

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Arctic Field Office  
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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

In reply refer to:  
FF095710  
2984.01 (AK012)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE/NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF010-2010-33-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** The Ecosystems Center  
Marine Biological Laboratory  
7 MBL Street  
Woods Hole, Massachusetts 02543

**Proposed Action:** Anaktuvuk River Wildfire Research (2984.01)

**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicant The Ecosystems Center, Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) has requested authorization for a permit to conduct research of historical wildfire areas on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to collect data for scientific research and effects of wildfire on arctic tundra ecosystems.

The proposed action would authorize the MBL to conduct visits to two separate fire sites within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) and collect data including lake and stream water, sediment samples, photos, and soil and plant samples for chemical analysis and for comparison with ongoing research on Anaktuvuk River wildfire. Access to the burn areas would be by daily helicopter flights from Atqasuk. Access to the lakes would be by a small inflatable boat. The field participants would include three scientists and one helicopter pilot. Multiple sites would be visited during a five day period.

Figure 1 and 2 show maps of the burn areas for this research, which is southwest of Atqasuk. There are 24 proposed take off and landings. The dates of proposed use are August 11-14, 2010.

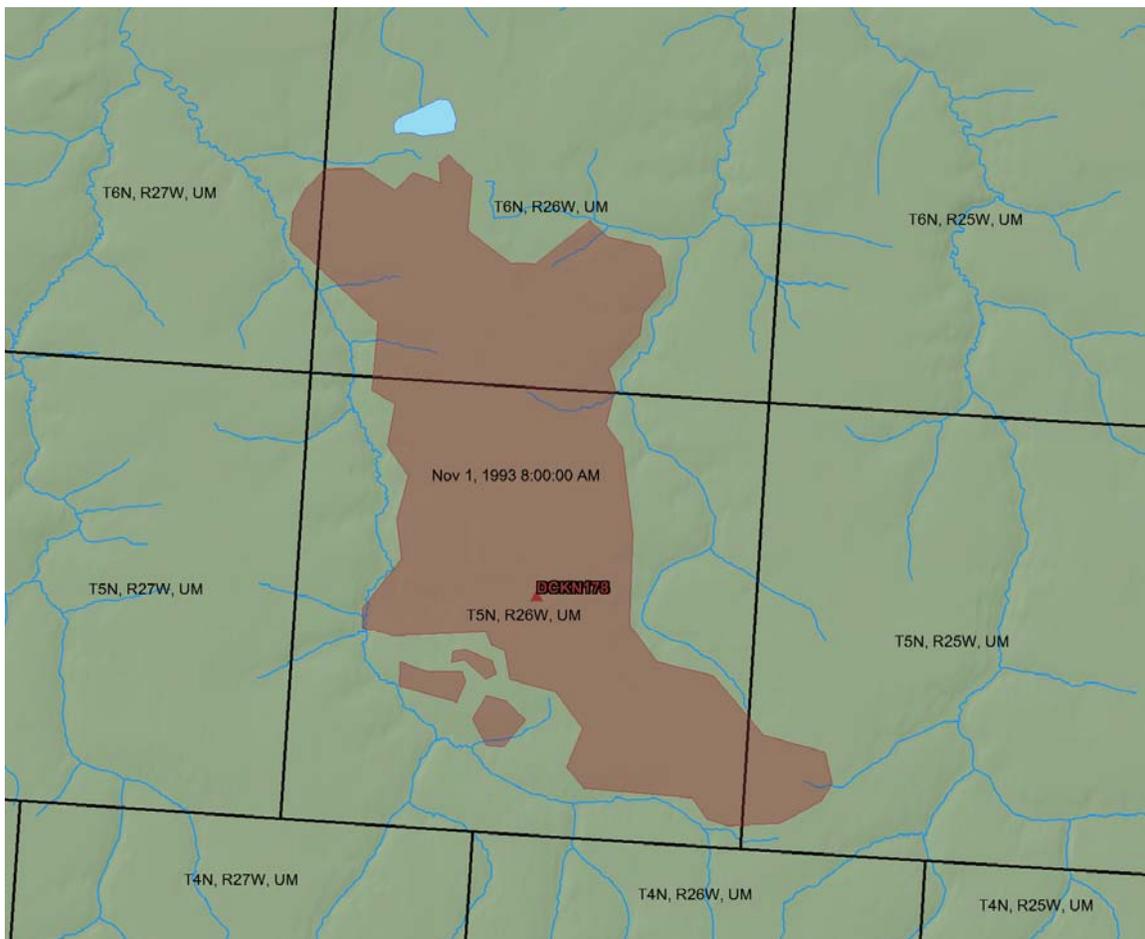
**Location (All Umiat Meridian):** Fire Burn Area DOKN190

<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>Section</u>
7 North	30 West	25-26, 35-36
7 North	29 West	1-5, 12-26
7 North	28 West	4-7, 18-20, 28-33
6 North	30 West	1-3, 9-16, 21-28, 35-36
6 North	29 West	1 – 36
6 North	28 West	4-9, 16-21, 28-33
5 North	30 West	1-3

