

# 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:  
FF095383  
2984.01 (AK012)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2011-0025-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** Julian Fischer  
Project Leader  
Anchorage Waterfowl Management Field Station  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Greater White-fronted Geese Research Within the NPR-A

**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicant, Julian Fischer of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), has requested authorization for field activity and access to conduct greater white-fronted geese research within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A).

The USFWS proposes to capture midcontinent greater white-fronted geese for leg-band survival studies, in the Northwest NPR-A from July 10 – 16. Leg banding is a tool used to measure annual survival rates and identify migratory routes and harvest distribution. An annual sample of 1,000 banded white-fronted geese on the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska is needed for 10 years to ensure a 90% chance of detecting a 5% difference in survival rate.

Concentrations of molting geese would be located on lakes within the northwest portion of the NPR-A through aerial reconnaissance. Then, amphibious float planes would land and slowly herd flocks towards nets on shore. When geese are on shore, field crews would corral the flocks into a large holding pen, whereupon banding will commence. The USFWS plan to mark a total of 1,000 geese with USFWS leg bands and then immediately release them on site. These activities have undergone review and approval by a DOI IACUC (Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee). Banding operations would involve 8 people transported from Atqasuk, Alaska to each of five banding sites via amphibious float plane. There would be 3 planes with total landings of 15 and take offs of 15.

Captures would occur at inland lake sites 1 to 5 as shown in figure 1, within approximately 30 miles of Atqasuk, Alaska. All field personnel would be lodged at Atqasuk, Alaska. There is no proposed

field camp on BLM managed lands. All aviation fuel would be obtained from a USFWS fuel tank in Atqasuk, and not stored on BLM managed lands.

The USFWS annually provides information to the North Slope Borough and local communities detailing all proposed field activities including dates, aircraft identification numbers, and contact information.

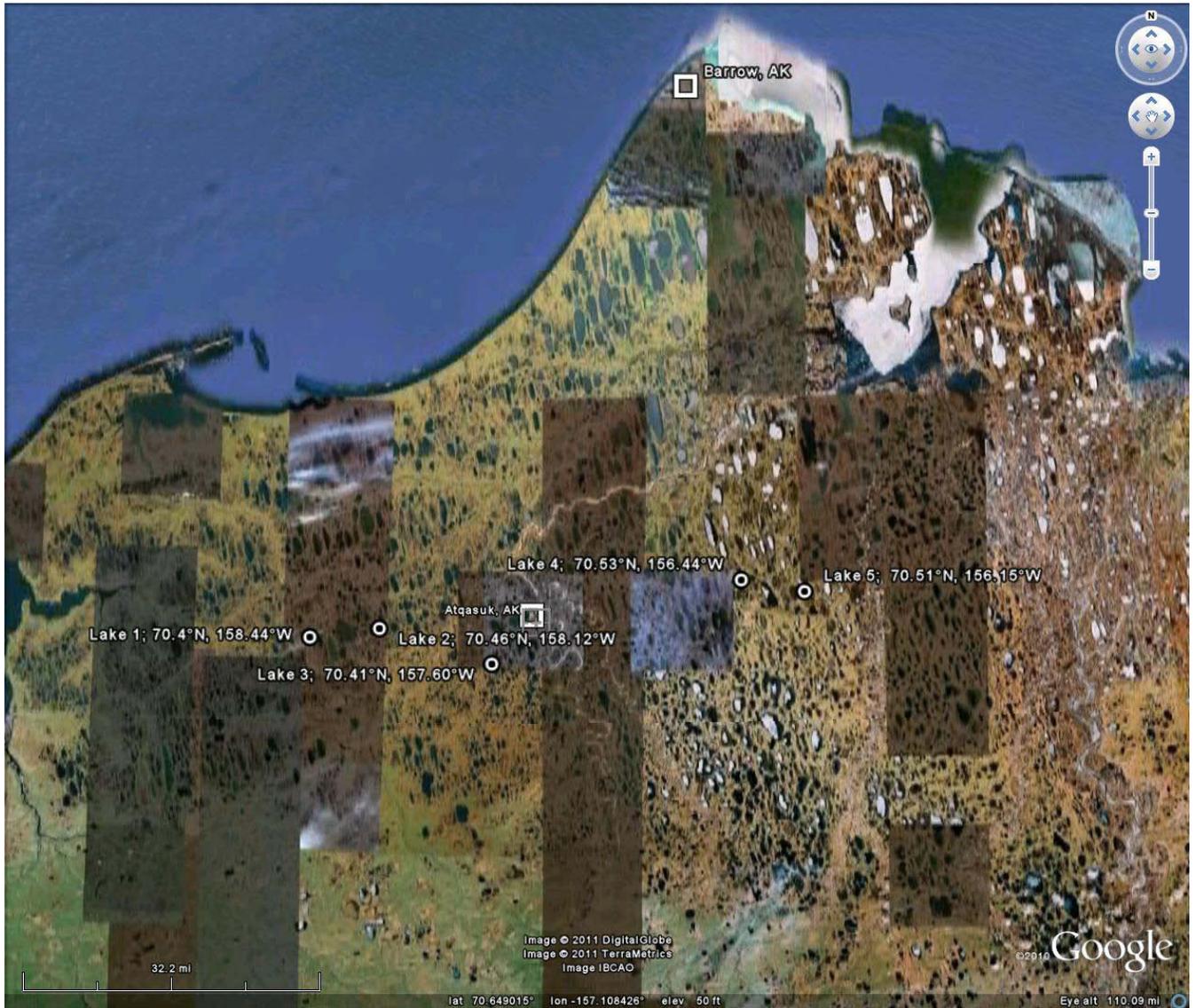


Figure 1 Applicant Supplied Map

Legal Description (All Umiat Meridian):

| Locations for Proposed Goose Capture and Banding |          |         |                       |
|--|----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Location   | Township | Range   | Section               |
| Lake 1   | 12 North | 26 West | 15,16,21,22           |
| Lake 2   | 13 North | 24 West | 16, 17, 19-21, 29,30  |
| Lake 3   | 12 North | 23 West | 1, 2, 11-1412         |
|  | 12 North | 22 West | 6,7,18                |
| Lake 4   | 15 North | 18 West | 21, 22, 27, 28, 33-36 |
| Lake 5   | 13 North | 17 West | 1, 2                  |
|  | 14 North | 17 West | 25, 26, 35, 36        |

**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) 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 “FF095383 USFWS Julian Fischer Avian Research NPR-A Permit Stipulations 2011.”

Date June 28, 2011

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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.

| <b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>   | <b>Yes</b> | <b>No</b> |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 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. |            |           |
| 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 28, 2011

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