

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:
FF095671
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2010-0010-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Sally Rothwell
700 G Street ATO 1996
P.O. Box 100360
Anchorage, Alaska 99510-0360

Proposed Action Title/Type: Tundra Rehabilitation at Former Puviaq Over-summering Ice Pad.

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc (CPAI), 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 tundra rehabilitation at former Puviaq over-summering ice pad.

ConocoPhillips proposes to conduct a tundra rehabilitation treatment program at the former Puviaq over-summering ice pad. The work includes fertilizing, qualitatively assessing surface stability, and photography. The rehabilitation would focus on enhancing the soil nutrient characteristics of the site to promote the growth of the tundra plant communities that are present. The entire former ice pad and a 10 meter strip of the surrounding tundra would be lightly fertilized (200 pounds per acre). Vegetation cover along transects would be sampled using the point intercept method. Digital photographs and GPS waypoints would be obtained at each location. The work would take place either prior to June 5th or after August 15th depending on helicopter availability and snow cover. The estimated time on site is 2 to 3 hours.

The time frame for this action is summer 2010. The rehabilitation project is a four year project. Each year that on the ground activity is proposed the applicant will submit an application.

Location:

Section 34 & 35 Township 16 North Range 10 West Umiat Meridian

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 “FF095671 ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. Summer Stipulations 2010.”

Date May 18, 2010

/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,

“Vegetation management activities, such as seeding, planting, invasive plant removal, installation of erosion control devices (e.g. mats/straw/chips) and mechanical treatments, such as crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, mowing, and prescribed fire when the activity is necessary for the management of vegetation on public lands.”

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any extraordinary circumstances 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.		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		X

involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
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 May 18, 2010

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