

**From:** "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>

**To:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Reed, Erika" <e05reed@blm.gov>, "Pendergast, Kevin J" <kpendergast@blm.gov>, "Roach, Emma K" <eroach@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Fwd: EE - 'Sickening': GOP explodes at Biden over ANWR decision

**Date:** Thu, 07 Sep 2023 13:34:02 +0000

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**From:** Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 6:08 AM

**To:** BLM\_HQ\_620\_ALL <BLM\_HQ\_620@blm.gov>

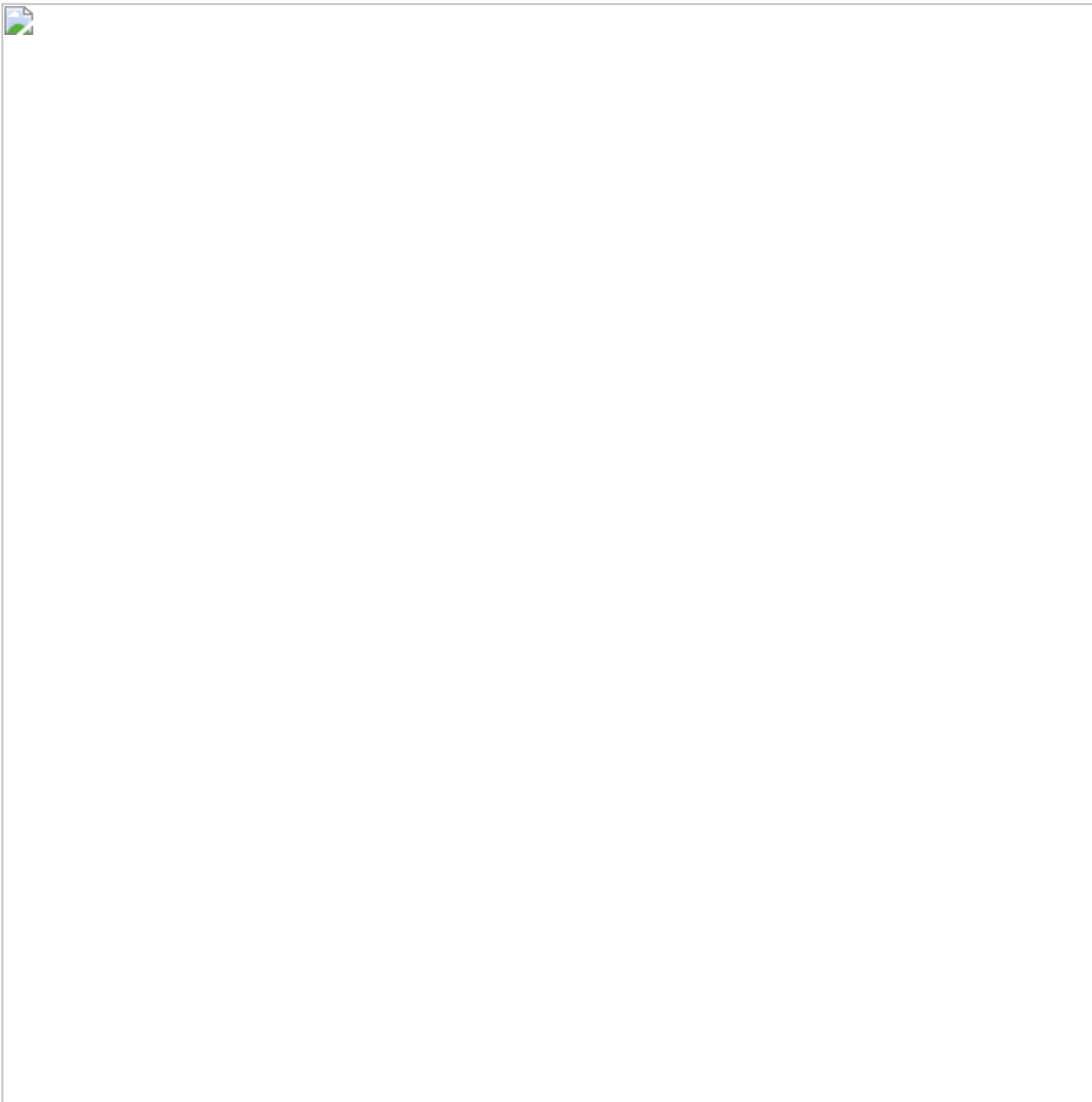
**Subject:** EE - 'Sickening': GOP explodes at Biden over ANWR decision

**E&E DAILY**

## **'Sickening': GOP explodes at Biden over ANWR decision**

By Emma Dumain, Heather Richards

09/07/2023 06:34 AM EDT



Republican Sen.

Lisa Murkowski of Alaska said people can't trust the Biden administration on issues concerning the state. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

Republicans and irate Alaska lawmakers slammed the Biden administration Wednesday after the White House said it would cancel the last remaining oil leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The move, which came alongside new limits on oil leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, prompted cheers from most Democrats, but a furious response from the GOP and the bipartisan Alaska delegation, who said the cancellation not only broke legal contracts but would weaken the United States and lead to higher energy prices.

Some, like Sen. Dan Sullivan (R-Alaska), could barely contain their anger. He said he was "livid," while calling the decision "sickening." Rep. Mary Peltola, the state's lone Democrat in Congress, said she was "frustrated."

Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican, told reporters on Capitol Hill on Wednesday evening that it was "incredible to think that people are going to trust this administration on anything related to oil in Alaska again."

Murkowski, a moderate who [swayed President Joe Biden](#) earlier this year to greenlight the Willow project, a controversial drilling plan in Alaska, was asked whether there was anything she could do to pressure the administration to reverse course — or to show them the political consequences of their actions.

Murkowski said only "Yes," and then smiled and did not respond when asked if she could further elaborate.

Murkowski is the top Republican on the subcommittee that funds the Interior Department and other environment agencies. It's unclear whether she could succeed in adding language to forthcoming legislation in the

Democratic-controlled Senate.

In addition to circumventing the Interior Department to compel the White House to approve the \$8 billion Willow project, Murkowski had success in lobbying the Biden administration to replace its initial pick for deputy Interior secretary, Elizabeth Klein, with a nominee viewed as more favorable to Alaskan energy priority, Tommy Beaudreau.

Klein has since been named as director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, a position leading the public oil, gas and wind programs off the nation's coasts.

Murkowski had also stood alongside Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) in pledging to block confirmation of Laura Daniel-Davis, Biden's nominee for assistant secretary for lands and mineral management at Interior who has become a proxy for the wrath of pro-fossil fuel lawmakers looking to punish the administration for its energy agenda.

 Laura Daniel-Davis.

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chair Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) has blocked progress on the nomination of Laura Daniel-Davis to become Interior assistant secretary for land and minerals management. | Francis Chung/E&E News

Daniel-Davis is serving as Interior's principal deputy assistant secretary of lands and minerals management. Like Klein's post, it is a position that does not require Senate confirmation.

In March, Manchin said he would not support Daniel-Davis' nomination, citing what he said was the Biden administration's appeasing of "radical activists" in the environmental community.

In a statement Wednesday, Manchin called the latest move "yet another example of this administration's caving to the radical left with no regard for clear direction from Congress or American energy security."

He added, "This is another attempt to use executive action to circumvent a law to accomplish what this administration does not have the votes to achieve in Congress. Canceling valid leases, removing acreage from future sales, and attempting to reduce production in Alaska while taking steps to allow Iran and Venezuela to produce more oil — with fewer environmental regulations — makes no sense and is frankly embarrassing." He did not indicate future plans to hold up other nominees on the grounds of his displeasure.

## 'We're livid'

The seven oil and gas leases announced for the chopping block Wednesday were sold by the Trump administration in 2021, just days before President Joe Biden took office and pledged to stand in the way of drilling in the pristine refuge.

Located on Alaska's northern coastline, the 19-million-acre refuge could hold more than 10 billion barrels of oil, offering a boon to the state's declining production.

But ANWR exploration has been held back for decades, thanks to Democratic lawmakers and campaigns by some Alaska Natives and environmental groups.

That long standoff was reversed in 2017, when the Republican-led Congress passed a tax overhaul, including a rider inked by Murkowski to create an oil program in the refuge's coastal plain.

It ordered two lease auctions by 2024. The first was carried out by the Trump administration. The outlook for the second sale under the Biden administration is unclear.

The administration Wednesday released a draft supplemental environmental review of the Trump administration's oil program in the refuge, arguing that it was legally flawed.

But Sullivan, in an interview on Capitol Hill, called the Biden administration's reversal "a legal charade" that constituted "complete abdication of following the rule of law."

"We're livid," Sullivan continued. "Who the hell in their right mind would invest money in a lease sale when they just watched the first lease sale get yanked? ... It's not only frustrating; it's sickening."

He echoed Murkowski in suggesting there will be an effort to push back or reverse the decision, but did not give specific details.

 Rep. Mary Peltola (D-Alaska).

Alaska Rep. Mary Peltola is a Democrat who supports oil and gas production in her state. | Francis Chung/POLITICO

Peltola said in a statement that the Biden administration had shown it was "capable of listening to Alaskans with the approval of the Willow Project" but has failed to do that with ANWR.

"It is some of those same Inupiat North Slope communities who are most impacted by this decision," Peltola continued. "I will continue to advocate for them and for Alaska's ability to explore and develop our natural

resources, from the critical minerals we need for our clean energy transition to the domestic oil and gas we need to get us there.”

In addition to revoking the oil and gas leases this week, the Biden administration said it would beef up protections in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

The 23-million-acre reserve is the largest swath of public lands in the country. Biden is proposing to solidify current leasing restrictions that cover nearly half the reserve with an explicit ban on new oil and gas leasing on 10.6 million acres.

## **Election-year politics**

With a presidential election year looming, Biden’s new Arctic oil decisions are sure to become a political barb for Republicans who have accused the White House of misguided energy policy since 2021.

Sen. John Barrasso, a Wyoming Republican and ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has used that perch to criticize the White House for reining in oil and gas. He called the new Alaska oil and gas prohibitions part of a “war on American energy.”

“With the stroke of a pen, his administration is placing more than 40 percent of the National Petroleum Reserve off limits for petroleum production,” he said in a statement. “Not only is this bad energy policy, it’s bad foreign policy.”

But Democrats defended the president’s efforts in the Arctic this week as a necessity for the climate — and a check on the lingering pro-oil policies of the Trump era.

House Natural Resources Committee ranking member Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) said the ANWR oil and gas program was riddled with legal flaws, including a failure to fully consider a range of alternatives on leasing and to adequately explore the potential downstream greenhouse gas contributions of leasing decisions.

“Of all the Trump administration’s shameless gifts to Big Oil, the ANWR leasing program had to be one of their most egregious,” he said in a statement.

He added: “The ANWR lease sale never should have happened. I’m glad to see the Biden administration putting our legal and moral responsibilities to protect our environment, listen to tribes, and do right by American taxpayers above polluter profits.”

*Reporter Rebekah Alvey contributed.*

*This story also appears in Energywire.*

*To view online:*

<https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/eenews/2023/09/07/sickening-gop-explodes-at-biden-over-anwr-decision-00114379>



**From:** "Skibo, Bobbie Jo" <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>

**To:** "Sweet, Serena E" <ssweet@blm.gov>, "r7rdomeetings, FW7" <R7rdomeetings@fws.gov>, "Boario, Sara D" <sara\_boario@fws.gov>, "Kuhns, Stephanie L" <skuhns@blm.gov>, "Lor, Socheata" <socheata\_lor@fws.gov>, "Cribley, Bud C" <bud\_cribley@fws.gov>, "Pendergast, Kevin J" <kpendergast@blm.gov>, Amy Lewis <amy.lewis@empai.com>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Loya, Wendy M" <wendy\_loya@fws.gov>

**Cc:** "Deam, Seth R" <seth.deam@sol.doi.gov>, "Gieryic, Michael S" <Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov>, "Routhier, Michael P" <michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** FOLLOW UP: 4/21/23 Coastal Plain SEIS Joint BLM/FWS Meeting

**Date:** Mon, 24 Apr 2023 22:34:22 +0000

**Importance:** High

**Attachments:** CP\_SEIS\_Key\_Topics\_Memo\_for\_Cooperators\_(4.24.23).docx

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Hello Team,

This email serves as a recap of our meeting held on 4/21 and the associated next steps that were agreed to. If I missed or mischaracterized anything, please let me know.

**Recap:**

- We discussed the Key Topics Memo and agreed that once updates were made to a few sections [REDACTED] that we would be ready to share with Cooperating Agencies. Thank you to the SOLs who weighed in on sensitive topics and agreed that the remaining key topics have been vetted internally and could be ready to be discussed with our Cooperators.
  - The updated version is attached.
- We agreed that this Memo would be shared with HQ TODAY (via Steve with cc to Sara) for AWARENESS instead of a thumbs up. We would ask for any fatal red flags within one week (in hopes to get any red flags, if any, prior to the Cooperating Agency meeting).
  - A sample email to HQ is below.
- We flagged the need for a follow up meeting with this team ASAP (Michael Hayes and Michelle are coordinating schedules) to discuss miscellaneous topics:
  - Tribal Relations with Gwich'in (DOE, Section 106 Timing, Translation Services, ITEK)
  - Voluntary Carbon Avoidance Concept
  - Canada "Good Neighbor" Letter

\*\*\*\*\*Sample Email for HQ\*\*\*\*\*

Hello,

Please find the attached Key Topics Memo that the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program SEIS Project Management Team is planning to use in an upcoming Cooperating Agency meeting. We are sharing this with HQ as AWARENESS but if anything contained in this memo triggers a red flag from anyone in HQ, please let us know (in one week) by May 1<sup>st</sup>. We anticipate scheduling the Cooperating Agency meeting that same week.

[REDACTED]

#1128095.1

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

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**From:** Sweet, Serena E ssweet@blm.gov

**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 5:38 PM

**To:** r7rdomeetings, FW7 R7rdomeetings@fws.gov ; Boario, Sara D sara boario@fws.gov ; Kuhns, Stephanie L skuhns@blm.gov ; Skibo, Bobbie Jo bobbiejo skibo@fws.gov ; Lor, Socheata socheata lor@fws.gov ; Cribley, Bud C bud cribley@fws.gov ; Pendergast, Kevin J kpendergast@blm.gov ; Amy Lewis amy.lewis@empai.com ; Cohn, Steven M scohn@blm.gov ; Loya, Wendy M wendy loya@fws.gov

**Cc:** Deam, Seth R seth.deam@sol.doi.gov ; Gieryic, Michael S Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov ; Routhier, Michael P michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov

**Subject:** AGENDA: 4/21/23 Coastal Plain SEIS Joint BLM/FWS Meeting

Hello All,

Below is the AGENDA items for our check-in tomorrow on the Coastal Plain SEIS. The items marked with "Decision" below must be resolved during our time tomorrow to remain on track with our process as currently planned.

- Topics:
  - Review Key Topic Memo (see attached) Decision
  - What portions of the Key Topics memo can be shared with Cooperators Decision
  - Schedule postponed Cooperating Agency meeting Decision
- 
- Current Schedule (subject to changes):
  - 4/19-5/1: Draft PDSEIS Chapter 3 review by BLM/FWS IDT Members (comments due by 5pm Alaska time on 5/1)
  - 5/1-5/5: BLM/FWS PM review and consideration of comments
  - 5/5-5/26: EMPSi prepare comprehensive Preliminary Draft SEIS (PDSEIS)
  - 5/26-5/31: HQ/DOI opportunity to review PDSEIS
  - 6/1-6/16: Cooperating Agency review of PDSEIS (pending approval by HQ/DOI to release)
- 
- Reminder of upcoming court report deadline: April 28th

#1128095.2

- Key update is date for Draft SEIS comment period- now 2023 3Q and include other dates that lead up to 8/30 planned release of Draft SEIS for public comment period
- 
- Other Misc. Topics - Discussion (as time allows)
  - Determination of Eligibility/Roles & Responsibilities (funding needed)
  - Sec. 106 kick off timing
  - Translation of FSEIS (funding needed)
  - Carbon avoidance concept
  - Canadian “Good Neighbor” Letter
  - ITEK de-brief from Gwich’in Tribes
  - Comms strategy overview

Serena Sweet  
Supervisory Planning & Environmental Coordinator

BLM-Alaska, Resources Division  
Desk: 907-271-4543  
Cell: 907-223-3267

---

**From:** r7rdomeetings, FW7  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 9:54 AM  
**To:** r7rdomeetings, FW7 <[R7rdomeetings@fws.gov](mailto:R7rdomeetings@fws.gov)>; Boario, Sara D <[sara\\_boario@fws.gov](mailto:sara_boario@fws.gov)>; Kuhns, Stephanie L <[skuhns@blm.gov](mailto:skuhns@blm.gov)>; Sweet, Serena E <[ssweet@blm.gov](mailto:ssweet@blm.gov)>; Skibo, Bobbie Jo <[bobbiejo\\_skibo@fws.gov](mailto:bobbiejo_skibo@fws.gov)>; Lor, Socheata <[socheata\\_lor@fws.gov](mailto:socheata_lor@fws.gov)>; Cribley, Bud C <[bud\\_cribley@fws.gov](mailto:bud_cribley@fws.gov)>; Pendergast, Kevin J <[kpendergast@blm.gov](mailto:kpendergast@blm.gov)>; Amy Lewis <[amy.lewis@empai.com](mailto:amy.lewis@empai.com)>; Cohn, Steven M <[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)>; Loya, Wendy M <[wendy\\_loya@fws.gov](mailto:wendy_loya@fws.gov)>  
**Cc:** Deam, Seth R <[seth.deam@sol.doi.gov](mailto:seth.deam@sol.doi.gov)>; Gieryic, Michael S <[Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov)>; Routhier, Michael P <[michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov](mailto:michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Coastal Plain SEIS monthly joint meetings  
**When:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:30 PM-3:30 PM.  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Joint monthly lead meetings for discussions regarding the SEIS.

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Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer, mobile app or room device**  
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**From:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>

**To:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>, "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Alaska Congressional Delegation Comment Letter on BLM's Draft SEIS for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Program

**Date:** Wed, 08 Nov 2023 20:17:33 +0000

**Attachments:** Alaska\_Delegation\_ANWR\_Technical\_Comment\_Letter.pdf

---

**From:** Tyner, Jake (Sullivan) <Jake\_Tyner@sullivan.senate.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 7:54 PM

**To:** Kniola, Benjamin E <bkniola@blm.gov>; Million, Bonnie M <bmillion@blm.gov>; Wallace, Andrew G <andrew\_wallace@ios.doi.gov>; Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Thiele, Aaron (Murkowski) <Aaron\_Thiele@murkowski.senate.gov>; Martha Newell (Martha.Newell@mail.house.gov) <Martha.Newell@mail.house.gov>; Hughes, Brian (Murkowski) <Brian\_Hughes@murkowski.senate.gov>; Murfitt, Lucy (Indian Affairs) <Lucy\_Murfitt@indian.senate.gov>; Sam Hiratsuka (Samuel.Hiratsuka@mail.house.gov) <Samuel.Hiratsuka@mail.house.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Alaska Congressional Delegation Comment Letter on BLM's Draft SEIS for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Program

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good Evening—

Please find attached a letter from Alaska's Congressional Delegation providing comments on the Bureau of Land Management's draft supplemental environmental impact statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Program.

Please confirm receipt and we look forward to your response.

Best,

Jake Tyner  
General Counsel  
Office of Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK)  
302 Hart Senate Office Building  
202-224-3004 | [Jake\\_Tyner@sullivan.senate.gov](mailto:Jake_Tyner@sullivan.senate.gov)

**#1128101.1**

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oil and Gas [including rents, bonuses, and royalties]</li> <li>2. Federal Coal Forecast Summary</li> <li>3. Geothermal Receipt Estimates</li> <li>4. NPRA bonuses, rents, and royalties</li> <li>5. NPR-2 Receipt Estimates</li> <li>6. ANWR Receipt Estimates</li> <li>7. Onshore Renewable Estimates</li> <li>8. Oil Shale Receipt Estimates</li> <li>9. Hardrock Estimates</li> </ol>	
Executive Summaries Due to POB	November 29	Brief narrative explaining key assumptions, policy direction, etc.	Assistant Secretary
10-Year Explanations Due to POB	November 29	Update SharePoint Template explaining increases/decreases between 24PB and 25PB at commodity level	Assistant Secretary
Clearance Affirmation on Energy Receipt Estimates to POB	November 29	Confirm/finalize number inputs and deliverables provided previously	Assistant Secretary
Agency MAX DE Baseline Lockout	December 8	N/A	N/A
Agency MAX DE Lockout	January TBD	N/A	N/A

Refer to the original datacall [below] for more details and let us know if you have any other questions.

Jeni

## Jeni Rose-Dullaghan

Office of Budget

U.S. Department of Interior

Office: 202.294.1627

**From:** OS\_POB\_Receipts

**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 9:46 AM

**To:** Bagley, Lonny R <lbagley@blm.gov>; Barnes, Timothy L <tbarnes@blm.gov>; Bluma, Jeremy P <jbluma@blm.gov>; Brumbaugh, Robert <rbrumbau@blm.gov>; Brumley, Legion <lbrumley@blm.gov>; Coodey, Kevin C <kcoodey@blm.gov>; Frost, Troy A <tfrost@blm.gov>; Fusilier, Stephen L <sfusilie@blm.gov>; Good, Rebecca A <rgood@blm.gov>; Gruber, Benjamin E <begruber@blm.gov>; Hall, Sandra A <sahall@blm.gov>; Huebner, Thomas A <thuebner@blm.gov>; Huffman, Jessica R <jrhuffman@blm.gov>; Muehl, Gregory S <gmuehl@blm.gov>; Rickard, Scott S <srickard@blm.gov>; Sackett, Tyson J <tsackett@blm.gov>; Spencer, Jennifer E <j35spenc@blm.gov>; Svejnoha, Wayne <wsvejnoh@blm.gov>; Tichenor, James C <jtichenor@blm.gov>; Trimble, Lorenzo R <ltrimble@blm.gov>; Valdez, Roberto <rvaldez@blm.gov>; Warren, Matthew (Matt) <mwarren@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Nicholson, Laura K <Laura\_Nicholson@ios.doi.gov>; Shahani, Cassandra M <cassandra\_shahani@ios.doi.gov>; Rose-Dullaghan, Jeni L <Jeni\_Rose-Dullaghan@ios.doi.gov>

**Subject:** President's Budget FY2025 Onshore Receipts Estimate Request - DUE Thursday, November 16th

All,

Let's get this party started!

We have not yet received updated guidance from OMB for the 2025 President's Budget (PB) and are still assuming the timelines described in the A-11 are good. The 2025 President's Budget requires the recalculation of receipt estimates for the Department based on updated economic and policy assumptions and will be compared to the 2024 President's Budget across the 10-year budget window. While we wait for final guidance, we are sending this request to get you started preparing your data. The timeline always feels compressed, so we want to give you as much notice as possible.

**Good news!** ONRR's Actual Data for this exercise is attached to this email. We will pass on the OMB Economic Assumptions as soon as we receive them. Economic Assumptions are scheduled to be released on **Thursday,**

**November 9<sup>th</sup>.** Of course, as you know, OMB may adjust the Economic Assumptions release date slightly, and POB is committed to forwarding them to you as soon as they become available. *Reminder: A delay in the Economic Assumptions does not adjust the listed deadlines.*

**#1128106.3**

The data you provide is important to us! As we continue to capture lessons learned from each budget cycle, we are identifying ways to improve our data collection and integrity while ensuring leadership can quickly and easily understand your submissions. We continue to strive to strengthen management controls, improve Bureau ownership over numbers, and reduce risk in program outputs. By working together with you, we continue to ensure accurate receipt estimates in all our budget submissions.

As a part of our lessons learned from the 2024 President's Budget, POB piloted two deliverables during the 2024 Mid-Session cycle and collected feedback to finalize the requirements for these deliverables for the 2025 President's Budget. In addition to your customary estimate submissions, please plan to prepare the following:

1. **Executive Summary:** To communicate your estimates and assumptions more accurately through Departmental leadership and OMB, we are requesting a brief, narrative executive summary to accompany the commodity estimates. We know you'll be working quickly, so you have latitude on the format, but please make sure your summary minimally answers the following questions for the relevant commodities in your submission (e.g., oil, gas, renewable energy, coal, etc.):

- a. What are the key assumptions included in your estimates?
- b. How are these assumptions different than what was assumed in the last President's Budget?
- c. What key policy decision and/or legislative direction are reflected in your assumptions?
- d. How much of the estimated increase/decrease over the 10yr budget window is a result of the new economic assumptions vs other programmatic/policy assumptions?
- e. How do your assumptions reflect current Administration priorities?

You will note on the schedule that we have staggered the due dates: your number estimates are due to POB first, followed by the narrative summary, the 10yr Explanations, and confirmation of estimates the following week. We know you need to focus on preparing the numbers first, then pulling the narrative about the assumptions together should hopefully be pretty straightforward.

2. **Bureau Entry of 10-year Bulleted Explanations:** As we did in Mid-Session, we will leverage the POB External Communications SharePoint site to allow bureaus access to a shared document to provide bulleted explanatory notes for the estimates. We will update an Excel template that shows the outputs from the prior submission, the current submission, and the delta – you provide quick notes about what caused the delta for each of the specific commodities.

- a. **Note:** Keep in mind that your explanations for the lowest level commodity breakout may be different than the overall trend for a commodity. For example, oil and gas pricing in total may be decreasing, but a subset of oil and gas (say, rents and bonuses in a particular area, for example) may be *increasing* because of different lease sale or production assumptions. Please be sure your line-item commodity level explanation tracks with the delta for each line (so you don't talk about decreases on a line that's clearly increasing, etc.). If you have questions about this, please let us know.

Good news: These explanations are likely to form the more detailed basis for the explanations of assumptions you'll be providing in your Executive Summaries, so we believe these two tasks work nicely in tandem.

