



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In reply refer to:
FF095846
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2011-0024-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Terri Lomax
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
555 Cordova St
Anchorage, AK 99501

Proposed Action Title/Type: Wetlands survey on the Arctic Coastal Plain within the NPR-A

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Terri Lomax of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), has requested authorization for field activity and access to conduct a wetlands survey of the Arctic Coastal Plain within the NPR-A.

The ADEC proposes to conduct soil, botanical, biological, water column, and habitat measurements at multiple sites. They have identified 40 random wetland points and 10 targeted wetland points as the study area. In the event that one of the random sites cannot be accessed, 40 oversample points have been selected as alternatives. At each of the sites the following would occur:

Soils-collected in four soil pits and will include on-site description of the soil profile and collections of four types of soil samples (chemistry, bulk density, soil enzymes, and stable isotopes). Examples of types of data collected are soil profile descriptions, hydric soils field indicators, and soil chemistry

Biological-algae samples will be collected from substrates and from the surface of vegetation stems and leaves, and if present from water. Data on species composition and abundance, including guilds, and the presence of algal toxins will be collected.

Hydrology-data will include an assessment of hydrologic sources and connectivity, indirect evidence of hydroperiod, estimates of hydrologic fluctuations, and documentation of hydrology alterations. Types of data to be collected are degree of saturation and inundation, and types of hydrologic alterations. When standing water is present, **water chemistry** samples will be taken and analyzed for general water condition, various chemical analytes, and evidence of disturbance.

Vegetation-characterized by collecting data in five 100m² vegetation plots. Types of data to be collected are species composition and abundance, native species, alien species, floristic quality, guild and community composition, vegetation structure.

The proposed time frame is July 5 – August 31, 2011. The field crew would consist of ten people, with a maximum of six people present at any given time. The mode of transportation would be an R-44 helicopter and a piper super cub on floats providing fuel support. ADEC would make three helicopter landings per site. The field camp locations would be Wainwright, Barrow and Inigok.

Fuel storage of approximately 1,500 gallons is proposed for Wainwright and Inigok. Fuel barrels would be stored in a BLM containment area at Inigok, fuel would be purchased at Barrow and Wainwright. The helicopter company would use hand pumps with filters to refuel from the barrels. No fueling would occur on lakes, all fueling operations would occur on land at airports or gravel pads at the remote site.

ADEC has consulted with the North Slope Borough and they will contact communities in the survey area by phone or mail regarding the project. ADEC has reduced the sampling intensity around communities based on a request from the communities of Barrow, Atqasuk, Wainwright and Nuiqsit.



Figure 1 Applicant Supplied Map

Applicant Site ID #	NWI Base Sites MTRS			
	Township	Range	Section	
1	11 North	34 West	32	
2	17 North	18 West	12	
4	16 North	5 West	33	
5	15 North	26 West	27	
6	17 North	21 West	27	
8	16 North	7 West	4	
9	14 North	24 West	8	
10	17 North	15 West	25	
11	17 North	21 West	2	
13	15 North	29 West	1	
15	9 North	36 West	29	Sec 25 contains private land
16	15 North	3 West	3	Sec 19,20,29-32 contain private land
17	16 North	26 West	27	
18	15 North	11 West	8	
19	18 North	16 West	31	Sec 18 contains private land
20	15 North	10 West	24	Sec 10,11 contains private land
21	15 North	30 West	24	Not BLM Managed Lands
22	19 North	12 West	23	
23	8 North	35 West	5	
25	17 North	28 West	20	Sec 6,7,13,24,31 contains private land
43	12 North	6 West	30	
46	7 North	5 West	29	
49	6 North	7 West	32	
50	8 North	12 West	16	
51	11 North	24 West	35	
52	12 North	13 West	8	
53	9 North	7 West	17	
54	8 North	13 West	7	
56	14 North	12 West	23	
57	5 North	3 West	14	
58	8 North	4 West	27	
59	9 North	29 West	5	Sec 19,29,35,36 contains private land
61	7 North	3 West	4	
62	8 North	30 West	22	
63	13 North	22 West	31	
64	13 North	13 West	9	
65	6 North	1 East	9	
66	7 North	4 West	33	
67	13 North	9 West	2	
69	9 North	10 West	26	

	Targeted Wetland Points			
Applicant Site ID #	Township	Range	Section	
T81	14 North	1 West	7 SW,SW	
T82	23 North	18 West	14, NE,SE	Not BLM Managed Land
T83	20 North	11 West	27	Not BLM Managed Land
T84	19 North	11 West	23, SE, SE	
T85	18 North	5 West	18, SW, SE	Camp Lonely
T88	18 North	11 West	3, SE, SE	
T90	22 North	18 West	10, SE, NE	Not BLM Managed Land
T91	8 North	5 West	34, NE,SE	
T92	23 North	18 West	23, SW, SW	Barrow Dew Line Site
T93	15 North	31 West	34, NW,SW	

	NWI Oversample MTRS			
Applicant Site ID #	Township	Range	Section	
3	22 North	18 West	31	Not BLM Managed Lands
7	20 North	17 West	28	
12	12 North	3 East	30	Not BLM Managed Lands
14	20 North	15 West	34	Sec 32 contains private land
24	11 North	2 East	31	
26	16 North	20 West	4	
27	22 North	17 West	4	Not BLM Managed Lands
28	17 North	4 West	29	
29	12 North	30 West	33	Sec 2 contains private land
30	15 North	14 West	10	Secs 9,15,16,33,34 contains private land
31	10 North	31 West	20	Sec 6,8,9,16,17,20,21,28 contains private land
32	14 North	3 West	7	
33	17 North	24 West	28	Sec 19, 20 contains private land
34	17 North	11 West	18	
35	18 North	19 West	14	
36	13 North	5 West	20	
37	11 North	34 West	24	
38	21 North	15 West	8	
39	9 North	38 West	27	
40	11 North	4 East	21	Not BLM Managed Lands
41	7 North	1 West	22	
42	8 North	2 West	4	
44	14 North	19 West	4	
45	9 North	1 West	12	
47	11 North	1 East	21	
48	14 North	17 West	25	

55	12 North	21 West	30	Not BLM Managed Lands
60	13 North	17 West	35	
68	12 North	17 West	6	
70	9 North	14 West	20	
71	11 North	22 West	28	
72	13 North	11 West	10	
73	5 North	9 West	14	
74	9 North	16 West	4	
75	11 North	27 West	6	
76	11 North	19 West	32	Sec 31,32 contains private land
77	6 North	2 West	16	
78	11 North	4 West	12	
79	15 North	19 West	20	
80	11 North	13 West	9	

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 “FF095846 ADEC Wetlands Survey NPR-A Permit Stipulations 2011.”

Date **June 28, 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.		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.		
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 28, 2011**

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