

# 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:  
FF095671, FF095712  
2984.01 (AK012)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2011-0012-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.  
Robyn McGhee  
P.O. Box 100360  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99510-0360

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Summer Studies in NPR-A

**Description of Proposed Action:** ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) has requested authorization to conduct environmental studies, pre-development scouting, exploration well preparation and inspection, and other activities in the Northeast and Northwest National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A). The company and its contractors propose to conduct a variety of studies including but not limited to geological, biological, hydrological, archaeological, cultural, and or lake studies (See list of studies below). Additional studies concerning placement of oil wells and potential access routes are possible. The studies would commence in June 2011 (but not earlier than June 5) and continue through freeze up in the fall. The authorization would expire September 30, 2011.

These studies would primarily be conducted using helicopters for transport to and from the study area (see Figure 1). On ground activities would be performed on foot, and crew size would be two to four people. Approximately 364 helicopter landings are expected during the field season. The hydrology study would be a continuation of a study that was initiated in May 2011 (DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2011-0013-CX).

CPAI does not plan on any remote field camps or fuel storage for any of the proposed activities. CPAI and its contractors will adhere to all applicable stipulations and required operating procedures for the NPR-A during the performance of all study activities and the proponent would provide weekly updates to the Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel KSOP, Local Communities, the North Slope Borough, and other interested agencies and organizations.

Summary of Field Activities Proposed by CPAI in the NPR-A June through September 2011				
Activity	Description	Timing	Field Crew	Helicopter Landings
Hydrology	Hydrology monitoring in the Fish Creek Basin area, proposed GMT road corridor, west bank of the Colville River, and Fiord West areas.	Spring breakup - late May, early June through September (end of season).	Approximately 4 persons	25
Arctic Transportation, Water Use	Hydrology monitoring, weather station maintenance in the Fish Creek Basin area, proposed GMT road corridor, west bank of the Colville River.	Spring breakup - late May, early June through September (end of season).	Approximately 2 persons	24
Archaeology/Cultural Surveys	Cultural resources survey in the Colville River Delta area and areas west and south. (See map)	June - August	Approximately 2 persons	75
Archaeology/Cultural Surveys	Cultural resources survey along the Cassin well route and well locations. (See map)	June - August	Approximately 2 persons	25
Avian	Avian surveys in the northeast NPRA area.	June - August	Approximately 4 persons	4
Fish	Stream, lake and fish sampling as needed. (Sites yet to be defined)	June - August	Approximately 3 persons	5
Pre-development scouting	Over flight surveys with possible landings to identify unique topographic and vegetation features that may impact future survey work.	June - August	Approximately 4 persons	50
Exploration Well Preparations	Cassin well. re-staking & inspection of site, route verification.	July-August	Approximately 3 persons	30
Exploration Well Inspections	Remote well inspections - Lookout #1, Carbon, Scout, MTC, Spark 1A.	July-August	Approximately 3 persons	10
Puviaq Well Inspection	Puviaq stickpicking & site inspection after P&A activity this past winter.	July-August	Approximately 3 persons	5
Puviaq Tundra Travel Route Stickpicking	Possible stickpicking activities along winter travel route to be coordinated with FEX and SolstonXP.	June-August	Approximately 3 persons	75
Site visits and tours	Agency, Stakeholder, Kuukpik/Nuiqsut elders to currently proposed drillsites and other points. (Yet to be determined)	June-September	Approximately 6 persons	20
Surveying	Proposed CD-5 route, gravel source (Clover Mine Site), proposed pads.	July-September	Approximately 4 persons	10
Proposed CD-5 pipeline route studies	Engineering route & alignment analysis, confirmation of ground information.	June-September	Approximately 4 persons	3
Proposed CD-5 road route studies	Engineering route & alignment analysis, confirmation of ground information.	June-September	Approximately 4 persons	3

