

Categorical Exclusion

Water Research and Boardwalks

Background

BLM Office: Central Yukon Field Office

Serial No.: F-97110

Proposed Action Title/Type: Ground Water Research and Boardwalks, Title V of FLPMA

Location of Proposed Action: Imnaviat, mile post 290 off the Dalton Highway described as within Sec. 4, T. 10 S., R. 12 E., Umiat Meridian, Alaska

Description of Proposed Action:

Bethany Neilsen with Utah State University proposes to continue to conduct ground water research and install additional boardwalks to sampling sites #2 and #3. Within each site (pool) she proposes to place temperature sensors held in place by weights at the bottom of the pool. Within sites #2 and #3 she would insert a ½ inch piece of rebar and attach a couple of YSI instruments which measures dissolved oxygen, pH, specific conductance and water depth. Adjacent to sites #2 and #3 she would place 10 pieces of 4 foot long ½ inch diameter PVC pipe into the sediments which would contain a water depth sensor, no sediment would be removed. These pipes would be placed in June and removed in August annually.

Monitoring visits would occur 2-3 times per week with 2-4 persons onsite. During these visits they would install equipment, monitor channel flows and maintain equipment. Most if not all of these improvements are existing on site from the previous authorization. They propose a 15 year authorization. Access to all sites is by vehicle on established roads and then by foot on existing trails and/or boardwalks.

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.

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.

Approval and Contact Information

<i>/s/ Timothy J. La Marr</i> Timothy J. La Marr Field, Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	Date May 22, 2016
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