**Clearance Requirements:** We anticipate continued high levels of interest, significant leadership engagement, and additional review for receipt estimates again this cycle. To ensure adequate coordination, **please clear your submission data and underlying assumptions through your Assistant Secretary by November 21<sup>st</sup> to finalize your submission.** We recognize clearance of your inputs is generally standard practice, so we don't expect this to be a heavy lift. We are flagging the importance of clearance since we expect additional questions about the impact of statutory and policy direction on your assumptions and estimates.

**A few process/procedure reminders:**

1. **Use The Shared Mailbox:** All receipts data submissions must be submitted to POB via the shared Energy Receipts email ([OS\\_POB\\_Receipts@ios.doi.gov](mailto:OS_POB_Receipts@ios.doi.gov)) Use of this shared email allows better coverage and backup for this important function.

2. **Remember to Submit Bureau-Populated Upload Templates:** Please continue to complete the attached upload template with the appropriate estimates in thousands of dollars (in addition to your customary backup submissions). Your template will be uploaded directly into the receipts estimation and allocation model (REAM). **Please do not make any formatting changes to the template(s).** They are formatted specifically to upload into the model. Simply enter your updated estimates on the appropriate row in thousands of dollars.

3. **Bureau Validation:** Once estimates are uploaded in REAM, POB will ask you to confirm the estimates have been uploaded correctly (e.g. amounts are correctly reflected, correct values in the correct fiscal years, etc.) If you find something is in error, simply provide us a revised upload template with the corrected data, and we'll upload again until it's right.

Please submit the following 10-year (FY 2024- FY 2034) estimates to POB using the new Energy Receipts email

[OS\\_POB\\_Receipts@ios.doi.gov](mailto:OS_POB_Receipts@ios.doi.gov) by **Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**. As soon as we have uploaded your estimates, we will circle back with you for confirmation that the estimates have been uploaded correctly so you can get started loading your 10yr Explanations on our shared space [HERE](#). We anticipate the explanations will be ready for you by Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. All 3 deliverables (the estimates, the executive summary(s) and the 10yr explanations) should be finalized and reviewed through your Assistant Secretary by Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. A detailed schedule, with as much information as we know right now, is below:

**PB 2025 SCHEDULE (Per OMB A 11):** Bureau inputs highlighted in yellow.

Action	Date	Bureau Deliverable(s)	Clearance Level
MAX database opens	October 26	N/A	N/A
ONRR Data Request Due	October 26	ONRR PY Data ( <i>attached!</i> )	Program Officer
Agency A-11 PY Lockout	November 8	N/A	N/A
Economic assumptions released	November 9	N/A	N/A
Energy Receipt Estimates Due to POB	November 16	Number inputs (estimates) for energy leasing rents/bonuses/royalties, pricing, production, etc., including the following deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oil and Gas [including rents, bonuses, and royalties]</li> <li>2. Federal Coal Forecast Summary</li> <li>3. Geothermal Receipt Estimates</li> <li>4. NPRA bonuses, rents, and royalties</li> <li>5. NPR-2 Receipt Estimates</li> <li>6. ANWR Receipt Estimates</li> <li>7. Onshore Renewable Estimates</li> <li>8. Oil Shale Receipt Estimates</li> <li>9. Hardrock Estimates</li> </ol>	BBO
Executive Summaries Due to POB	November 21	Brief narrative explaining key assumptions, policy direction, etc.	Assistant Secretary
10-Year Explanations Due to POB	November 21	Update SharePoint Template explaining increases/decreases between 24PB and 25PB at commodity level	Assistant Secretary
Clearance Affirmation on Energy Receipt Estimates to POB	November 21	Confirm/finalize number inputs and deliverables provided previously	Assistant Secretary
Agency MAX DE Baseline Lockout	December 4	N/A	N/A
Agency MAX DE Lockout	January 9	N/A	N/A

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any assistance.

Jeni





**From:** "Bagley, Lonny R" <lbagley@blm.gov>  
**To:** "Good, Rebecca A" <rgood@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** "Hanna, Sabry F" <shanna@blm.gov>, "Lindow, Emily R" <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>, "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT Congressional Request: Due COB October 5, 2023  
**Date:** Thu, 05 Oct 2023 16:37:05 +0000

---

Thanks Becky, I will forward this to Budget.

Lonny

Lonny R Bagley  
Bureau for Land Management  
Advisor to the Assistant Director  
Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management  
307-622-6956  
[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Good, Rebecca A <rgood@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2023 10:35 AM  
**To:** Bagley, Lonny R <lbagley@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Hanna, Sabry F <shanna@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT Congressional Request: Due COB October 5, 2023

Emily, Ben and Lonny,

Below is HQ-320's response to questions sent from Budget (HQ-700). This response will be a part of the Technical Assistance Request sent to the House Minority staff.

(b) (5)

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

Thanks much

Becky

Rebecca "Becky" Good  
Acting Division Chief  
Solid Minerals Division (HQ-320)  
Stationed in Rio Rancho, NM

#1128107.1

Bureau of Land Management  
Cell: (307) 251-3487

*Kindness is more than deeds. It is an Attitude, a Look, a Touch. It is anything that Lifts Another Person! - Plato*

Confidential Notice: This electronic communication is intended only for the use of the individual(s) or entity(ies) to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and exempt from disclosure under applicable law. If you have received this communication in error, please do not distribute, delete the original message, and notify the sender.

**From:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2023 10:30 AM  
**To:** Good, Rebecca A <[rgood@blm.gov](mailto:rgood@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hanna, Sabry F <[shanna@blm.gov](mailto:shanna@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT Congressional Request: Due COB October 5, 2023

Thanks, please see my edits. Any concerns

Lonny R Bagley  
Bureau for Land Management  
Advisor to the Assistant Director  
Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management  
307-622-6956  
[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)

**From:** Good, Rebecca A <[rgood@blm.gov](mailto:rgood@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, October 5, 2023 7:36 AM  
**To:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Hanna, Sabry F <[shanna@blm.gov](mailto:shanna@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT Congressional Request: Due COB October 5, 2023

Lonny

HQ-320 has redrafted the following response to questions sent from Budget (HQ-700). This response will be a part of the Technical Assistance Request sent to the House Minority staff. Please review and if you concur, please send back to Roberto for coordination with HQ-700. Let me know if you have any questions -- thanks

(b) (5)

**#1128107.2**

(b) (5)

thanks

Becky

Rebecca "Becky" Good  
Acting Division Chief  
Solid Minerals Division (HQ-320)  
Stationed in Rio Rancho, NM  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cell: (307) 251-3487

*Kindness is more than deeds. It is an Attitude, a Look, a Touch. It is anything that Lifts Another Person! - Plato*

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---

**From:** Valdez, Roberto <[rvaldez@blm.gov](mailto:rvaldez@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023 12:37 PM  
**To:** Good, Rebecca A <[rgood@blm.gov](mailto:rgood@blm.gov)>; Hanna, Sabry F <[shanna@blm.gov](mailto:shanna@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Lindow, Emily R <[Emily.Lindow@boem.gov](mailto:Emily.Lindow@boem.gov)>; Gruber, Benjamin E <[BEGruber@blm.gov](mailto:BEGruber@blm.gov)>; Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>; McGinnis, Shelley R <[smcginnis@blm.gov](mailto:smcginnis@blm.gov)>; Broadwater, Charles E <[cbroadwater@blm.gov](mailto:cbroadwater@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: URGENT Congressional Request: Due COB October 5, 2023  
**Importance:** High

Hi Becky/Sabry,

Can we help HQ700 Budget with the questions below? thank you,

Roberto Valdez  
Land Surveyor, Budget Tracking and Performance Mgmt  
Bureau of Land Management, HQ350  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
Office: (505) 954-2071  
Cell: (505) 280-7576

---

**From:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023 12:29 PM  
**To:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>; Lindow, Emily R <[Emily.Lindow@boem.gov](mailto:Emily.Lindow@boem.gov)>; Gruber, Benjamin E <[BEGruber@blm.gov](mailto:BEGruber@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Valdez, Roberto <[rvaldez@blm.gov](mailto:rvaldez@blm.gov)>; McGinnis, Shelley R <[smcginnis@blm.gov](mailto:smcginnis@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Wilkinson, Patrick <[P2Wilkin@blm.gov](mailto:P2Wilkin@blm.gov)>; Emmett, Catherine H <[CHEmmett@blm.gov](mailto:CHEmmett@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT Congressional Request: Due COB October 5, 2023

#1128107.3

Team:

We got a follow up question from Jocelyn for HQ300:

(b) (5)

---

**From:** Huffman, Jessica R

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023 11:32 AM

**To:** St George, Brian C <[bstgeorg@blm.gov](mailto:bstgeorg@blm.gov)>; Waddell, Holle <[hwaddell@blm.gov](mailto:hwaddell@blm.gov)>; Heinlein, Thomas <[theinlei@blm.gov](mailto:theinlei@blm.gov)>; Frost, Troy A <[tfrost@blm.gov](mailto:tfrost@blm.gov)>; Lindow, Emily R <[emily.lindow@boem.gov](mailto:emily.lindow@boem.gov)>; Gruber, Benjamin E <[begruber@blm.gov](mailto:begruber@blm.gov)>; Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Eggers, Barbara L <[beggars@blm.gov](mailto:beggars@blm.gov)>; Shugert, Matthew J <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>; Keleher, Barbara A <[bkeleher@blm.gov](mailto:bkeleher@blm.gov)>; Lewis, Robin C <[rlewis@blm.gov](mailto:rlewis@blm.gov)>; Wilkinson, Patrick <[p2wilkin@blm.gov](mailto:p2wilkin@blm.gov)>; Emmett, Catherine H <[chemmett@blm.gov](mailto:chemmett@blm.gov)>; Conklin, Caralee S <[cconklin@blm.gov](mailto:cconklin@blm.gov)>; Davidson, Zoe M <[zdavidson@blm.gov](mailto:zdavidson@blm.gov)>; Bowmer, James A <[jbowmer@blm.gov](mailto:jbowmer@blm.gov)>; McGinnis, Shelley R <[smcginnis@blm.gov](mailto:smcginnis@blm.gov)>; Isaac, Mary <[misaac@blm.gov](mailto:misaac@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** URGENT Congressional Request: Due COB October 5, 2023

**Importance:** High

ADs & DADs,

I have a quick turn-around Technical Assistance Request from the House Minority staff. She needs this information by Friday, October 6, so I need it back by COB tomorrow, October 5, 2023. I have put my best guess for which director/state has the lead on these questions, but please feel free to coordinate with us / each other if my guesses weren't quite correct.

1. Can you please provide information on the Wildcat Load Expansion Project, whether you will conduct an environmental impact statement that considers the risks to the Colorado River rather than an environmental assessment, and the timeline you are working on for this expansion. (HQ300/HQ200/CO/UT)
2. Does BLM use M-44 devices on public lands and if so, what is the justification for their use considering that NPS, FWS and BOR do not use them? Why does BLM consider this humane? (HQ200)
3. Are there any monuments to the Founding Fathers on BLM lands? (HQ400)
4. Can you send me background on BLMs proposed rule to enhance protections in NPR-A for sensitive areas as well as cancellation of the seven lease in ANWR? (HQ300/HQ200/AK) (NOTE: Previously cleared communications materials on this topic can be shared to answer this question if appropriate. HQ600 copied.)

Please let me or Monique McDonald know if you have any questions about this or want to schedule a conversation. Sorry for the short turn around on this! Let us know if we can help.

\*NOTE: I am working half days this week and am unavailable before 10 a.m. or after 3 p.m. Eastern time. You can coordinate with Monique if I am not available.

#1128107.4

Sincerely,

Jessica Ray Huffman  
(She/Her, [What's This?](#))  
Budget Officer  
Bureau of Land Management

[jruffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)

Ph: (301) 875-3856

US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW. Washington, DC. 20240

**From:** "Communications, BLM\_AK" <BLM\_AK\_Communications@blm.gov>

**Subject:** 9-15-23 Weekly News Digest

**Date:** Fri, 15 Sep 2023 15:41:49 +0000

**Inline-Images:** image001.png; image002.png

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Weekly News Clips – This digest is provided for leadership’s situational awareness. A story’s appearance in this digest does not imply accuracy of information or endorsement of any kind.

NOTES: To access some stories, you may need a subscription. The Alaska State Office does maintain some [subscriptions](#) (for official use only), but not all.

As a reminder, we are excluding E&E articles (to condense BLM-AK News Clips), as they can be accessed by going to <https://www.eenews.net/get-access/> and using your BLM email address, and password “BLM.”

## **National**

### **[Rep. Mary Peltola’s husband dies after plane crash in Southwest Alaska](#)**

Anchorage Daily News 9/14/23

Peltola, 57, was the former regional director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs for Alaska, serving in that position from 2018 to 2022. He previously spent 34 years working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska.

[Senate Leaders Mourn the Loss of Eugene Peltola, Jr.](#) – Alaska Native News

[Eugene ‘Buzzy’ Peltola Jr. remembered for his humor, public service and commitment to family](#) – Alaska Public Media

[Federal team begins inquiry into plane crash that killed husband of Alaska U.S. Rep. Mary Peltola](#) - Anchorage Daily News

### **[Biden-Harris Administration Report Outlines Reforms Needed to Promote Responsible Mining on Public Lands](#)**

DOI Release 9/12/23

The Biden-Harris administration’s Department of the Interior-led Interagency Working Group on Mining Laws, Regulations, and Permitting (IWG) today released its final report containing recommendations to reform and improve the way mining is conducted on U.S. public lands.

## **Coastal Plain**

### **[Manchin Dubs Alaska Move Embarrassing](#)**

Rigzone 9/13/23

Canceling valid leases, removing acreage from future sales, and attempting to reduce production in Alaska while taking steps to allow Iran and Venezuela to produce more oil, with fewer environmental regulations, makes no sense and is frankly embarrassing [Joe Manchin]

[API: Cancellation of Alaska Leases Sets Concerning Precedent](#) – Rigzone

### **[‘A Willingness To Circumvent Laws’: Legal Battle Awaits Biden’s Alaskan Oil Crackdown](#)**

Daily Caller 9/11/23

AIDEA said. “This time, we will ask the court to allow us to conduct discovery that could include taking the deposition of Biden’s messenger, Secretary Haaland and possibly other administration officials involved so the real motives are made public.”

## **ASAP**

### **[Amid natural gas crunch, an Alaska utility asks to resurrect in-state gas pipeline](#)**

Anchorage Daily News 9/12/23

For the past several years, Alaska's elected leaders have largely set aside a proposed natural gas pipeline [Alaska Stand-Alone Pipeline] that would connect the state's huge North Slope oil fields solely with urban homeowners and electric utilities, dismissing the idea as too expensive.

## **Fire**

### [After a slow start, Alaska wildfire season wraps up as unremarkable](#)

KINY 9/14/23

Almost all of Alaska's wildfires came extremely late. Less than 3,000 acres had burned in Alaska through late July, said Beth Ipsen, a public information officer with the Bureau of Land Management's Alaska Fire Service.

### [UAF helps present air quality data on popular Alaska wildfire website](#)

Alaska Native News 9/13/23

Getting information about where wildfire smoke is headed in Alaska has become easy for the public, thanks to collaboration between the University of Alaska Fairbanks and the Alaska Fire Service.

## **Opinion**

### [Biden attacks again in his war on oil, but rising gas prices will bite him back](#)

The Hill 9/8/23

Most recently, the White House canceled oil and gas leases on hundreds of thousands of acres in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) and extended protections against future drilling to millions more.

### [Why Biden's Arctic Protections Fall Short](#)

Common Dreams 9/14/23

The administration cannot pretend to fight climate change until it's willing to actually address its leasing problem.

### [The GML Isn't All Bad](#)

The Breakthrough Institute 9/7/23

To promote responsible mining, it is time to go beyond bashing the General Mining Law of 1872

## **Archaeology**

### [When did the first Americans arrive – can we ask them?](#)

Cosmos 9/14/23

Some years ago, Scott Thomas, an archaeologist with the US Bureau of Land Management, discovered the ancient creekbed and walked its course, finding it to be teeming with arrowheads.

## **Smile**



# KNOW YOUR CAR WARNING SYMBOLS ;)



ENEMY  
SCANNER  
ACTIVATED



CURFEW  
FAIL



SMELLY  
SHOE ALERT



CYCLONE IN  
VEHICLE



DON'T DRIVE  
WITH  
BEACH BALL



SORRY  
YOU DID  
NOT SURVIVE



KEY SINKING  
IN RIVER



YOUR WISH  
IS GRANTED



FLEX YOUR  
ABS



FOR SPANISH  
MARQUE #2



SLEEPING  
BODIES  
DETECTED



THE SERPENT  
IS LOOSE



WAG TAIL  
UP OR DOWN



RELEASE THE  
COBRA



FOREIGN  
OBJECT IN  
EYE



ACTIVATE  
GHOSTS



CONFUSED  
ROBOT



INCOMING  
OBJECT



OBJECT  
EVADED



MARSHMALLOW  
CREAM CENTER



LET IT GO  
ALREADY



DRIVE ON,  
DRIVE ON



THE KIDS  
HAVE ESCAPED



SHOELACE  
UNTIED



ARMS  
DEFLATED



RESTRING  
YOUR HARP



ANGRY  
OWL AHEAD?



EMOTICON  
FAIL



RADIOACTIVE  
PIZZA



TOAST IS  
BURNING!

Objects in mirror are  
closer than they appear



[You're welcome.]

**From:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>

**To:** "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>, "Reed, Erika" <e05reed@blm.gov>, "Ellefson, Robert M" <rellefso@blm.gov>, "Roach, Emma K" <eroach@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Outline for ELT 30 minute AK presentation

**Date:** Wed, 04 Oct 2023 00:47:17 +0000

**Attachments:** Outline\_for\_ELT\_presentation\_October\_2023.docx

---

Hi,

Here's a first cut at a rough outline for the upcoming ELT presentation. I know it's a few weeks away, but the calendar is looking pretty full between now and then. 30 minutes isn't much time, so probably no more than 10 slides. Maps and photos work well, with minimal words and a good script.

I'm also fine with us borrowing from whatever we have on the shelf to fill in the gaps.

Thanks!

Steve

Steven M. Cohn  
Alaska State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)  
Cell: 907-202-0055  
Office: 907-271-5080

**From:** "Lindow, Emily R" <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>

**To:** "Cowan, Peter I" <picowan@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>, "Bagley, Lonny R" <lbagley@blm.gov>, "Northington, John W" <jnorthington@blm.gov>, "Fields, Yvette M" <yfields@blm.gov>, "Warren, Matthew (Matt)" <mwarren@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Re: QFRs from 9.19.2023 HNR EMR Hearing (DD: 10/5 COB)

**Date:** Wed, 04 Oct 2023 20:29:00 +0000

**Attachments:** 9.19.2023\_HNR\_ENR\_Hearing\_QFRs\_(to\_HQ-310)\_erl.docx

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My edits are in the attached. Thanks, Emily

Emily Lindow  
Acting Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals, and Realty (HQ-300)  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

---

**From:** Cowan, Peter I <picowan@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023 4:08 PM

**To:** Lindow, Emily R <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>

**Cc:** Gruber, Benjamin E <BEGruber@blm.gov>; Bagley, Lonny R <lbagley@blm.gov>; Northington, John W <jnorthington@blm.gov>; Fields, Yvette M <yfields@blm.gov>; Warren, Matthew (Matt) <mwarren@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Re: QFRs from 9.19.2023 HNR EMR Hearing (DD: 10/5 COB)

Hi Emily,

John caught a few edits and asked me to send the edits onto you. Please find the attached word version with track changes on for the edits proposed and discussed between John and HQ310.

Thank you!

Peter

**Peter Cowan** (*he/him*) | **Senior Mineral Leasing Specialist**

Bureau of Land Management | Division of Fluid Minerals (HQ310)

301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508 | Mobile 720-838-1641 | [picowan@blm.gov](mailto:picowan@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Lindow, Emily R <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 4, 2023 10:51 AM

**To:** Cowan, Peter I <picowan@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Gruber, Benjamin E <BEGruber@blm.gov>; Bagley, Lonny R <lbagley@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Re: QFRs from 9.19.2023 HNR EMR Hearing (DD: 10/5 COB)

Just as a heads up, John N requested to review these first. I am waiting for him to complete his review before I look at them. Thanks!

Emily Lindow  
Acting Assistant Director, Energy, Minerals, and Realty (HQ-300)

**#1128112.1**

Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

---

**From:** Cowan, Peter I <picowan@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2023 6:18 PM  
**To:** Lindow, Emily R <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>; Gruber, Benjamin E <BEGruber@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>; Warren, Matthew (Matt) <mwarren@blm.gov>; Kniola, Benjamin E <bkniola@blm.gov>; McGinnis, Shelley R <smcginnis@blm.gov>; Broadwater, Charles E <cbroadwater@blm.gov>; Bagley, Lonny R <lbagley@blm.gov>; Northington, John W <jnorthington@blm.gov>; Fields, Yvette M <yfields@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: QFRs from 9.19.2023 HNR EMR Hearing (DD: 10/5 COB)

Hello Emily and Ben,

Yvette asked me to send you HQ310's proposed responses for the QFRs. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!  
Peter

**Peter Cowan** (*he/him*) | **Senior Mineral Leasing Specialist**  
Bureau of Land Management | Division of Fluid Minerals (HQ310)  
301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508 | Mobile 720-838-1641 | [picowan@blm.gov](mailto:picowan@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Kniola, Benjamin E <bkniola@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 26, 2023 3:29 PM  
**To:** Fields, Yvette M <yfields@blm.gov>; Warren, Matthew (Matt) <mwarren@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>; Cowan, Peter I <picowan@blm.gov>; Lindow, Emily R <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>; Gruber, Benjamin E <BEGruber@blm.gov>; McGinnis, Shelley R <smcginnis@blm.gov>; Broadwater, Charles E <cbroadwater@blm.gov>; Bagley, Lonny R <lbagley@blm.gov>; Northington, John W <jnorthington@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** QFRs from 9.19.2023 HNR EMR Hearing (DD: 10/5 COB)

Hi Yvette and Matt,

Attached are the Questions for the Record (QFR) we received for Mike Nedd following his hearing last week before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources. Please review and provide AD-300 cleared responses by COB Thursday October 5th.

We are also sending all of the Questions to HQ-310 including the ones sent to BLM-AK in case coordination is needed on the response.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Ben Kniola

Legislative Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**#1128112.2**

Bureau of Land Management  
Legislative Affairs Division (HQ 620)  
Located in Grand Junction, CO  
Mobile: 307-275-0355  
bkniola@blm.gov

**Page Image Missing**  
**#1128114.1**

**From:** "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>

**To:** "Kniola, Benjamin E" <bkniola@blm.gov>, "Emmett, Catherine H" <CHEmmett@blm.gov>, "Wilkinson, Patrick" <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Roach, Emma K" <eroach@blm.gov>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Briefing papers for TSM's upcoming hill meeting

**Date:** Fri, 21 Jul 2023 21:55:15 +0000

**Attachments:** Coastal\_Plain\_SEIS\_19\_July.docx; Central\_Yukon\_RMP\_20\_July.docx;  
Ambler\_Road\_20\_July.docx; PLO\_EIS\_19\_July.docx;  
Native\_Veteran\_Allotment\_19\_July.docx

---

Hello LegAffairs!!

As promised, please find attached some briefing papers for the Senator Sullivan meeting. If there are additional topics you think would be beneficial, please let me know.

Hope you have a great weekend!

--

Bonnie Million  
Congressional Liaison  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska  
Email: [bmillion@blm.gov](mailto:bmillion@blm.gov)  
Office: 907-271-3335  
Cell: 907-802-1015

#1128116.1



**From:** "Kniola, Benjamin E" <bkniola@blm.gov>

**To:** "Nedd, Michael D" <mnedd@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Wilkinson, Patrick" <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>, "Conklin, Caralee S" <csconklin@blm.gov>, "Duffy, Adam B" <aduffy@blm.gov>, "Gins, Meagan A" <mgins@blm.gov>, "Wykowski, Henry T" <hwykowski@blm.gov>, "Emmett, Catherine H" <CHEmmett@blm.gov>, "Brown, Mark A" <m3brown@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Updates to hearing briefing materials including Oral Statement

**Date:** Mon, 18 Sep 2023 23:45:45 +0000

**Attachments:** 09.19.2023\_HNR\_EMR\_Mining\_Q&A\_.docx; 9.19.23\_HNR\_EMR\_Oversight\_Hearing\_-\_BLM\_Testimony.pdf; External\_Witness\_Testimonies\_Summary.docx; Provided\_Committee\_Member\_Questions.docx

---

Hi Mike,

The following are attached and uploaded to the [Teams site](#).

- The Cleared and delivered Testimony (9.19.23 HNR EMR Oversight Hearing - BLM Testimony)
- Provided Committee Member Questions
- 09.19.2023 HNR EMR Mining Q&A
- External Witness Testimonies Summary (still do not have WY - Novotny witness testimony)

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Ben Kniola

Legislative Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Legislative Affairs Division (HQ 620)  
Located in Grand Junction, CO  
Mobile: 307-275-0355  
bkniola@blm.gov

---

**From:** Nedd, Michael D <mnedd@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 3:14 PM

**To:** Kniola, Benjamin E <bkniola@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>; Conklin, Caralee S <csconklin@blm.gov>; Duffy, Adam B <aduffy@blm.gov>; Gins, Meagan A <mgins@blm.gov>; Wykowski, Henry T <hwykowski@blm.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Updates to hearing briefing materials including Oral Statement

Thx Ben and team...

I'll look these over and ping you/others if I have Qs or need clarification...

*Take care and have a wonderful day! : )*

*Michael D. Nedd*

#1128117.1

202-208-3801 Office  
202-236-2867 Cell  
[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)

*A thought to consider based on John Wesley's writing "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for all the people you can, while you can!"*

*Working together we're stronger - BLM Strong" - and our Core Values are "To serve with honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and commitment to make a difference."*

---

**From:** Kniola, Benjamin E <bknola@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 5:00 PM  
**To:** Nedd, Michael D <mnedd@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>; Conklin, Caralee S <csconklin@blm.gov>; Duffy, Adam B <aduffy@blm.gov>; Gins, Meagan A <mgins@blm.gov>; Wykowski, Henry T <hwykowski@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Updates to hearing briefing materials including Oral Statement

Hi Mike,

We have pulled together most of the items you have requested and wanted to get these to you while we finalize the remaining items.

