



Tuesday, 12 August 2014

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
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Ms. Lee Ann Pugh
Land Administrator
Lands Administration
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
PO Box 100
Iqaluit, NU X0A 0H0

RE: Renewal of Land Use Permit N2011N0019

Dear Ms. Pugh:

The above Crown Land Use permit expires September 8, 2014. The permit was obtained to carry out a scientific research program near Cape Bounty, Melville Island beginning in 2003 and has been renewed several 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 300-500 person-days, a maximum of 11 on-site). The campsite is located 100 m from the nearest water course and near an airstrip.

At this time, please accept this letter as a report of the activities related to this permit, and a request for an extension for 2015.

Report on 2014 status and activities

Camp activity was from May 28-August 8.

The camp is composed of two tents on wooden floor frames that are left standing year-round, along with seasonal tents for camp personnel and storage. The foundations for the floors are temporary and the tents are securely staked to the ground. No food or food-related equipment is left over-winter on site to avoid attracting animals. We do leave durable research and camp equipment on-site, including: sample vials and bags, filtration and handling materials, sampling equipment, a zodiac boat and related equipment, hardware, and a small supply of materials used for temporary research activities (rebar, wood, pipe, stakes).

One tent serves as a latrine and holds a Storburn propane incinerating toilet and has zero liquid release on the land.

Water consumption is limited to c. 20L per day and is collected in water containers from the lake or river. Gray water is disposed of in a sump with a screen to collect food fragments.

All garbage is bagged and removed to Resolute with each available flight.

Foot travel within the camp is limited to defined pathways marked with flags to minimize disturbance, and we travel for our work either by snow machine or foot. An all-terrain vehicle is used to move inflatable boats between the two lakes at the site for several days in late July/early August each year, and follows a defined path.

We have established an airstrip at camp on the river delta (as indicated on the accompanying map). It is marked by white bags and we maintain the airstrip by filling several frost cracks with gravel from the nearby river bars. We use the lake ice for landing during late winter.

Fuel storage is either a rigid or portable vinyl spill pallet. In 2014, we switched camp heating from diesel fuel to propane, so the pallets are used to store small amounts of gasoline (<60 l), unused diesel (2.5 drums) and small amounts of motor oil (<10 l). We will transport the last of the diesel from the camp in 2015 with available space on returning aircraft and anticipate that future fuel use will be limited to propane, gasoline and related motor oils. All fuel is located in the camp >100 m from surface waters.

We currently (August 2014) have 10 X 100 lb and 12 X 25 lb propane on site. All tanks are stored in groups and standing. Empty tanks have been removed. PCSP also has a drum of Jet B stored at the airstrip.

Field activities in 2014 were otherwise as planned and no major issues emerged during the camp operation.

Proposed activities, 2015

We anticipate that the camp will operate for a period from July 1-August 10 with 4-8 personnel. We will work on foot and inflatable boats on the nearby lakes, and likely use an ATV for moving boats between lakes in late July. All research activities will be as indicated in our previous years.

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 of Resolute and Grise Fiord have worked for us at camp during in recent years and we hope the same may occur in the future. To date, we have not received any negative feedback or concerns from the community, and I plan to visit Resolute in July to share results to the Hamlet council and HTO leaders, and to inform residents about our activities.

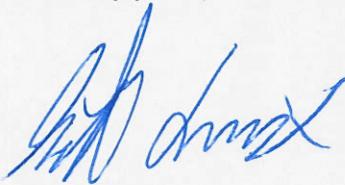
Wildlife sightings

As requested, I can give you a general overview of sightings in area. We observed two arctic wolves on the land and near camp on occasion, along with a large herd (30+) of Muskoxen in May. A smaller herd of Muskoxen (~7) was observed in the area in late July, and small groups of caribou (2-4) frequented the area at different times during the season. Lemmings were relatively abundant compared to the past few years, but not as prolific as the 2006 peak year. Camp personnel had no adverse interactions with wildlife.

