

Colorado State University Soil and Vegetation Research

A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F-0300–2014–0019–CX

BLM Office:Central Yukon Field Office

/Case File No.:F–96773

Proposed Action Title/Type: Soil and Vegetation Research

Location of Proposed Action:Mile posts 285 (Toolik) and 290 (Imnavait) more particularly described as Secs. 28, 31, 32 and 33, T. 9 S., R. 11 E., Secs. 33 and 34, T. 9 S., R. 12 E., and Sec. 4, T. 10 S., R. 12 E., Umiat Meridian, Alaska.

Description of Proposed Action:Matthew Wallenstein with the Colorado State University proposes to set up a 20 sampling sites (10 Toolik and 10 Imnavait) to collect samples for soil and vegetation analysis with 3–6 people. The plots will measure 10m x 10m marked with stakes at each corner which will be removed upon completion of project. They would collect soil and leaf litter from five (5) 5 cm diameter cores to a depth of 20cm and would collect 200g of leaf litter from the soil surface. Then they would use a hexagon open-topped passive warming chamber for a period of two weeks during the summer (see diagram in admin folder) They would then add glucose and let set for two weeks. All sites are accessible for foot on the boardwalk at Toolik and the road by Imnavait. The teams would range from 3–6 persons visiting the site maximum 5 times within 3, 2 —week periods each year. The purpose of the project is to study carbon and nutrient dynamics in acidic moist tussock tundra in the region and to investigate how soil interacts between plants and soil microbes, using both lab and field experiments. They propose a 4 year authorization, we would offer a 3 year with a renewal option.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name:Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: January 11, 1991

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s):

Utility Corridor RMP, Appendix N — Lands and Realty Program (Page N-8)

7. Process applications for land use authorizations from the general public, Federal and State agencies and research organizations on a case by case basis.

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.

Appendix 3, Departmental Categorical Exclusions

1.6 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.

D. Approval and Contact Information

Tim Hammond	April 16, 2014
for Nichelle W. Jacobson	Date
Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	

Contact Person

Robin Walthour, Realty Specialist
Central Yukon Field Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
(907) 474-2304 or rwalthour@blm.gov