



# 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:  
FF095842  
2984.01 (AK010)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2011-0018-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** Bill Morris  
Habitat Biologist  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
1300 College Road  
Fairbanks, AK 99701

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Fisheries Habitat Studies in NPR-A.

**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicant, Bill Morris of Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), has requested authorization for field activity access and landing with a helicopter on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A) in support of fisheries habitat research. Proposed activities would be both on Native and BLM lands along the Kuk River bay and tributary streams from June 20 - July 12 and Aug 1 - Aug 17, 2011.

The focus will be on fish sampling, aquatic productivity measurements, and water quality sampling. Approximately 30 helicopter landings are anticipated during the June, July, August field season, with most of the landings occurring on the first and last days of the planned use periods. The helicopter fuel will be stored at the North Slope Borough Search and Rescue fuel depot. The helicopter will fly from Barrow to Wainwright and then fly from Wainwright to the camp location. No helicopter refueling will occur in the field.

The workers expect to establish a camp along the Kungok River near the mouth of Mikigealiak River. A crew of six to eight people would inhabit the camp. There would not be any storage of jet fuel at the camp but they would store and use up to 100 gallons of boat fuel. The boat fuel will be stored in poly drums which are then stored inside fuel containment bins that have capacity to hold several times the quantity to be stored. The field sites would be accessed via motor boat from the field camp.

Up to three motorboats (small inflatable rafts with 4 stroke engines) will be used for this project. Crews will operate five to nine nets at a time for four to seven days before moving to the next site. There will be two to three crews of two people running the nets with one boat trip to each net per day. Field days will typically last 12 to 14 hours.

Sampling sites (Sampling Areas 1 and 2 on map) will be primarily on Native lands, however there is a possibility of reconnaissance and sampling along lands and waterways managed by BLM on the Kungok River in T 13N R 29 W Sections 3,4, 9, and 10.

**Legal Description:**

Field Camp Location

Township	Range	Sect.	Description
13 North	29 W	8	Kungok River at confluence of Mikigealiak Creek

Possible Research Locations on BLM Lands

Township	Range	Section	Description
13 North	29 W	8, 3,13,14	Kungok River



**Map 1. Location of field camp and sampling sites for ADF&G fisheries habitat research.**

## Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: 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 "FF095842 Morris ADF&G Stipulations 2011."

Date June 8, 2011

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/s/Roger W. Sayre

Planning and Environmental Coordinator, 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; 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>

Date June 8, 2011

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/s/Roger W. Sayre  
Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Arctic Field Office