The following are attached and uploaded to the [Teams site](#).

- hearing\_memo\_--\_sub\_on\_emr\_ov\_hrg\_09.19.23
- Testimony Vasquez
- Testimony Harcharek
- Testimony Sgamma
- EOI Calculation Slide from SENR presentation
- 09.19.23 HNR EMR Hearing - Off-Topic TPs
- H.R.-1-SAP

The [Table of Contents](#) for the Teams site has been updated to show these items in green highlighter as well.

We are still working on gathering possible questions from the Members and any responses for the questions, as well as some examples of recently approved mines. We will send those shortly.

Thank you,  
Ben Kniola

Legislative Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Legislative Affairs Division (HQ 620)  
Located in Grand Junction, CO  
Mobile: 307-275-0355  
[bknola@blm.gov](mailto:bknola@blm.gov)

---

#1128117.2

**From:** Nedd, Michael D <[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 6:34 PM  
**To:** Kniola, Benjamin E <[bkniola@blm.gov](mailto:bkniola@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wilkinson, Patrick <[P2Wilkin@blm.gov](mailto:P2Wilkin@blm.gov)>; Conklin, Caralee S <[csconklin@blm.gov](mailto:csconklin@blm.gov)>; Duffy, Adam B <[aduffy@blm.gov](mailto:aduffy@blm.gov)>; Gins, Meagan A <[mgins@blm.gov](mailto:mgins@blm.gov)>; Wykowski, Henry T <[hwykowski@blm.gov](mailto:hwykowski@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Updates to hearing briefing materials including Oral Statement

Thx Ben...

*Take care and have a wonderful day! : )*

*Michael D. Nedd  
202-208-3801 Office  
202-236-2867 Cell  
[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)*

*A thought to consider based on John Wesley's writing "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for all the people you can, while you can!"*

*Working together we're stronger - BLM Strong" - and our Core Values are "To serve with honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and commitment to make a difference."*

---

**From:** Kniola, Benjamin E <[bkniola@blm.gov](mailto:bkniola@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 5:02 PM  
**To:** Nedd, Michael D <[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wilkinson, Patrick <[P2Wilkin@blm.gov](mailto:P2Wilkin@blm.gov)>; Conklin, Caralee S <[csconklin@blm.gov](mailto:csconklin@blm.gov)>; Duffy, Adam B <[aduffy@blm.gov](mailto:aduffy@blm.gov)>; Gins, Meagan A <[mgins@blm.gov](mailto:mgins@blm.gov)>; Wykowski, Henry T <[hwykowski@blm.gov](mailto:hwykowski@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Updates to hearing briefing materials including Oral Statement

Hi Mike,

We have revised the Oral Statement and uploaded that to the Teams site here: [b. 09.19.23 HNR EMR O&G Hearing Draft Oral Statement \(revised\).docx](#)

We have also added the following document (marked in green highlighter on the [Table of Contents](#) doc):

- The witness list,
- Qs&As (first one is the court case examples you requested yesterday),
- Rock Springs RMP PowerPoint presentation,
- A table pulled from the above presentation showing a comparison of current management vs. preferred alternative, and
- The letter from the Deputy Secretary to AIDEA regarding the ANWR lease cancellations.

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any additional resources.

Thank you,  
Ben Kniola

Legislative Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Department of the Interior

#1128117.3

Bureau of Land Management  
Legislative Affairs Division (HQ 620)  
Located in Grand Junction, CO  
Mobile: 307-275-0355  
[bkniola@blm.gov](mailto:bkniola@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Kniola, Benjamin E  
**Sent:** Friday, September 15, 2023 10:38 AM  
**To:** Nedd, Michael D <[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wilkinson, Patrick <[P2Wilkin@blm.gov](mailto:P2Wilkin@blm.gov)>; Conklin, Caralee S <[csconklin@blm.gov](mailto:csconklin@blm.gov)>; Duffy, Adam B <[aduffy@blm.gov](mailto:aduffy@blm.gov)>; Gins, Meagan A <[mgins@blm.gov](mailto:mgins@blm.gov)>; Wykowski, Henry T <[hwyskowski@blm.gov](mailto:hwyskowski@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Updates to hearing briefing materials including Oral Statement

Hi Mike,

We wanted to let you know that the testimony is out for DOI circulation and OCL may send to OBM shortly. Also, we have prepared the draft Oral Statement for your review and uploaded to the Teams site here: [09.19.23 HNR EMR O&G Hearing Draft Oral Statement.docx](#)

We have also added other requested items to the [Teams site](#) and updated the [Table of Contents](#) with green highlight over the new items.

We are still actively working on the Qs & As doc and will try to have those uploaded shortly.

Thank you,  
Ben Kniola

Legislative Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Legislative Affairs Division (HQ 620)  
Located in Grand Junction, CO  
Mobile: 307-275-0355  
[bkniola@blm.gov](mailto:bkniola@blm.gov)



**From:** Teresa Imm <Teresa-Imm@outlook.com>

**To:** "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>, "admin@cityofkaktovik.org" <admin@cityofkaktovik.org>, "(b) (6) @hotmail.com" <(b) (6) @hotmail.com>, "Asisaun.toovak@utqiagvik.us" <Asisaun.toovak@utqiagvik.us>, "Assistant-Village of Wainwright (asst@vowak.org)" <asst@vowak.org>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "(b) (6) @hotmail.com" <(b) (6) @hotmail.com>, "cpatkotak@asrc.com" <cpatkotak@asrc.com>, "Douglas Whiteman" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "esther.evikana@nvb-nsn.gov" <esther.evikana@nvb-nsn.gov>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "executive.director@tikigaq.org" <executive.director@tikigaq.org>, "Fannie Suvlu (fannie.suvlu@nvb-nsn.gov)" <fannie.suvlu@nvb-nsn.gov>, "harry.brower@north-slope.org" <harry.brower@north-slope.org>, "hugh.patkotak@olgoonik.com" <hugh.patkotak@olgoonik.com>, "Jimmie Kagak" <Jimmie.Kagak@north-slope.org>, "jnukapigak@kuukpik.com" <jnukapigak@kuukpik.com>, "josiah.patkotak@north-slope.org" <josiah.patkotak@north-slope.org>, "mawalin@cullycorp.com" <mawalin@cullycorp.com>, "mayor@cityofnuiqsut.org" <mayor@cityofnuiqsut.org>, "mayor@cityofwainwright.com" <mayor@cityofwainwright.com>, "morrie.leman@icas-nsn.gov" <morrie.leman@icas-nsn.gov>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "pbrower@uicalaska.com" <pbrower@uicalaska.com>, "president@atqcorp.com" <president@atqcorp.com>, "president@kic.biz" <president@kic.biz>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "ryarock@tikigaq.com" <ryarock@tikigaq.com>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "(b) (6) @yahoo.com" <(b) (6) @yahoo.com>, "tleavitt@uicalaska.com" <tleavitt@uicalaska.com>

**Cc:** "administrator@nvnuqsut.org" <administrator@nvnuqsut.org>, "Andy Mack (amack@kuukpik.com)" <amack@kuukpik.com>, "cityclerk@cityofnuiqsut.org" <cityclerk@cityofnuiqsut.org>, "david.fauske@north-slope.org" <david.fauske@north-slope.org>, "doreen.leavitt@icas-nsn.gov" <doreen.leavitt@icas-nsn.gov>, "Kenning, Erik" <ekenning@asrc.com>, "Janell J. Kaleak" <Janell.Kaleak@north-slope.org>, "Jones, Nichelle (Shelly)" <njones@blm.gov>, "Katie Akpik-Varner" <Katie.akpik@utqiagvik.us>, "Mackenzie Fischer" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "Matthew Rexford" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "Mikow, Elizabeth H" <emikow@blm.gov>, "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>, "Moire Bockenstedt (mbockenstedt@olgoonik.com)" <mbockenstedt@olgoonik.com>, "(b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>, "officemanager@cityofwainwright.com" <officemanager@cityofwainwright.com>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "sesanchez@asrc.com" <sesanchez@asrc.com>, "(b) (6) @outlook.com" <(b) (6) @outlook.com>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] NPR-A Working Group Meeting

**Date:** Mon, 16 Oct 2023 17:43:42 +0000

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:** unnamed; FINAL\_NPRA\_WG\_AGENDA\_October\_17\_2023\_10AM\_-\_12N.pdf; NPR-A\_WG\_9.26.23\_Kick-Off\_Meeting\_Minutes.pdf; Proposed NPR-A\_Rule\_RIN\_1004-AE95\_508.pdf; Beaufort\_Sea\_Withdrawal\_NPR-A\_Special\_Areas\_small.pdf; 10.05.2023\_S.Cohn\_Letter\_on\_Motion\_for\_Extension\_on\_the\_Proposed\_Rule\_Executed.pdf; Fact\_Sheet\_NPR-A\_20230925.pdf; FAQ\_NPR-A\_20230925.pdf

**From:** Teresa Imm <Teresa-Imm@outlook.com>

**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2023 4:14:18 PM (UTC-09:00) Alaska

**To:** Teresa Imm <Teresa-Imm@outlook.com>; admin@cityofkaktovik.org <admin@cityofkaktovik.org>; (b) (6) @hotmail.com <(b) (6) @hotmail.com>; Asisaun.toovak@utqiagvik.us <Asisaun.toovak@utqiagvik.us>; Assistant-Village of Wainwright (asst@vowak.org) <asst@vowak.org>; (b) (6) @gmail.com (b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) @gmail.com (b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) @hotmail.com (b) (6) @hotmail.com>; cpatkotak@asrc.com <cpatkotak@asrc.com>; Douglas Whiteman <(b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) @gmail.com <(b) (6) @gmail.com>; esther.evikana@nvb-nsn.gov <esther.evikana@nvb-nsn.gov>; (b) (6) @gmail.com <(b) (6) @gmail.com>; executive.director@tikigaq.org <executive.director@tikigaq.org>; Fannie Suvlu (fannie.suvlu@nvb-nsn.gov) <fannie.suvlu@nvb-nsn.gov>; harry.brower@north-slope.org <harry.brower@north-slope.org>; hugh.patkotak@olgoonik.com <hugh.patkotak@olgoonik.com>; Jimmie Kagak <Jimmie.Kagak@north-slope.org>; 'jnukapigak@kuukpik.com' <jnukapigak@kuukpik.com>; josiah.patkotak@north-slope.org <josiah.patkotak@north-slope.org>; mawalin@cullycorp.com <mawalin@cullycorp.com>; mayor@cityofnuiqsut.org <mayor@cityofnuiqsut.org>; mayor@cityofwainwright.com <mayor@cityofwainwright.com>; morrie.leman@icas-nsn.gov <morrie.leman@icas-nsn.gov>; (b) (6) @gmail.com <(b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) @gmail.com <(b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) @gmail.com <(b) (6) @gmail.com>; pbrower@uicalaska.com <pbrower@uicalaska.com>; president@atqcorp.com <president@atqcorp.com>; president@kic.biz <president@kic.biz>; (b) (6) @gmail.com (b) (6) @gmail.com>; ryarock@tikigaq.com <ryarock@tikigaq.com>; (b) (6) @gmail.com (b) (6) @gmail.com>; (b) (6) @yahoo.com <(b) (6) @yahoo.com>; tleavitt@uicalaska.com <tleavitt@uicalaska.com>

**Cc:** administrator@nvnuqsut.org <administrator@nvnuqsut.org>; Andy Mack (amack@kuukpik.com) <amack@kuukpik.com>; cityclerk@cityofnuiqsut.org <cityclerk@cityofnuiqsut.org>; david.fauske@north-slope.org <david.fauske@north-slope.org>; doreen.leavitt@icas-nsn.gov <doreen.leavitt@icas-nsn.gov>; Kenning, Erik <ekenning@asrc.com>; Janell J. Kaleak <Janell.Kaleak@north-slope.org>; Jones, Nichelle (Shelly) <njones@blm.gov>; Katie Akpik-Varner <Katie.akpik@utqiagvik.us>; Mackenzie Fischer <(b) (6) @gmail.com>; Matthew Rexford <(b) (6) @gmail.com>; Mikow, Elizabeth H <emikow@blm.gov>; Million, Bonnie M <bmillion@blm.gov>; Moire Bockenstedt (mbockenstedt@olgoonik.com) <mbockenstedt@olgoonik.com>; nvkaktovik@gmail.com <(b) (6) @gmail.com>; officemanager@cityofwainwright.com <officemanager@cityofwainwright.com>; Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>; sesanchez@asrc.com <sesanchez@asrc.com>; (b) (6) @outlook.com (b) (6) @outlook.com>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NPR-A Working Group Meeting

**When:** Tuesday, October 17, 2023 10:00 AM-12:00 PM.

**Where:** <https://arcticinsightssolutionsllc-575.my.webex.com/arcticinsightssolutionsllc-575.my/j.php?>

MTID=mc147962081b66c1444ae000e0d66a8fe

**This email has been received from outside of DOI -Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Dear Working Group Members,

Thank you for your patience while we prepared our agenda for this meeting. Based on the feedback I received from the majority of the Working Group the decision was to stick with the October 17<sup>th</sup> date that was agreed to at our last meeting. During the last week there has been a lot of activity in scheduling community informational meetings in the region and as it now stands the meetings in Atkasuk and Nuiqsut have been postponed until November. As such, the Co-Chairs and BLM have decided to make the Proposed Rule the main topic of our meeting next Tuesday so that the entire Working Group can hear the informational presentation at the same time. We recognize that our Tribal and ANC members were sent a letter sent on August 25, 2023 from the BLM inviting them to engage in Tribal and ANCSA Consultation and some of the Working Group members may have already engaged in that activity.

On a forward basis the Co-Chairs have agreed to include a topic from our Roundtable discussion at the last meeting and we have added the suggestion from Native Village of Nuiqsut to request and update on impacts to Subsistence Use Areas based on development in the eastern NPR-A.

Please find attached the following:

- Agenda – October 17, 2023, 10am-12noon
- September 26, 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Proposed Rule for the Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska

**#1128119.2**

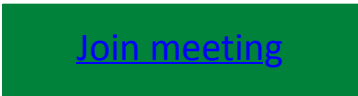


- We look forward to our continued engagement. Please let me know if you have any questions or have any problems downloading the files. The Webex information for video and/or telephone connectivity to our meetings is presented below.

Teresa Imm  
Mackenzie Fischer  
Arctic Insights & Solutions LLC  
(907) 519-5057

-- Do not delete or change any of the following text. --

**When it's time, join your Webex meeting here.**



## More ways to join:

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<https://arcticinsightssolutionsllc-575.my.webex.com/arcticinsightssolutionsllc-575.my/j.php?MTID=md96b520430e385314f5b356797d338bb>

### Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2633 981 1768

Meeting password: 5BwR57BpSSa (52975727 from phones and video systems)

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Need help? Go to <https://help.webex.com>

**From:** "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>

**To:** "Kniola, Benjamin E" <bkniola@blm.gov>, "Emmett, Catherine H" <CHEmmett@blm.gov>, "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>, "Nedd, Michael D" <mnedd@blm.gov>, "Moran, Jill C" <jcmoran@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Krauss, Jeff" <JKrauss@blm.gov>, "Wilkinson, Patrick" <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>, "Conklin, Caralee S" <csconklin@blm.gov>, "Wykowski, Henry T" <hwykowski@blm.gov>, "Moffat, Sara A" <smoffat@blm.gov>, "Gins, Meagan A" <mgins@blm.gov>, "Tichenor, James C" <jtichenor@blm.gov>, "Lindow, Emily R" <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>, "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>

**Subject:** RE: For 100 Review: QFRs from Mike's 9/19/23 HNR Hearing re the oil and gas program

**Date:** Wed, 18 Oct 2023 05:05:07 +0000

**Attachments:** 9.19.2023\_HNR\_ENR\_Hearing\_QFRs\_(to\_100)-nwc.docx

---

Thanks, Ben. My edits are in the attached, shown in redline.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Kniola, Benjamin E <bkniola@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, October 13, 2023 3:53 PM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Emmett, Catherine H <CHEmmett@blm.gov>; Stone-Manning, Tracy M <tstonemanning@blm.gov>; Nedd, Michael D <mnedd@blm.gov>; Moran, Jill C <jcmoran@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Krauss, Jeff <JKrauss@blm.gov>; Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>; Conklin, Caralee S <csconklin@blm.gov>; Wykowski, Henry T <hwykowski@blm.gov>; Moffat, Sara A <smoffat@blm.gov>; Gins, Meagan A <mgins@blm.gov>; Tichenor, James C <jtichenor@blm.gov>; Lindow, Emily R <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>; Gruber, Benjamin E <BEGruber@blm.gov>

**Subject:** For 100 Review: QFRs from Mike's 9/19/23 HNR Hearing re the oil and gas program

Hi All,

Sending an email to alert you of the following in DTS (BLM0040784) now with 100 for review:

The BLM has received a series of Questions for the Record from Mike's September 19th HNR hearing on the oil and gas program. HQ Legislative Affairs worked on the draft QFR responses with BLM-AK and HQ-300/310.

Once the QFRs are cleared by BLM, they will go to ASLM, OCL, and OMB for clearance.

Thanks,  
Ben Kniola

Legislative Affairs Specialist  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

Legislative Affairs Division (HQ 620)

**#1128120.1**



Located in Grand Junction, CO

Mobile: 307-275-0355

[bkniola@blm.gov](mailto:bkniola@blm.gov)

**From:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>

**To:** (b) (6) @aol.com" <(b) (6) @aol.com>, (b) (6) @aol.com" (b) (6) @aol.com>, "Pendergast, Kevin J" <kpendergast@blm.gov>, "Roach, Emma K" <eroach@blm.gov>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Revised BLM Powerpoint for November 28 - December 1 ANILCA Training

**Date:** Mon, 16 Oct 2023 22:39:37 +0000

**Attachments:** BLM\_ppt\_Nov\_2023.pptx

**Inline-Images:** 1697444705701blob.jpg; 1697444893240blob.jpg; 1697445051910blob.jpg; 1697445247691blob.jpg

Hi Sally,

I'm CC'ing my communications director, Emma Roach, to help coordinate review of the slides for BLM. We'll also discuss the appropriate person to provide the presentation from BLM, as well as live versus video.

Best,

Steve

Steven M. Cohn

Alaska State Director

Bureau of Land Management

[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)

Cell: 907-202-0055

Office: 907-271-5080

**From:** Sally Gibert <(b) (6) @aol.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 1:34 AM

**To:** Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>; (b) (6) @gmail.com

**Cc:** Pendergast, Kevin J <kpendergast@blm.gov>; Dick Mylius (b) (6) @aol.com>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Revised BLM Powerpoint for November 28 - December 1 ANILCA Training

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Steve,

We are still hoping you can deliver the BLM slides via Zoom at the upcoming ANILCA Training on Tuesday late morning Nov 29. (Or record a video.) In the meantime the Curriculum Packet print deadline is coming up. To assist with updating the slides since the last training in Nov 2022, Dick researched the BLM website and made changes to 6 slides, as Dick describes below. No changes were made to the other slides. Please review the updates, ideally by Thursday morning, so we can get them in the printed Packet. I think I recall that last year the slides were reviewed by Kevin Pendergast, who offered some useful fine-tuning. So I'm adding him to the cc list. We have a big class this time - around 90 people!

Thanks,

Sally Gibert

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Dick Mylius (b) (6) @aol.com>

**To:** Sally Gibert (b) (6) @aol.com>

**Sent:** Monday, October 16, 2023 at 12:43:52 AM AKDT

**Subject:** Fw: Revised BLM Powerpoint for November 28 - December 1 ANILCA Training

Attached is a revised version of the BLM Powerpoint for the November 28 - December 1 Institute of the North's ANILCA training.

The revisions are to the following slides, there are also two questions. Revisions are based on the most recent information posted on the BLM-Alaska web sites. The questions do not need to be answered to prepare the presentation, but the presenter (hopefully Steve Cohn) should be prepared to answer them.

**Slide 3** - date changed to November 2023. The BLM presentation is scheduled for Wednesday, November 29.

**Slide 12** - Central Yukon RMP. The current slide notes that the public comment period ended June 9, 2021. The plan web site says a final will be issued late in 2021. Is there more up to date information on the status of the final plan development?

#1128121.1

**Slide 15** - Revocation of 17(d)(1) Withdrawals - Is there a timeline for completing the re-evaluation of the (d)(1) withdrawals? The revisions simplify the last two bullets, deleted dates, they now read as follows:

- BLM is re-evaluating previous decisions to revoke 28 million acres of withdrawals
- DOI opened 28 million acres of withdrawals to allow for Native Veteran Allotment applications

**Slide 16** - Vietnam Veteran Allotments. The slide has three revisions:

- 1) updated the available acreage for selection to 29 million acres (from 28.3 million acres), based on the added 812,000 acres mentioned in slide 15
- 2) updated the number of applications to 327 (from BLM web site, dated 10/10/2023)
- 3) included that 14 have been certified (also from BLM web site - 10/10/2023),

The fifth and sixth bullets on slide 16 now read:

- 29 million acres of BLM lands available for selection
- As of October 2023, BLM had received 327 applications and has certified 14

**Slide 18** - ANWR 1002 - changed the last two bullets (bullets 5 and 6) to read:

- January 2021 – First lease sale held, leases subsequently relinquished or cancelled
- September 2023 - BLM and USFWS issued Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for lease sales

**Slide 19** - NPRA - added revised bullet #6 and added new bullet #7 - "BLM issued Proposed Rule regarding management of Protected Areas in NPRA.

- In April 2022 BLM adopted a "No Action" alternative, essentially reverting to the 2013 IAP
- September 2023 – BLM issued Proposed Rule for management of protected areas in NPRA

**From:** "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>

**To:** "Pendergast, Kevin J" <kpendergast@blm.gov>, "Sweet, Serena E" <:ssweet@blm.gov>, "Jones, Nichelle (Shelly)" <njones@blm.gov>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Roach, Emma K" <eroach@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Re: ANWR

**Date:** Tue, 19 Sep 2023 04:46:16 +0000

---

Thank you both!!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Pendergast, Kevin J <kpendergast@blm.gov>


**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 7:24:09 PM

**To:** Sweet, Serena E <:ssweet@blm.gov>; Million, Bonnie M <bmillion@blm.gov>; Jones, Nichelle (Shelly) <njones@blm.gov>; Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Roach, Emma K <eroach@blm.gov>

**Subject:** RE: ANWR

I agree with what Serena offers below, and the dynamic is the same for most projects (e.g. Willow). (b) (5)



Kevin

**Kevin J. Pendergast PE, CPG**

Deputy State Director, Resources

BLM Alaska

907.271.4413 (O)

907.302.0847 (C)

---

**From:** Sweet, Serena E <:ssweet@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 7:03 PM

**To:** Million, Bonnie M <bmillion@blm.gov>; Pendergast, Kevin J <kpendergast@blm.gov>; Jones, Nichelle (Shelly) <njones@blm.gov>; Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Roach, Emma K <eroach@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Re: ANWR

Hi Bonnie,

Because The Voice is not a federally recognized Tribe or an ANCSA Corporation we do not consult with them formally. However, Nagruk and others representing the Voice have been invited by ASRC, NSB and other North Slope entities to participate in formal consultations along with them from time to time. Most recently, Nagruk attended an joint consultation hosted by ASRC, NSB and ICAS back in January 2023 where the Willow and the Coastal Plain projects were discussed

Additionally, The Voice as an organization has provided substantive comments on our various NEPA projects and those comments have been appropriately considered

Here is an excerpt from their [website](#) that provides additional details: "Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat was formed in 2015 as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation, creating a communication network among the Arctic Slope communities to establish a unified voice for our region and people. Today, our twenty-four member organizations work together to ensure that our collective voice is heard

**#1128123.1**

and respected – locally, regionally and nationally. Under our current structure, the VOICE is largely funded by Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) and grant from the North Slope Borough (NSB). The generosity of ASRC and the NSB means that membership is not determined by an organization's ability to pay member dues. By removing the financial burden of membership dues, our region's entities will always have a voice at our table."



## [Voice of the Arctic Inupiat](#) [Voice of the Arctic Inupiat](#)

[...]Read More... from Voice of the Arctic Inupiat

[voiceoftheartcticinupiat.org](http://voiceoftheartcticinupiat.org)

Let me know if you have any other questions

Serena

---

**From:** Million, Bonnie M <[bmillion@blm.gov](mailto:bmillion@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 6:33 PM  
**To:** Pendergast, Kevin J <[kpendergast@blm.gov](mailto:kpendergast@blm.gov)>; Sweet, Serena E <[ssweet@blm.gov](mailto:ssweet@blm.gov)>; Jones, Nichelle (Shelly) <[njones@blm.gov](mailto:njones@blm.gov)>; Cohn, Steven M <[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Roach, Emma K <[eroach@blm.gov](mailto:eroach@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: ANWR

Please forgive the after hours ping - any intel would be appreciated ASAP. Mikes testimony starts tomorrow 0600 AK time!!

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---

**From:** Wilkinson, Patrick <[P2Wilkin@blm.gov](mailto:P2Wilkin@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 5:29 PM  
**To:** Million, Bonnie M <[bmillion@blm.gov](mailto:bmillion@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: ANWR

FYA

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---

**From:** Nedd, Michael D <[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 9:28 PM  
**To:** Cohn, Steven M <[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)>; Reed, Erika <[e05reed@blm.gov](mailto:e05reed@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kniola, Benjamin E <[bkniola@blm.gov](mailto:bkniola@blm.gov)>; Wilkinson, Patrick <[P2Wilkin@blm.gov](mailto:P2Wilkin@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** ANWR

Team,

I'm preparing for a hearing tomorrow and just completed my reading the 9-page testimony of Nagruk Harcharek, President, Voice of the Arctic Inupiat (VOICE), a non-profit organization established in 2015 by leadership of the Inupiat to speak on behalf of the natives. He will be a witness at the hearing.

