

A. Background

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office LLAKF010

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF095671 and FF095712

Applicant: ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.
Stephen W. Brashear
P.O. Box 100360
Anchorage, AK 99510-0360

Proposed Action Title/Type: Summer Activities in the NPR-A (2984.01)

Dates of Proposed Activity: May 15 – September 30, 2014

General Location of Proposed Action: Greater Moose's Tooth Unit, Bear Tooth Unit and Puviaq Area

Description of Proposed Action: ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) has requested authorization to conduct environmental studies, pre-development scouting, exploration well preparation, inspection and other activities in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A). The company and its contractors propose to conduct a variety of studies including but not limited to geological, biological, hydrological, archaeological, cultural, and lake studies (See list of activities studies in Table 1). Additional studies concerning placement of oil wells and potential access routes are possible. The studies would commence in May and continue through the fall of 2014. The authorization would expire September 30, 2014.

These studies would use helicopters for transportation to and from the study area (see Figure 1). On the ground, activities would be performed on foot, and crew size would be from two to six people, depending on the project. Approximately 800 helicopter take offs and landings are requested during the season (for each landing an associated take off is needed).

CPAI does not plan on using any remote field camps or employing remote fuel storage for the proposed activities. CPAI and its contractors will adhere to all applicable stipulations and best management practices for the NPR-A during the performance of all study activities and the applicant would provide weekly updates to the Kuukpik Subsistence Oversight Panel (KSOP), Local Communities, the North Slope Borough, and other interested agencies and organizations.

Table 1. CPAI Summer Field Work, National Petroleum Reserve Alaska, 2014
Description of Proposed Activities. Consultation will include updates to Native Village of Nuiqsut as well as KSOP.

Activity	Description	Time Periods (s)	Approximate Number of Personnel (including pilot)	Site Access	Forecasted Number of Landings for 2014-BLM Lands Only	Consultation
Puviaq Tundra Rehabilitation	Puviaq inspection	July - August	4	Helicopter	5	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
Environmental Studies: Hydrology	Hydrology monitoring in the Fish Creek Basin area, proposed GMT road corridor.	Spring breakup (late May/early June through end of September)	4	Helicopter	130	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
Environmental Studies: Weather Station Support	Weather station maintenance in the Fish Creek Basin area	Spring breakup (late May/early June through end of September)	2	Helicopter	25	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
Environmental Studies: Wildlife Studies	Wildlife surveys in the northeast NPRA area	May - September	4	Helicopter	20	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
Environmental Studies: Archeology & Cultural Studies	Cultural resources survey	June - August	2	Helicopter	25	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
Environmental Studies: Avian	Avian surveys in the northeast NPRA area	June - August	4	Helicopter	25	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
Environmental Studies: Lake and Stream Studies	Stream, lake and fish sampling as needed	June - September	4	Helicopter	20	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
Rondy/Flat Top Ice Road Stickpicking	Winter ice road route cleanup	July - September	6	Helicopter	70	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
ARGOS Sites	Serviceing existing ARGOS weather stations	May - September	2	Helicopter	10	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
Engineering Design Studies	Potential surveying/engineering site visits related to potential NPRA developments	July - August	4	Helicopter	60	Daily hotline, daily conference call, weekly updates to stakeholders
Site visits & tours, Inspections	Agency, Stakeholder, Kuukpik/Nuiqsut elders to currently proposed drillsites and other points (TBD).	June - September	6	Helicopter	30	Mnay of these trips may involve local community member. Flights will also be communicated on the weekly updates.

