

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Arctic Field Office
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844
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In reply refer to:
FF095695
2984.01 (AK010)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2010-0016-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Lincoln Parrett
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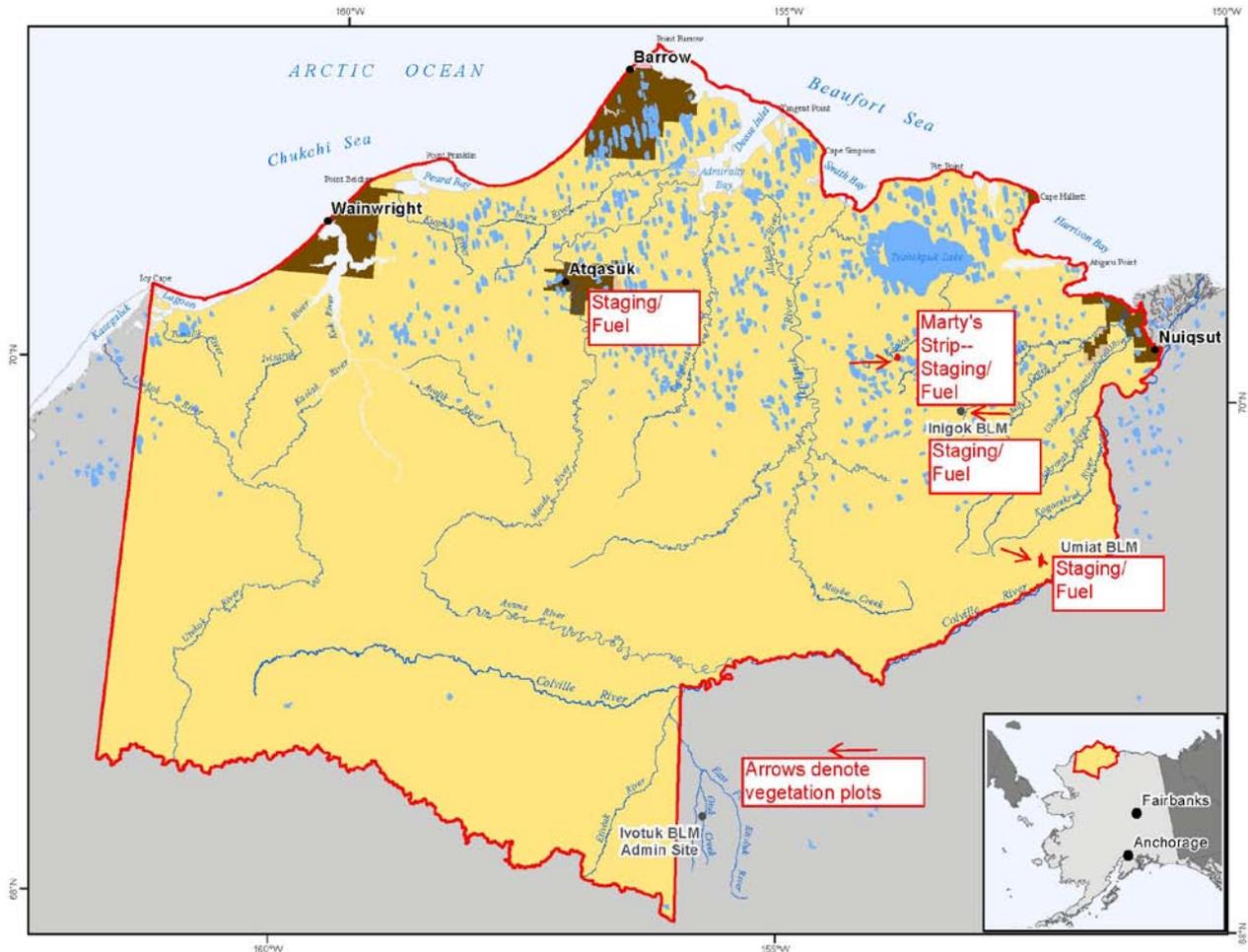
Proposed Action Title/Type: Caribou Research in NPR-A.

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. Proposed activities would be both on State lands (Umiat air strip) and in NPR-A, with staging based out of "Marty's Strip" adjacent to Kealok Creek (70° 21.5' N, 153° 12.4' W). and Inigok (70° 00.6' N, 153° 3.7' W). The airstrip at Atqasuk may also be used for staging and fuel storage. The permittee requests use of all of NPR-A (and its airspace) for overflights and landings, but most of the work is expected to occur in NE NPR-A.

The researchers expect to capture approximately 70 calves and 30 adult caribou. They would attempt to avoid the riparian corridors and villages to limit disturbance to subsistence activities. Activities will occur from June through October 2011, and with fixed wing and helicopter. Work levels would peak during June with the capture operation. Approximately 225 helicopter landings are anticipated in June and about 30 landings from July through October. An estimated 20 landings are expected at Marty's Strip. Crew size will usually be two to three people, but sometimes there might be as many as six to eight.

The plan also includes establishing vegetation plots on BLM land north of Umiat (approximately 69° 24' N, 151° 80' W), at Inigok, and at Marty's Strip.

Aircraft used would be a Robinson R-44 helicopter and a fixed wing airplane (Supercub). At each capture location the crew would land one time with the helicopter. Both aircraft would land two or three times per day at the fuel cache/field camp.



Map 1.

No fuel drops or camping are expected outside of Inigok or Marty’s strip. The proposed capture sites are in the Northeast and Northwest NPR-A.

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 2010.”

Date June 1, 2011

/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.		
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.		

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 1, 2011

/s/Roger W. Sayre

Planning and Environmental Coordinator, Arctic Field Office