

Name

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKF010

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF096617

Applicant:

University of Alaska
Richard Guritz
UA Facilities and Land Management
P.O. Box 755280
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775-5280

Proposed Action Title/Type: Lidar & Ortho imagery quality check / NPR-A Permit (298401)

Dates of Proposed Activity: Middle of July, 2013

General Location of Proposed Action: Crea Creek Watershed (West of Nuiqsut)

Description of Proposed Action: The applicant, Richard Guritz with the University of Alaska, has requested authorization for field activity and access to conduct a Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) and Ortho imagery quality check project within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). The University contracted deliverables for LIDAR and ortho imagery. The time period of their fieldwork would be jointly planned to coincide with the actual LIDAR acquisitions as much as possible. This would be worked out with the LIDAR contractor but target date is near the middle of July when water flow volumes are minimal. They would be in the area for two to three days, the expected amount of time needed to collect the Global Positioning System (GPS) control data

There would be two individuals from the University of Alaska Fairbanks conducting the field work. They may also hire a resident of Nuiqsut as a bear guard to accompany them.

They would establish a GPS base station at Nuiqsut on a known geodetic control point. Then they would hire a floatplane out of Bettles to fly them from the Village of Nuiqsut to the Crea Creek watershed. The plane would land on one of the larger lakes in the watershed. They would ask the pilot to fly higher than 2000 feet elevation except when landing as feasible given weather conditions. There would be a total of 4 take off and landings.

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They are not proposing any fuel use or storage and would purchase and use WAG bags for containment and dispose of all human waste. The crew would carry out everything carried in and dispose of waste at the village of Nuiqsut. They would bring a satellite phone for communications and in case of emergencies and would have a survival kit and first aid gear. Bear proof food containers would be used to store any food items. The Village of Nuiqsut and the Kuukpik

Corporation have been consulted about the project. The University of Alaska is obtaining a permit from the NSB and permission from the Kuukpik Corporation for use of their lands and BLM managed lands that they have selected. Both entities requested that aircraft flying heights exceed 2000 feet.

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.

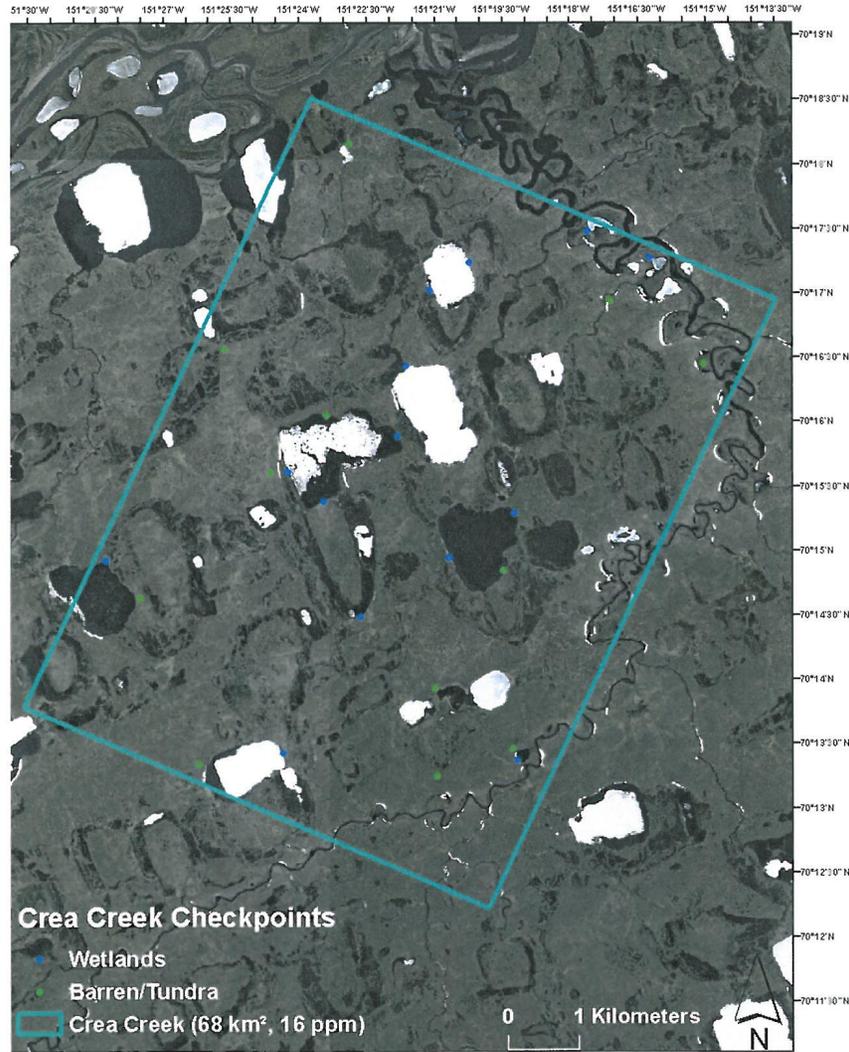


Figure 1: Applicant Supplied Map

Township	Range	BLM Managed Land Sections	Non BLM Land Sections
11 North	3 East	14-17, 20-23, 26-36 (Camp Section 34)	24, 25 Kuukpik Corporation
10 North	3 East	1-11, 14-18, 21-22	--

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: “FF096617 UAF Richard Guritz Summer Stipulations 2013”.

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

Date: July 3, 2013

Authorized Officer, Arctic Field Office

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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