

In reply refer to:
FF095695
2984.01 (AK012)

PLAN CONFORMANCE/NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD

DOI-BLM-AKF010-2013-27-CX

Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management

A. Background

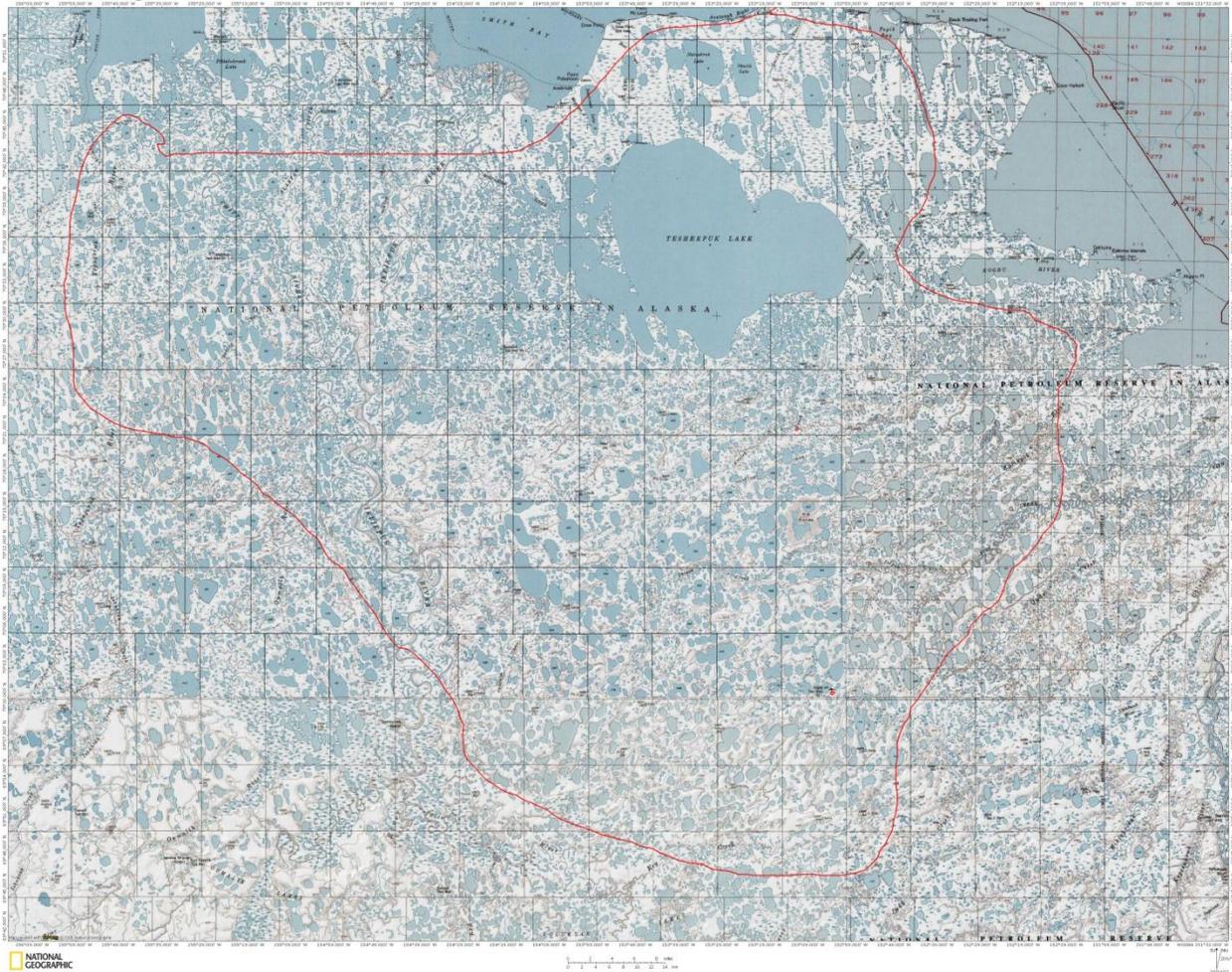
Proposed Action: The applicant is planning to conduct a field study on caribou in NPR-A this summer.

Date of Proposed Action: From June 1th to October 31, 2013.

Location:

Township	Range	Meridian	BLM Managed Sections
8 North	5 West	Umiat	All BLM Lands
12 North	5 West	Umiat	All BLM Lands
18 North	5 West	Umiat	All BLM Lands
1 South	1 West	Umiat	All BLM Lands

Map:



Applicant: Lincoln Parrett
Wildlife Biologist, ADFG
1300 College Rd.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Serial Number: FF095695

Description of Proposed Action:

The applicant, Lincoln Parrett, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game ADFG (ADFG), has requested authorization for field activity including access and landing by fixed wing aircraft and a helicopter, on lands within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). The components of the project are nearly identical to the project permitted by the BLM last year.

The applicant will conduct a caribou calf capture using a helicopter in early June, and will conduct daily fixed-wing monitoring of calves throughout June. In late June they will capture adult caribou capture using a helicopter and net gun and will monitor animals monthly from fixed wing aircraft throughout the year. In addition, vegetation monitoring will occur at four plots along a latitudinal transect from Umiat to Lonely that will be accessed using fixed wing aircraft or helicopter. Vegetation monitoring will involve one landing per plot visit, with visits twice per month.

The applicant anticipates approximately 100 helicopter landings in June, and about 20 irregularly spaced out in July-October. Approximately 20 of the helicopter landings will occur at Inigok, the remainder will occur at individual locations where caribou work will occur. These locations will be dictated by caribou movement. They anticipate an additional 50-75 fixed wing landings, proportional in space and time to the distribution of helicopter landings.

Most activities will be based out of Umiat, but some activities in late June will be based out of Inigok. They may use Kealok Creek, also known as Marty’s Strip, or the Mosquito Ranch, if conditions warrant basing out of there rather than Inigok. There will be two to six people in the field.

They would like to place 400 gallons of aviation gas at Inigok in late June for use during caribou captures. The remainder of the fuel will be stored in Umiat.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act which allows for the authorization of uses consistent with the purposes of the Act.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9. This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

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		X

National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		
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

D. Approval and Contact Information

I considered the proposed action and have determined that there is no potential for significant impacts.

/s/Lon Kelly
Authorized Officer, Arctic Field Office

5/31/2013
Date

Contact Person:

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