

University of Michigan

A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2015-0012-CX

BLM Office:Central Yukon Field Office

Case File No.:F-96922

Proposed Action Title/Type: University of Michigan, Right-of-way Grant

Location of Proposed Action:30 sites located within Tps. 9 and 10 S., Rs. 11, 12 and 13 E., Umiat Meridian, Alaska.

Description of Proposed Action: The University of Michigan proposes to collect up to ten (10) liters of water once per month each summer from streams and lakes on public lands (30 sites) as a part of an National Science Foundation funded study on arctic climate change. All samples would be transported off site for analysis of carbon and nutrients. No improvements or equipment would remain at the sites. Access would be by vehicle on existing roads and then by foot on existing trails or helicopter for the more remote sites. They propose to begin sampling June 2015 and continue through August 2025.

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.

Appendix 3, Departmental Categorical Exclusions

1.11 Activities which are educational, informational, advisory, or consultative to other agencies, public and private entities, visitors, individuals or the general public.

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/ Nichelle W. Jacobson	April 3, 2015
Nichelle W. Jacobson Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	Date

Contact Person

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