

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:
FF095383
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-LLAKF012-2010-0029-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

Applicant: Julian Fischer
Project Leader
1011 E Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Proposed Action Title/Type: White-fronted goose survival studies

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Julian Fischer of the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), has requested authorization for field research on greater white-fronted geese on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A). Proposed activities would be in the Teshepuk Lake Special Area and between the Colville and Ikpikpuk Rivers from July 14 to July 16, 2010 (See map on page 2 of this CX for proposed location).

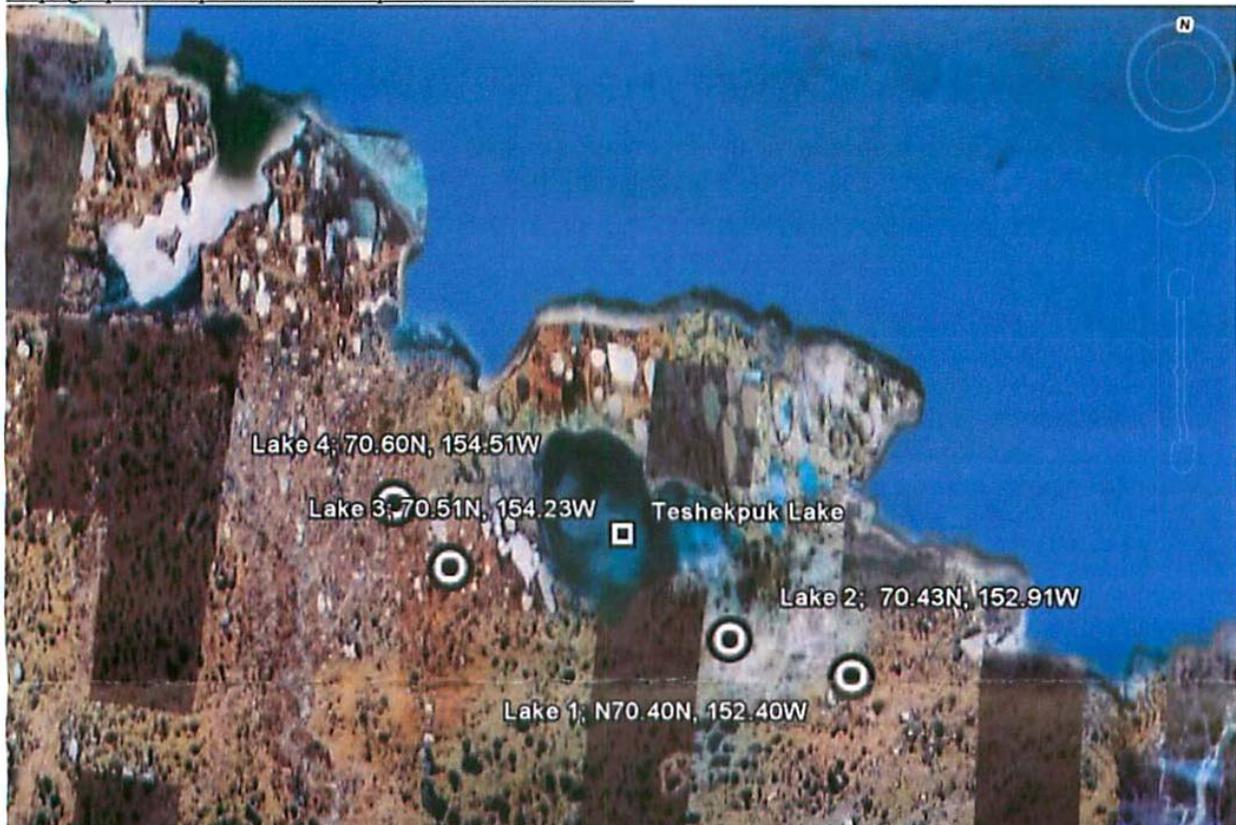
The objective of the project is to capture and leg band up to 1,000 white-fronted geese per year to sample for survival rates, identify migratory routes, and determine harvest distribution. A portion (n = 200) of the captured birds would also be swabbed for avian influenza.

Banding operations are described in detail in a March 26, 2010 memorandum from USFWS to BLM. Birds would be located with aerial reconnaissance, and three amphibious airplanes (Cessna 206) would converge on the concentration area and flocks of the geese would be "herded" into large nets. Captured geese would be corralled and processed and released as quickly as possible.

The crew would consist of eight personnel. There would be no field camps and they would fly to the capture sites from Deadhorse.

No fuel drops or camping are expected. The proposed sites are in the Northeast NPR-A.

Topographic map marked with pertinent information:



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 “FF095383 USGS Fischer Summer 2010 Stipulations”.

Date June 21, 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,

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

Date June 21, 2010