



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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In reply refer to:  
FF095588  
2984.01 (AK012)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2012-0022-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** Brian Person, Ph.D.  
Wildlife Biologist  
North Slope Borough  
Department of Wildlife Management  
P.O. Box 69  
Barrow, Alaska 99723

**Proposed Action:** Non-intrusive vegetation and Lesser Snow Goose research in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) (2984.01).

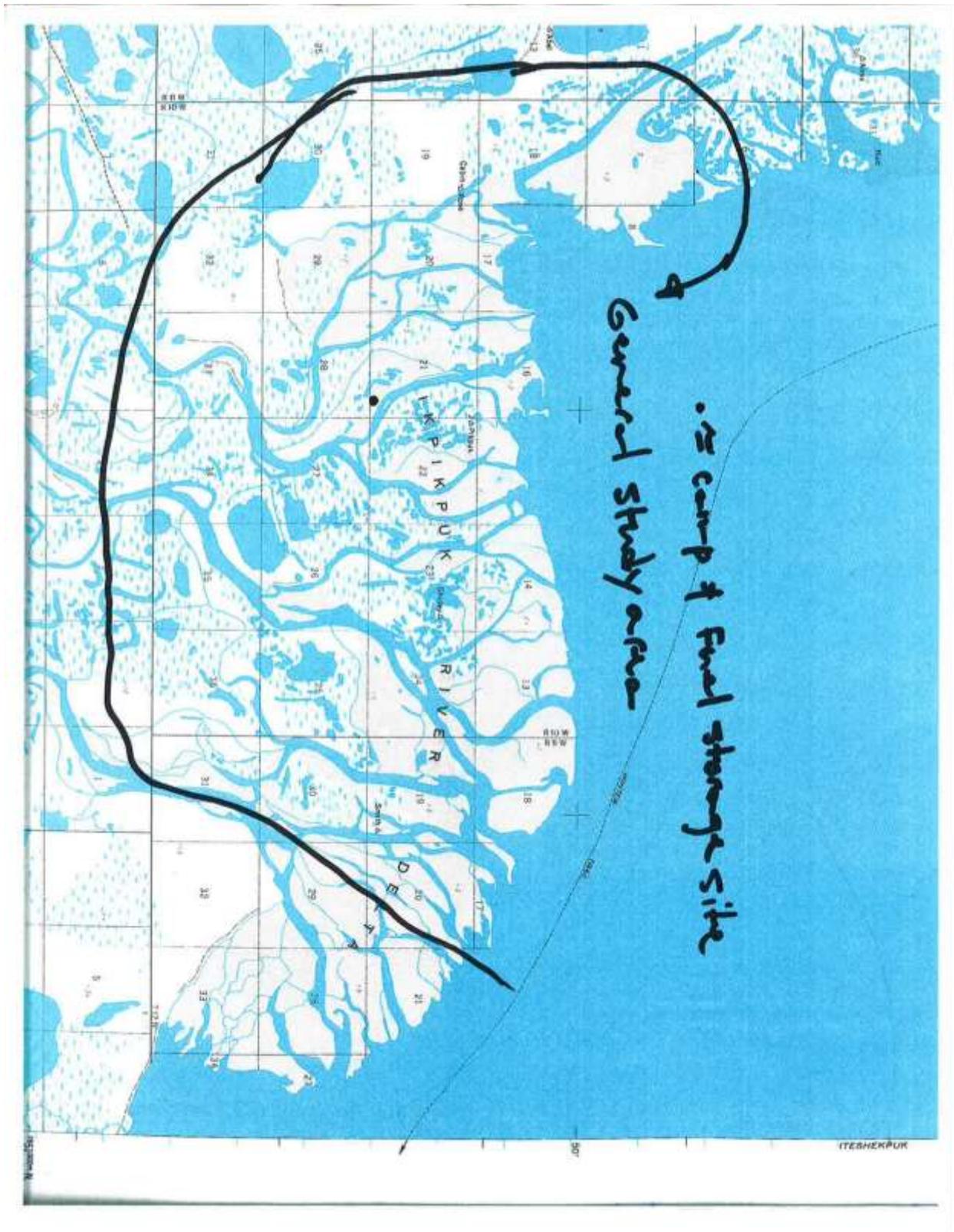
**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicant, Brian Person with the North Slope Borough, has requested authorization for access and landing by a helicopter and fixed wing aircraft on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) in support of vegetation and Lesser Snow Goose research. The applicant has had NPR-A permits for similar work in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

The vegetation work would examine the impacts of goose grazing to vegetation and soils with the Ikpikuk Delta Lesser Snow Goose colony. Three geo-referenced transects would be established to measure elevation, soil characteristics and vegetation. The work would occur between approximately July 5 – 9 and July 31 – August 9. Transportation would take place with an R44 helicopter and require up to 30 take off and landings. Fifty-five gallons of aviation gas would be stored within fuel berms designed to hold over 110% of the fuel being stored. Fuel will be transported by snow machine from Barrow prior to break-up. There would be 3 people conducting the research who would camp on the Ikpikuk Delta using light weight back-packing gear. Some of the vegetation work could be based out of the North Slope Borough Cabin located on the north shore of Teshekpuk Lake (70 43.4N 153 43.8 W) requiring up to 10 additional take off and landings.

The second project requested is to conduct nest success surveys on the Ikpikpuk Delta from approximately July 12 -16. Transportation support would be provided by a Cessna 206 (2 landings and take offs). Three people would camp on the Delta using light weight back-packing gear. The nests would be accessed by foot and an R44 helicopter. Thirty take off and landings are anticipated. Fuel (110 gallons of av gas) would be stored within fuel berms designed to hold over 110% of the fuel being stored. Fuel would be delivered using a Beaver on approximately July 10<sup>th</sup>.

The third project is banding Lesser Snow Goose on the Ikpikpuk and Piasuk deltas in the Smith Bay region from approximately July 31 – August 4. Transportation support would be provided by a Cessna 206 (10 landings and take offs) and an R44 helicopter (up to 30 take off and landings). Fuel (170 gallons of av gas) would be stored within fuel berms designed to hold over 110% of the fuel being stored. Eight to nine people would camp on the Ikpikpuk Delta using light weight back-packing gear.

Projects 2 and 3 would be carried out in collaboration with ABR Inc. See figure 1 for a map of the general study area for all 3 projects.



**Figure 1 Applicant Submitted Map**

## Legal Description (All Umiat Meridian)

Township	Range	Sections	
General Work Area			
17 North	11 West	1,12,13,24,25,36	
17 North	10 West	6-8, 13-36	
17 North	9 West	19-21, 27-34	
16 North	10 West	1-6	
NSB Cabin			
16 North	7 West	20	

### Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents: Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (IAP/EIS) 2004 and Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2008. The proposed action is consistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant would be provided with stipulations entitled "FF095588 NSB Brian Person Summer 2012 Stipulations".

Date June 8, 2012

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/s/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 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;		X

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.		
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

Date June 8, 2012

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