

Categorical Exclusion

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKF010

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF096434

Applicant: John Thorton
Intermap Technologies, Inc.
8310 South Valley Hwy, Suite 400
Englewood, Colorado 80112

Proposed Action Title/Type: NPR-A Permit (298401)

Dates of Proposed Activity: July & August 2013

General Location of Proposed Action: Southeast NPR-A and South

Description of Proposed Action:

The applicant, John Thornton on behalf of Intermap Technologies, Inc. (Intermap) has requested authorization for field activity and access to conduct an imaging radar mapping project within the southeastern boundary of the NPR-A (Figure 2). There are locations outside of the NPR-A where the activity would also occur, but outside of the NPR-A the activity is considered casual use and an authorization is not necessary. Intermap has been contracted by the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct a mapping survey of the lands. The imaging radar system they would use is interferometric synthetic aperture radar for terrain elevation (IFSARE), which is an adverse weather synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system for acquiring and processing geographic and terrain elevation data.

Intermap conducted a similar project last year in the western portion of the NPR-A and points within the NPR-A. A ground crew and airborne crew would be deployed to the project area along with the IFSARE system. The ground crew would arrive in advance of the flight crew in order to select and survey GPS station locations, identify benchmarks, and perform a preliminary survey of ground verification points.

The ground crew would consist of one surveyor and one helicopter pilot. There are two points within BLM managed land (Table 1) in the NPR-A that the ground crew is proposing to install corner reflectors (Figure 1). A permit is not needed at points on BLM managed lands outside of the NPR-A as the activity is considered casual use

They are contracting with Bristow Helicopters for the project. There is no camp and no fuel use proposed on BLM managed lands. They anticipate spending between three and four hours at each site. The reflectors would be installed in late July and picked up in September. The total number of helicopter take off and landings anticipated is eight. The reflectors would be used as ground control points for the Lear jet. Upon conclusion of the ground crew work, the IFSARE system would be deployed and data acquisition would commence in the project area.

For the actual survey work, Intermap would not be landing on BLM managed lands. They would fly back and forth from Fairbanks and anticipate 40 to 50 total flights, flying at night with two

flights per night. Their aircraft would coordinate with the Anchorage Air Route Traffic Control Center. Their proposed mapping schedule is:

1 August – 10 September: Flight originate out of Fairbanks to fly first part of Alaska Acquisition

The data acquisition components of IFSARE are installed in a Lear Jet aircraft platform. The Lear Jet would be stationed in Fairbanks for the duration of the project. Flight lines take into consideration overlap needs and shadow fill requirements, based upon terrain ruggedness, flight altitudes, and local restrictions.

A four and a half hour mission day is planned allowing for about three and a half hours of mapping time, and one-hour transit time (to/from the objective area). Normal flying altitudes range from 28,000 feet to 38,000 feet at an average airspeed of 380 knots true. This allows for an effective data acquisition rate of 750 km² per hour. Per sortie, the system averages about 3200 km².



Figure 1. Reflector (2 ft. × 2 ft. × 2 ft.)

