

Decision Record

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has conducted an environmental analysis (DOI-BLM-AK-F010-2015-035-EA) to evaluate the effects of implementation of the University of Alaska Fairbanks Dr. Chris Arp's proposed lake manipulation research plan in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) with access.

MAJOR LAWS PERTINENT TO DECISION

Major laws pertinent to the decision to accept the environmental assessment are: the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Sustainable Fisheries Act, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, and the National Petroleum Reserve Production Act (NPRPA).

SELECTED ALTERNATIVE

The proposed action as presented to the BLM is the selected alternative. The proposed action meets the purpose and need of the EA; the No Action Alternative was not selected because it would not meet the purpose and need. The No Action Alternative would prevent the applicant from conducting a lake manipulation project.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Based upon a review of the EA and the supporting documents, the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, individually or cumulatively with other actions in the general area. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. See FONSI for more information.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The proposed action was announced on the BLM Arctic Field Office website NEPA register (June 22, 2015). No comments have been received as of July 8, 2015.

Public involvement during the development of the EA also included discussions and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

No major issues with the proposed action were identified.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The decision to allow the proposed action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation of the public lands. The proposed action is in conformance with the objectives outlined in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision signed February 2013. This EA is tiered to this document and the documents incorporated by reference. All practicable alternatives and measures to reduce or eliminate impacts to wetlands and floodplains, done in compliance with Executive Orders 11990 and 11988, in the project area have been taken. The action, as proposed, is

