

# Ned Fetcher Research Burn

## A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2015-0021-CX

**BLM Office:**Central Yukon Field Office

**Case File No.:**F-96940

**Proposed Action Title/Type:**Permit 2920

**Location of Proposed Action:** .Toolik Field Station, mile post 285 off the Dalton Highway, more particularly described as within Sec. 33, T. 9 S., R. 11 E., Umiat Meridian, Alaska

**Description of Proposed Action:**Ned Fetcher with Wilkes University along with two (2) other persons proposes to conduct a controlled burn on 10 plots 1.5 meters by 1.5 meters in the tussock tundra approximately 0.5 miles from the Toolik Field Station. They would observe the effects on cotton grass for research purposes. They propose to use a propane torch to ignite the vegetation and contain the fire with tall, stainless steel collars. They would also soak the edges with water and would carry a pressurized water sprayer. They propose to notify the camp manager on the day of the burn and only ignite with light winds or calmer with moist conditions. The proposed burn would be conducted June 2015 and observations of the cotton grass would continue through September 30, 2018.

## 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**

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/s/ Nichelle W. Jacobson	May 29, 2015
Nichelle W. Jacobson Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	Date

#### **Contact Person**

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