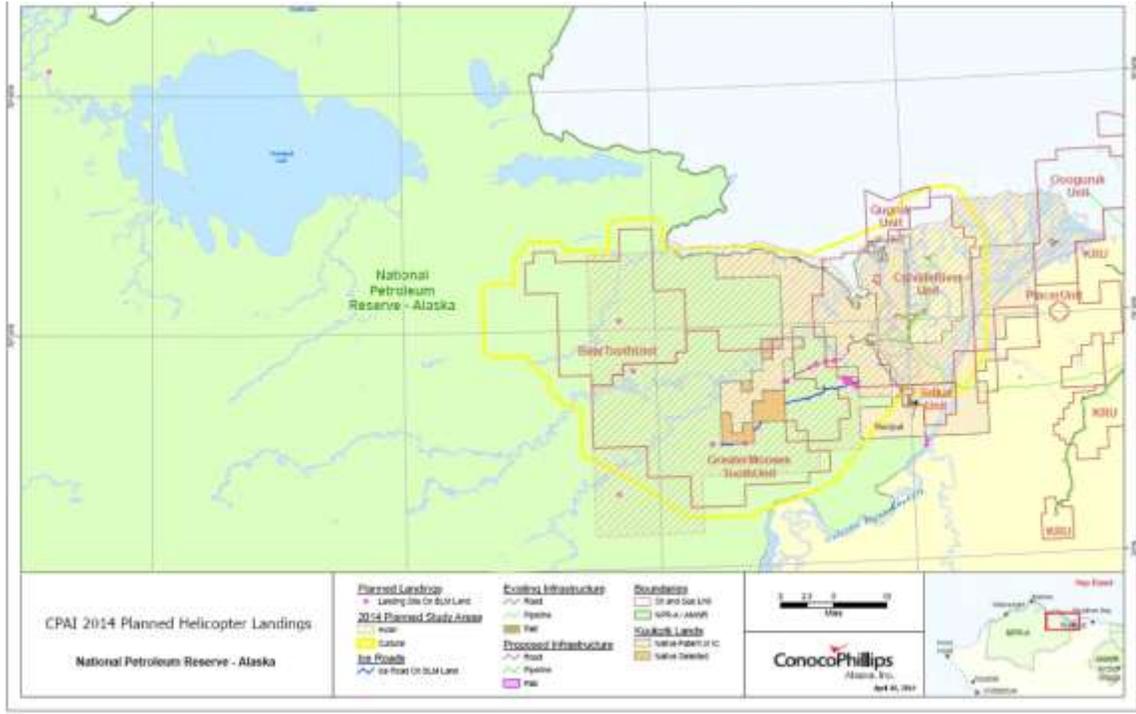


Figure 1. Location of proposed activity by CPAI. Pink squares represent landings; hatching and yellow boundary line indicates study areas.

Land Description (All Umiat Meridian):

NE NPR-A		
Township	Range	Section
13 North	1 West	1-36
13 North	2 West	1-36
12 North	3 West	1-36
12 North	2 West	1,12,13,24,25,36
12 North	1 West	1-36
12 North	1 East	1-36
12 North	2 East	13-36
12 North	3 East	No BLM Managed Lands
12 North	4 East	No BLM Managed Lands
12 North	5 East	No BLM Managed Lands
11 North	3 West	1-36
11 North	2 West	1,12,13,24,25,36
11 North	1 West	1-36
11 North	1 East	1-36
11 North	2 East	1-15,19-22,27-33, (13,14,23 Reg/Sel)
11 North	3 East	8-10, 14-17, 20-23, 26-36
11 North	4 East	31
11 North	5 East	No BLM Managed Lands
10 North	2 West	1,12,13,24,25,36
10 North	1 West	1-36
10 North	1 East	1-36
10 North	2 East	25-27, 34-36 (4,11-15,19,22-24,28,30-33 Reg/Sel)
10 North	3 East	1-36
10 North	4 East	6,7,15-19,30,31
10 North	5 East	No BLM Managed Lands
9 North	2 West	1,12,13,24,25,36
9 North	1 West	1-36
9 North	1 East	1-36
9 North	2 East	1-36 Excluding State Land
9 North	3 East	1-36 Excluding State Land
9 North	4 East	1-13,23-27,31-34 Excluding Private Land
9 North	5 East	5-8 Excluding Private Land
8 North	1 West	1-36
8 North	1 East	1-36
8 North	2 East	2-11, 14-23, 26-34 Excluding Private Land

Puviaq Area		
Township	Range	Section
16 North	10 West	35

B. Plan Conformance Review

The proposed action is subject to the following planning document: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) 2012 and Record of Decision 2013.

The proposed action is in conformance with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserve Production Act of 1976, 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: The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled “FF095671 and FF095712 ConocoPhillips Summer Permit Studies 2014 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, with incorporation of design features and stipulations (described in FF095671 and FF095712 ConocoPhillips Summer Permit Studies 2014 Stipulations), and have determined that there is no potential for significant impacts.