While it would take more than I currently have to list all his complaints, he seems to consistently make the point that the DOI - BLM continue to take actions on ANWR, NPR-A management, rule making, lease cancellation, etc,

**#1128123.2**

without include VOICE who speaks the community.

Any insight you can share in terms of VOICE involvement/engagement in the on going planning, other matters, etc will be helpful.

Take care and have a wonderful day! : )

Michael D. Nedd  
202-236-2867 Cell  
202-208-3801 Office  
[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)

A thought to consider based on John Wesley's writing "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for all the people you can, while you can!"

Working together we're stronger - BLM Strong" - and our Core Values are "To serve with honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and commitment to make a difference."

**From:** "Russell, Gregory B" <Gregory.Russell@sol.doi.gov>

**To:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>, "Daniel-Davis, Laura E" <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>, "Feldgus, Steven H" <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>, "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>, "Nedd, Michael D" <mnedd@blm.gov>, "Kovacs, Kathryn E" <kathryn\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov>, "Noble, Michaela E" <michaela\_noble@ios.doi.gov>

**Cc:** "Annatoyn, Travis J" <travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov>, "Landreth, Natalie A" <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>, "Hawbecker, Karen S" <KAREN.HAWBECKER@sol.doi.gov>, "Bloomer, Laura A" <laura.bloomer@sol.doi.gov>, "Moody, Aaron G" <Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** Re: ASLM report

**Date:** Tue, 01 Aug 2023 14:19:03 +0000

**Attachments:** All\_ASLM\_Litigation\_Deadlines-2023-08-01.xlsx

---

Here's this week's litigation report.

---

**From:** Moody, Aaron G <Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023 2:28 PM

**To:** Stone-Manning, Tracy M <tstonemanning@blm.gov>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>; Feldgus, Steven H <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Nedd, Michael D <mnedd@blm.gov>; Kovacs, Kathryn E <kathryn\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov>; Noble, Michaela E <michaela\_noble@ios.doi.gov>

**Cc:** Russell, Gregory B <Gregory.Russell@sol.doi.gov>; Annatoyn, Travis J <travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov>; Landreth, Natalie A <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>; Hawbecker, Karen S <KAREN.HAWBECKER@sol.doi.gov>; Bloomer, Laura A <laura.bloomer@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** RE: ASLM report

This week's report attached. Thank you!

---

**From:** Moody, Aaron G

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 18, 2023 8:38 AM

**To:** Stone-Manning, Tracy M <tstonemanning@blm.gov>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>; Feldgus, Steven H <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Nedd, Michael D <mnedd@blm.gov>; Kovacs, Kathryn E <kathryn\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov>; Noble, Michaela E <michaela\_noble@ios.doi.gov>

**Cc:** Russell, Gregory B <Gregory.Russell@sol.doi.gov>; Annatoyn, Travis J <travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov>; Landreth, Natalie A <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>; Hawbecker, Karen S <KAREN.HAWBECKER@sol.doi.gov>; Bloomer, Laura A <laura.bloomer@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** RE: ASLM report

See attached for this week. Thanks!

---

**From:** Moody, Aaron G

**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2023 9:06 AM

**To:** Stone-Manning, Tracy M <[tstonemanning@blm.gov](mailto:tstonemanning@blm.gov)>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Feldgus, Steven H <[steve\\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov](mailto:steve_feldgus@ios.doi.gov)>; Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Nedd, Michael D <[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)>; Kovacs, Kathryn E <[kathryn\\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov](mailto:kathryn_kovacs@ios.doi.gov)>; Noble, Michaela E <[michaela\\_noble@ios.doi.gov](mailto:michaela_noble@ios.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** Russell, Gregory B <[Gregory.Russell@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Gregory.Russell@sol.doi.gov)>; Annatoyn, Travis J <[travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov](mailto:travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov)>; Landreth,

#1128124.1

Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Hawbecker, Karen S <[KAREN.HAWBECKER@sol.doi.gov](mailto:KAREN.HAWBECKER@sol.doi.gov)>; Bloomer, Laura A <[laura.bloomer@sol.doi.gov](mailto:laura.bloomer@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** ASLM report

All-

Please see attached for this week's report. Thanks!

-Aaron

Aaron G. Moody  
Associate Solicitor  
Division of Land Resources  
Office of the Solicitor  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202-208-3495 (o)  
202-309-6928 (c)

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**From:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>  
**To:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Coastal Plain Litigation - Status Report  
**Date:** Thu, 07 Sep 2023 16:44:00 +0000  
**Attachments:** 2023.09.06\_Status\_Report\_-\_DSEIS\_Issuance.pdf

---

FYI

---

**From:** Gieryic, Michael S <Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 6:03 AM  
**To:** Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>; Reed, Erika <e05reed@blm.gov>; Pendergast, Kevin J <kpendergast@blm.gov>; Jones, Nichelle (Shelly) <njones@blm.gov>; Boario, Sara D <sara\_boario@fws.gov>; Lor, Socheata <socheata\_lor@fws.gov>  
**Cc:** Sweet, Serena E <ssweet@blm.gov>; Kuhns, Stephanie L <skuhns@blm.gov>; Skibo, Bobbie Jo <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>; Roach, Emma K <eroach@blm.gov>; Bolton, Melinda A <mbolton@blm.gov>; Coble, Deborah A <dcoble@blm.gov>; Routhier, Michael P <michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov>; Lord, Kenneth M <Ken.Lord@sol.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Coastal Plain Litigation - Status Report

FYI -

Yesterday DOJ filed the attached status report in all four of the Coastal Plain lawsuits challenging the August 2020 ROD for the leasing program.

It provides notice of yesterday's issuance of the Draft Supplemental EIS and cancellation of AIDEA's leases, and estimates issuance of the Final SEIS and ROD in the first and second quarters of 2024, respectively.

Mike Gieryic

Attorney-Adviser

Office of the Regional Solicitor

U.S. Department of the Interior

4230 University Drive, Suite 300

Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: (907) 271-1420

[mike.gieryic@sol.doi.gov](mailto:mike.gieryic@sol.doi.gov)

**#1128125.1**

**From:** "Kovacs, Kathryn E" <kathryn\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov>

**To:** "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Moorman, Kyle W" <kmoorman@blm.gov>, "Tichenor, James C" <jtichenor@blm.gov>, "MacDougall, Sean A" <SMacDoug@blm.gov>, "Hays, Alexander" <ahays@blm.gov>, "Moody, Aaron G" <Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov>, "Landreth, Natalie A" <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>, "Moore, Rebecca L" <rmoore@blm.gov>

**Subject:** FW: OIRA first round passback on BLM NPR-A rule (1004-AE95) - part 1

**Date:** Thu, 13 Jul 2023 04:21:59 +0000

**Attachments:** Management\_and\_Protection\_of\_the\_National\_Petroleum\_Reserve\_in\_Alaska\_EO\_12866\_Economic\_Analysis\_Review\_PB\_\_1.docx;  
Management\_and\_Protection\_of\_the\_National\_Petroleum\_Reserve\_in\_Alaska\_EO\_12866\_NPRM\_Review\_PB\_\_1.docx

---

Forwarding to the team. Shall we work on responses in Sharedocs? I imagine we'll merge these responses with responses to tranche 2 next week and send one set of docs back to OIRA next week.

---

**From:** Yudson, Charles A <charles\_yudson@ios.doi.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 8:39 PM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Moorman, Kyle W <kmoorman@blm.gov>; Kovacs, Kathryn E <kathryn\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov>

**Cc:** OES-REGS <OES-REGS@ios.doi.gov>

**Subject:** OIRA first round passback on BLM NPR-A rule (1004-AE95) - part 1

Good evening,

OIRA has provided Tranche #1 of Passback #1 for BLM's NPRM Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (RIN: 1004-AE95). OIRA is bifurcating this passback to expedite BLM's review of the current comments. Additional comments will follow in a Tranche #2 next week.

Thanks,  
Charles

**Charles Yudson**

Acting Deputy Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs,  
Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs  
Department of the Interior  
Room 7319  
202-531-5851

**#1128126.1**

**From:** Rob Rosenfeld <robrosey@gmail.com>

**To:** Serena Sweet <ssweet@blm.gov>, Merben R Cebrian <merben\_cebrian@fws.gov>, Matthew Newman <mnewman@narf.org>, Stephanie L Kuhns <skuhns@blm.gov>, "Bobbie Jo Skibo" <Bobbiejo skibo@fws.gov>, Tonya Garnett <(b) (6)@hotmail.com>, Charlene Stern <(b) (6)@gmail.com>, Monty Rogers <(b) (6)@gmail.com>, Megan Condon <MCondon@narf.org>, Sara D Boario <sara\_boario@fws.gov>, Peter Schnurr <peter.schnurr@culturalalaska.com>, Steven M Cohn <scohn@blm.gov>, Charlene Stern <cbstern@alaska.edu>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Arctic 106 agenda

**Date:** Wed, 08 Nov 2023 22:11:36 +0000

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Hello Serena,

Our initial thoughts on the Arctic Village Section 106 meetings are:

- Nov 13 travel to Arctic Village;
- Nov 14 BLM and USFWS have a public Section 106 meeting at the community hall;
  - BLM and USFWS can present on what Section 106 is and the Section 106 process for the lease sale (e.g., how it started, where's it at, and where's it going)
  - The public can testify at this meeting and ask questions;
- Nov 15 BLM and USFWS meet with Elders and a few other Tribal Cultural Experts to discuss cultural heritage of the coastal plain;
- Nov 16 BLM and USWS meet with Tribal Governments to discuss Section 106 on the coastal plain;
- Nov 17 Travel back to Fairbanks and Anchorage;

Please let us know your thoughts and if you have any questions. Thanks.

Sincerely,

Monty Rogers

Archaeologist & Owner

Cultural Alaska

P.O. Box 221262

Anchorage 99522

907.748.1889

[www.culturalalaska.com](http://www.culturalalaska.com)

[Cultural Alaska on Facebook](#)

Rob Rosenfeld, MA, Consultant for Native American Rights Fund, Evansville Tribal Council, Tanana Tribal Council, Alatna Village Council, Native Village of Hooper Bay, and Advisor for Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council. (b) (6)

(b) (6)@gmail.com

**From:** "Wilkinson, Patrick" <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>

**To:** BLM\_WO\_100 <BLM\_WO\_100@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Branham, Sharif D" <sbranham@blm.gov>, "St George, Brian C" <bstgeorg@blm.gov>, "Waddell, Holle" <hwaddell@blm.gov>, "Lindow, Emily R" <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>, "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>, "Bagley, Lonny R" <lbagley@blm.gov>, "Heinlein, Thomas" <theinlei@blm.gov>, "Frost, Troy A" <tfrost@blm.gov>, "Krauss, Jeff" <JKrauss@blm.gov>, "Eggers, Barbara L" <egggers@blm.gov>, "Shugert, Matthew J" <mshugert@blm.gov>, "McDonald, Monique S" <m1mcdona@blm.gov>, "Beebe, Grant S" <gbeebe@blm.gov>, "DeFries, Tamala J" <tdefries@blm.gov>, "Conry, Meagan M" <mconry@blm.gov>, "Broadwater, Charles E" <cbroadwater@blm.gov>, "Daniel-Davis, Laura E" <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>, "Gray, Morgan" <Leslie\_Morgan\_Gray@ios.doi.gov>, "Witt, Ryan C" <rwitt@blm.gov>, "Tollefson, Christopher J" <ctollefson@blm.gov>, BLM\_WO\_610 <BLM\_WO\_610@blm.gov>, BLM\_HQ\_620\_ALL <BLM\_HQ\_620@blm.gov>, "Moran, Jill C" <jcmoran@blm.gov>, "Quinn, Matthew J" <Matthew\_J\_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, "Feldgus, Steven H" <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>, "Oliver, Kevin E" <koliver@blm.gov>, "Bowmer, James A" <JBowmer@blm.gov>, "Hires, Brian K" <bhires@blm.gov>, BLM\_PublicAffairsChiefs <BLM\_PublicAffairsChiefs@blm.gov>, "MacDougall, Sean A" <SMacDoug@blm.gov>, "McIntosh, Stacie J" <s05mcint@blm.gov>, "Carnahan, Rachel" <rcarnahan@blm.gov>, "Ralston, Jill A" <jralston@blm.gov>, "Salmon, Marni R" <mrsalmon@blm.gov>, "Huffman, Jessica R" <jrhuffman@blm.gov>, "Rezaeero, Paniz" <paniz\_rezaeero@ios.doi.gov>, "Hasson, Tomer Y" <thasson@blm.gov>, "Davidson, Zoe M" <z davidson@blm.gov>, "Pryor, Ernest L" <epryor@blm.gov>, "Manuszewski, Donald E" <dmanuszewski@blm.gov>, "McGinnis, Shelley R" <smcginnis@blm.gov>

**Subject:** BLM Congressional & Legislative Affairs Weekly Report – October 26, 2023

**Date:** Thu, 26 Oct 2023 22:36:09 +0000

**Attachments:** NEW\_Cong.Report.\_Updates\_(39).docx

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**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
**Congressional & Legislative Affairs**  
**Weekly Report – October 26, 2023**  
*(Updates in Red)*

**HEARINGS/MARKUPS**

- Nov. TBD: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining may hold a hearing on mining legislation. Bills TBD.

**NEW ITEMS**

- Oct. 23: Rep. Peltola (D-AK-At large) staff requested information on permitting on Federal Lands.
- Oct. 23: Sen. Bennet (D-CO) staff requested information on conservation and the proposed Public Lands Rule.
- Oct. 23: SENR majority staff requested a status update on PIM 2018-014 regarding directional oil and gas well drilling (completed Oct. 24).
- Oct. 23: Sen. Cramer (R-ND) staff requested information on the status of the North Dakota RMP amendment.
- Oct. 25: Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) majority staff requested APD reports since April 2023.

**#1128129.1**

- Oct. 25: Rep. Vasquez (D-NM-02) staff requested a call regarding a potential expansion of the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico.
- Oct. 25: CRS requested information on BLM shooting ranges in Montana (completed Oct 26).
- Oct. 25: Sen. Boozman (R-AR) staff requested a call to discuss the Ouro Mining Inc.'s Heavener Coking Coal Project, located in Western Arkansas and Eastern Oklahoma.
- Oct. 26: Sen. Padilla (D-CA) staff requested follow-up information on the Oro Cruz gold mining exploration project.
- Oct. 26: CRS requested copies of the public comments received in response to a recent withdrawal of public lands for use by FWS near Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS / VISITS / BRIEFINGS

- Nov 2: BLM will participate in a briefing with Senate Interior Appropriations majority staff at their request concerning various background information requests in advance of conference action on the FY 24 Interior Appropriations bill. Deputy Director Nedd and HQ 700 will participate in the meeting at MIB.
- Nov. 6: BLM-AK State Director Cohn plans to brief Senate Committee on Indian Affairs minority staff at their request on Alaska Native community involvement/tribal consultation regarding the ANWR lease cancellations, draft SEIS, and proposed NPR-A rule.
- Nov. 13: A Wyoming Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee of the State Legislature invited BLM WY to participate in a meeting on wild horses.

## CORRESPONDENCE

EST / DCN	Date	From	Subject	Status
BLM0038294	06/09/2023	Daines	BLM mandated lease sales in Montana	OCL
BLM0038665	06/27/2023	Crane	Resolution Copper EIS	OCL
BLM0039166	07/21/2023	Williams	Domestic mineral production to support semiconductor industry	WGS-D-CA
BLM0039833	08/25/2023	Rosen	Ruby Mountains mineral withdrawal	BLM-D
BLM0039842	08/25/2023	Lombardo (Gov)	Permitting progress of Goldrush project	BLM-D
BLM0039978	08/29/2023	Feinstein	Cadiz Real Estate application for ROW reassignment	OCL
BLM0040006	08/31/2023	Huffman	M-44 devices on public lands	HQ-230
BLM0040029	09/01/2023	Cortez Masto	Support for National Monument at Swamp Cedars	BLM-D
BLM0040030	08/31/2023	Kim	Mountain Star Development Mission Viejo	CASO
BLM0040079	09/06/2023	Daines	American Prairie Reserve	BLM-D
BLM0040095	09/07/2023	Stansbury	Public Lands Rule	BLM-COS
BLM0040099	09/07/2023	Bennet	Wildcat Loadout expansion project	BLM-D
BLM0040385	09/26/2023	Kelly	Support for BLM broadband project permitting in Navajo County, AZ	AZSO
BLM0040410	09/26/2023	Daines		HQ-600



			PENDING BLM0038294 – Follow-up letter on BLM mandated lease sales in MT	
BLM0040483	09/28/2023	Lee	Canyon Fuel Company's Category 3 Royalty Rate Reduction application	BLM-D
BLM0040491	09/29/2023	Levin	Support of onshore oil and gas leasing rule	BLM-D
BLM0040669	10/10/2023	Braun	Agency compliance with CASES Act	HQ-510
BLM0040692	10/10/2023	Newhouse	Rescind request for Colorado River Valley Field Office and Grand Junction Field Office	BLM-COS
BLM0040737	10/11/2023	Padilla	Expand boundary of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument	CASO
BLM0040805	10/16/2023	Hageman	Withdraw Rock Springs RMP	WYSO
BLM0040813	10/16/2023	Barrasso	Concerns re: Rock Springs Draft RMP	WYSO
BLM0040818	10/17/2023	Risch	Interpretation and implementation of Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act in ID	IDSO
BLM0040838	10/18/2023	Booker	Recommendation for National Wild Horse & Burrow Advisory Board	HQ-260
BLM0040881	10/20/2023	Murkowski	Extending comment deadline for NPR-A rule	AKSO
BLM0040882	10/20/2023	Murkowski	INTERIM REPLY: Extending comment deadline for NPR-A rule	BLM-COS

## ONGOING ITEMS PENDING WITH BLM

- Jan. 4/June 6/Sept. 20: HNR majority staff requested follow-up information regarding BLM's draft Greenhouse Gas Environmental Assessment and the related court cases.
- March 14/June 6/Sept. 21: HNR majority staff requested the number of Expressions of Interest received over the last 12 months.
- Sept. 7: Sen. Heinrich (D-NM) staff requested follow up information regarding an oil and gas lease cancellation in Utah and questions regarding BLM permitting staffing needs.
- Sept. 11: HNR majority staff requested information regarding BLM's wind energy program.
- Sept. 21: SENR majority staff requested an update on the status of the WildEarth Guardians litigation GHG EA and if any decisions have been issued based on the EA.
- Sept. 20: Sen. Risch (R-ID) staff and SENR minority staff requested information regarding BLM's interpretation of the Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act (P.L. 116-260).
- Sept. 26: Rep. Curtis (R-UT-03) and Rep. Huffman (D-CA-02) staff requested information on the renewable energy permitting process.
- Sept. 26: Rep. Bentz (R-OR-02) requested information on renewal of grazing permits in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southern Oregon.
- Sept. 28: HNR Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee majority staff requested information on the amount of trash collected by the BLM at the southern border in FY22 and FY23.

- Sept. 29: Sen. Cramer (R-ND) staff requested information regarding a BLM-New Mexico EA regarding Lesser Prairie Chicken.
- Oct. 6: Rep. LaMalfa (R-CA-01) staff requested the BLM meet with officials from Modoc County, CA, to discuss the BLM's wild horse and burro program (**meeting completed Oct. 24**).
- Oct. 10: Rep. DeGette (D-CO-01) staff requested additional assistance to prepare legislative maps for the Colorado Wilderness Act.
- Oct. 11: Sen. Stabenow (D-MI) staff requested information about a federal mineral rights issue underlying a constituent's private land.
- Oct. 12: Rep. Valadao (R-CA-22) staff requested information regarding water management on public lands in Tulare County, CA.
- Oct. 13: Sen. Padilla (D-CA) staff requested an update on the Oro Cruz gold mining exploration project (**completed Oct. 26**).
- Oct. 19: Sen. Padilla (D-CA) staff requested a map showing a tribal expansion proposal for the Yocha Dehe Tribe in California.

### ***Ongoing CBO/CRS Requests***

- Sept. 11: CRS requested information regarding revenues from BLM solar and wind leases (**completed Sept. 21**).
- Sept. 25: CBO requested information regarding H.R. 4374, the Energy Opportunities for All Act (Rep. Crane, R-AZ-02) (**completed Oct. 25**).
- Sept. 25: CBO requested information regarding S. 683, Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act (Sen. Padilla, D-CA).
- Oct. 19: CBO requested information on H.R. 188, Proven Forest Management Act of 2023.

### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

- Nov. 3/June 6: HNR majority staff requested technical assistance on three specific sections in H.R. 9087, the TAP American Energy Act (Rep. Westerman, R-AR-04).
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- Feb. 2/April 17/May 24: Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) staff requested technical assistance on draft legislation to transfer a tract of Federal land to the Wrangel Cooperative Association.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- March 15: Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) staff requested technical assistance on legislative language regarding transfer of Tenakee Springs.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- June 7: Sen. Cortez Masto (D-NV) staff requested technical assistance on S. 1281, Mining Regulatory Clarity Act.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- June 9: Rep. Vasquez (D-NM-02) staff requested technical assistance on the draft bill titled "Ranching Without Red Tape."
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- July 17: Sen. Lujan (D-NM) staff requested technical assistance on the draft bill, the Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act. BIA is leading the response, with OCL coordinating other agency input.
  - Status: Pending with OCL.
- July 31: Rep. McCollum (D-MN-4) requested technical assistance on H.R. 5021, Securing American Critical Minerals Act.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- Aug. 11: Sen. Bennet (D-CO) staff requested technical assistance on the draft bill, the Bureau of Land Management Flexible Partnerships Act of 2023.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.



- Sept. 5: OCL requested assistance on a Sen. Wyden (D-OR) staff request for technical assistance on the previously introduced S. 4369, the North American Grasslands Conservation Act (117<sup>th</sup> Congress).  
  - Status: Pending with OCL.
- Sept. 18: Rep. Simpson (ID-02) staff requested technical assistance on draft legislation to convey public land to Twin Falls County, Idaho, for use as a recreation trail.  
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- Sept. 19: Rep. Matsui (D-CA-7) staff requested technical assistance on draft legislation to convey reversionary of select land near Ridgecrest California.  
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- Oct. 13: Rep. Cartwright (D-PA-8) staff requested DOI/BLM technical assistance on H.R. 2872, Safeguarding America's Future and Environment Act, from the 117th Congress.  
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- Oct. 17: EPW majority staff requested Technical Assistance on draft legislation amending CERCLA for contaminated lands in Alaska.  
  - Status: Pending with BLM.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

- March 29: House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on BLM's FY 2024 Budget Request. Witness: BLM Director Stone-Manning.  
  - Status: Pending with DOI.
- May 16: HNR EMR/FL hearing on the BLM's FY 2024 Budget Request. Witness: Director Stone-Manning.  
  - Status: Pending with OCL. (BLM0038668)
- June 15: HNR hearing on H.R. 3397, *"to require the BLM Director to withdraw a rule of the BLM relating to conservation and landscape health."* Witness: Principal Deputy Director Wolff Culver.  
  - Status: Pending with BLM. (BLM0040177)
- June 22: HNR Subcommittee on Federal Lands legislative hearing on various BLM-related bills. Witness: Principal Deputy Director Wolff Culver.  
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- July 12: SENR Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining legislative hearing on various BLM-related bills. Witness: Tom Heinlein, Assistant Director of National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships.  
  - Status: Pending with OCL. (BLM0039581)
- Sept. 19: HNR Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources hearing *"Examining the Biden Administration's Mismanagement of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Program."* Witness: Deputy Director of Operations Nedd.  
  - Status: Pending with BLM. (BLM0040784)
- Sept. 28: SENR hearing *"Examine opportunities to counter the People's Republic of China's control of critical mineral supply chains through increased mining and processing in the United States as well as international engagement and trade."* Witness: Deputy Secretary Beaudreau.  
  - Status: Pending with BLM

## REPORTS TO CONGRESS (pending review in DTS)

- Efficiencies with O&C Grant Lands Program for Fiscal Year 2017  
  - Status: Pending with HQ-220 (BLM0011656).
- Report to Congress on Online Oil and Gas Leasing - Comprehensive Comparison of Oral vs Online Lease Sales  
  - Status: Pending with HQ-100 (BLM0012000).
- Oil and Gas Resource Potential of the Musselshell Breaks and Bridge Coulee Wilderness Study Areas  
  - Status: Pending with HQ-100 (BLM0019271).

- Trespassing on Alaska Native Lands
  - Status: Pending with **HQ-620** (BLM0021543).
- Annual Helium Report to Congress FY 2020-2022
  - Status: Pending review with BLM-NM (BLM0032063).
- Suitability for Geothermal of Categorical Exclusions Under Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
  - Status: Pending review with BLM-NOC (BLMC000067).
- Annual Renewable Energy Report to Congress FY 2022
  - Status: Pending review with ASLM (BLMC000082).
- Withdrawal Extension Report to Congress
  - Status: Pending review with OCL (BLMC000090).
- SNPLMA FY 2022 Annual Report to Congress
  - Status: Pending review with SOL (BLMC000093).

