

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:
FF095271
2984.01 (023)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF01200-2009-0024-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Cameron Wobus, Research Scientist
University of Colorado at Boulder
Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences
Campus Box 216
Boulder, Colorado 80309-0216

Proposed Action: Non-intrusive reconnaissance field work in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. (2984.01)

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, University of Colorado Research Scientist, Cameron Wobus has requested authorization for field activity access and landing by a helicopter, on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A), in support of reconnaissance and non-intrusive investigations, in relation to coastal erosion. The proposed action would take place at three sites, Lonely, Drew Point and Lake 31 (See map). The types of activities that are proposed are: 1) Measurements of coastal bluff heights, ice content, temperatures, and strength 2) installation of four-bottom-sitting pressure transducers in the near offshore environment (up to ~ 5km offshore) to measure incoming wave energy 3) Measurements of sea surface temperatures 4) Sampling of sediment in near offshore environment 5) Installation of time-lapse photography equipment (2-3 installations) 6) Servicing of meteorological stations at Drew Point and Lake 31. The proposed action would take place from July 25 – August 4, 2009. The transducers would be removed in late August or early September.

The crew conducting the proposed activity would consist of four scientists and a bear guard. One or Two scientists would remove the transducers. The camp and fuel storage for the proposed activity will either be at Point Lonely or Camp Lonely. The crew in July would fly by a charter flight to Lonely and be transported to their field site near the coast by helicopter. Fuel storage would consist of less than 10 gallons for a generator, propane canisters for cooking and fuel for a boat motor. The proposed aviation flights are one fixed wing round trip into Lonely and one round trip by helicopter from Lonely to Drew Point, Lake 31, and back to Lonely. All other access would be by boat.

Location: Section 25-27, Township 18 North, Range 8 West, Umiat Meridian
Section 1,2,11,12, Township 16 North, Range 7 West, Umiat Meridian
Section 14-18, Township 18 North, Range 5 West, Umiat Meridian

Part I: Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Supplemental Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 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 "FF095271 Cameron Wobus University of Colorado Summer Stipulations 2009", "Final Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Bureau of Land Management Summer Activities in 2008 in Undeveloped Areas of the National petroleum Reserve-Alaska", and "Polar Bear Interaction Guidelines." The authorization will also be subject to the USFWS PROGRAMMATIC BIOLOGICAL OPINION for the Bureau of Land Management Summer Activities in 2009 in Undeveloped Areas of the National petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

Date **07/23/2009**

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

Part II: NEPA Review

Categorical Exclusion Review.

This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion 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.

Date **07/23/2009**

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