Main)
Washington, DC 20052

Proposed Action: Non-intrusive reconnaissance field work on BLM managed lands
(2920.01)

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Shiklomanov Nikolay I with George Washington University, has requested authorization for field activity access and landing by a fixed wing aircraft, on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management in support of a Circumpolar Active Layer Monitoring (CALM) project. The goal of the project is to observe the response of the active layer and near-surface permafrost to climate change over long time scales. Further information about CALM may be found at the following website: <http://www.udel.edu/Georaphy/calm/>.

The proposed action would take place at Ivotuk. The proposed activity consists of measuring the depth of thaw at the proposed site in a 1 km x 1km grid. The measurements would be performed at regular 100 m intervals by inserting thin, calibrated metal rode into the ground to the point of resistance (30 – 1m) which would be interpreted as a depth of annual thaw. There would be no power tools or instrumentation used. All work would be conducted by hand.

The applicant would charter a fixed wing aircraft with Frontier Airline from Barrow to and from the site. All transportation at the site would be on foot. The work would be conducted by three people. The aircraft and pilot would stay on site while the work is conducted. The work is anticipated to take five hours to complete and would be done in one day. Weather permitting the work would be conducted on August 17th, 2009. No camp or fuel use is anticipated.

Location: Section 19, Township 11 South, Range 16 West, Umiat Meridian

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan (RMP) approved 1/11/1991. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled "FF095587 George Washington University Summer Stipulations 2009", the brochure "Leave No Trace Alaskan Tundra" 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 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