-----  
Patrick Wilkinson  
Division Chief  
Legislative Affairs (HQ 620)  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Cell Phone: (202) 631-6346

**From:** "Culver, Nada L" <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**To:** "Moody, Aaron G" <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>, "Landreth, Natalie A" <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

**Date:** Fri, 05 Jan 2024 19:31:29 +0000

---

Thanks, Aaron. Will add something and pass on to Seth and BLM Alaska next.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 2:13 PM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

(b)(5) ACP [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 5, 2024 11:40 AM

**To:** Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>; Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

Thanks, both. (b)(5) ACP [REDACTED]

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024 12:39 PM

**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

(b)(5) ACP [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 10:18 AM

#1128133.1

**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

Good morning – (b)(5) ACP

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 1, 2024 10:55 PM  
**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

Re-upping for moving this on in early January if possible.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 1:06 AM  
**To:** Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>; Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** for review RE: notes re: consultation

(b)(5) ACP

Thanks so much for your help here.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:09 PM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: notes re: consultation

(b)(5) ACP

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---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:17:47 PM  
**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: notes re: consultation

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED / DRAFT DELIBERATIVE / WORK PRODUCT

(b) (5) ACP

#1128133.2

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks for talking with me about this while Natalie is out.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:11 PM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: notes to discuss re: consultation

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED / DRAFT DELIBERATIVE / WORK PRODUCT

Hello Nada – (b) (5) ACP

---

**From:** Deam, Seth R <[seth.deam@sol.doi.gov](mailto:seth.deam@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 3:59 PM  
**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: notes to discuss re: consultation

Hi Natalie,

(b)(5) ACP

#1128133.3

(b)(5) ACP [Redacted]

Best, Seth

**From:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:22 AM  
**To:** Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>; Deam, Seth R <[seth.deam@sol.doi.gov](mailto:seth.deam@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: notes to discuss re: consultation

(b) (5) ACP [Redacted]

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 9:29 AM  
**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** notes to discuss re: consultation

**Privileged and confidential – attorney-client communication**

Hi Natalie – (b)(5) ACP [Redacted]

- [Redacted]
  - [Redacted]
  - [Redacted]
  - [Redacted]
  - [Redacted]
  - [Redacted]
  - [Redacted]
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  - [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
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- (b)(5) ACP [Redacted]
  - [Redacted]
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  - [Redacted]
    - [Redacted]
    - [Redacted]
    - [Redacted]
    - [Redacted]

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979



**From:** "Skibo, Bobbie Jo" <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>

**To:** "Boario, Sara D" <sara\_boario@fws.gov>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Loya, Wendy M" <wendy\_loya@fws.gov>, "Pendergast, Kevin J" <kpendergast@blm.gov>, "Sweet, Serena E" <ssweet@blm.gov>, "Kuhns, Stephanie L" <skuhns@blm.gov>, "Lor, Socheata" <socheata\_lor@fws.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Coastal Plain SEIS Process Flow for April 17 to 24

**Date:** Tue, 18 Apr 2023 04:19:43 +0000

**Importance:** High

**Attachments:** CP\_SEIS\_Process\_Flow\_for\_4.17\_to\_4.24.docx; CP\_SEIS\_Key\_Topics\_Memo.docx

---

Hello All (good evening),

I am consolidating two emails sent from Serena this evening and cc'ing Sara, Soch, and Wendy. We are needing guidance by 9am tomorrow morning to be prepared for our 10-12 Cooperating Agency meeting. Thank you, Bobbie Jo

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi Steve,

As discussed this morning, attached is updated information related to the Coastal Plain SEIS upcoming processes.

Attached are:

1. Our updated process flow for April 17 through April 24th.
2. Key Topics Memo - We intend to share the information in this document during our Cooperating Agency Meeting tomorrow, but would like your input on whether or not that appropriate.

I am free tonight or early tomorrow morning (before the scheduled Cooperating Agencies meeting at 10am) to discuss further if you have any questions.

Further, we had planned to share the draft Chapter 3 with BLM HQ today. I did intend to provide an update on this new approach during our Wednesday Alaska Check-in with HQ; however, that has been cancelled this week.

Serena Sweet

Supervisory Planning & Environmental Coordinator

BLM-Alaska, Resources Division  
Desk: 907-271-4543  
Cell: 907-223-3267

---

**From:** Sweet, Serena E <ssweet@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 8:12 PM

**To:** Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Kuhns, Stephanie L <skuhns@blm.gov>; Pendergast, Kevin J <kpendergast@blm.gov>; Skibo, Bobbie Jo <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Coastal Plain SEIS Process Flow for April 17 to 24

Here are the attachments.

Serena Sweet

Supervisory Planning & Environmental Coordinator

BLM-Alaska, Resources Division  
Desk: 907-271-4543  
Cell: 907-223-3267

---

#1128134.1

**From:** Sweet, Serena E

**Sent:** Monday, April 17, 2023 9:11 PM

**To:** Cohn, Steven M <[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Kuhns, Stephanie L <[skuhns@blm.gov](mailto:skuhns@blm.gov)>; Pendergast, Kevin J <[kpendergast@blm.gov](mailto:kpendergast@blm.gov)>; Skibo, Bobbie Jo <[bobbiejo\\_skibo@fws.gov](mailto:bobbiejo_skibo@fws.gov)>

**Subject:** Coastal Plain SEIS Process Flow for April 17 to 24

Hi Steve,

As discussed this morning, attached is updated information related to the Coastal Plain SEIS upcoming processes

Attached are

1. Our updated process flow for April 17 through April 24th.
2. Key Topics Memo - We intend to share the information in this document during our Cooperating Agency Meeting tomorrow, but would like your input on whether or not that appropriate.

I am free tonight or early tomorrow morning (before the scheduled Cooperating Agencies meeting at 10am) to discuss further if you have any questions.

Further, we had planned to share the draft Chapter 3 with BLM HQ today. I did intend to provide an update on this new approach during our Wednesday Alaska Check in with HQ; however, that has been cancelled this week

Serena Sweet

Supervisory Planning & Environmental Coordinator

BLM-Alaska, Resources Division

Desk: 907-271-4543

Cell: 907-223-3267

**#1128134.2**

**From:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>

**To:** "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>, "Roach, Emma K" <eroach@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>

**Subject:** FAQs

**Date:** Wed, 13 Sep 2023 22:06:46 +0000

**Attachments:** DRAFT\_coastal\_plain\_QAs.docx; Draft\_NPRA\_FAQs\_08.28.23.docx

**Inline-Images:** image001.png

---

Emma and Bonnie,

These were both for internal purposes but there's language here for you to pull together fact sheets for the public meetings.

Obviously, we'll want to add a whole section in each on where to find the document, how to comment, etc. Emma, the coastal plain document was taken from your original, so mix and match as you see fit.

Please run the final drafts by us. Thanks much.

-Tracy



**Tracy Stone-Manning**

Director

Bureau of Land Management

1849 C St. NW

Washington, DC 20240

O: 202-208-3801

**From:** "Gamper, Merry E" <mgamper@blm.gov>

**To:** BLM\_WO\_100 <BLM\_WO\_100@blm.gov>, "Jenkins, David B" <djenkins@blm.gov>, "Douglas, Nicholas E" <ndouglas@blm.gov>, "Heinlein, Thomas" <theinlei@blm.gov>, "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "St George, Brian C" <bstgeorg@blm.gov>, "Frost, Troy A" <tfrost@blm.gov>, "Broadwater, Charles E" <cbroadwater@blm.gov>, "McGinnis, Sandra" <smcginni@blm.gov>, "Bowmer, James A" <JBowmer@blm.gov>, "Krauss, Jeff" <JKrauss@blm.gov>, "Hires, Brian K" <bhires@blm.gov>, "McGinnis, Shelley R" <smcginnis@blm.gov>, "Bagley, Lonny R" <lbagley@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Weekly Litigation report

**Date:** Fri, 17 Mar 2023 20:39:39 +0000

**Attachments:** 202300317.Litigation\_Updates\_INTERNAL\_CONFIDENTIAL.docx

---

Greetings everyone. Happy Friday.

The weekly litigation report is attached for your information and awareness.

I'll be on annual leave for the next two weeks so there won't be a weekly litigation report until April 7.

Take care!

~Merry

**Merry E. Gamper**  
*Senior Litigation Specialist*  
*Office of the Director*  
*307-274-1367 (c)*

*~ It's not a job, it's an adventure ~*

**From:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>

**To:** "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>, "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>

**Subject:** FW: New Lawsuit Challenging Arctic Refuge Lease Cancellations - AIDEA v DOI, 1:23-cv-03126 (D. DC)

**Date:** Thu, 09 Nov 2023 01:39:01 +0000

**Attachments:** 2023.11.07\_US\_Opp\_to\_Motion\_to\_Vacate\_SJ\_Order.pdf; 2023.11.07\_IV-Ds\_Opp\_to\_Motion\_to\_Vacate\_SJ\_Order.pdf

---

---

**From:** Gieryic, Michael S <Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023 6:23 AM

**To:** Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>; Reed, Erika <e05reed@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Gamper, Merry E <mgamper@blm.gov>; Boario, Sara D <sara\_boario@fws.gov>; Lor, Socheata <socheata\_lor@fws.gov>; Pendergast, Kevin J <kpendergast@blm.gov>; Roach, Emma K <eroach@blm.gov>; Deam, Seth R <seth.deam@sol.doi.gov>; Lord, Kenneth M <Ken.Lord@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** Re: New Lawsuit Challenging Arctic Refuge Lease Cancellations - AIDEA v DOI, 1:23-cv-03126 (D. DC)

*Attorney-client privileged / attorney work product / deliberative, predecisional*

FYI -

Update: Filed yesterday, here are the United States' and Intervenor-Defendants' responses opposing AIDEA et al.'s motion to vacate the court's August 2023 summary judgment decision (in favor of BLM) in *AIDEA v. Biden*. AIDEA et al.'s reply is due November 17.

Mike Gieryic

Attorney-Adviser

Office of the Regional Solicitor

U.S. Department of the Interior

4230 University Drive, Suite 300

Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: (907) 271-1420

[mike.gieryic@sol.doi.gov](mailto:mike.gieryic@sol.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Deam, Seth R <[seth.deam@sol.doi.gov](mailto:seth.deam@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, October 19, 2023 2:22 PM

**To:** Cohn, Steven M <[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)>; Reed, Erika <[e05reed@blm.gov](mailto:e05reed@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Gamper, Merry E <[mgamper@blm.gov](mailto:mgamper@blm.gov)>; Boario, Sara D <[sara\\_boario@fws.gov](mailto:sara_boario@fws.gov)>; Lor, Socheata

#1128139.1

<[socheata\\_lor@fws.gov](mailto:socheata_lor@fws.gov)>; Pendergast, Kevin J <[kpendergast@blm.gov](mailto:kpendergast@blm.gov)>; Roach, Emma K <[eroach@blm.gov](mailto:eroach@blm.gov)>; Lord, Kenneth M <[Ken.Lord@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Ken.Lord@sol.doi.gov)>; Gieryic, Michael S <[Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** New Lawsuit Challenging Arctic Refuge Lease Cancellations - AIDEA v DOI, 1:23-cv-03126 (D. DC)

*Attorney-client privileged / attorney work product / deliberative, predecisional*

Steve, Erika, FYI.

On October 18, AIDEA filed the attached complaint in DC District Court challenging the September 6 cancellation of AIDEAs leases, naming DOI, the Secretary, BLM, and the BLM Director as defendants. The complaint alleges violations of the Tax Act, APA, due process clause of the Constitution and DOI's regulations governing lease terminations. The complaint seeks a declaratory judgment invalidating DOI's lease cancellation and other relief. The federal response will be due in 60 days from service of the lawsuit.

Also pending are two motions from Plaintiffs/Intervenor-Plaintiffs in the *AIDEA v Biden* case seeking relief from the court's summary judgment order in August, with a reply to the motion to amend/reconsider and a new motion to vacate the summary judgment order both filed by Plaintiffs/Intervenor-Plaintiffs on Tuesday evening. We're working thru how to respond to the motions and the new lawsuit.

Best, Seth

Seth R. Deam  
Regional Solicitor  
Office of the Solicitor, Alaska Region  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
907-271-4118 (o)  
907-201-9546 (c)

**From:** "Moody, Aaron G" <Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov>

**To:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>, "Daniel-Davis, Laura E" <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>, "Feldgus, Steven H" <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>, "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>, "Nedd, Michael D" <mnedd@blm.gov>, "Kovacs, Kathryn E" <kathryn\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov>, "Noble, Michaela E" <michaela\_noble@ios.doi.gov>

**Cc:** "Russell, Gregory B" <Gregory.Russell@sol.doi.gov>, "Annatoyn, Travis J" <travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov>, "Landreth, Natalie A" <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>, "Hawbecker, Karen S" <KAREN.HAWBECKER@sol.doi.gov>, "Bloomer, Laura A" <laura.bloomer@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** ASLM report

**Date:** Mon, 10 Jul 2023 13:05:34 +0000

**Attachments:** All\_ASLM\_Litigation\_Deadlines-2023-07-10-09-03-51.xlsx

---

All-

Please see attached for this week's report. Thanks!

-Aaron

Aaron G. Moody  
Associate Solicitor  
Division of Land Resources  
Office of the Solicitor  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
202-208-3495 (o)  
202-309-6928 (c)

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#1128140.1



**From:** "Daniel-Davis, Laura E" <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>

**To:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>, "Kelly, Katherine P" <Kate\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "Greenberger, Sarah D" <Sarah\_Greenberger@ios.doi.gov>, "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Sanchez, Alexandra L" <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>, "Macdonald, Cara Lee" <cara\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov>, "Hamilton, Edward A" <edward\_hamilton@ios.doi.gov>, "Long, Amanda D" <adlong@blm.gov>, "Zanoni, Jennifer M" <jzanoni@blm.gov>, "Blasing, Francesca M" <fblasing@blm.gov>, "Moran, Jill C" <jcmoran@blm.gov>, "Feldgus, Steven H" <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>, "Wykowski, Henry T" <hwykowski@blm.gov>, "Kovacs, Kathryn E" <kathryn\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov>, "Moffat, Sara A" <smoffat@blm.gov>, OS-ASLM\_Conference\_Room 6618 <os-aslm\_conference\_room\_6618@doimspp.onmicrosoft.com>

**Subject:** Pending BLM Items

**Date:** Tue, 22 Aug 2023 14:31:33 +0000

**Importance:** Normal

**Attachments:** unnamed; BLM\_Upcoming\_Items\_August\_22\_final.docx

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## Microsoft Teams meeting

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**From:** "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>

**To:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>

**Subject:** RE: [Congressional] Prep materials: Monday Senate Indian Affairs Committee briefing (CP SEIS + NPR-A rulemaking)

**Date:** Mon, 06 Nov 2023 05:39:10 +0000

**Inline-Images:** image001.png; image002.png; image003.png; image004.png; image005.png; image006.png; image007.png

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That would be great because most of the outline is pretty blank. Happy to wing it of course.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 12:37 AM

**To:** Roach, Emma K <eroach@blm.gov>; Boario, Sara D <sara\_boario@fws.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Slaughter, Tobi J <tobi\_slaughter@fws.gov>; Skibo, Bobbie Jo <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>; Kniola, Benjamin E <bkniola@blm.gov>; Pritchard, Kaitlyn R <kaitlyn\_pritchard@fws.gov>

**Cc:** Steel, Jacob A <jacob\_steel@ios.doi.gov>; Medeiros, Andrea AM <andrea\_medeiros@fws.gov>; Million, Bonnie M <bmillion@blm.gov>

**Subject:** RE: [Congressional] Prep materials: Monday Senate Indian Affairs Committee briefing (CP SEIS + NPR-A rulemaking)

Thanks Emma. This looks good. There is no scheduled break between our NPRA virtual public meeting and the Committee staff briefing, but if by chance the public meeting ends early, we may have some time to connect on the outline before we start.

Steve

---

**From:** Roach, Emma K <eroach@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, November 3, 2023 4:37 PM

**To:** Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>; Boario, Sara D <sara\_boario@fws.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Slaughter, Tobi J <tobi\_slaughter@fws.gov>; Skibo, Bobbie Jo <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>; Kniola, Benjamin E <bkniola@blm.gov>; Pritchard, Kaitlyn R <kaitlyn\_pritchard@fws.gov>

**Cc:** Steel, Jacob A <jacob\_steel@ios.doi.gov>; Medeiros, Andrea AM <andrea\_medeiros@fws.gov>

**Subject:** [Congressional] Prep materials: Monday Senate Indian Affairs Committee briefing (CP SEIS + NPR-A rulemaking)

Hi folks. I wanted to reach out to share the latest version of prep materials for Monday's call with the Senate Indian Affairs Committee regarding consultation on (1) Coastal Plain lease cancellations, (2) Coastal Plain SEIS, and (3) NPR-A rulemaking. I know that Steve, Nada, and Bonnie are all in travel status on their way back from the North Slope after engaging with folks on the rulemaking.

**Materials:** The draft run of show (see below), script, background information, and if-asked materials are all available in this document: [IA Minority Staff briefing 20231106.docx](#). I've also attached it in case anyone has issues with the link.

#1128142.1

### Run of Show:

- Introductions Jake to facilitate
- Welcome and Overview Steve or Nada (Think Steve may make the most sense on this, but open to alternative thoughts after you read it.)
- Coastal Plain Lease Cancellation consultation – Nada
- Coastal Plain SEIS consultation Sara & Steve (Right now have Steve giving overarching bullets and Sara covering Kaktovik, but we could change)
- NPR-A proposed rule consultation Steve & Nada
- Questions/Discussion - All

**Request for Speakers:** Please take a read and feel free to edit your talking points to fit your voice. Also, if you have strong feelings/thoughts about which pieces of this you deliver, let us know and we can adjust.

Thanks for the collaboration on this, and happy Friday!

Emma



### Emma Roach

(She/Her)

**Communications Director**

Alaska | Bureau of Land Management

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*Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu.*  
I live and work on Dena'ina land

**From:** "Wilkinson, Patrick" <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>

**To:** BLM\_WO\_100 <BLM\_WO\_100@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Branham, Sharif D" <sbranham@blm.gov>, "St George, Brian C" <bstgeorg@blm.gov>, "Waddell, Holle" <hwaddell@blm.gov>, "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>, "Bagley, Lonny R" <lbagley@blm.gov>, "Heinlein, Thomas" <theinlei@blm.gov>, "Frost, Troy A" <tfrost@blm.gov>, "Krauss, Jeff" <JKrauss@blm.gov>, "Eggers, Barbara L" <egggers@blm.gov>, "Shugert, Matthew J" <mshugert@blm.gov>, "McDonald, Monique S" <m1mcdona@blm.gov>, "Beebe, Grant S" <gbeebe@blm.gov>, "DeFries, Tamala J" <tdefries@blm.gov>, "Conry, Meagan M" <mconry@blm.gov>, "Broadwater, Charles E" <cbroadwater@blm.gov>, "Daniel-Davis, Laura E" <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>, "Gray, Morgan" <Leslie\_Morgan\_Gray@ios.doi.gov>, "Witt, Ryan C" <rwitt@blm.gov>, "Tollefson, Christopher J" <ctollefson@blm.gov>, BLM\_WO\_610 <BLM\_WO\_610@blm.gov>, BLM\_HQ\_620\_ALL <BLM\_HQ\_620@blm.gov>, "Moran, Jill C" <jcmoran@blm.gov>, "Quinn, Matthew J" <Matthew\_J\_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>, "Feldgus, Steven H" <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>, "Oliver, Kevin E" <koliver@blm.gov>, "Bowmer, James A" <JBowmer@blm.gov>, "Hires, Brian K" <bhires@blm.gov>, BLM\_PublicAffairsChiefs <BLM\_PublicAffairsChiefs@blm.gov>, "MacDougall, Sean A" <SMacDoug@blm.gov>, "McIntosh, Stacie J" <s05mcint@blm.gov>, "Carnahan, Rachel" <rcarnahan@blm.gov>, "Ralston, Jill A" <jralston@blm.gov>, "Salmon, Marni R" <mrsalmon@blm.gov>, "Huffman, Jessica R" <jrhuffman@blm.gov>, "Rezaeerood, Paniz" <paniz\_rezaeerood@ios.doi.gov>, "Hasson, Tomer Y" <thasson@blm.gov>, "Davidson, Zoe M" <z davidson@blm.gov>, "Pryor, Ernest L" <epryor@blm.gov>, "Manuszewski, Donald E" <dmanuszewski@blm.gov>, "Manuszewski, Donald E" <dmanuszewski@blm.gov>, "McGinnis, Shelley R" <smcginnis@blm.gov>, "Gale, John W" <jgale@blm.gov>

**Subject:** BLM Congressional & Legislative Affairs Weekly Report – November 22, 2023

**Date:** Wed, 22 Nov 2023 23:27:59 +0000

**Attachments:** NEW\_Cong.Report.\_Updates\_(43).docx

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**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**  
**Congressional & Legislative Affairs**  
**Weekly Report – November 22, 2023**  
*(Updates in Red)*

## HEARINGS/MARKUPS

- Nov. 29: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources plans to hold a legislative hearing on the following bill of interest to the BLM. Witness: **Steve Feldgus, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary Land and Minerals.**
  - H.R. 6285, Alaska's right to Produce Act
- Nov. 30: The House Oversight and Accountability Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs plans to hold a hearing an oversight hearing on critical minerals titled, *"Digging Deeper: Ensuring Safety and Security in the Critical Mineral Supply Chain."* Witness: **Steve Feldgus, Ph.D., Deputy Assistant Secretary Land and Minerals.**
- Nov. 30: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands plans to hold a hearing on an omnibus recreation bill. Michael Reynolds, Deputy Director for Congressional and External Relations, NPS will testify.
  - H.R. XXXX, EXPLORE Act.
- Dec. 5: The House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands plans to hold an oversight hearing titled, *"Examining Opportunities to Promote and Enhance Tribal Forest Management."* Witness: TBD.
- Dec. 12 (TBD): The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining plans to hold a hearing on mining legislation. Bills and DOI Witness TBD.

**#1128143.1**

- Dec. TBD: The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee plans to hold a markup on 24 bills, including the following of interest to the BLM:
  - S. 594, Continental Divide Trail Completion Act;
  - S. 636, Dolores River National Conservation Area and Special Management Area Act;
  - S. 1348, Wyoming Public Lands Initiative Act;
  - S. 1634, Colorado Outdoor Recreation and Economy (CORE) Act;
  - S. 1776, PUBLIC Lands Act;
  - S. 1889, Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition and Compensation Act;
  - S. 1890, Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act;
  - S. 2581, Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act;
  - S. 2615, Alaska Native Village Municipal Lands Restoration Act;
  - S. 3033, Pecos Watershed Protection Act; and
  - S. 3036, Mountain View Corridor Completion Act.

## NEW ITEMS

- Nov. 17: Sen. Wyden staff (D-OR) requested maps overlaying lands with wilderness characteristics units over wilderness designations in S. Malheur Community Empowerment for the Owyhee Act (completed Nov. 15).
- Nov. 21: CBO requested information related to temporary housing of non-U.S. nationals on BLM managed public lands.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS / VISITS / BRIEFINGS

- Dec. 8: Rep. Biggs (R-AZ-05) will tour the proposed Goldfield Recreation Area near Apache Junction, AZ. BLM Phoenix District participants TBD.
- TBD: BLM will participate in a second briefing with Senate Interior Appropriations majority staff at their request concerning various background information requests in advance of conference action on the FY 24 Interior Appropriations bill. Deputy Director Nedd and HQ 700 will participate.

## CORRESPONDENCE

EST / DCN	Date	From	Subject	Status
BLM0038294	06/09/2023	Daines	BLM mandated lease sales in Montana	OCL
BLM0038665	06/27/2023	Crane	Resolution Copper EIS	OCL
BLM0039833	08/25/2023	Rosen	Ruby Mountains mineral withdrawal	FWS
BLM0039842	08/25/2023	Lombardo (Gov)	Permitting progress of Goldrush project	OIEA
BLM0039978	08/29/2023	Feinstein	Cadiz Real Estate application for ROW reassignment	OCL
BLM0040029	09/01/2023	Cortez Masto	Support for National Monument at Swamp Cedars	OCL
BLM0040079	09/06/2023	Daines	American Prairie Reserve	MTSO
BLM0040385	09/26/2023	Kelly	Support for BLM broadband project permitting in Navajo County, AZ	HQ-100
BLM0040410	09/26/2023	Daines	PENDING BLM0038294 – Follow-up letter on BLM	HQ-600



			mandated lease sales in MT	
BLM0040491	09/29/2023	Levin	Support of onshore oil and gas leasing rule	OCL
BLM0040737	10/11/2023	Padilla	Expand boundary of Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument	CASO
BLM0040813	10/16/2023	Barrasso	Concerns re: Rock Springs Draft RMP	BLM-D
BLM0040818	10/17/2023	Risch	Interpretation and implementation of Aquifer Recharge Flexibility Act in ID	HQ-350
BLM0040838	10/18/2023	Booker	Recommendation for National Wild Horse & Burrow Advisory Board	BLM-D
BLM0040881	10/20/2023	Murkowski	Extending comment deadline for NPR-A rule	BLM-D
BLM0040954	10/26/2023	Bennet	Support for updated bonding requirements in onshore oil and gas rule	BLM-D
BLM0040988	10/30/2023	Amodei	Public land withdrawal in Railroad Valley, NV	BLM-D
BLM0041098	11/02/2023	Murkowski	Comment deadline extension for Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Program SEIS	AKSO
BLM0041146	11/07/2023	Westerman	Heavener Coking Coal Project	ESSO
BLM0041223	11/13/2023	Rosendale	Rural broadband development in western Montana	MTSO
BLM0041224	11/13/2023	Bentz	Constituent concern – costs incurred during fire assignments	UTSO
BLM0041225	11/13/2023	Cortez Masto	PENDING BLM0039833: Oil and gas withdrawal Ruby Mountains, NV	HQ-600
BLM0041382	11/20/2023	Westerman	Twin Metals Cancellation and The Wilderness Society Meetings	ESSO
BLM0041334	11/20/2023	Sullivan	Veterans Native Allotments	AKSO
BLM0041335	11/20/2012	Titus	Roberts Mountain Complex wild horse gather accident	NVSO
BLM0041371	11/21/2023	Bentz	Constituent concern re Human Resources issue	ORSO

## ONGOING ITEMS PENDING WITH BLM

- Jan. 4/June 6/Sept. 20: HNR majority staff requested follow-up information regarding BLM's draft Greenhouse Gas Environmental Assessment and the related court cases.
- March 14/June 6/Sept. 21: HNR majority staff requested the number of Expressions of Interest received over the last 12 months.
- Sept. 7: Sen. Heinrich (D-NM) staff requested follow up information regarding an oil and gas lease cancellation in Utah and questions regarding BLM permitting staffing needs.

