

# Transplanting Cottongrass

## A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2014-0042-CX

**BLM Office:**Central Yukon Field Office

**Case File No.:**F-96815

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Transplanting Cottongrass

**Location of Proposed Action:**Toolik Lake Research area more particularly described as SW¼SW¼, Sec. 28, T. 9 S., R. 11 E., Umiat Meridian, Alaska, containing approximately 1 acre.

**Description of Proposed Action:**Ned Fetcher with Wilkes University proposes to set up an experiment to analyze the response of cottongrass to increasing temperatures on the North Slope. They would dig up approximately 180 tussocks of cottongrass in groups of three from the Coldfoot and Sagwon areas; transplanting it to a 1,800 meter location in the Toolik Lake Research area. Once they have been transplanted the plants would be fitted with open-top chambers (fiberglass, photo in admin folder) to simulate the effects of warming temperatures, marked with wooden stakes and labeled with aluminum tags. At the end of the experiment, September 30, 2018, all tussocks would be harvested. Access to the Toolik Lake site is by existing boardwalk and they propose to lay down additional boardwalk to access the site of transplant. A similar transplant would be completed in the Coldfoot area (off public lands). BLM proposes to issue a three (3) year permit which would expire September 30, 2017; the applicant would have to file for a renewal to complete his experiment in totality.

## 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:

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**

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/s/ Gary M. Foreman for Nichelle W. Jacobson Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	July 15, 2014 Date
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#### **Contact Person**

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