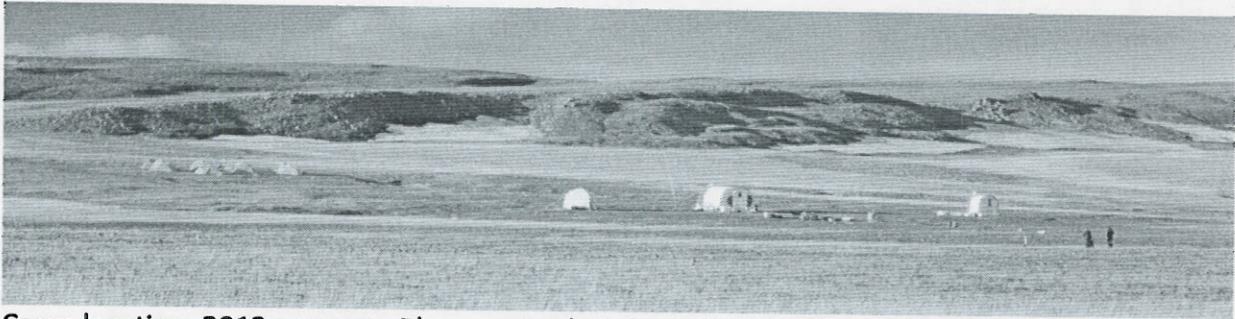
Additionally, a Nunavut Government biologist (Morgan Anderson, Igloolik) was on site doing caribou surveys (August 4-6) and a team from the Canadian Wildlife Service carried out a shore bird survey of Melville Island using the camp as a base in late June.