/s/Lon Kelly
Authorized Officer, Arctic Field Office

May 12, 2014
Date

Contact Person:

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Robert Mikol
Arctic Field Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Phone: 907-474-2306

Email: rmikol@blm.gov

FF095671 and FF095712 ConocoPhillips Summer Studies 2014 Stipulations

Project Specific Stipulations:

This project falls within the constraints of the 2014 United States Fish & Wildlife Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Bureau of Land Management Summer Activities in 2013 in Undeveloped Areas of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. As such the permittee is required:

1. Permittee will maintain an aircraft log of the following information **for each take off and landing** (which shall be turned in to BLM in **electronic** format in an excel spreadsheet with each item below listed in a separate column No Later Than **1 November each year**):

Type of Aircraft
Aircraft N number
Date
Time
Decimal Degree Format – latitude of takeoff location
Decimal Degree Format – longitude of takeoff location
Date
Time
Decimal Degree Format – latitude of landing location
Decimal Degree Format – longitude of landing location

2. Permittee must use “bear-resistant” containers that are approved and certified by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee as ‘bear-resistant.’ Information about certified containers can be found at <http://www.igbconline.org/html/container.html>.
3. The permittee will abide by the following documents: Required Conduct near Possible Nests of Raptors (Eagles, Hawks and Falcons) in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and Polar Bear Interaction Guidelines.

Additional Permit Specific Stipulations for Fisheries

Some activities of this project are among those considered within the BLM NPR-A Fisheries Monitoring Implementation Plan (Noel et al. 2008) that made recommendations for oil and gas industry requirements in order to assist management and monitoring decisions that aim to protect fish and fish habitat. The following requirements are adapted from that plan.

4. The permittee will, when conducting surveys for potential permanent or temporary (i.e. snow or ice) roads or potential pipeline routes on BLM lands:

- a) Take photographs looking upstream, downstream, and towards each bank at planned channel crossings.
 - b) Survey the stream channel cross-section at planned crossing locations.
 - c) Survey the stream thalweg profile at channel crossings - approximately 100 yards upstream and 100 yards downstream of planned crossing locations.
 - d) Provide potential routes in electronic form (ESRI shapefile).
 - e) Provide the above information to the BLM by December 31, 2014.
5. The permittee will, when conducting fish surveys on BLM lands:
- a) Collect length data for sensitive fish species (subsample of species acceptable).
 - b) At potential water-source lakes, photograph inlet and outlet, if discernible.
 - c) Provide a report of all fish data and any associated habitat or water quality data collected in conjunction with fish surveys to the BLM by December 31, 2014.

Source: Noel, L.E., L.L. Moulton, M.S. Whitman, and L. Bontrager. 2008. NPR-A Fisheries Monitoring Implementation Plan. Prepared for U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Arctic Field Office, Fairbanks, AK.

Additional Permit Specific Recommendations for Minimizing Impacts to Subsistence Use

Consultation with the Native Village of Nuiqsut and community residents has indicated that the general timeframe of July 7 through August 7 is a particularly sensitive period for local caribou hunters in an area bounded by: the Colville River Delta to the east, to the to the western edge of the Bear Tooth Unit, to the Beaufort Sea coast. The following are recommendations from the community of Nuiqsut on ways to minimize the impacts resulting from aircraft use to local hunters during this timeframe:

- Schedule all helicopter use permitted by this authorization that is not season-specific (such as certain avian and wildlife studies) prior to July 7:. This would include:
 - Hydrological Monitoring in the Fish Creek basin and GMT1 road corridor
 - Rondy/Flattop Ice Road Stickpicking
 - Puviaq Tundra Rehabilitation
 - Weather station maintenance
 - Archaeological/Cultural Studies
 - ARGOS sites servicing
 - Engineering Design Studies
 - Site visits, tours and inspections
- If these helicopter flights cannot be completed before July 7, then they should be scheduled after August 7 if possible.
- Consider having one or two days per week, preferably weekends, during this time period as “no fly” days; the days can be determined through your continued weekly updates and daily consultation calls with the community.
- Be willing to adjust or postpone scheduled activity for 1 or 2 days should reports be made that groups of caribou are near the community and are actively being pursued by local hunters.

- Have defined routes to and from areas to be studied, and relatively consistent schedules of flight time that are communicated to local residents.
- Be flexible in terms of the end date of the sensitive period (August 7) and willing to continue to implement measures that you have taken beyond this date should the on-the-ground situation warrant it.

ARCTIC FIELD OFFICE NON OIL AND GAS PERMIT STIPULATIONS

[This is a subset of the 2013 National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision, Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, and the Colville River Special Area Management Plan. Stipulations and Best Management Practices from these documents along with frequently utilized resource-specific stipulations are incorporated. Special Recreation Permit holders meet most requirements by following the guidelines in Leave No Trace, Alaskan Tundra.]

I. AUTHORIZED OFFICER

The Authorized Officer (AO) is the Manager, Arctic Field Office.

