

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:
FF095699
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2011-0021-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: George J. Divoky
Friends of Cooper Island
652 32nd Ave East
Seattle, WA 98112

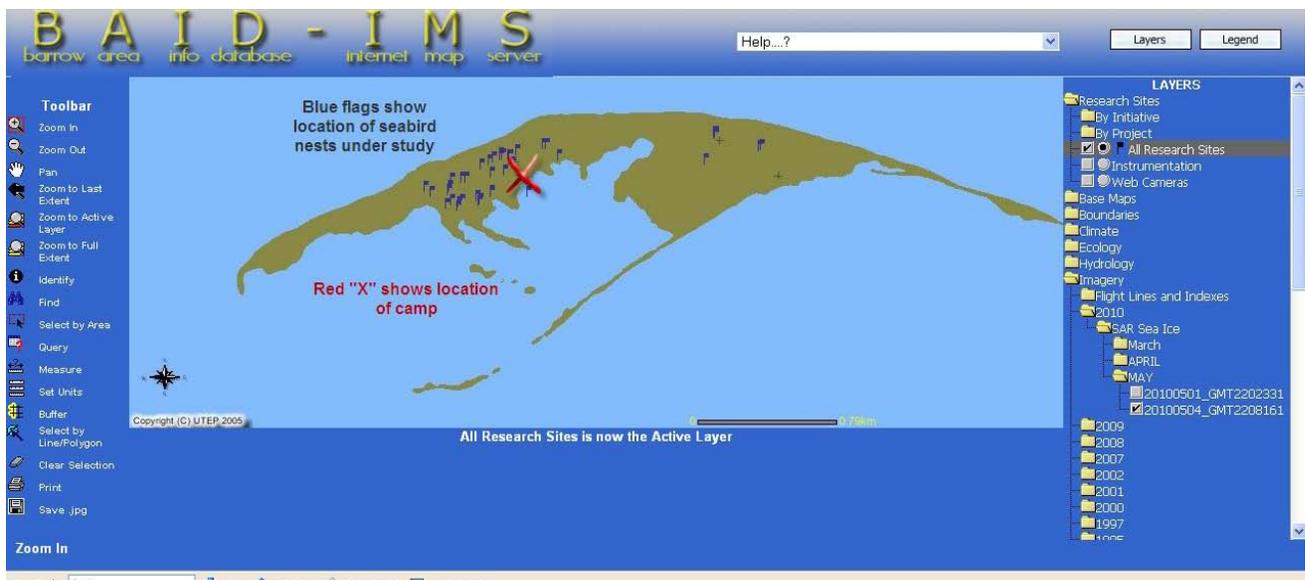
Proposed Action Title/Type: Field camp and Black Guillemot research on Cooper Island.

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, George Divoky of Friends of Cooper Island, has requested authorization for field activity, access, and cabin occupancy on Cooper Island. Cooper Island, 25 miles east of Barrow, is within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A). Occupancy/use would be from approximately June 4 to September 15, 2011. Activities include biological research of Black Guillemots and other sea birds and passive collection of hair samples from Polar Bears using wire fencing.

Up to five helicopter take-offs and landings are expected during June, and up to five boat charter landings are expected from early July to September. The occupant would use an 8×12 ft. cabin on the island. The overriding purpose of the project is to study seabirds, primarily Black Guillemots that breed on the island. A secondary purpose is to add to the Polar Bear hair collection project headed by the NSB. Power for the camp would be supplied by solar panels and a small wind generator. Cooking would be done on a propane stove. No gasoline engines would be used on the island.

During the study period, seabirds breeding on the island would be observed and monitored daily to gather information on population size, timing of breeding and breeding success. Field observations would be on foot, with no use of motorized vehicles. When not conducting ornithological observations, taking measurements, or checking Polar Bear hair catchment device, field personnel (1) would occupy the cabin.

Most fieldwork would be conducted on the western end of Cooper Island where the Navy left abandoned boxes and wood in the 1950s that seabirds now use for breeding sites (Map 1). Most of the human activity would occur within that area or adjacent to the camp.



Map 1. Cooper Island and location of field camp and Black Guillemot nests for field study.

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. 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 “FF095699 Friends of Cooper Island Summer 2011 Stipulations.”

Date June 3, 2011

 /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.		
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

Date June 3, 2011

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