

Toolik Lake Plant Research

A. Background

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2015-0028-CX

BLM Office:Central Yukon Field Office

Case File No.:F-96990

Proposed Action Title/Type: Toolik Lake Plant Research 2920

Location of Proposed Action: . Toolik Lake Field Station mile post 285 off the Dalton Highway, more particularly described as within Sec. 7, T. 9 S., R. 8 E., and Secs. 21 and 28, T. 10 S., R. 11 E., Kateel River Meridian, Alaska, containing .59 acre.

Description of Proposed Action:

Diane Huebner with the University of Alaska at Fairbanks proposes to conduct plant research on three (3) locations near Toolik Lake Field Station from July 1-15, 2015. She proposes to set up a grid of 18m x 18m composed of 306 sampling points at 1m and 2 m intervals using pin flags. She would collect 2-3 dwarf woody shrubs and sample 2-3 leaves. Once the leaf samples are collected, transect tape and pin flags would be removed from the site. Partial excavation for verification of clonal attachment of ramets and would not exceed 50 cm and would not go below root crowns. She would conduct this research with one additional person visiting the sites 2--5 times during the permitted timeframe. All access to the site would be by vehicle on established roads and then by foot.

Grids would not be set up in or near water tracks and with one edge for walking to minimize damage to vegetation and soils.

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/ Robert Karlen for Nichelle W. Jacobson Field Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	July 17, 2015 Date
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Contact Person

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