- Sept. 21: SENR majority staff requested an update on the status of the WildEarth Guardians litigation GHG EA and if any decisions have been issued based on the EA.
- Sept. 26: Rep. Curtis (R-UT-03) and Rep. Huffman (D-CA-02) staff requested information on the renewable energy permitting process.
- Sept. 26: Rep. Bentz (R-OR-02) requested information on renewal of grazing permits in the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in southern Oregon.
- Sept. 28: HNR Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee majority staff requested information on the amount of trash collected by the BLM at the southern border in FY22 and FY23.
- Sept. 29: Sen. Cramer (R-ND) staff requested information regarding a BLM-New Mexico EA regarding Lesser Prairie Chicken.
- Oct. 12: Rep. Valadao (R-CA-22) staff requested information regarding water management on public lands in Tulare County, CA.
- Oct. 23: Rep. Peltola (D-AK-At large) staff requested information on permitting on Federal Lands.
- Oct. 23: Sen. Bennet (D-CO) staff requested information on conservation and the proposed Public Lands Rule.
- Oct. 25: Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW) majority staff requested APD reports since April 2023 (**completed Nov. 20**).
- Oct. 31: SENR majority staff and staff of Sen. Barrasso (R-WY) requested maps depicting designations proposed in S. 1348, Wyoming Public Lands Initiative (ongoing).
- Nov. 1: HNR majority staff requested information regarding the Report to Congress on oil and gas project office funds.
- Nov. 6: Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) staff requested information about Alaska Native community involvement/tribal consultation regarding the ANWR lease cancellations, draft SEIS, and proposed NPR-A rule.
- Nov. 7: Sen. Rosen (D-NV) staff requested information on the status of the 3 Kids mine conveyance in southern Nevada.
- Nov. 8: Rep. Fulcher (R-ID-01) staff requested a briefing on the Four Rivers RMP decision.
- Nov. 15: Rep. Obernolte (R-CA-23) staff requested an update on the proposed sale of several BLM parcels to BNSF Railway.
- Nov. 15: Rep. Thompson (D-CA-04) staff requested assistance on a proposal to name part of the Headwaters Forest Reserve in California after Senator Feinstein.
- Nov. 16: Sen. Stabenow (D-MI) staff requested additional information about a federal mineral rights issue underlying a constituent's private land.

### ***Ongoing CBO/CRS Requests***

- Sept. 25: CBO requested information regarding S. 683, Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument Expansion Act (Sen. Padilla, D-CA).
- Oct. 19: CBO requested information on H.R. 188, Proven Forest Management Act of 2023.
- Oct. 27: CBO requested information on S. 1260, the University of Utah Research Park Act (Sen. Lee, R-UT).
- Nov. 1: CBO requested information on S. 2216, the Montana Sportsmen Conservation Act (**completed Nov. 21**).

### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

- Nov. 3/June 6: HNR majority staff requested technical assistance on three specific sections in H.R. 9087, the TAP American Energy Act (Rep. Westerman, R-AR-04).
  - Status: Pending with BLM.



- Feb. 2/April 17/May 24: Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) staff requested technical assistance on draft legislation to transfer a tract of Federal land to the Wrangel Cooperative Association.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- March 15: Sen. Murkowski (R-AK) staff requested technical assistance on legislative language regarding transfer of Tenakee Springs.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- June 7: Sen. Cortez Masto (D-NV) staff requested technical assistance on S. 1281, Mining Regulatory Clarity Act.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- June 9: Rep. Vasquez (D-NM-02) staff requested technical assistance on the draft bill titled “Ranching Without Red Tape.”
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- July 17: Sen. Lujan (D-NM) staff requested technical assistance on the draft bill, the Tribal Wildlife Corridors Act. BIA is leading the response, with OCL coordinating other agency input.
  - Status: Pending with OCL.
- July 31: Rep. McCollum (D-MN-4) requested technical assistance on H.R. 5021, Securing American Critical Minerals Act.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- Aug. 11: Sen. Bennet (D-CO) staff requested technical assistance on the draft bill, the Bureau of Land Management Flexible Partnerships Act of 2023.
  - Status: Pending with ASLM.
- Sept. 5: OCL requested assistance on a Sen. Wyden (D-OR) staff request for technical assistance on the previously introduced S. 4369, the North American Grasslands Conservation Act (117<sup>th</sup> Congress).
  - Status: Pending with OCL.
- Sept. 18: Rep. Simpson (ID-02) staff requested technical assistance on draft legislation to convey public land to Twin Falls County, Idaho, for use as a recreation trail.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- Sept. 19: Rep. Matsui (D-CA-7) staff requested technical assistance on draft legislation to convey reversionary of select land near Ridgecrest California.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- Oct. 13: Rep. Cartwright (D-PA-8) staff requested DOI/BLM technical assistance on H.R. 2872, Safeguarding America’s Future and Environment Act, from the 117th Congress.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.

## QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

- March 29: House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on BLM’s FY 2024 Budget Request. Witness: BLM Director Stone-Manning.
  - Status: Pending with DOI.
- May 16: HNR EMR/FL hearing on the BLM’s FY 2024 Budget Request. Witness: Director Stone-Manning.
  - Status: Pending with OCL. (BLM0038668)
- June 15: HNR hearing on H.R. 3397, “*to require the BLM Director to withdraw a rule of the BLM relating to conservation and landscape health.*” Witness: Principal Deputy Director Wolff Culver.
  - Status: Pending with BLM. (BLM0040177)
- June 22: HNR Subcommittee on Federal Lands legislative hearing on various BLM-related bills. Witness: Principal Deputy Director Wolff Culver.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.
- Sept. 19: HNR Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources hearing “*Examining the Biden Administration’s Mismanagement of the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Program.*” Witness: Deputy Director of Operations Nedd.
  - Status: Pending with BLM. (BLM0040784)

- Sept. 28: SENR hearing “*Examine opportunities to counter the People’s Republic of China’s control of critical mineral supply chains through increased mining and processing in the United States as well as international engagement and trade.*” Witness: Deputy Secretary Beaudreau.
  - Status: Select questions pending with BLM
- Oct. 25: SENR Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining legislative hearing on various BLM-related bills. Witness: Principal Deputy Director Wolff Culver.
  - Status: Pending with BLM.

## **REPORTS TO CONGRESS (pending review in DTS)**

- Efficiencies with O&C Grant Lands Program for Fiscal Year 2017
  - Status: Pending with HQ-220 (BLM0011656).
- Report to Congress on Online Oil and Gas Leasing - Comprehensive Comparison of Oral vs Online Lease Sales
  - Status: Pending with HQ-100 (BLM0012000).
- Oil and Gas Resource Potential of the Musselshell Breaks and Bridge Coulee Wilderness Study Areas
  - Status: Pending with HQ-100 (BLM0019271).
- Trespassing on Alaska Native Lands
  - Status: Pending with HQ-620 (BLM0021543).
- Annual Helium Report to Congress FY 2020-2022
  - Status: Pending review with BLM-NM (BLM0032063).
- Suitability for Geothermal of Categorical Exclusions Under Section 390 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005
  - Status: Pending review with BLM-NOC (BLMC000067).
- Annual Renewable Energy Report to Congress FY 2022
  - Status: Pending review with HQ-620 (BLMC000082).
- Withdrawal Extension Report to Congress
  - Status: Pending review with OCL (BLMC000090).
- SNPLMA FY 2022 Annual Report to Congress
  - Status: Pending review with BLM-NOC (BLMC000093).

-----  
 Patrick Wilkinson  
 Division Chief  
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 Bureau of Land Management  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 Cell Phone: (202) 631-6346

**From:** "Cowan, Peter I" <picowan@blm.gov>

**To:** "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>, "Bagley, Lonny R" <lbagley@blm.gov>, "Muehl, Gregory S" <gmuehl@blm.gov>, "Northington, John W" <jnorthington@blm.gov>, "Warren, Matthew (Matt)" <mwarren@blm.gov>, "Azhocar, Matthew R" <mazhocar@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Spencer, Jennifer E" <j35spenc@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: OFR edits on the Proposed Leasing Rule

**Date:** Wed, 12 Jul 2023 21:49:24 +0000

**Attachments:** FR\_2023-14287\_3944857\_BLM\_Response\_7.12.23\_V3.docx

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FYI- Jennifer and I are working to respond to the outstanding comments from the Federal Register. I hope to send them back near the end of today. Please let me know if I should route them through you first.

If it helps, the outstanding comments are not major.

**Peter Cowan** (*he/him*) | **Senior Mineral Leasing Specialist**

Bureau of Land Management | Division of Fluid Minerals (HQ310)

301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508 | Mobile 720-838-1641 | picowan@blm.gov

---

**From:** Bremner, Faith M <FBremner@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, July 12, 2023 1:57 PM

**To:** Cowan, Peter I <picowan@blm.gov>; Annatoyn, Travis J <travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov>; Spencer, Jennifer E <j35spenc@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Kovacs, Kathryn E <kathryn\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Moorman, Kyle W <kmoorman@blm.gov>

**Subject:** OFR edits on the Proposed Leasing Rule

Please review OFR's edits/comments. Most of them seem fine to me. However, I flagged a few of the comments because I don't know the answers. Please use track changes or comment boxes when responding.

I'm having a terrible time working in this Word document. It refuses to let me click through/move easily from one comment box to the next and keeps crashing. Do you have the same problem with this document? I had similar problems a month or so ago with the codification rule. I ended up having to manually scroll through the whole document to find the comment boxes.

Thanks

Faith Bremner

Senior Regulatory Analyst

Bureau of Land Management

Division of Regulatory Affairs

**#1128145.1**

**From:** "Cowan, Peter I" <picowan@blm.gov>

**To:** "Rickard, Scott S" <srickard@blm.gov>, "Elliott, Holly D" <helliott@blm.gov>, "Spencer, Jennifer E" <j35spenc@blm.gov>, "Lambert, William A" <wlambert@blm.gov>, "Vinson, Phyllisina L" <phyllisina.vinson@sol.doi.gov>, "Bremner, Faith M" <FBremner@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Warren, Matthew (Matt)" <mwarren@blm.gov>, "Azhocar, Matthew R" <mazhocar@blm.gov>, "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>, "Bagley, Lonny R" <lbagley@blm.gov>, "Tichenor, James C" <jtichenor@blm.gov>, "Muehl, Gregory S" <gmuehl@blm.gov>, "Hays, Alexander" <ahays@blm.gov>, "Serrano, JulieAnn" <jserrano@blm.gov>, "Eades, Natalie A" <natalie.eades@sol.doi.gov>, "Doktor, Leilani E" <leilani.doktor@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: First round Interagency Comments on BLM's Fluid Minerals rule (1004-AE80)

**Date:** Tue, 25 Apr 2023 20:28:12 +0000

**Attachments:** IA\_Comments\_NPRM\_Fluid\_Mineral\_Leases\_Supplemental\_Analysis\_IRA\_Budgetary\_Impacts\_4.25.23.docx; IA\_Comments\_Proposed\_Leasing\_Rule\_4.25.23.docx; IA\_Cover\_Comments\_BLM\_NPRM\_Fluid\_Minerals\_Process\_4.25.23.docx; IA\_Comments\_NPRM\_Fluid\_Mineral\_Leases\_NEPA\_Document\_4.25.23.docx; IA\_Comments\_NPRM\_Fluid\_Mineral\_Leases\_Regulatory\_Impact\_Analysis\_4.25.23.docx

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Hello all,

I've uploaded the interagency comments for the O&G Leasing Rule into the Team site at the following folder: [Interagency Comments\\_2023..04.25](#)

If possible, I would start reviewing the comments today. I plan to finish my first review today and set up a meeting invite for tomorrow morning to start discussing the major comments with the team. Please let me know if you have any questions for me.

Thank you!  
Peter

**Peter Cowan | Senior Mineral Leasing Specialist**

Bureau of Land Management | Division of Fluid Minerals (HQ310)  
301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe, NM 87508 | Mobile 720-838-1641 | picowan@blm.gov

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**From:** Yudson, Charles A <charles\_yudson@ios.doi.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 25, 2023 12:47 PM

**To:** Bremner, Faith M <FBremner@blm.gov>; Moorman, Kyle W <kmoorman@blm.gov>; Cowan, Peter I <picowan@blm.gov>; Gruber, Benjamin E <BEGruber@blm.gov>; Bagley, Lonny R <lbagley@blm.gov>; Tichenor, James C <jtichenor@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Kovacs, Kathryn E <kathryn\_kovacs@ios.doi.gov>; OES-REGS <OES-REGS@ios.doi.gov>

**Subject:** First round Interagency Comments on BLM's Fluid Minerals rule (1004-AE80)

Good afternoon,

Attached are the first round of interagency comments on BLM's proposed rule "Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process" (RIN 1004-AE80). Please submit BLM's responses to SIO-REGS through DTS with surnames from SOL, 100, and ASLM.

Thanks,

**#1128146.1**

Charles

***Charles Yudson***

Management Analyst, Regulatory Affairs

Office of the Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs

Department of the Interior

Room 7319

202-531-5851

**From:** "Sweet, Serena E" <ssweet@blm.gov>

**To:** "r7rdomeetings, FW7" <R7rdomeetings@fws.gov>, "Boario, Sara D" <sara\_boario@fws.gov>, "Kuhns, Stephanie L" <skuhns@blm.gov>, "Skibo, Bobbie Jo" <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>, "Lor, Socheata" <socheata\_lor@fws.gov>, "Cribley, Bud C" <bud\_cribley@fws.gov>, "Pendergast, Kevin J" <kpendergast@blm.gov>, Amy Lewis <amy.lewis@empai.com>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Loya, Wendy M" <wendy\_loya@fws.gov>

**Cc:** "Deam, Seth R" <seth.deam@sol.doi.gov>, "Gieryic, Michael S" <Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov>, "Routhier, Michael P" <michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** AGENDA: 4/21/23 Coastal Plain SEIS Joint BLM/FWS Meeting

**Date:** Fri, 21 Apr 2023 01:37:39 +0000

**Attachments:** CP\_SEIS\_Key\_Topics\_Memo\_(4.20.23).docx

---

Hello All,

Below is the AGENDA items for our check-in tomorrow on the Coastal Plain SEIS. The items marked with "Decision" below must be resolved during our time tomorrow to remain on track with our process as currently planned.

- Topics:
  - Review Key Topic Memo (see attached)– **Decision**
  - What portions of the Key Topics memo can be shared with Cooperators – **Decision**
  - Schedule postponed Cooperating Agency meeting – **Decision**
- Current Schedule (subject to changes):
  - 4/19-5/1: Draft PDSEIS Chapter 3 review by BLM/FWS IDT Members (comments due by 5pm Alaska time on 5/1)
  - 5/1-5/5: BLM/FWS PM review and consideration of comments
  - 5/5-5/26: EMPSi prepare comprehensive Preliminary Draft SEIS (PDSEIS)
  - 5/26-5/31: HQ/DOI opportunity to review PDSEIS
  - 6/1-6/16: Cooperating Agency review of PDSEIS (pending approval by HQ/DOI to release)
- Reminder of upcoming court report deadline: April 28th
  - Key update is date for Draft SEIS comment period- now 2023 3Q and include other dates that lead up to 8/30 planned release of Draft SEIS for public comment period
- Other Misc. Topics - Discussion (as time allows)
  - Determination of Eligibility/Roles & Responsibilities (funding needed)
  - Sec. 106 kick off timing
  - Translation of FSEIS (funding needed)
  - Carbon avoidance concept
  - Canadian "Good Neighbor" Letter
  - ITEK de-brief from Gwich'in Tribes
  - Comms strategy overview

Serena Sweet  
Supervisory Planning & Environmental Coordinator  
BLM-Alaska, Resources Division  
Desk: 907-271-4543  
Cell: 907-223-3267

---

**From:** r7rdomeetings, FW7

**Sent:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022 9:54 AM

**To:** r7rdomeetings, FW7 <R7rdomeetings@fws.gov>; Boario, Sara D <sara\_boario@fws.gov>; Kuhns, Stephanie L <skuhns@blm.gov>; Sweet, Serena E <ssweet@blm.gov>; Skibo, Bobbie Jo <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>; Lor, Socheata <socheata\_lor@fws.gov>; Cribley, Bud C <bud\_cribley@fws.gov>; Pendergast, Kevin J <kpendergast@blm.gov>; Amy Lewis <amy.lewis@empai.com>; Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>; Loya, Wendy M <wendy\_loya@fws.gov>

**#1128150.1**

**Cc:** Deam, Seth R <seth.deam@sol.doi.gov>; Gieryic, Michael S <Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov>; Routhier, Michael P <michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** Coastal Plain SEIS monthly joint meetings

**When:** Friday, April 21, 2023 1:30 PM-3:30 PM.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Joint monthly lead meetings for discussions regarding the SEIS.

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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[\(833\) 436-1163,,460004435#](#) United States (Toll-free)

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[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

---



**From:** "Sweet, Serena E" <ssweet@blm.gov>

**To:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Kuhns, Stephanie L" <skuhns@blm.gov>, "Denos, Sarah K" <sdenos@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Pendergast, Kevin J" <kpendergast@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Native Village of Kaktovik Government to Government Consultation

**Date:** Sat, 04 Mar 2023 02:14:58 +0000

---

Sounds good, thanks!

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---

**From:** Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 5:14:09 PM

**To:** Sweet, Serena E <ssweet@blm.gov>; Kuhns, Stephanie L <skuhns@blm.gov>; Denos, Sarah K <sdenos@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Pendergast, Kevin J <kpendergast@blm.gov>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] Native Village of Kaktovik Government to Government Consultation

Thanks Serena. No need to get this done tonight – we can send a response early next week.

Enjoy the weekend!

Steve

---

**From:** Sweet, Serena E <ssweet@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 3:54 PM

**To:** Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>; Kuhns, Stephanie L <skuhns@blm.gov>; Denos, Sarah K <sdenos@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Pendergast, Kevin J <kpendergast@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Native Village of Kaktovik Government to Government Consultation

Hi Steve,

I will draft up a response and a get it to you later tonight.

Serena Sweet

Supervisory Planning & Environmental Coordinator

BLM-Alaska, Resources Division

Desk: 907-271-4543

Cell: 907-223-3267

---

**From:** Cohn, Steven M <[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 3:31 PM

**To:** Sweet, Serena E <[ssweet@blm.gov](mailto:ssweet@blm.gov)>; Kuhns, Stephanie L <[skuhns@blm.gov](mailto:skuhns@blm.gov)>; Denos, Sarah K <[sdenos@blm.gov](mailto:sdenos@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Native Village of Kaktovik Government to Government Consultation

Could you please help prepare a quick response to Mr. Rexford from me.

Thanks,

Steve

---

**From:** Matthew Rexford <[nvkaktovik@gmail.com](mailto:nvkaktovik@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Friday, March 3, 2023 3:26 PM

**#1128151.1**

To: Cohn, Steven M <[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)>; Boario, Sara D <[sara\\_boario@fws.gov](mailto:sara_boario@fws.gov)>

Cc: Teresa Imm <[Teresa-Imm@outlook.com](mailto:Teresa-Imm@outlook.com)>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Native Village of Kaktovik Government to Government Consultation

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Sara and Steve,

The Native Village of Kaktovik and its tribal members want to extend our warmest thank you for your decision following our February 13, 2023 Cooperative Agency meeting in Kaktovik and the letter sent to you both requesting to cancel the ITEK meeting on February 22, 2023. I want to apologize for not sending this sooner but it has taken some time for us to fully comprehend that we were listened to by you. Thank you for listening. It gives us hope that we can express our thoughts on the issues that need to be addressed by us under the SEIS process. As we have stated, we would rather address the apparent deficiencies with the EIS, and based on an email we received from Mr. Cohn on September 8, 2023 we understand them to be the four items listed below.

“The ongoing SEIS development process will address the two deficiencies identified in SO 3401 plus any additional specific resource related issue(s), set forth a revised range of alternatives, and facilitate the analysis of the following issues:

1. Revision of the Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) scenario to allow for consideration of an alternative that considers less than 2,000 acres of surface development.
2. Conduct additional analysis related to foreign greenhouse gas emissions and consider any new information related to subsistence resources (e.g., fish, marine mammals, caribou) and subsistence use/access which may inform any reconsideration of compliance under Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), and any other targeted resource.
3. A wider range of development outcomes related to the RFD scenario (considering impacts of less than 2,000 acres of surface development) while also reanalyzing other resources.
4. Reconsideration of lease stipulations and Required Operating Procedures (ROP) (including new potential mitigation measures) across alternatives based on revised RFD scenario and additional analysis”

We have been hopeful that our meetings would allow us to weigh in on these items, which is why we focused on them through our comments on the Lease Stipulations (LS) and Required Operating Procedures (ROP) in our February 13 meeting. As our comments and our letter clearly stated we felt the focus on ITEK was premature and overwhelming, while creating the appearance of cultural trespass of our homelands. None of the agenda items were focused on the items above but instead were designed to allow tribal people who have never stepped foot on the Coastal Plain to establish some sort of traditional knowledge. We were completely dumbfounded and caught off guard with this approach.

Now that the ITEK Workshop and future ITEK Working Group meetings have been cancelled, again thank you for doing this, we would like to have another G2G meeting to begin discussion on the four items above.

It is not until we better know what suggested changes the agencies are contemplating that we can begin to incorporate indigenous knowledge into the process. There is no blanket form of traditional and indigenous knowledge that we can provide at this point – our knowledge comes into play when we know the specifics of the changes being proposed. For instance, with regard to the four items listed above we have reviewed the LS and ROPs as identified in item 4 above. We have been hoping that we could begin to discuss our proposed revisions to the LS’ and ROPs by going through them at our meeting. We understand that the changes in items 2 – 4 may lead to new LS and ROPs but we feel that discussing our concerns with the existing ROPs will help inform us in how to respond to any new LS’ and ROPs.

We would also like to discuss items 1 and 3 and how you calculated the gravel needs for the two RFD’s presented in the EIS. We are familiar with development in and around Nuiqsut and into NPR-A through our involvement in the NPR-A Working Group, and through listening to the public meetings on projects, and also through downloading the EIS’ and SEIS’ and reviewing as they work through the process. We do not recall any discussions the 2,000 acres of gravel allocations for the Reasonably Foreseeable

**#1128151.2**

Development (RFD) scenario in the earlier EIS G2G meetings and now after reviewing the Draft Summary of 'Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) Documented On Behalf Of Coastal Plain Oil & Gas Leasing Program In Cooperation With The Native Village Of Kaktovik' sent to us on February 13 it appears that we did not provide any comments on the RFD scenarios that were developed for the EIS. We would like you to understand that placement of gravel is important to us even if it is for a scenario for Leasing and we would like to be able to provide our comments on any and all potential future placement of gravel.

Again, it is with genuine thanks of your efforts to listen us as a people and to subsequently cancel the ITEK Workshop that we are writing. We are encouraged and are gaining our strength to continue our engagement positively from this point forward.

As a aside, it is also important for you to understand, not as an excuse but as an actuality of life in our community, we have had telecommunications outages over the last week otherwise we would have been able to send this to you sooner.

Sincerely

Native Village of Kaktovik

--

*Matthew Rexford*

*Tribal Administrator*

NATIVE VILLAGE OF KAKTOVIK

*P.O. Box 52*

*Kaktovik, AK 99747*

*Phone: (907) 640-2042 or 2043*

*Fax: (907) 640-2044*

**From:** "Kniola, Benjamin E" <bkniola@blm.gov>

**To:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>, "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>, "Nedd, Michael D" <mnedd@blm.gov>, "Moran, Jill C" <jcmoran@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Wilkinson, Patrick" <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>, "Krauss, Jeff" <JKrauss@blm.gov>, "Gins, Meagan A" <mgins@blm.gov>, "Wykowski, Henry T" <hwykowski@blm.gov>, "Moffat, Sara A" <smoffat@blm.gov>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>, "Bagley, Lonny R" <lbagley@blm.gov>, "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Time Sensitive – For 100 Review: Draft BLM Testimony H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act (HNR EM Hearing 11/29)

**Date:** Fri, 17 Nov 2023 20:35:20 +0000

**Attachments:** H.R.\_6285.pdf; BLM\_Statement\_-\_H.R.6285,\_Alaska's\_Right\_to\_Produce\_Act\_(to\_100).docx

---

Hi all,

As you are aware, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources plans to hold a legislative hearing on H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act (attached).

H.R. 6285 would:

- Require the BLM to withdraw the proposed NPR-A rule, and prohibit substantially similar rules from being proposed by the BLM;
- Prohibit the President or Secretary of the Interior from placing any moratorium or other pause of oil and gas leasing in the Coastal Plain;
- Aim to approve all authorizations, permits, etc., as discussed in the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program that was published August 21, 2020;
- Require the Secretary to reissue the canceled leases in the Arctic Refuge within 30 days of enactment;
- Withdraw the Draft Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Supplemental EIS;
- Declare that no court shall have jurisdiction over the review of past decisions regarding the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and
- Nullify Executive Order 13990 and Secretarial Order 3401.

HQ-620 has prepared the draft statement (also attached and pasted below) with staff level input from BLM-AK. Following HQ-100 review and surname, we will provide the testimony to ASLM and OCL for further clearance.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you,  
Ben Kniola

Deputy Division Chief (Acting)  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Legislative Affairs Division (HQ 620)  
Located in Grand Junction, CO  
Mobile: 307-275-0355

**#1128160.1**

**Statement of  
XXX  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**House Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**

**H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act**

**November 29, 2023**

Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ocasio-Cortez, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.R. 6285, the Alaska's Right to Produce Act.

**BLM Overview**

Since its inception in 1946, the BLM has served as a steward of our nation's Federal public lands and resources. The passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) provided the BLM with the multiple use and sustained yield mandate that guides all of the BLM's land management decisions. Driven by our mission, the BLM sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's public lands for multiple uses, such as conventional and renewable energy development; livestock grazing; conservation; mining; watershed protection; and hunting, fishing, and other forms of recreation. This multiple-use and sustained yield mission enables the BLM to contribute tremendously to economic growth, job creation, and domestic energy production, while generating revenues for Federal and State treasuries and local economies, and allowing for a thoughtful and balanced approach to management of our public lands.

