



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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In reply refer to:  
FF096440  
2984.01 (AK012)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2012-0031-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** Nathan Wardwell  
JOA Surveys, LLC  
2002 E. Dowling Rd. Suite 10  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Coordinate Collection Mapping Project

**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicant, Nathan Wardwell on behalf of JOA Surveys, LLC (JOA) has requested authorization for field activity and access to collect 3-D coordinates to QC a Digital Elevation Model (DEM) developed from elevation data acquired via Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (ISFAR). The study is being conducted as part of the Alaska Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI). The primary goal of SDMI is to acquire and process imagery and elevation data to support 1:24,000 ortho-images covering the entire state of Alaska. The SDMI program is both a federally and state funded project and the resulting statewide ortho-image base map would be available to the public free of charge and will contribute significantly to aviation safety, resource management, community infrastructure, and numerous other uses. Acquisition for the SDMI began in 2010 and the processed data is archived at the Geographic Information Network of Alaska (GINA). GINA is system for distributing geospatial information and is part of the University of Alaska.

The applicant proposes to survey nine points in the western portion of the NPR-A. One of the points would be accessed using a Skiff and local boat operator from the village of Wainwright.

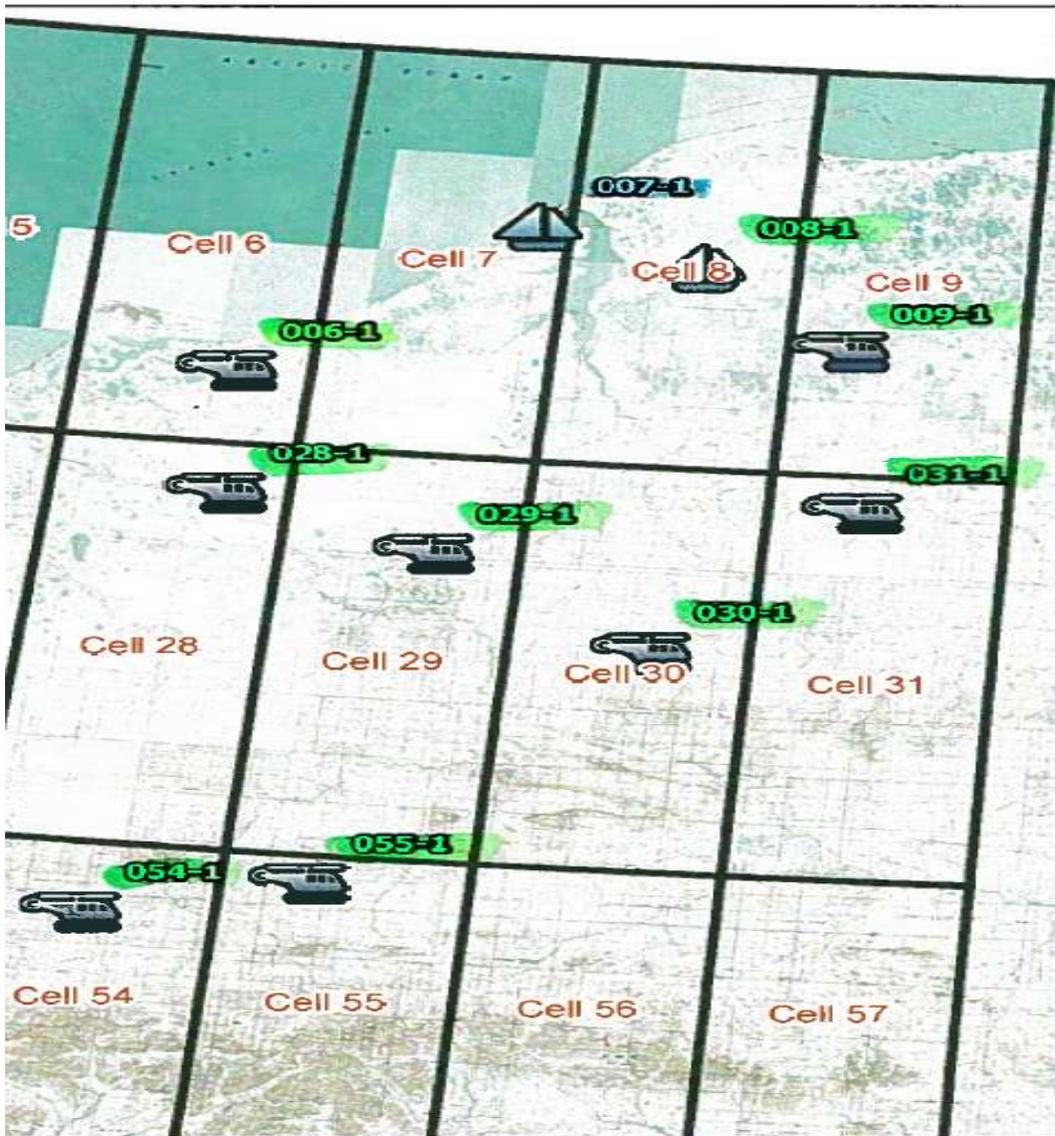
The other eight points would be accessed using a R-44 helicopter. Their primary interest is getting an area that is bare earth with a slope between 0 and 10 degrees, and not near breaklines (i.e. steep slopes). They are flexible with the exact location of the points as long as they meet the bare earth, slope and breakline requirements.