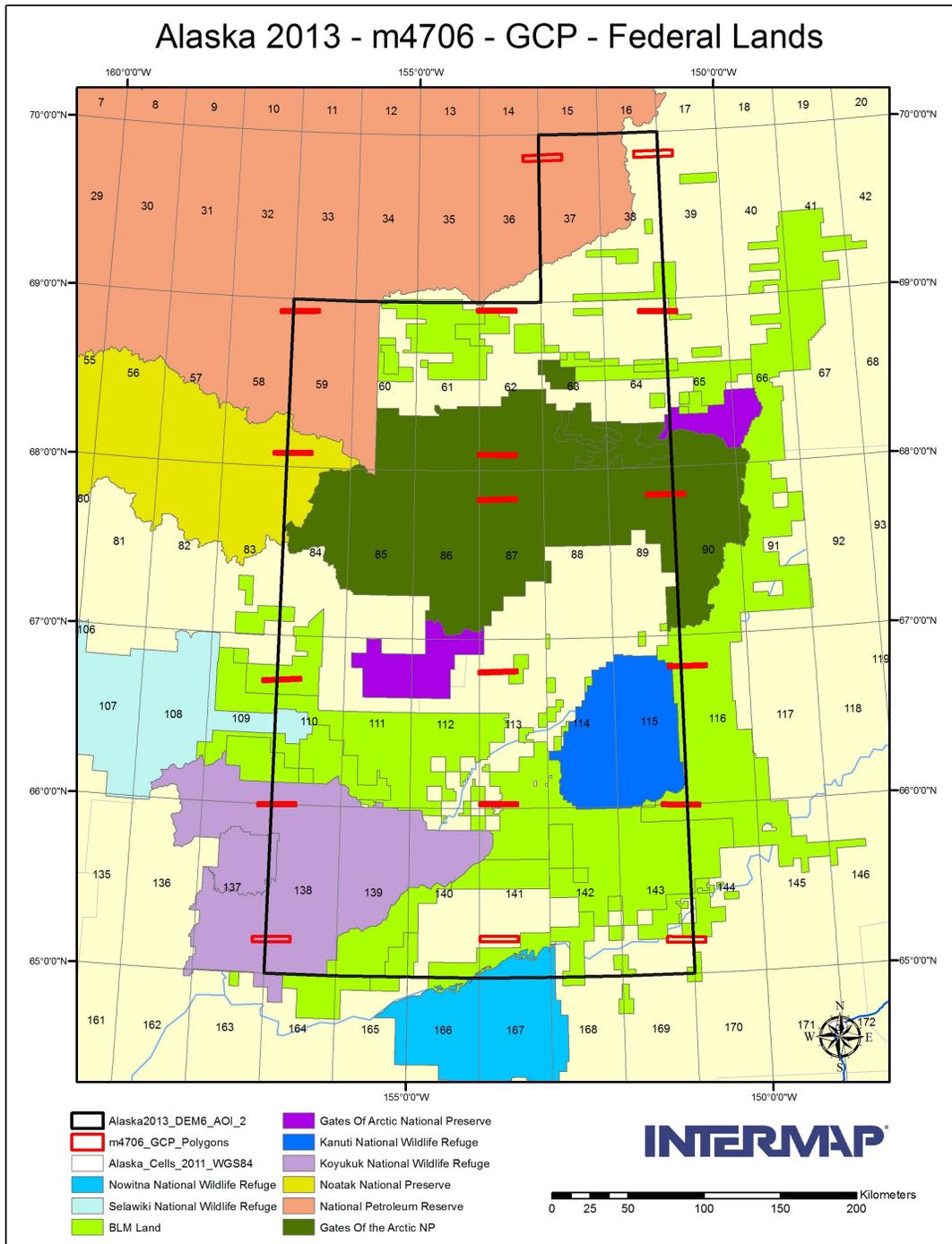


Figure 2. Applicant Submitted Map

Legal Description of activity:

Point ID	Latitude	Longitude	Meridian	Township	Range	Section	BLM Field Office/ Permit Needed?
4706A1	69°51'11.6287" N	152°41'13.5533 W	Umiat	6 North	3 West	20 SWSE	Arctic NPR-A/Yes

4706B1	68°55'16.8467" N	156°56'40.7779" W	Umiat	6 South	21 West	17 NESW	Arctic NPR-A/Yes
4706B2	68°57'00.0"N	153°45'12.7"W	Umiat	6 South	8 West	3 NESE	Arctic/No
4706B3	68°55'25.2"N	150°53'32.4"W	Umiat	6 South	5 East	15 SENE	Arctic/No
4706E1	66°44'18.7"N	156°58'59.8" W	Kateel River	16 North	9 East	32 SWSW	Central Yukon/No
4706E2	66°48'24.7"N	153°54'46.0"W	Kateel River	16 North	23 East	9 NWNW	Central Yukon/No
4706E3	66°49'04.2"N	150°38'08.9"W	Fair-banks	23 North	14 West	28 NWNW	Central Yukon/No
4706F2	66°01'18.4"N	153°52'58.3"W	Kateel River	7 North	24 East	7 NWSE	Central Yukon/No
4706F3	65°59'51.4"N	150°54'40.0"W	Fair-banks	14 North	21 West	34 SENW	Central Yukon/No

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following planning document: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated November 2012 and associated Record of Decision dated February 2013.

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 IAP/EIS Record of Decision for the NPR-A developed stipulations and best management practices applicable to all activities in NPR-A. The stipulations and best management practices applicable to the proposed action will be provided, along with project-specific mitigation, to the applicant and are entitled: "FF096434 Intermap Technologies Summer 2013 Stipulations."

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, Specifically the proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 National Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 4(F-10) BLM Categorical Exclusions.

"Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities."

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 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

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

Date: July 2, 2013

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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