Under its multiple use and sustained yield mission, the BLM manages approximately 245 million surface acres across the nation, located primarily in 12 western states. The BLM is also responsible for managing 700 million subsurface acres, many of which are overlain by properties managed by other Federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense and the U.S. Forest Service. Further, of these 700 million subsurface acres, approximately 57 million acres are split estate lands, where the surface estate is in private ownership and the BLM manages the subsurface minerals.

**Alaska Oil & Gas Development**

In Alaska, BLM manages more surface and subsurface acres than any other state with BLM-managed lands. This includes over 70 million surface acres and 220 million subsurface acres in a state with a landmass equivalent to about one-fifth of the entire contiguous United States. In fiscal year 2022, the BLM's management of public lands in Alaska supported more than 2,570 jobs, with a total economic impact of more than \$578.1 million.

As part of managing the Federal onshore oil and gas leasing program in Alaska, the BLM issues permits for geophysical exploration, permits to drill oil and gas wells, and authorizations to construct pads and install production facilities. Federal oil and gas leasing in Alaska is concentrated in three regions: the Cook Inlet Region on both sides of the Cook Inlet, and the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) and the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge), the latter two located on Alaska's north slope. The State of Alaska receives 90 percent of rents and royalties from Federal oil and gas leases in the Cook Inlet Region, and the State receives 50 percent of the bonus bids, rents, and royalties from both the NPR-A and Coastal Plain.

**Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

The 1.56 million-acre Arctic Refuge oil and gas program area, also referred to as the "Coastal Plain," is located along the coast of the approximately 19.3 million-acre Arctic Refuge on Alaska's North Slope. Specifically, the

**#1128160.2**

program area is within the northwestern portion of the refuge and immediately adjacent to the Beaufort Sea (Arctic Ocean), which is located to the north.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (P.L. 115-97) directed the BLM to conduct two oil and gas lease sales in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge that offer at least 400,000 acres of lands for bid by December 2024, which are to be managed similar to the administration of lease sales under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 and its applicable regulations. The BLM conducted its first lease sale in the Coastal Plain of Arctic Refuge on January 6, 2021, pursuant to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program August 2020 Record of Decision (ROD), with any future oil and gas development actions requiring a separate detailed environmental analysis. Since that time, two of the three companies holding leases have separately requested to have their leases rescinded and to receive a refund. The remaining seven leases were canceled by the Department of the Interior earlier in 2023. As such, there are currently no leases in the Coastal Plain.

President Biden, through Executive Order 13990, directed the Department to review oil and gas leasing in the Refuge, “[i]n light of the alleged legal deficiencies underlying the program.” In June 2021, Secretarial Order 3401 suspended all activities related to implementing the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, pending completion of a comprehensive analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Pursuant to the order, the BLM is preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) which addresses the deficiencies identified in the Secretarial order. The draft SEIS released by the BLM and the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) contained an analysis that informed the Department’s determination that the 2021 lease sale was based on fundamental legal deficiencies, such as insufficient analysis under NEPA; failure to adequately analyze a reasonable range of alternatives and properly quantify downstream greenhouse gas emissions; and failure to properly interpret the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Accordingly, Secretary Haaland determined that the seven oil and gas leases issued by the previous Administration in the Arctic Refuge should be cancelled. The public comment period for the draft SEIS closed on November 7, 2023, after holding ten public meetings, of which four were virtual. Though the comment period is closed, the BLM welcomes the opportunity for further Government-to-Government consultation with Tribes.

### ***National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska***

Located approximately 100 miles to the west of the Arctic Refuge, the NPR-A is a vast area on Alaska's North Slope composed of approximately 23 million acres. In 1923, President Harding set aside this area as an emergency oil supply for the U.S. Navy due to the area’s petroleum value. In 1976, in accordance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, administration of the reserve was transferred to the BLM.

The NPR-A generates tens of millions of dollars in oil and gas revenue each year and remains an important resource for meeting America's energy needs. Most notably, the recently approved Willow project is expected to produce 180,000 barrels of oil per day at its peak, and is projected to deliver up to \$17 billion in new revenue for the Federal government, the State of Alaska, and North Slope Borough Native communities. The Willow project is designed and conditioned by the BLM to coexist as much as possible with subsistence activities.

The BLM is proposing a new rule to govern the management of surface resources and Special Areas in the NPR-A, consistent with its duties under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (NPRPA), FLPMA, and other authorities. Under NPRPA, Congress directed the BLM to balance oil and gas development with the management and protection of sensitive landscapes – known as Special Areas – and surface resources across the reserve. The proposed rule would revise the framework for designating and assuring maximum protection of Special Areas’ significant resource values, as directed in the NPRPA, and would protect and enhance access for subsistence activities throughout the NPR-A. It would also incorporate aspects of the NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan that was approved in April 2022.

Upon finalization of the proposed rule, the BLM will follow the proposed process to inform the creation or expansion of additional Special Areas in the NPR-A. The proposed rule would have no effect on currently authorized oil and gas operations in the NPR-A. The BLM is currently accepting comments on the proposed rule through December 7, 2023, and has held five public meetings and met with multiple Alaska Native organizations. The BLM continues to engage with communities, Tribes, and Alaska Native Corporations to

ensure the local communities have ample opportunities to provide robust and substantive comments on the proposed rule.

### **H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act**

H.R. 6285 would prohibit the President or Secretary of the Interior from placing any moratorium or other pause of oil and gas leasing in the Coastal Plain. H.R. 6285 also aims to approve all authorizations, permits, etc., as discussed in the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program that was published August 21, 2020. Additionally, the bill would require the Secretary to reissue the canceled leases in the Arctic Refuge within 30 days of enactment, and withdraw the Draft Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Supplemental EIS. The bill further declares that no court shall have jurisdiction over the review of past decisions regarding the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The bill would also require the BLM to withdraw the proposed NPR-A rule, and would prohibit substantially similar rules from being proposed by the BLM. Finally, H.R. 6285 would nullify Executive Order 13990 and Secretarial Order 3401.

### **Analysis**

The BLM strongly opposes H.R. 6285, as the Coastal Plain leases were cancelled after a careful review of all available information. As a result of its review, the Department determined that the leases were improperly issued due to pre-leasing legal defects, and the record evaluated by the Department confirmed the seriousness of those legal defects in the environmental reviews for the leases. To reinstate the leases and revert to the flawed analysis would be detrimental to the Coastal Plain leasing program and would undermine future Federal oil and gas related activities in the area. Having a sound, legally defensible environmental analysis is a necessary foundation for subsequent actions, such as development plans and applications to drill.

Additionally, the BLM is actively accepting comments on the proposed NPR-A rule. The proposed NPR-A rule does not change the current management of the area. It would establish a new framework for balancing development with the protection of Special Areas – lands that harbor significant subsistence, recreational, fish and wildlife, historical and scenic values – and the management of surface resources throughout the NPR-A. This framework would improve the BLM's ability to respond to changing conditions in the Arctic while providing transparency and stability in conservation and development decisions. The proposed regulations would also enhance protections for subsistence uses and resources throughout the NPR-A, particularly within the Teshekpuk Lake, Utukok River Uplands, and other Special Areas.

### **Conclusion**

The BLM remains committed to ensuring that the Federal oil and gas program serves the best interests of the American people by promoting the highest industry, environmental, and public engagement standards and securing a fair return for the American taxpayer. The BLM is working diligently to move the oil and gas program in Alaska forward through the Draft SEIS and NPR-A rule. H.R. 6285 reverts the BLM's oil and gas program in Alaska back to standards that have been determined to be inadequate, and therefore, the BLM strongly opposes the bill.



**From:** "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>  
**To:** "Wilkinson, Patrick" <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Time Sensitive – For ASLM Review: Draft BLM Testimony H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act (HNR EM Hearing 11/29)  
**Date:** Tue, 21 Nov 2023 15:55:35 +0000

---

Oh boy

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---

**From:** Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:07:41 AM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Fw: Time Sensitive – For ASLM Review: Draft BLM Testimony H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act (HNR EM Hearing 11/29)

fya...

-----  
Patrick Wilkinson  
Division Chief  
Legislative Affairs (HQ 620)  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Cell Phone: (202) 631-6346

---

**From:** Feldgus, Steven H <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:43 AM  
**To:** Wallace, Andrew G <andrew\_wallace@ios.doi.gov>; Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>; Rezaeero, Paniz <paniz\_rezaeero@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: Time Sensitive – For ASLM Review: Draft BLM Testimony H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act (HNR EM Hearing 11/29)

Hi folks – am I the witness for this one? I remember discussing some hearings with Drew recently, but thought the potential back-to-back was the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of December. Probably wouldn't have loved the idea of going back-to-back right after coming back from leave (and I don't get back till late Sunday night, although it does give me plenty of plane time).

---

**From:** Kniola, Benjamin E <bkniola@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 20, 2023 5:39 PM  
**To:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <cara\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov>; McIntosh, Stacie J <s05mcint@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>; Emmett, Catherine H <CHEmmett@blm.gov>; Feldgus, Steven H <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>; Quinn, Matthew J <Matthew\_J\_Quinn@ios.doi.gov>; Rezaeero, Paniz <paniz\_rezaeero@ios.doi.gov>; Wallace, Andrew G <andrew\_wallace@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Time Sensitive – For ASLM Review: Draft BLM Testimony H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act (HNR EM Hearing 11/29)

Hi all,

#1128174.1

As you are aware, the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources plans to hold a legislative hearing on H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act (attached).

H.R. 6285 would:

- Require the BLM to withdraw the proposed NPR-A rule, and prohibit substantially similar rules from being proposed by the BLM;
- Prohibit the President or Secretary of the Interior from placing any moratorium or other pause of oil and gas leasing in the Coastal Plain;
- Aim to approve all authorizations, permits, etc., as discussed in the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program that was published August 21, 2020;
- Require the Secretary to reissue the canceled leases in the Arctic Refuge within 30 days of enactment;
- Withdraw the Draft Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Supplemental EIS;
- Declare that no court shall have jurisdiction over the review of past decisions regarding the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program; and
- Nullify Executive Order 13990 and Secretarial Order 3401.

Attached and pasted below for ASLM review is a draft testimony, which was cleared by BLM leadership. The bill text is also attached for your reference.

After ASLM review and clearance, we will provide the statement to OCL for further clearance.

CC'ing Matt, Paniz, and Drew with OCL for awareness.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Ben Kniola

Deputy Division Chief (Acting)  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Legislative Affairs Division (HQ 620)  
Located in Grand Junction, CO  
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**Statement of  
Steve Feldgus, Ph.D.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
Land and Minerals Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**House Committee on Natural Resources  
Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources**

**H.R. 6285, Alaska's Right to Produce Act**

**November 29, 2023**

**#1128174.2**

Chairman Stauber, Ranking Member Ocasio-Cortez, and Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on H.R. 6285, the Alaska's Right to Produce Act.

The North Slope of Alaska includes lands that sustain people, wildlife, and fish in northern Alaska and are part of a vast landscape of rich cultural traditions and thriving ecological diversity. Both the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge) and the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) are located on the North Slope. The Arctic Refuge – approximately the size of South Carolina – is located on the traditional homelands of the Iñupiat and Gwich'in peoples. The lands and waters are a critical home to migratory and resident wildlife, and have unique recreational values. In the NPR-A, Tribal Nations have occupied the lands since time immemorial, and over 40 communities continue to harvest subsistence resources that rely on the reserve, including caribou, shore and waterbirds, and many other fish and wildlife species. The Department of the Interior (Department) balances resource development with the management and protection of the sensitive landscapes and surface resources.

On September 8, 2023, the BLM published a proposed rule to update its regulations for the management and protection of the NPR-A. The proposed rule aims to update the regulatory framework, which was established nearly 45 years ago, to respond to the dramatically changing conditions in the Arctic. This proposed rule ensures the Bureau of Land Management continues to meet the statutory direction under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) and Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and other authorities to the best of its ability.

H.R. 6285, strips the BLM of the tools necessary to appropriately manage the NPR-A to ensure maximum protection of Special Areas, while also protecting subsistence activities and ensuring a balance for surface resources in future oil and gas activities in the NPR-A, as directed in the NPRPA. The bill also reduces opportunities for meaningful public input and engagement on that management.

Similarly, the bill would undermine the public input and evaluation required under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prohibiting the BLM from addressing identified deficiencies in the previous review governing potential leasing in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge, and cutting out the public from that process. In addition, the bill would interfere with the Department's ability to fulfill its obligation to manage the Arctic Refuge for all of the purposes stated in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which like the NPRPA, include protection of fish and wildlife habitats and subsistence activities.

Given these concerns, the BLM strongly opposes H.R. 6285.

### **BLM Overview**

Since its inception in 1946, the BLM has served as a steward of our nation's Federal public lands and resources. The passage of the FLPMA provided the BLM with the multiple use and sustained yield mandate that guides all of the BLM's land management decisions. Driven by our mission, the BLM sustains the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's public lands for multiple uses, such as conventional and renewable energy development; livestock grazing; conservation; mining; watershed protection; and hunting, fishing, and other forms of recreation. This multiple-use and sustained yield mission enables the BLM to contribute tremendously to economic growth, job creation, and domestic energy production, while generating revenues for Federal and State treasuries and local economies, and allowing for a thoughtful and balanced approach to management of our public lands.

Under its multiple use and sustained yield mission, the BLM manages approximately 245 million surface acres across the nation, located primarily in 12 western states. The BLM is also responsible for managing 700 million subsurface acres, many of which are overlain by properties managed by other Federal agencies, such as the Department of Defense and the U.S. Forest Service. Further, of these 700 million subsurface acres, approximately 57 million acres are split estate lands, where the surface estate is in private ownership and the BLM manages the subsurface minerals.

The BLM also carries out its management responsibilities in accordance with other applicable legal authorities, such as the NEPA. In Alaska, the BLM implements the ANILCA, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the NPRPA as part of its management of public lands and minerals.

### **Alaska Oil & Gas Development**

In Alaska, BLM manages more surface and subsurface acres than any other state with BLM-managed lands. This includes over 70 million surface acres and 220 million subsurface acres in a state with a landmass equivalent to about one-fifth of the entire contiguous United States. In fiscal year 2022, the BLM's management of public lands in Alaska supported more than 2,570 jobs, with a total economic impact of more than \$578.1 million.

As part of managing the Federal onshore oil and gas leasing program in Alaska, the BLM issues permits for geophysical exploration, permits to drill oil and gas wells, and authorizations to construct pads and install production facilities. Oil and gas leasing in Alaska is concentrated in three regions: the Cook Inlet Region on both sides of the Cook Inlet, the NPR-A, and the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge, the latter two located on Alaska's north slope. The State of Alaska receives 90 percent of rents and royalties from Federal oil and gas leases in the Cook Inlet Region, and the State receives 50 percent of the bonus bids, rents, and royalties from both the NPR-A and Coastal Plain.

### ***Arctic National Wildlife Refuge***

The 19.3 million-acre Arctic Refuge, managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, was originally established in 1960 and expanded in 1980 through ANILCA, which specified the purposes of the Refuge:

- (i) to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity including, but not limited to, the Porcupine caribou herd (including participation in coordinated ecological studies and management of this herd and the Western Arctic caribou herd), polar bears, grizzly bears, muskox, Dall sheep, wolves, wolverines, snow geese, peregrine falcons and other migratory birds and Arctic char and grayling;
- (ii) to fulfill the international treaty obligations of the United States with respect to fish and wildlife and their habitats;
- (iii) to provide, in a manner consistent with the purposes set forth in subparagraphs (i) and (ii), the opportunity for continued subsistence uses by local residents; and
- (iv) to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable and in a manner consistent with the purposes set forth in paragraph (i), water quality and necessary water quantity within the refuge.

The Refuge is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and all activities are reviewed for compatibility with the statutory purposes. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (P.L. 115-97 – Tax Act) added another purpose to the Arctic Refuge, to provide for an oil and gas program on the Arctic Coastal Plain, while retaining the existing purposes.

The 1.56 million-acre Arctic Refuge oil and gas program area, also referred to as the "Coastal Plain," is located along the coast of the Arctic Refuge on Alaska's North Slope. Specifically, the program area is within the northwestern portion of the refuge and immediately adjacent to the Beaufort Sea (Arctic Ocean), which is located to the north.

Specifically, the Tax Act directed the BLM to conduct two oil and gas lease sales in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge that offer at least 400,000 acres of lands for bid by December 2024, which are to be managed in a manner similar to the administration of lease sales under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 and its applicable regulations. The BLM conducted its first lease sale in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge on January 6, 2021, pursuant to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program August 2020 Record of Decision (ROD), with any future oil and gas development actions requiring a separate detailed environmental analysis. Since that time, two of the three companies holding leases have separately requested to have their leases rescinded and to receive a refund. The remaining seven leases were canceled by the Department earlier in 2023. As such, there are currently no leases in the Coastal Plain.

President Biden, through Executive Order 13990, directed the Department to review oil and gas leasing in the Refuge, “[i]n light of the alleged legal deficiencies underlying the program.” In June 2021, Secretarial Order 3401 suspended all activities related to implementing the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, pending completion of a comprehensive analysis under the NEPA. Pursuant to the order, the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) addressing the deficiencies identified in the Secretarial Order. The Draft SEIS released on September 6, 2023 by the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service contains an analysis that informed the Department’s determination that the 2021 lease sale was based on fundamental legal deficiencies, such as insufficient analysis under NEPA; failure to adequately analyze a reasonable range of alternatives and properly quantify downstream greenhouse gas emissions; and failure to properly interpret the Tax Act. Accordingly, Secretary Haaland determined that the seven oil and gas leases issued by the previous Administration in the Arctic Refuge should be canceled. The public comment period for the Draft SEIS closed on November 7, 2023, after holding ten public meetings, of which four were virtual. Though the comment period is closed, the BLM welcomes the opportunity for further Government-to-Government consultation with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, and can also meet with other entities, such as local governments like the North Slope Borough, seeking to clarify the comments they have submitted.

### ***National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska***

Located approximately 100 miles to the west of the Arctic Refuge, the NPR-A is a vast area on Alaska's North Slope composed of approximately 23 million acres. In 1923, President Harding set aside this area as an emergency oil supply for the U.S. Navy due to the area’s petroleum value. In 1976, in accordance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, administration of the reserve was transferred to the BLM. Under the NPRPA, Congress directed the BLM to balance oil and gas development with the management and protection of sensitive landscapes – known as Special Areas – and surface resources across the Reserve.

The NPR-A generates tens of millions of dollars in oil and gas revenue each year and remains an important resource for meeting America's energy needs. Most notably, the recently approved Willow project is expected to produce 180,000 barrels of oil per day at its peak, and is projected to deliver up to \$17 billion in new revenue for the Federal government, the State of Alaska, and North Slope Borough Native communities. The Willow project is designed and conditioned by the BLM to coexist as much as possible with subsistence activities.

The BLM is proposing a new rule to guide implementation of its obligations to for management of surface resources generally and Special Areas more specifically in the NPR-A, consistent with the direction in the NPRPA, as well as FLPMA and other authorities. The proposed rule would revise the framework for designating and assuring maximum protection of Special Areas’ significant resource values, as directed in the NPRPA, and would protect and enhance access for subsistence activities throughout the NPR-A. It would also incorporate aspects of the NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan that was approved in April 2022.

Upon finalization of the proposed rule, the BLM would follow a more specific process to inform the creation or expansion of additional Special Areas in the NPR-A and the protection of access and resources for subsistence, and would continue to manage the Reserve subject to an Integrated Activity Plan, ensuring transparency and opportunities for public input, as well as consultation. The proposed rule would apply to future leasing and oil and gas activities, and would not affect currently authorized oil and gas operations in the NPR-A. The BLM is currently accepting comments on the proposed rule through December 7, 2023. Through this 90-day comment period, the BLM has held public meetings, engaged in consultation, and met with multiple Alaska Native organizations and local government entities, as well as the NPR-A Working Group. The BLM continues to engage with communities, Tribes, and Alaska Native Corporations to ensure that local communities have ample opportunities to provide robust and substantive comments on the proposed rule.

### **H.R. 6285, Alaska’s Right to Produce Act**

H.R. 6285 would prohibit the President or Secretary of the Interior from placing any moratorium or other pause of oil and gas leasing in the Coastal Plain. H.R. 6285 also aims to approve all authorizations, permits, etc., as discussed in the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program that was published August 21, 2020. Additionally, the bill would require the Secretary to

reissue the canceled leases in the Arctic Refuge within 30 days of enactment, and withdraw the Draft Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Supplemental EIS. The bill further declares that no court shall have jurisdiction over the review of past decisions regarding the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The bill would also require the BLM to withdraw the proposed NPR-A rule, and would prohibit substantially similar rules from being proposed by the BLM. Finally, H.R. 6285 would nullify Executive Order 13990 and Secretarial Order 3401.

### ***Analysis***

The BLM strongly opposes H.R. 6285. The Coastal Plain leases were canceled after a careful review of all available information. As a result of its review, the Department determined that the leases were improperly issued due to pre-leasing legal defects, and the record evaluated by the Department, including in the Draft SEIS, confirmed the seriousness of the legal defects in the environmental reviews for the leases. To reinstate the leases and revert to the flawed analysis would be detrimental to the Coastal Plain leasing program and would undermine future Federal oil and gas related activities in the area. Having a sound, legally defensible environmental analysis is a necessary foundation for subsequent actions, such as development plans and applications to drill.

Additionally, the BLM is actively accepting comments on the proposed NPR-A rule. The proposed NPR-A rule does not change the current management of the area. It would establish a new framework for balancing development with the protection of Special Areas – lands that harbor significant subsistence, recreational, fish and wildlife, historical and scenic values, including areas identified by Congress in the NPRPA – and the management of surface resources throughout the NPR-A. This framework would improve the BLM's ability to respond to changing conditions in the Arctic while providing transparency and stability in conservation and development decisions. The proposed regulations would also enhance protections for subsistence uses and resources throughout the NPR-A, which are especially reliant on the Special Areas, including the Teshekpuk Lake and Utukok River Uplands Special Areas.

### **Conclusion**

The BLM remains committed to ensuring that the Federal oil and gas program serves the best interests of the American people by promoting the highest industry, environmental, and public engagement standards and securing a fair return for the American taxpayer. The BLM is further implementing the direction in the governing law to balance oil and gas leasing and development with explicit requirements to protect fish and wildlife, recreation and subsistence in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska. The BLM is working diligently to move the oil and gas program in Alaska forward through the Draft SEIS and NPR-A rule. H.R. 6285 reverts the BLM's oil and gas program in Alaska back to standards that have been determined to be inadequate. Therefore, the BLM strongly opposes the bill.

**From:** "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>  
**To:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska  
**Date:** Wed, 06 Sep 2023 20:09:31 +0000

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Try this one, just delete this full line (tried to recreate what you had)

BLM Alaska -

Major news from the Department today. Big thank you to everyone who has been working so hard on the Coastal Plain Supplemental EIS project and getting it to this stage!!

Please direct any and all media inquiries to the following folks:

- Melinda Bolton for the Coastal Plain Supplemental EIS - mbolton@blm.gov
- Bonnie Million for the NPR-A Rulemaking - bmillion@blm.gov
- Emma Roach for the Coastal Plain leases - eroach@blm.gov

Thank you!

Steven M. Cohn  
Alaska State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)  
Cell: 907-202-0055  
Office: 907-271-5080

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page](#)

#1128178.1

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

*Department of the Interior cancels oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; proposes new protections in National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska*

**WASHINGTON** — The Biden-Harris administration today announced significant steps to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge) and more than 13 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). These bold actions to protect the Arctic region build on President Biden's [historic conservation and climate agenda](#), which already includes protecting more than 21 million acres of public lands and waters across the nation, and securing the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history.

In the Arctic Refuge, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has authorized the cancellation of the remaining seven oil and gas leases issued by the previous administration in the



Coastal Plain. The leases were suspended in June 2021 following the issuance of [Secretary's Order \(S.O.\) 3401](#), which identified “multiple legal deficiencies in the underlying record supporting the leases.”

In addition, the Department today [proposed new regulations](#) for the NPR-A that would ensure maximum protection for the more than 13 million acres of Special Areas in the reserve, while supporting subsistence activities for Alaska Native communities. The proposed rule, [previewed in March 2023](#), adds to President Biden’s actions to protect millions of acres of lands and waters in the Arctic, including withdrawing approximately 2.8 million acres of the Beaufort Sea, ensuring the entire United States Arctic Ocean is off limits to new oil and gas leasing.

“With climate change warming the Arctic more than twice as fast as the rest of the planet, we must do everything within our control to meet the highest standards of care to protect this fragile ecosystem,” said **Secretary Haaland**. “President Biden is delivering on the most ambitious climate and conservation agenda in history. The steps we are taking today further that commitment, based on the best available science and in recognition of the Indigenous Knowledge of the original stewards of this area, to safeguard our public lands for future generations.”

### **Lease Cancellations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

Following passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Tax Act), the previous Administration held an oil and gas lease sale in the Arctic Refuge’s Coastal Plain on January 6, 2021, and issued 10-year leases on nine tracts covering more than 430,000 acres. On January 21, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 13990, directing the Department to review oil and gas leasing in the Refuge, “[i]n light of the alleged legal deficiencies underlying the program.” S.O. 3401 directed a new, comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Coastal Plain Leasing Program. Since that time, two of the issued leases have been canceled and refunded at the request of the lessees. The remaining seven leases held by the sole lessee covered 365,000 acres in the Coastal Plain.

The Secretary of the Interior has the authority to cancel or suspend oil and gas leases issued in violation of a statute or regulation. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) released today by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) developed information supporting the Department’s determination that the 2021 lease sale was seriously flawed and based on a number of fundamental legal deficiencies, including: insufficient analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, including failure to adequately analyze a reasonable range of alternatives and properly quantify downstream greenhouse gas emissions; and failure to properly interpret the Tax Act. Accordingly, Secretary Haaland has determined that the leases issued by the previous administration in the Arctic Refuge shall be cancelled.