II. AIR & WATER

- A. All operations shall comply with applicable Air and Water Quality Standards of the State of Alaska.
- B. Grey wash water and kitchen waste water may be filtered to remove the solids and the liquid discharged to the land surface, provided the disposal area is a minimum of 100 feet from any water body or stream.
- C. Water withdrawal from rivers and streams during winter is prohibited.

III. AIRCRAFT

- A. Hazing of wildlife by aircraft is prohibited. Pursuit of running wildlife is hazing. If wildlife begins to run as an aircraft approaches, the aircraft is too close and must break away.
- B. Aircraft shall maintain an altitude of at least 1,500 above ground level (AGL) when within ½ mile of cliffs identified as raptor nesting sites from April 15 through August 15 and within ½ mile of known gyrfalcon nest sites from March 15 to August 15, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices. Permittees shall obtain information from BLM necessary to plan flight routes when routes may go near falcon nests.

- C. Use of aircraft, near known subsistence camps and cabins, and along rivers or during sensitive subsistence hunting periods (spring goose hunting and fall caribou and moose hunting) should be kept to a minimum.
- D. Aircraft used for permitted activities shall maintain an altitude of at least 2,000 feet AGL (except for takeoffs and landings) over the Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Habitat Area from May 20 through August 20, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices. Aircraft use (including fixed wing and helicopter) in the Goose Molting Area should be minimized from May 20 through August 20, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices.
- E. Fixed wing aircraft used for permitted activities along the coast shall maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet AGL when within a ½-mile of walrus haulouts, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices. Helicopters used for permitted activities along the coast shall maintain a minimum altitude of 3,000 feet and a 1-mile buffer from walrus haulouts, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices.
- F. Aircraft used for permitted activities along the coast and shore fast ice zone shall maintain a minimum altitude of 3,000 feet when within 1 mile from aggregations of seals, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices.

V. CULTURAL/PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- A. In accordance with the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa), the removal or disturbance of archeological or historic artifacts is prohibited. The excavation, disturbance, collection, or purchase of historical, recent, ethnological, or archaeological specimens or artifacts is prohibited. Such items include both prehistoric stone tools and sites, as well as historic log cabins, remnants of such structures, refuse dumps, and other such features. The disturbance, excavation and collection of vertebrate paleontological (fossil) remains is also prohibited.
- B. Any cultural or Paleontological resource discovered by the holder, or any person working on his behalf, situated on lands owned or controlled by the United States shall be promptly reported to the AO. Discoveries must be left in place to allow for an examination by BLM cultural or paleontological specialists. GPS Coordinates of any discovered cultural resources should be obtained if possible and reported to the AO.
- C. Prior to any ground-disturbing activity the permittee shall conduct a cultural and paleontological resources survey.

VI. FIRE

- A. The BLM, through the AO, reserves the right to impose closure of any area to operators in periods when fire danger or other dangers to natural resources are severe.

- B. The authorized user shall be financially responsible for any damage done by a wildfire caused by its operations. Costs associated with wildfires include but are not limited to, damage to natural resources and costs associated with any suppression action taken on the fire.

VII. OPERATIONS

- A. It is the responsibility of the authorized user to ensure that all individuals brought to the project area under its auspices adhere to these stipulations. Authorized users of the planning area shall provide all employees, contractors, subcontractors, and clients with a briefing regarding stipulations applicable to the lease and/or permit.
- B. A copy of applicable stipulations will be posted in a conspicuous place in each work site and campsite.
- C. The provisions of this permit do not relieve the Permittee of any responsibilities or obligations required by the laws or regulations of the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or other applicable regulations related to this permit
- D. The authorized user shall protect all survey monuments and be responsible for survey costs if remonumentation is required as a result of the user's actions.
- E. Survey monuments include, but are not limited to, General Land Office and Bureau of Land Management Cadastral Survey Corners, reference corners, witness points, U.S. Coast and Geodetic benchmarks and triangulation stations, military control monuments, and recognizable civil (both public and private) survey monuments.
- F. In the event of obliteration or disturbance of any of the survey monuments above, the Permittee shall promptly report the incident, in writing, to the Authorized Officer and the respective installing agency, if known. Where General Land Office or Bureau of Land Management right-of-way monuments or references are obliterated during operations, the Permittee shall secure the services of a registered land surveyor or a Bureau Cadastral surveyor to restore the disturbed monuments and references using surveying procedures found in the Manual of Surveying Instructions for the Survey of Public Lands of the United States, latest edition. If the Bureau cadastral surveyors or other Federal surveyors are used to restore the disturbed survey monuments, the Permittee shall be responsible for survey costs.

