

Categorical Exclusion

Groundwater Research

Background

BLM Office: Central Yukon Field Office

Serial No.: F-97124

Proposed Action Title/Type: 2920 Permit

Location of Proposed Action: Secs. 25 and 27, T. 11 S., R. 11 E., Umiat Meridian, mile post 274 off the Dalton Highway near the Galbraith Lake Campground, Alaska.

Description of Proposed Action: Alexander Huryn with the University of Alabama proposes to access to two aufeis fields will be required to allow sampling of stream water, groundwater, and invertebrates inhabiting the groundwater. Instruments will be deployed to allow the recording of temperature, water depth, light levels, and conductivity. Access will be by vehicle on established roads and by foot. No significant (i.e., permanent) improvements or developments will occur due to our proposed activities. Instruments will be deployed on sediment surfaces beneath the aufeis and within the stream channel. Five to ten shallow, small bore "wells" consisting of 1.5" diameter PVC pipe will be installed to allow sampling of groundwater and groundwater invertebrates. These wells will not exceed 2 m in depth. All instruments and wells will be removed at the conclusion of our study. Access to all sites is by vehicles on established roads and then by foot. They propose a two (2) year authorization.

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/ William H. Hedman</i> For Timothy J. La Marr Field, Manager, Central Yukon Field Office	Date June 10, 2016
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