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

Sincerely yours,



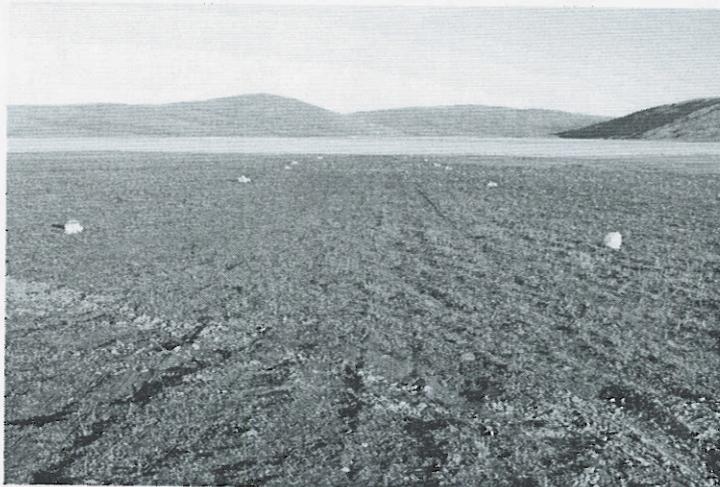
Scott Lamoureux
Professor



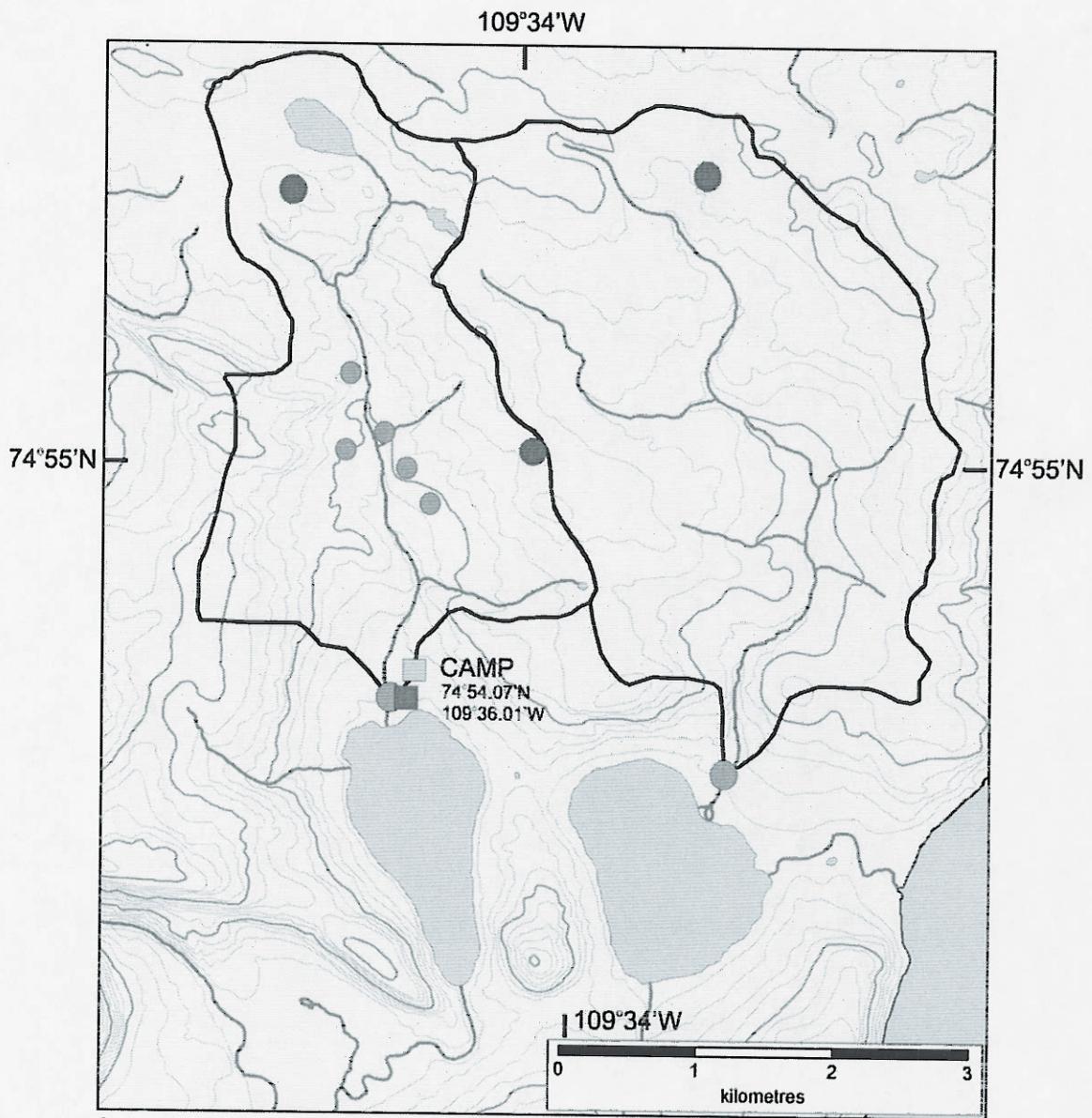
Camp location, 2012-present Please note that the yellow and "igloo" tents are seasonal, while the tents with orange ends are left up year-round.



Fuel storage August 2014. 2.5 drums of diesel heating fuel are stored on a rigid pallet, and an empty drum (on side) for emergency use is available. Pump on drums is removed seasonally.



Air strip used in summer adjacent to camp. Strip is ~800' long bearing 150-330° (view 150°). Substrate is river gravel with moss and vegetation cover. Edge is marked by white bags filled with stones. Foreground is an example of a frost crack that has been filled to level the surface and requires annual filling.



