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FEB 02 2010

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Monday, 18 January 2010

Mr. Brian O'Mara
Assistant Land Administrator
Lands Administration
Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
PO Box 2200
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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RE: Renewal of Land Use Permit N2003J0007

Dear Mr. O'Mara,

The above Crown Land Use permit expires March 9th, 2010. The permit was obtained to carry out a scientific research program near Cape Bounty, Melville Island beginning in 2003 and has been renewed four times (each time for a year) after the initial two-year period. I anticipate continuing this research during the summer months (late May-mid August) for the next several years. The work will be of a similar nature to my original application, involving a seasonal field camp with a limited number of people (approximately 300 person-days, a maximum of 9 on-site). The campsite is located 100 m from the nearest water course and placed on durable, unvegetated gravel. I have attached a map of the site for your records and a photograph of the campsite indicating the substrate that we have selected.

Report on 2009 activities

Last year, Kevin Robertson, the Resource Management Officer visited the site in mid-July. He noted in his report several issues to be addressed, which we will correct for 2010:

-Secondary fuel containment. Although we had fuel (diesel) on a tarp with spill absorbant available, he has requested secondary containment. We have identified a containment system and will install it in May 2010.

-Waste handling. He indicated we could no longer incinerate our food waste. As an on-site incinerator is not practical, we will now package and return all food waste to Resolute for disposal. Additionally, we will move our toilet facility closer to camp to improve convenience.

-Water use. I have continued to contact the Nunavut Water Board seeking clarification on our application for a water permit. As per our original Land Use Permit application, our camp uses a very small amount of water (<30 l/day) for drinking and cooking. Water is hauled in containers from streams.

Field activities were otherwise as planned and no major issues emerged during the camp. All fuel was stored as indicated, and we removed all empty barrels. Please note that we currently store 6 barrels of diesel fuel for our tent furnace on site, and this fuel is located in the camp in an appropriate distance from surface waters.

We established a dry-weather airstrip (as indicated on the accompanying map). This required marking the edges of the strip with dirt-filled white plastic bags, and manual filling of a 10 m

long frost crack. This strip is serviceable from approximately mid-July to the end of the season, and is located on gravely alluvium covered with moss and grass. We do not store aviation fuel on site. Rather, pilots make use of existing PCSP fuel caches at Winter Harbour (30 km west) or Rea Point (100 km NE) on the occasion that refuelling is necessary.

We noted a wide range of wildlife in 2009. There were several herds of muskoxen, small groups of caribou, many bird species, and individual foxes. There were no adverse animal encounters, and we did not see evidence for bears or wolves.

Proposed activities, 2010

We anticipate that the camp will operate from late May to mid-August. During the summer we will work primarily on foot and use skidoos in the late winter, and inflatable boats on the nearby lakes when necessary. Although all terrain vehicles were used in 2003-4, we no longer do so to avoid impacting the surrounding land. The exception to this is to move equipment between camp and the airstrip. In order minimize tire tracks, we follow a route located on the gravel floodplain of the stream.

I am requesting an extension of my existing permit to continue this research activity. As was the case last year, I understand that renewals are only possible for one year, and hence, I anticipate that I will seek annual renewals in the future. I have maintained communications with the nearest community (Resolute) and the Hamlet and Hunter Trapper Organization have not indicated any concerns with the proposed work. Several residents worked for us at camp during 2009 and we hope the same may occur in 2010. I renewed my Territorial research licence through the Nunavut Research Institute in 2007 and will seek another renewal for 2010. We have not received any negative feedback or concerns from the community, and I plan to visit Resolute in May to meet the Hamlet and HTO leaders to report our activities and discuss our work.

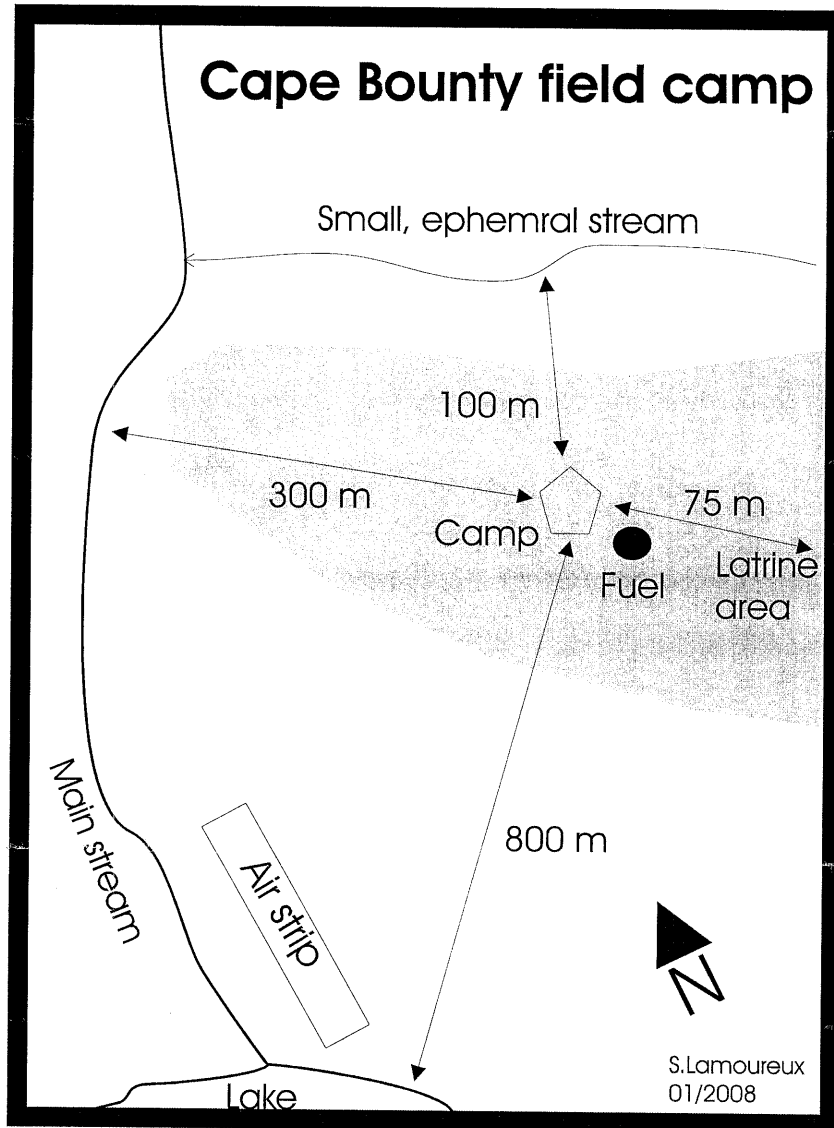
If you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at scott.lamoureux@queensu.ca.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Lamoureux', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Lamoureux
Associate Professor

Cape Bounty field camp



Camp location, 2003-9. Please note the durable gravel cover on this low ridge summit.

