

# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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In reply refer to:  
FF095588  
2984.01 (AK012)

## PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2010-0022-CX

### Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

**Applicant:** Brian Person, Ph.D.  
Department of Wildlife Management  
North Slope Borough  
P.O. Box 69  
Barrow, AK 99723

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Lesser Snow Goose and Vegetation Research in NPR-A.

**Description of Proposed Action:** The applicant, Brian Person of North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management, has requested authorization for field activity access and landing with fixed-wing aircraft or helicopter on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A), in support of ecological research. Proposed activities would be on the Ikpikpuk Delta and near Teshepuk Lake (Table 1).

**Table 1.** Timing, location, and type of location of proposed NSB field activities for summer 2010.

Date	Loc.	Type of Activity	Number of People	Access	Number of Landings	Fuel Sites	Field Camp Location
June 14-16	Ikpikpuk Delta	vegetation work	2	fixed-wing	2	none	70° 43.217 154° 29.87
July 12-16	Ikpikpuk Delta	nest survey	2	fixed-wing	2	none	70° 43.217 154° 29.87
July 20	Ikpikpuk Delta	fuel drop*		fixed-wing	1	70° 43.217 154° 29.87	70° 43.217 154° 29.87
July 31 - Aug. 8	Ikpikpuk Delta	LSG banding	8	fixed-wing/ helicopter	2	none	70° 43.217 154° 29.87
Aug. 15-17	Teshepuk Lake	vegetation work	2	helicopter	7	none	70 43.402 153 44.043

\*Fuel Drop: 165 gallons within fuel berm, capable of 110% containment

The field activities on the Ikpikpuk Delta would occur during June, July, and August of 2010, with 19 days of flying and field activity scheduled. Up to four fixed-wing take-offs and landings would take place for the vegetation research (June 14-16) and nest surveys (July 12-16). A fixed-wing and helicopter (R44) landing would be required for the Lesser Snow Goose banding (July 31 – Aug 8). The Goose Research would involve banding Lesser Snow Geese. Two persons would camp and conduct the vegetation research and eight persons would camp and conduct the Lesser Snow Goose work.

A fuel drop on the Ikpikpuk Delta is scheduled for July 20. A three drum cache would be placed in portable containment on a gravel bar utilized by small fixed wing aircraft in the Ikpikpuk River Delta. The fuel cache would be in position for approximately 20 days to support the banding research. The gravel bar is unvegetated and within an active channel (not navigable by small boat) of the Ikpikpuk River. The drums would be flown via fixed wing (Alaska Air Taxi Beaver on tundra tires) to the gravel bar.

The final phase of the project would involve three days of vegetation research near Teshekpuk Lake on August 15-17. Access would be by an R44 helicopter. There would be two researchers and up to seven landings.

The transport and handling of fuels can result in leaks and spills. Sling-loading full drums of fuel can result in damaged or leaking drums. Unsupervised drum caches could be damaged by vandals or extreme weather conditions. Plane landings and temporary (less than 24 hours) use of one of the aprons could significantly interfere other operations. The following stipulations are recommended to address identified concerns:

1. Drum ports shall be sealed to ensure that incidental leaks from loose bung(s) or that spills from toppled drums do not occur.

The proposed sites are in the Northeast and Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

### **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 “FF095588 North Slope Borough Brian Person Summer 2010 Stipulations.”

Date June 7, 2010

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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.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
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.		<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		<b>X</b>

of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		
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 7, 2010

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