

Diamond Leaf Willow and Dwarf Birch Research

A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2014-0043-CX

BLM Office:Central Yukon Field Office

Case File No.:F-96822

Proposed Action Title/Type:Shrub Research

Location of Proposed Action:Toolik Lake Research Station, mile post 285 off the Dalton Highway, more particularly described as SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 20, and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$,Sec. 33, T. 9 S., R. 11E., Umiat Meridian, containing approximately 2.00 acres

Description of Proposed Action:Charles Flower with the University of Illinois at Chicago and his crew of three persons propose to conduct analysis and research on Diamond Leaf Willow and Dwarf Birch on 2 sites located at Toolik Lake Research Station, mile post 285 off the Dalton Highway from July 31, 2014 through August 15, 2015. He proposes to excavate by hand above and below ground plant tissues of 15 individual ramets from each species in each habitat. Additionally he would passively observe the fauna utilizing the dry heath and moist acidic habitats to understand foraging behavior shifts associated with climate changed induced vegetation shifts. No machinery will be utilized for excavations and plot locations have been selected to access roads to minimize disturbance to the tundra. All extractions will be filled in with soil removed during excavation. Both sites would be accessed on foot from existing roads and boardwalks.

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

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

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