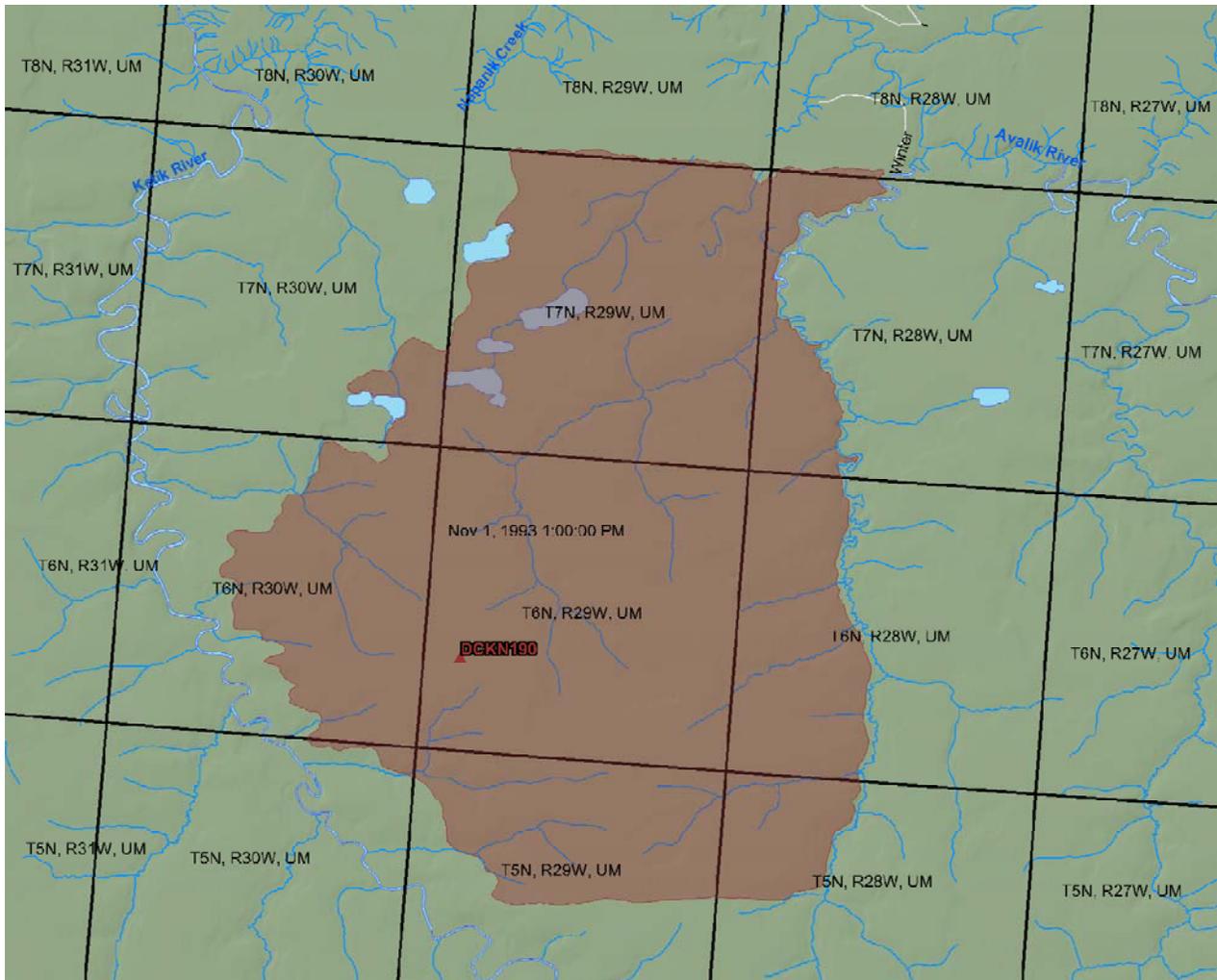
5 North	29 West	1-17
5 North	28 West	4-9, 16-18

**Location (All Umiat Meridian): Fire Burn Area DOKN190**

<b>Township</b>	<b>Range</b>	<b>Section</b>
6 North	27 West	24-25
6 North	26 West	19-20, 22, 26-35
5 North	26 West	2-5, 8-11, 14-17, 20-29, 34-36
5 North	25 West	29-32



**Figure 1.** Map showing location of YY burn for proposed ecosystem research project.



**Figure 2.** Map showing location of ZZ burn for proposed ecosystem research project.

### **Part I: Plan Conformance Review**

The proposed action is subject to the following planning documents The Utility Corridor Final Environmental Impact Statement approved 9/27/1989, Arctic Resource Management Plan (RMP) Management Situation Analysis evaluated 2/5/1990, Final Environmental Impact Statement on Oil and Gas Leasing in The National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and Record of Decision approved 5/1983. 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 “FF095710 Ecosystems Center Summer 2010 Stipulations.”

**Date August 8, 2010**

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

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## Part II: NEPA Review

### Categorical Exclusion Review.

This proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 national Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 3- 1.6. BLM Categorical Exclusions.

**“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 extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

<b>Extraordinary Circumstances</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
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.		<b>X</b>
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 August 8, 2010**

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