

Categorical Exclusion

Amendment to Water Research and Temporary Camp Site

Background

BLM Office: Central Yukon Field Office

Serial No.: F-96959

Proposed Action Title/Type: 2920 Permit

Location of Proposed Action: Toolik Lake and Imnaviat areas within Sec. 29, T. 9 S., R. 12 E., Secs. 3, 11 and 15, T. 10 S., R. 10 E., Sec. 32, T. 9 S., R. 11 E., and Sec. 5, T. 10 S., R. 11 E., Umiat Meridian, Alaska

Description of Proposed Action: Linda Deegan with the Marine Biology Lab proposes to amend her existing permit issued on June 19, 2015. She proposes to add five (5) additional water sampling sites, antennas and one campsite on Jane Creek, Toolik Lake Inlet in addition to Oksrukuyik Creek, Kuparuk River and Itkillik tributary.

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.

Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name: Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan

Date Approved/Amended: January 11, 1991

DOI-BLM-AK-F030-2016-0024-CX
F-96959

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 4, Departmental Categorical Exclusions:

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 12, 2016
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