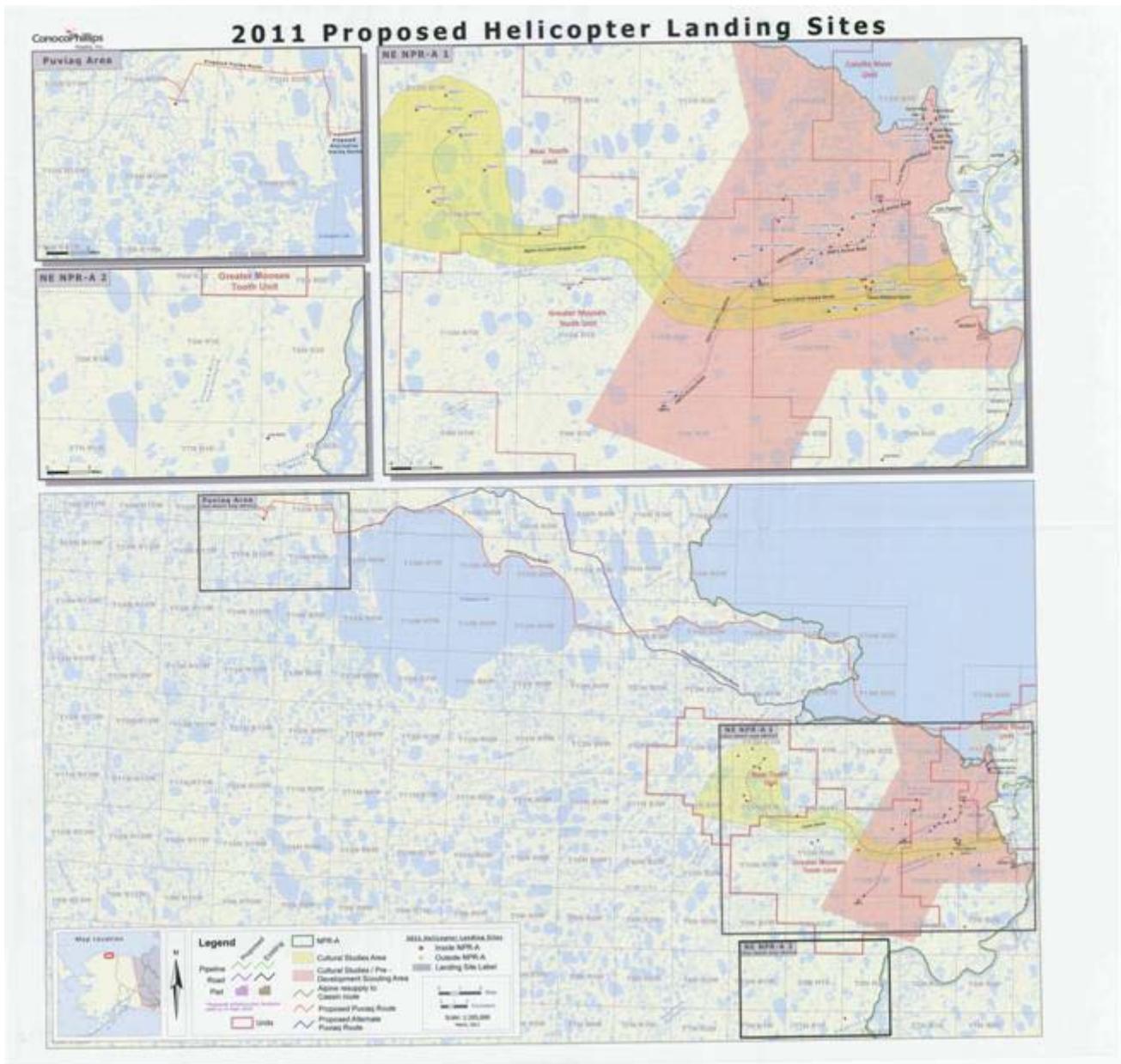


Figure 1, Location of sites.

Land Description (All Umiat Meridian):

NE NPR-A 1		
Township	Range	Section
12 North	2 West	1,12,13,24,25,36
12 North	1 West	1-36
12 North	1 East	1-36
12 North	2 East	13-36

12 North	3 East	No BLM Managed Lands
12 North	4 East	No BLM Managed Lands
12 North	5 East	No BLM Managed Lands
11 North	2 West	1,12,13,24,25,36
11 North	1 West	1-36
11 North	1 East	1-36
11 North	2 East	1-15,19-22,27-33, (13,14,23 Reg/Sel)
11 North	3 East	8-10, 14-17, 20-23, 26-36
11 North	4 East	31
11 North	5 East	No BLM Managed Lands
10 North	2 West	1,12,13,24,25,36
10 North	1 West	1-36
10 North	1 East	1-36
10 North	2 East	25-27, 34-36 (4,11-15,19,22-24,28,30-33 Reg/Sel)
10 North	3 East	1-36
10 North	4 East	6,7,15-19,30,31
10 North	5 East	No BLM Managed Lands
9 North	2 West	1,12,13,24,25,36
9 North	1 West	1-36
9 North	1 East	1-36
9 North	2 East	1-36 Excluding State Land
9 North	3 East	1-36 Excluding State Land
9 North	4 East	1-13,23-27,31-34 Excluding Private Land
9 North	5 East	5-8 Excluding Private Land

Puviaq Area		
Township	Range	Section
16 North	11 West	22-27,34-36
16 North	10 West	19-36 Excluding Private Land
16 North	9 West	13-36 Excluding Private Land
16 North	8 West	19,30,31
15 North	11 West	1-3,10-15,22-27,34-36
15 North	10 West	1-36 Excluding Private Land
15 North	9 West	1-36 Excluding Private Land
15 North	8 West	5-8,17-20,29-32
14 North	11 West	1-3
14 North	10 West	1-6
14 North	9 West	1-6
14 North	8 West	5-6

NE NPR-A 2		
Township	Range	Section
9 North	1 West	25-28,33-36
9 North	1 East	25-36

9 North	2 East	25-36 Excluding Private Land
8 North	1 West	1-36
8 North	1 East	1-36
8 North	2 East	2-11, 14-23, 26-34 Excluding Private Land
7 North	1 West	1-18
7 North	1 East	1-18
7 North	2 East	3-9, 15-22, 27-35 Excluding Private Land

**Part I: Plan Conformance Review**

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2008 and Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (IAP/EIS) 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 “FF095671 and FF095712 ConocoPhillips Summer Permit Studies 2011 Stipulations.”

Date **June 9, 2011**

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

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**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.		<b>X</b>
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.		<b>X</b>
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		<b>X</b>
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		<b>X</b>
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		<b>X</b>
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>

Date **June 9, 2011**

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