

# Deegan Watershed Research

## A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2015-0024-CX

**BLM Office:**Central Yukon Field Office

**Case File No.:**F-96959

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

**Description of Proposed Action:**Secs. 20 and 32, T. 9 S., R. 11 E., Secs. 19, 25 and 36, T. 9 S., R. 12 E., and Secs. 8 and 31, T. 9 S., R. 13 E., and Secs. 14, 20 and 21, T. 10 S, R. 11 E., and Sec. 35, T. 10 S., R. 12 E., Umiat Meridian near Toolik Field Station, mile post 285 off the Dalton Highway.

Linda Deegan with the Marine Biological Laboratory proposes to conduct research on three (3) watersheds, the Oksrukuyik Creek, Kuparuk River and the Itkillik tributary systems from June 2015 through September 2017. The sites would be comprised of temporary field camps, fish movement monitoring stations and small temporary fish weirs.

Ms. Deegan proposes to collect fish during migration periods in each of the watersheds, tag them with passive integrated transponder tags and monitor movement and demographics in each watershed. Fish collection and tagging would be done using small temporary weirs installed in the streams at outlets to overwintering lakes. Antenna stations would also be placed composed of a single wire looped across the width of the stream, a reader/battery box on shore, and solar panels for power. Closed cell lead acid deep cycle batteries would be used to store and supply energy to the system. These sites would also include a small onset water level and temperature logger all protected by a bear proof fence.

Work would occur simultaneously at all sites necessitating 3 field crews (comprised of maximum five (5) persons) and remote field camps to operate the weirs at separate overwintering lake outlets. Monthly visits to sites would occur to monitoring stations; and to collect in-stream water and fish samples throughout the ice free period. Access to sites would be via snow machines in the spring and by foot and helicopter later in the field seasons. All crew and equipment would be slung in by the Toolik Field Station helicopter.

Hazardous materials in camps would consist of propane (20 lb), gasoline, ethanol and formaldehyde and would be handled in accordance with the MSDS.

## 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/ Tim Hammond	June 11, 2015
for Nichelle W. Jacobson	Date
Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	

#### **Contact Person**

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