

# Toolik Lake Access Road

## A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2014-0044-CX

**BLM Office:**Central Yukon Field Office

**Case File No.:**F-91038

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Renew existing access road

**Location of Proposed Action:**Mile post 285 off the Dalton Highway to the Toolik Lake Research Station more particularly described as Secs. 20, 21, 28, 29 and 33, T. 9 S., R. 11 E., Umiat Meridian, Alaska, containing approximately 32.50 acres.

**Description of Proposed Action:**The University of Alaska proposes to renew their existing right-of-way grant for an access road from the Dalton Highway to the Toolik Lake Research Station, the former airstrip, the existing airstrip and the former Toolik Lake Construction Camp Gravel Pad. The road was constructed by Alyeska during the construction of the pipeline. The access and auxiliary roads consist of dirt and gravel and measure 100 feet wide by 14,168 long for approximately 32.50 acres. Primary use of the road occurs between April and September with intermittent use the remainder of the year. Use would consist of users and visitors to the Field Station, usually in passenger cars or pickup trucks. Larger commercial trucks, providing fuel and supplies to the Field Station would use the road once or twice a week during the primary field season. Last year Department of Transportation and Public Facility subcontractors using heavy commercial trucks accessed the road to Toolik Lake to extract water for maintenance of the Dalton Highway. Any and all damage to the road was repaired by the subcontractor and if they continue to use the road, they would continue to repair any damage they cause. Toolik Research Station would continue to perform annual grading and maintenance, lift road in areas that develop snow accumulation and crown road to ensure proper drainage.

## 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:

11.9 E (Realty)

(9) Renewals and assignments of leases, permits, or rights-of-way where no additional rights are conveyed beyond those granted by the original authorization.

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**

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