



# 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:  
FF095695  
2984.01 (AK010)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2012-0017-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** Lincoln Parrett  
Alaska Department of Fish & Game- Wildlife Conservation  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701  
(907) 459-7366  
[lincoln.parrett@alaska.gov](mailto:lincoln.parrett@alaska.gov)

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Caribou Research in NPR-A.

**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicant, Lincoln Parrett of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), has requested authorization for field activity access and landing with fixed-wing aircraft and a helicopter on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A) in support of ecological research. This activity is a continuation of last year's project. Proposed activities would take place on State lands (Umiat air strip) and in the NPR-A, with most activities based out of Umiat and some activities in late June based out of Inigok (70° 00.6' N, 153° 3.7' W). The applicant may use "Marty's Strip" adjacent to Kealok Creek (70° 21.5' N, 153° 12.4' W) and requests use of all of the NPR-A (and its airspace) for overflights and landings.

Activities would occur from June through October 2012 with transportation by fixed wing and helicopter. Caribou calf capture would take place in early June and adult capture in late June with a helicopter and subsequent daily fixed-wing monitoring throughout the rest of the season. The proposed capture sites are in the Northeast and Northwest NPR-A.

Approximately 150 helicopter landings are anticipated in June and 20 landings from July through October. Approximately 20 of the helicopter landings would occur at Inigok, the remainder at individual locations where caribou are located. An additional approximately 75-100 fixed wing landing will also occur at Umiat, and either Inigok or Marty's Strip. Crew size would usually be two to three people, but sometimes there might be as many as six to eight.

The plan also includes monitoring vegetation plots previously established on BLM land north of Umiat, along a latitudinal transect to Lonely that would be accessed with a fixed wing aircraft.

Fuel storage of 400 gallons of av gas is requested at Inigok in late June for use during caribou captures. The remainder of the fuel would be stored at Umiat on state land.

The applicant presented information about the proposed work to the NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel meeting in March 2012.

**Legal Description of Veg Plats**

<b>Meridian</b>	<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>
Umiat	1 South	1 West	4
Umiat	18 North	5 West	16
Umiat	12 North	5 West	32, 33
Umiat	8 North	5 West	35

**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 Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (IAP/EIS) dated 2004. 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 “FF095695 State of Alaska Department of Fish & Game 2012 Summer Stipulations.”

Date May 25, 2012

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/s/Donna Wixon  
Natural Resource Specialist

**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 will 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.		X
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.		X
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.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
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).		X
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).		X

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/s/Donna Wixon  
Natural Resource Specialist

Date May 25, 2012