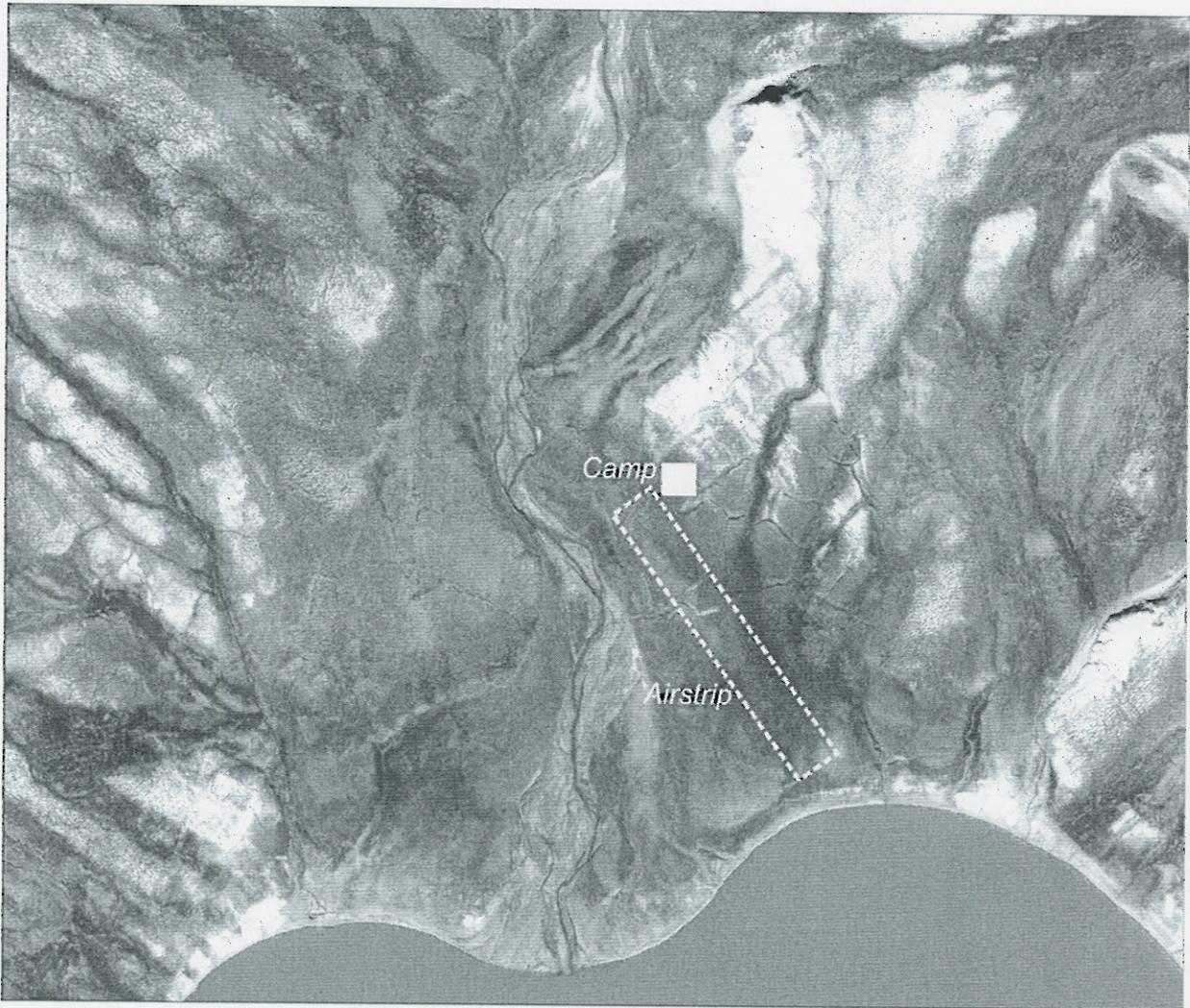
Contour interval 10 m

Source: NTS 78 F/15 1:50 000
 Prepared by: S. Lamoureux 5/2011

Legend:

- Temporary meteorological station
- Temporary river stream station
- Air strip location
- Camp and fuel cache location

Area of activity is defined as the two watersheds and downstream lakes at Cape Bounty.



GEOEYE 2009 base image
Map prepared by S. Lamoureux, August 2014

Detail location of camp and airstrip.