VIII. STREAMS

- A. All operations shall be conducted with due regard for good resource management and in such a manner as not to block any stream, or drainage system, or change the character or course of a stream, or cause the pollution or siltation of any stream or lake.

IX. SUBSISTENCE

- A. The permittee will take no action that interferes with subsistence activities of rural users or restricts the reasonable access of subsistence users to public lands. This may include but is not limited to disturbance of wildlife and their movements near subsistence hunters, and damage to cabins, trails, traditional campsites or caches used by subsistence users. The permittee must familiarize themselves, their team, and their pilots with any subsistence camps and cabins located near their project site (map available upon request) and, when using aircraft, make all reasonable efforts to avoid disturbing hunters.
- B. The Arctic Field Office will determine on an application-by-application basis what level of consultation will be required in order to provide adequate notification to communities, including whether the project merits application of the complete H-1 (Subsistence) Best Management Practice from the 2013 NPR-A EIS/IAP Record of Decision. Determination will be based on Arctic Field Office experience and on communication with representatives of the BLM NPR-A Subsistence Advisory Panel. Permittee will respond to questions and any reasonable requests for consultation that tribes and/or communities may have. Information on permits will be included on the NPR-A Permitted Projects spreadsheet that is distributed to tribal governments and North Slope communities. Permittee is encouraged to correspond with Arctic Field Office anthropologist/subsistence specialist if they have any questions or concerns: Stacey Fritz: (907) 474-2309, sfritz@blm.gov

X. VEGETATION

- A. All activities shall be conducted to avoid or minimize disturbance to vegetation. The clearing of vegetation for camps or aircraft landing areas is prohibited.

XI. WASTE

- A. HUMAN WASTES
 - 1. Toilet paper: Toilet paper must be packed out, or a natural alternative used. Natural options for toilet paper include snow, smooth stones or sticks, leaves and moss. Natural TP options should be disposed of the same as the human waste. Feminine hygiene products and diapers must also be packed out.
 - 2. Urine: Urine can attract animals seeking salt: avoid urinating on plants that can be defoliated by animals attracted to the salt residue. Urinate 200 feet away from camps and trails on rock, bare ground, or water sources.
 - 3. Recommended human excreta disposal in riparian areas: Packing out human excreta is the most eco-friendly means of waste disposal and the toilet can be located wherever is most appropriate. This method helps areas that receive high-levels of use retain their naturalness, and preserves pristine areas. Disadvantages include: it incurs cost and requires logistical considerations.

The WAG (Waste Alleviation and Gelling) Bag has become the overall term for any pack-it-out bag system. It generally involves one bag with which holds the excrement and another sturdier, sealable bag. Commercial vendors of waste bag kits, powders and supplies include ReStop, Biffy Bags, and Cleanwaste.

B. GARBAGE

1. Attracting wildlife to food and garbage is prohibited.
2. Burial of garbage is prohibited. Burial of human waste is prohibited except as authorized by the AO. [Special Recreation Permit holders meet all requirements by following the guidelines in Leave No Trace, Alaska Tundra.]
3. Areas of operation shall be left clean of all debris.

C. FUEL

1. Notice of any spill shall be given to the AO as soon as possible or to the BLM Arctic Field Office Hazmat Coordinator, Susan Flora (work/message 907-474-2303). Other Federal, State, and NSB entities shall be notified as required by law.
2. All spills shall be cleaned up immediately and to the satisfaction of the AO and all agencies with regulatory authority over spills, including the Alaska Department of Environmental Concerns (ADEC),(1800-478-9300) (Alaska Statute Title 18, Chapter 75, Article 2).

D. PESTICIDES

Use of pesticides without the specific authority of the AO is prohibited.

XII. WILDLIFE

- A. The feeding of wildlife is prohibited and will be subject to non-compliance regulations.
- B. With the exception of authorized guide hunting trips, hunting and trapping by permittee's employees, agents, and contractors are prohibited when persons are on "work status." Work status is defined as the period during which an individual is under the control and supervision of an employer. Work status is terminated when the individual's shift ends and he/she returns to a public airport or community (e.g., Fairbanks, Barrow, Nuiqsut, or Deadhorse). Use of permittee facilities, equipment, or transport for personal access or aid in hunting and trapping is prohibited.