The survey at each point would consist of setting up one static GPS receiver to collect two hours of data. The photo below (Figure 1) is an example of a GPS setup that they used near Nome, which is the same type they would use in the NPR-A. This setup (see Figure 2) does not require

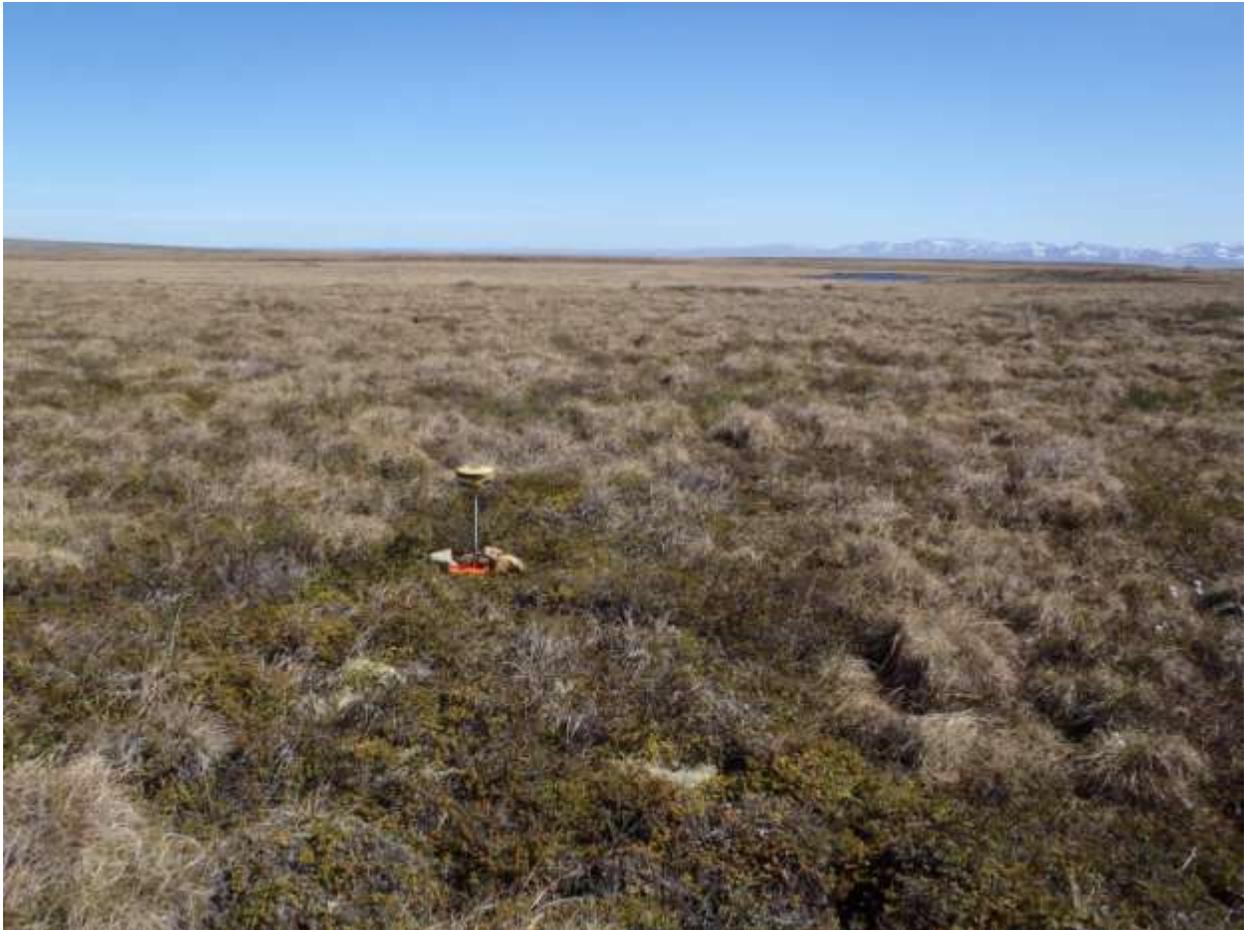
establishing any permanent points and is completely temporary. The longest amount of time that the receiver would be deployed is overnight. Once the receiver has logged at least two hours of data the field crew would remove everything.

The crew is currently conducting work outside of the NPR-A. The work in the NPR-A would start upon approval by the BLM. The number of people participating would be three, but only two would be in the field. The third person would coordinate logistics from Wainwright. There would be two landings at each of the seven sites by helicopter. The first landing would be to set up the GPS receiver, and the second to remove it after they have collected two hours of data.

No camps or fuel storage are proposed on BLM managed lands. JOA has been in contact with the village of Point Hope and Wainwright.



**Figure 1 Applicant Submitted Map**



**Figure 2 Applicant Example of GPS Receiver**

**Table 1: Legal Description**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>	
006-1	10 North	37 West	32	
007-1	14 North	32 West	9	Not BLM land
008-1	13 North	29 West	9	
009-1	11 North	27 West	17	
028-1	6 North	38 West	11	
029-1	5North	34 West	29	
030-1	2 North	31 West	11	
031-1	6 North	27 West	4	
054-1	7 South	41 West	23	
055-1	6 South	37 West	10	

## Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents: Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (IAP/EIS) 2004, and NPR-A Oil and Gas Leasing EIS (1983). The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant would be provided with stipulations entitled "FF096440 JOA Surveys, LLC Summer 2012 Stipulations."

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna L. Wixon  
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

## Part II: NEPA Review and Decision

### Categorical Exclusion Review

This proposed action meets the criteria for a Categorical Exclusion in accordance with 516 DM 11.9, D.10,

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.

The proposed action would not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances listed below.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X

2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		<b>X</b>
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		<b>X</b>
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		<b>X</b>
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		<b>X</b>
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		<b>X</b>
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		<b>X</b>
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		<b>X</b>

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Donna L. Wixon  
Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_