

Lake Sediment Sampling

A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2014-0021-CX

BLM Office:Central Yukon Field Office

Case File No.:F-96780

Proposed Action Title/Type: Lake Sediment Sampling by students from Brown University

Location of Proposed Action:Toolik Research Area more particularly described as Secs. 24, 26, 29 and 30, T. 9 S., R. 11 E., Umiat Meridian, Alaska, containing approximately 1.0 acre.

Description of Proposed Action:Students from Brown University propose to take samples of lake sediment in the four locations identified above between May 5 — 18, 2014. They would travel to each site by snow machine which is needed in order to carry their scientific equipment. Once on site they propose to use an ice auger to drill three (3), 12 inch diameter holes in the lake ice, then they would lower the coring device made of polycarbonate casing. Then PVC pipes would be lowered around the coring rods until they also become inserted into the sediment until it becomes filled with a vertical column of sediment. This process would continue until the sediment becomes too hard to penetrate with hand held devices. No structures would be erected and all equipment would be removed after sampling. The sediment samples would be transferred back to the university for processing and archival. Snowmachine travel would be limited to the proposed routes (see map) in activity folder and they would not make more than four (4) round trips to each site.

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

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

/s/ Gary M. Foreman	April 17, 2014
Nichelle W. Jacobson Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	Date

Contact Person

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