### **Protections in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska**

Extending from the northwest slope of the Brooks Range to the Arctic Coast, the NPR-A encompasses roughly 23 million acres of public land managed by the BLM. Tribal Nations have occupied lands now within the NPR-A since time immemorial, and over 40 Indigenous communities continue to rely on subsistence activities in the reserve, harvesting caribou, shore and waterbirds, and many other fish and wildlife species, with many communities subsisting primarily from food harvested from the NPR-A.



Under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) of 1976, Congress directed the BLM to balance oil and gas development with the management and protection of sensitive landscapes – known as Special Areas – and surface resources across the reserve. The proposed rule is designed to assure maximum protection of Special Areas, as authorized under the NPRPA. The proposed rule would require that protections for Special Areas remain in place for as long as the values and characteristics in those areas are present, ensuring the durability of the protections into the future. The proposed rule also would require the BLM to review and gather public input – at least every five years – on whether existing special areas should be expanded, whether new special areas should be designated, and whether additional resources within special areas should be identified for protection. Upon finalization of the proposed rule, the Administration will follow this proposed process to inform the creation or expansion of additional special areas in the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would protect 13 million acres encompassed by the existing Special Areas by limiting future oil and gas leasing and industrial development in the Teshekpuk Lake, Utukok Uplands, Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, and Peard Bay Special Areas – places collectively known for their globally significant intact habitat for wildlife, including grizzly and polar bears, caribou and hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. The rule would establish an outright prohibition on any new leasing in 10.6 million acres, more than 40 percent of the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would raise the bar for development throughout the NPR-A by establishing clear guidelines that are consistent with provisions of the current management plan for the reserve, the [NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan](#) (IAP). This current management plan for the reserve was put in place in 2022, and effectively reversed the previous administration's IAP that sought to expand oil and gas leasing and development in the NPR-A and reduce protections for the Special Areas.

The proposed rulemaking would help protect subsistence uses throughout the NPR-A, responding to Alaska Native communities who have relied on the land, water and wildlife to support their way of life for thousands of years. It also advances the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to strengthening the role of Tribal governments in the management of public lands by encouraging the BLM to explore co-stewardship opportunities with Tribes for the Special Areas.

### **Seeking Public Comment**

There will be a 45-day public review and comment period on the draft SEIS for the Coastal Plain. In developing the draft, the BLM and FWS engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders and used the best available data and science, including Indigenous Knowledge. For additional information, go to [BLM's eplanning page](#).

The proposed [NPR-A rule](#) and [map of the five NPR-A Special Areas](#) as delineated in the 2022 IAP, are available for preview. A forthcoming publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register will open a 60-day public comment period. During that time, the BLM will host in-person meetings in communities on the North Slope, as well as virtual public meetings to discuss the proposed rule. Details of those opportunities will be made available soon.

###

## About the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper

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**From:** "Alonso, Shantha R" <shantha\_alonso@ios.doi.gov>

**To:** "Schwartz, Melissa A" <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>, "Kelly, Katherine P" <Kate\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "Taylor, Rachael S" <rachael\_taylor@ios.doi.gov>, "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>, "Daniel-Davis, Laura E" <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>, "Feldgus, Steven H" <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>, "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>, "Wallace, Andrew G" <andrew\_wallace@ios.doi.gov>, "Beaudreau, Tommy P" <tommy\_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] TWS letter to the President re. a climate plan for public lands - draft

**Date:** Mon, 20 Mar 2023 18:45:33 +0000

**Attachments:** TWS\_Recommendations\_to\_Biden\_Administration\_for\_A\_Climate\_Plan\_for\_our\_Public\_Lands.pdf

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Hello all,  
Their final letter is attached and has been sent to the White House.  
~Shantha

---

**From:** Alonso, Shantha R <shantha\_alonso@ios.doi.gov>

**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 12:37 PM

**To:** Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa\_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>; Kelly, Katherine P <Kate\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>; Taylor, Rachael S <rachael\_taylor@ios.doi.gov>; Stone-Manning, Tracy M <tstonemanning@blm.gov>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>; Feldgus, Steven H <steve\_feldgus@ios.doi.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Wallace, Andrew G <andrew\_wallace@ios.doi.gov>; Beaudreau, Tommy P <tommy\_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>

**Subject:** Fwd: [EXTERNAL] TWS letter to the President re. a climate plan for public lands - draft

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**From:** Lydia Weiss <lydia\_weiss@tw.s.org>

**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2023 12:33:59 PM

**To:** Alonso, Shantha R <shantha\_alonso@ios.doi.gov>

**Cc:** Dan Hartinger <dan\_hartinger@tw.s.org>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TWS letter to the President re. a climate plan for public lands - draft

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

A final, formal transmission should follow in an hour or two – which will be a send to you, CEQ and the WH climate team.

Thanks,

Lydia

**DRAFT**

Dear Mr. President,

**#1128181.1**

Last week we saw significant decisions from your administration on conservation of public lands, but also fossil fuel development. As I reflect on these decisions and look forward to what is to come this week at your conservation summit in Washington, D.C., I write to urge you to direct your administration to develop a comprehensive climate plan for public lands that guarantees we meet our emissions and resilience goals while supporting communities. Further, we ask that you direct your administration to stop adding to climate disruption until a plan has been established. We must ensure that consequential projects like ConocoPhillips' Willow are no longer made in a vacuum, without the benefit of the considerations and direction that a comprehensive plan would provide.

A comprehensive climate plan for public lands must include: 1) phasing out drilling on public lands and waters while supporting communities in making an economic transition, 2) responsibly ramping up renewable energy infrastructure, 3) protecting natural carbon sinks, especially old growth and mature forests, 4) conserving lands for climate and community resiliency, and 5) centering community input and climate considerations when evaluating development projects. Specifically, we recommend that your administration undertake the following actions:

**1. Phase out fossil fuel development on public lands and waters while supporting communities undergoing an economic transition**

We recommend that your administration launch rulemakings to update the federal oil and gas program and to align the Department of the Interior's actions with a climate- and conservation-minded approach to managing public lands. To deliver on the promise of last summer's historic climate bill, it will take significant changes to how we manage fossil fuel development on public lands. Durably implementing policy changes included in the Inflation Reduction Act means enacting critical fiscal reforms and empowering the Department of the Interior to take lands off the table from oil and gas extraction. Your administration must also establish a system for factoring climate impacts into its leasing and permitting decisions. We call on your administration to halt further leasing, exploration and permitting in the Western Arctic (the Reserve) unless consistent with a final climate plan for public lands. Your administration should also cancel oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to protect another invaluable stretch of Alaska wilderness – those leases issued during the Trump years would add even more fossil fuels to the cycle of extraction and consumption that is driving climate change and degrading public lands. Furthermore, your administration should prioritize communities impacted by a fossil fuel phase out with funding and other resources to support a successful economic transition.

**2. Responsibly ramp up renewable energy infrastructure**

The Bureau of Land Management must ensure that public lands are part of that transition to a renewable energy economy – and that it does so responsibly, taking a comprehensive, landscape-level, smart-from-the-start approach to renewable energy. Your administration should update the 2012 Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and other policies that ensure responsible renewable energy development and center community and Tribal engagement. Your administration should not have to choose between its commitments to climate protection, biodiversity conservation, Tribal sovereignty and environmental justice.

**3. Protect natural carbon sinks like old growth and mature forests**

We recommend that the U.S. Forest Service undertake a climate-focused rulemaking that prioritizes the conservation of mature and older forests from logging, wildfire, drought and other climate stressors, emphasizes carbon storage, watershed conservation, and habitat connectivity and engages in meaningful co-management of forest lands with Indigenous partners. Natural climate solutions play an important role in mitigating overall carbon emissions, and a key natural climate solution is the conservation of older forests, given they are uniquely productive at capturing and storing carbon. Experts find ecologically intact older forests to be more resilient to climate-driven stressors, while providing clean air, water, key habitat and migration corridors for thousands of wildlife species across the nation.

**4. Conserve lands for climate and community resiliency**

We recommend that your administration designate and expand national monuments and wildlife refuges. Doing so would permanently protect large portions of public land that preserve wildlife habitat, significant cultural and historical sites, dwindling water sources and access points for nature-deprived communities who bear the unequal impacts of a warming climate. These designations should be used swiftly and broadly to leverage nature-based solutions to protect biodiversity and buffer us against the worst impacts of climate change. More federal designations will demonstrate your commitment to focus on “a whole-of-government approach” to promoting racial justice and respecting sovereign Tribes, addressing climate change, listening to the science and rebuilding our economy through job creation.

Further, the Bureau of Land Management must take a more aggressive approach that exercises its existing tools to prioritize nature conservation and biodiversity protection on the 245 million acres it manages in the United States. Currently, 90 percent of these lands are open to oil and gas leasing. The Bureau should direct managers to identify, evaluate and designate new protected areas critical for climate adaptation, habitat conservation and connectivity, and safeguarding cultural resources and community resilience. They should also strengthen designations like Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and others to ensure they meaningfully protect the historical and cultural values, water supplies, wildlife, grasslands and other natural systems they are designed to protect and that are critical in our ability to adapt to climate impacts. Many Bureau-managed lands are directly adjacent to rapidly growing population centers across the West, including Phoenix, Albuquerque, Denver and Las Vegas that depend on these lands for clean water, healthy ecosystems and vital outdoor recreation access.

## **5. Center community input and climate considerations when evaluating development projects**

Your administration needs to center people in all its environmental reviews by improving public transparency, more meaningfully involving Tribal governments and communities of color and doing everything in the government’s power to mitigate harmful impacts to frontline communities. Your administration has an opportunity to accomplish these critical objectives during the upcoming National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rulemaking process. We call on your administration to fully restore, strengthen and modernize NEPA’s implementing regulations, including by enshrining key provisions of the recent White House Council on Environmental Quality guidance pertaining to climate change impacts.

Together, this suite of recommendations would represent the kind of comprehensive climate plan for public lands that would truly harness their potential to help your administration meet its climate goals—and help to cement your climate legacy. Implementing these recommendations will require ambition, urgency and resolve. The climate crisis demands nothing less, and I am confident that your administration can deliver.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your administration on these important issues.

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**From:** "Skibo, Bobbie Jo" <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>

**To:** "Boario, Sara D" <sara\_boario@fws.gov>, "Lor, Socheata" <socheata\_lor@fws.gov>, "Loya, Wendy M" <wendy\_loya@fws.gov>

**Cc:** "Cribley, Bud C" <bud\_cribley@fws.gov>, "Routhier, Michael P" <michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov>, "Deam, Seth R" <seth.deam@sol.doi.gov>, "Sweet, Serena E" <ssweet@blm.gov>, "Kuhns, Stephanie L" <skuhns@blm.gov>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Pendergast, Kevin J" <kpendergast@blm.gov>, "Gieryic, Michael S" <Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] ANWR Coastal Plain - State Comments on SEIS Process

**Date:** Wed, 31 May 2023 18:40:51 +0000

**Attachments:** State\_Comments\_on\_SEIS\_Process.pdf

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Sara (all),

We wanted to share the letter that we received today from the State. We have not been responding to these type of letters throughout the process but can discuss the contents at our next meeting and any other steps you feel are necessary. Thanks, Bobbie Jo

---

**From:** Adoko, Ashlee K (DNR) <ashlee.adoko@alaska.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 30, 2023 4:09 PM

**To:** Sweet, Serena E <ssweet@blm.gov>; Skibo, Bobbie Jo <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>

**Cc:** Boyle, John C (DNR) <john.boyle@alaska.gov>; Brune, Jason W (DEC) <jason.brune@alaska.gov>; Vincent-Lang, Douglas S (DFG) <doug.vincent-lang@alaska.gov>; Crowther, John J (DNR) <john.crowther@alaska.gov>; Goodrum, Brent W (DNR) <brent.goodrum@alaska.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] ANWR Coastal Plain - State Comments on SEIS Process

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Dear Ms. Sweet and Ms. Skibo,

May you please find the attachment.

Ashlee

**#1128182.1**

**From:** "Landreth, Natalie A" <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>  
**To:** "Daniel-Davis, Laura E" <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>, "Kelly, Katherine P" <Kate\_Kelly@ios.doi.gov>, "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: AIDEA issues ANWR consulting RFP, wants to progress seismic permitting  
**Date:** Fri, 25 Aug 2023 17:03:44 +0000

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**From:** Gieryic, Michael S <Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 25, 2023 12:56 PM  
**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>; Moody, Aaron G <Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Krispinsky, Rebekah M <rebekah.krispinsky@sol.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** AIDEA issues ANWR consulting RFP, wants to progress seismic permitting

<https://www.petroleumnews.com/pnads/188595829.shtml>

# **AIDEA issues ANWR consulting RFP, wants to progress seismic permitting**

**Alan Bailey**

***for Petroleum News***

The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority has issued a request for proposals for consultancy work in conjunction with anticipated seismic surveying for the agency's oil and gas leases on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The agency is seeking a consultant to complete and prepare the environmental field work and documentation for the permitting of a multi-year seismic surveying program.

AIDEA says that it anticipates work being done under the proposed contract between Sept. 1, 2023, and Aug. 31, 2024, with the possibility of three additional one-year extensions. Bids must be delivered to AIDEA by Sept. 8, 2023.

## **Federal moratorium**

Currently there is a federal moratorium on the permitting of any lease related work in ANWR, pending the completion of a supplementary environmental

**#1128188.1**



impact statement for the ANWR lease sale program. Recently the federal District Court in Alaska rejected an appeal by AIDEA, the State of Alaska and others against the moratorium.

AIDEA has told Petroleum News that it has issued the RFP in anticipation of the imminent completion of the SEIS -- the agency wants to be able to move forward with its ANWR exploration activities as soon as possible, assuming that the moratorium will be lifted. It is also possible that some preparatory office work associated with the environmental permitting could be conducted while the moratorium is still in place.

## **The lease sale program**

After many years, during which ANWR oil and gas leasing remained off limits, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, passed by Congress in 2017, mandated two lease sales for the coastal plain. The Bureau of Land Management conducted the first of these lease sales in January 2021, with AIDEA, Knik Arm Services LLC and Regenerate Alaska purchasing leases in the sale. However, in 2021 the incoming Biden administration ruled that the lease sale EIS was deficient, with BLM then placing a moratorium on the permitting of ANWR lease related activities until the EIS had been reworked.

Knik Arm Services and Regenerate Alaska subsequently relinquished their leases, while AIDEA retained its leases.

BLM has indicated that it anticipates issuing the draft supplementary EIS in the third quarter of this year. The SEIS development is now running more than a year behind its original schedule.

## **A controversial program**

There have been vehement arguments both for and against the lease sale program.

AIDEA, with its role of supporting business in Alaska, strongly endorses the opening of the ANWR coastal plain for oil and gas exploration and development -- the state of Alaska sees the potential for jobs and state revenues from oil and gas activities in the region. The North Slope Borough, Arctic Slope Regional Corp. and Kaktovik Inupiat Corp, the Native corporation for the only village in the ANWR coastal plain, have also expressed strong support for the leasing program.

Supporters of the program argue that the environment on the coastal plain can be adequately protected, and that any potential oil and gas development would

have a relatively small surface footprint. The leasing program only applies to the coastal plain in the northerly part of the refuge.

The Gwich'in Native people of northern Alaska and Canada have, on the other hand, expressed strong objections to ANWR oil development. The Gwich'in are particularly concerned about the possible impact of oil industry activities on the Porcupine caribou herd that calves on the coastal plain and is a primary subsistence food source for them.

Environmental organizations are also strongly opposed to oil and gas activities in ANWR, arguing that these activities would cause irreparable damage to the natural environment in the refuge.

--ALAN BAILEY

**From:** "Culver, Nada L" <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**To:** "Huffman, Jessica R" <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>, "Blasing, Francesca M" <[fblasing@blm.gov](mailto:fblasing@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** "Bagley, Lonny R" <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>, "Pryor, Ernest L" <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>, "McDonald, Monique S" <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>, "Shugert, Matthew J" <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: OMB questions on Press Release for Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

**Date:** Fri, 08 Sep 2023 02:28:55 +0000

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Hi Jessica – I've flagged for Tracy and ASLM and SOL so we can get back with you on approach shortly and figure out scheduling and attendees.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:58 AM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Blasing, Francesca M <[fblasing@blm.gov](mailto:fblasing@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>; Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Shugert, Matthew J <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: OMB questions on Press Release for Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

Thanks for the quick reply, Nada. I appreciate it. Is there anything else you need from me or team budget on this? Will you follow up with Tracy / ASLM, or would you like us to do that?

I agree that a briefing makes the most sense and once we've heard back from you / ASLM on next steps, I stand by to help coordinate a date/time.

~Jessica

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:13 AM

**To:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>; Blasing, Francesca M <[fblasing@blm.gov](mailto:fblasing@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>; Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Shugert, Matthew J <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: OMB questions on Press Release for Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

Thanks, Jessica. Tracy is out today but we'll need to confer with her and ASLM before setting up any briefings or providing any written answers. I tend to think briefing would be best and happy to be the person if ASLM agrees, as well.

And of course we have been in very close communication with SOL and the White House – maybe they missed the President's statement?

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management

#1128190.1

[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

202-255-6979

---

**From:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:11 AM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Blasing, Francesca M <[fblasing@blm.gov](mailto:fblasing@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>; Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Shugert, Matthew J <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** OMB questions on Press Release for Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

**Importance:** High

Nada,

I see you are out today – if you have time, I would appreciate your thoughts on how to engage on this. Would you be the correct person to meet with Michael Hagan on his questions? Would you prefer to answer the questions from the e-mail in writing?

Appreciate any advice and insight you may have for this.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jessica Ray Huffman

(She/Her, [What's This?](#))

Budget Officer

Bureau of Land Management

[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)

Ph: (301) 875-3856

US Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW. Washington, DC. 20240

---

**From:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:29 AM

**To:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Shugert, Matthew J <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>; Gruber, Benjamin E <[BEGruber@blm.gov](mailto:BEGruber@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

Thanks Jessica, I believe Nada needs to weigh in on these questions.

Thanks

Lonny

Lonny R Bagley

Bureau for Land Management

Deputy Assistant Director (acting)

**#1128190.2**

Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management  
307-622-6956  
[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 7:57 AM  
**To:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Shugert, Matthew J <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

Good morning Lonny,

Can you take a look at the questions OMB has raised, and help me identify who needs to be involved in either briefing Mike or drafting written answers?

Thank you!

Jessica

---

**From:** Gordon, Bill J <[Bill\\_Gordon@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Bill_Gordon@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 5:05 PM  
**To:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] FW: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

Hi Jessica - I just saw this press release after Mike Hagan brought it to my attention. Can we arrange a phone call with the appropriate person(s) to discuss this announcement further, especially the ANWR piece. He wants to make sure he completely understands the decision and rationale, and their implications. For example, how was the 2021 lease sale in violation of ("not correctly interpret") the the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017? And is it just the existing leases that are not in compliance; e.g. even if these existing leases are cancelled, does BLM still have a statutory obligation under the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 to conduct a new lease sale? Do you know if SOL was involved in this decision/rationale; I assume so but just want to confirm. And do you know if policy folks at OMB or the White House were consulted in advance of the decision/announcement. Finally, do you know what this means for the President's budget, which reflects ANWR revenues? Perhaps that is actually a question for OMB, even though Mike asked the question.

Thanks,

Bill

---

**From:** Hagan, Michael B. EOP/OMB <[Michael\\_B.\\_Hagan@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Michael_B._Hagan@omb.eop.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:16 PM  
**To:** Gordon, Bill J <[Bill\\_Gordon@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Bill_Gordon@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

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**From:** U.S. Department of the Interior <[info@updates.interior.gov](mailto:info@updates.interior.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:01 PM

**To:** Hagan, Michael B. EOP/OMB <[Michael\\_B.\\_Hagan@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Michael_B._Hagan@omb.eop.gov)>

**Subject:** Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

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 U.S. Department of the Interior: News Release

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

*Department of the Interior cancels oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; proposes new protections in National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska*

**WASHINGTON** — The Biden-Harris administration today announced significant steps to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge) and more than 13 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). These bold actions to protect the Arctic region build on President Biden's [historic conservation and climate agenda](#), which already includes protecting more than 21 million acres of public lands and waters across the nation, and securing the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history.

In the Arctic Refuge, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has authorized the cancellation of the remaining seven oil and gas leases issued by the previous administration in the Coastal Plain. The leases were suspended in June 2021 following the issuance of [Secretary's Order \(S.O.\) 3401](#), which identified "multiple legal deficiencies in the underlying record supporting the leases."

In addition, the Department today [proposed new regulations](#) for the NPR-A that would ensure maximum protection for the more than 13 million acres of Special Areas in the reserve, while supporting subsistence activities for Alaska Native communities. The proposed rule, [previewed in March 2023](#), adds to President Biden's actions to protect millions of acres of lands and waters in the Arctic, including withdrawing approximately 2.8

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million acres of the Beaufort Sea, ensuring the entire United States Arctic Ocean is off limits to new oil and gas leasing.

“With climate change warming the Arctic more than twice as fast as the rest of the planet, we must do everything within our control to meet the highest standards of care to protect this fragile ecosystem,” said **Secretary Haaland**. “President Biden is delivering on the most ambitious climate and conservation agenda in history. The steps we are taking today further that commitment, based on the best available science and in recognition of the Indigenous Knowledge of the original stewards of this area, to safeguard our public lands for future generations.”

### **Lease Cancellations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

Following passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Tax Act), the previous Administration held an oil and gas lease sale in the Arctic Refuge’s Coastal Plain on January 6, 2021, and issued 10-year leases on nine tracts covering more than 430,000 acres. On January 21, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 13990, directing the Department to review oil and gas leasing in the Refuge, “[i]n light of the alleged legal deficiencies underlying the program.” S.O. 3401 directed a new, comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Coastal Plain Leasing Program. Since that time, two of the issued leases have been canceled and refunded at the request of the lessees. The remaining seven leases held by the sole lessee covered 365,000 acres in the Coastal Plain.

The Secretary of the Interior has the authority to cancel or suspend oil and gas leases issued in violation of a statute or regulation. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) released today by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) developed information supporting the Department’s determination that the 2021 lease sale was seriously flawed and based on a number of fundamental legal deficiencies, including: insufficient analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, including failure to adequately analyze a reasonable range of alternatives and properly quantify downstream greenhouse gas emissions; and failure to properly interpret the Tax Act. Accordingly, Secretary Haaland has determined that the leases issued by the previous administration in the Arctic Refuge shall be cancelled.

### **Protections in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska**

Extending from the northwest slope of the Brooks Range to the Arctic Coast, the NPR-A encompasses roughly 23 million acres of public land managed by the BLM. Tribal Nations have occupied lands now within the NPR-A since time immemorial, and over 40 Indigenous communities continue to rely on subsistence activities in the reserve, harvesting caribou, shore and waterbirds, and many other fish and wildlife species, with many communities subsisting primarily from food harvested from the NPR-A.

Under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) of 1976, Congress directed the BLM to balance oil and gas development with the management and protection of sensitive landscapes – known as Special Areas – and surface resources across the reserve. The proposed rule is designed to assure maximum protection of Special Areas, as authorized under the NPRPA. The proposed rule would require that protections for Special Areas remain in place for as long as the values and characteristics in those areas are present, ensuring the durability of the protections into the future. The proposed rule also would require the BLM to review and gather public input – at least every five years – on whether existing special areas should be expanded, whether new special areas should be designated, and whether additional resources within special areas should be identified for protection. Upon finalization of the proposed rule, the Administration will follow this proposed process to inform the creation or expansion of additional special areas in the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would protect 13 million acres encompassed by the existing Special Areas by limiting future oil and gas leasing and industrial development in the Teshekpuk Lake, Utukok Uplands, Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, and Peard Bay Special Areas –



places collectively known for their globally significant intact habitat for wildlife, including grizzly and polar bears, caribou and hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. The rule would establish an outright prohibition on any new leasing in 10.6 million acres, more than 40 percent of the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would raise the bar for development throughout the NPR-A by establishing clear guidelines that are consistent with provisions of the current management plan for the reserve, the [NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan](#) (IAP). This current management plan for the reserve was put in place in 2022, and effectively reversed the previous administration's IAP that sought to expand oil and gas leasing and development in the NPR-A and reduce protections for the Special Areas.

The proposed rulemaking would help protect subsistence uses throughout the NPR-A, responding to Alaska Native communities who have relied on the land, water and wildlife to support their way of life for thousands of years. It also advances the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to strengthening the role of Tribal governments in the management of public lands by encouraging the BLM to explore co-stewardship opportunities with Tribes for the Special Areas.

### Seeking Public Comment

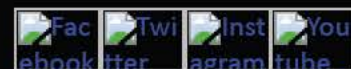
There will be a 45-day public review and comment period on the draft SEIS for the Coastal Plain. In developing the draft, the BLM and FWS engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders and used the best available data and science, including Indigenous Knowledge. For additional information, go to [BLM's eplanning page](#).

The proposed [NPR-A rule](#) and [map of the five NPR-A Special Areas](#) as delineated in the 2022 IAP, are available for preview. A forthcoming publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register will open a 60-day public comment period. During that time, the BLM will host in-person meetings in communities on the North Slope, as well as virtual public meetings to discuss the proposed rule. Details of those opportunities will be made available soon.

###

### About the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.



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#1128190.6



**From:** Stacy Leeds <Stacy.Leeds@asu.edu>

**To:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>

**Cc:** (b) (6) @gmail.com" (b) (6) @gmail.com>, "maite@hispanicaccess.org" <maite@hispanicaccess.org>, (b) (6) @yahoo.com" (b) (6) @yahoo.com>, "Jessica (Wahl) Turner" <jturner@recreationroundtable.org>, "Salmon, Marni R" <mrsalmon@blm.gov>, "Krauss, Jeff" <JKrauss@blm.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

**Date:** Thu, 07 Sep 2023 00:43:41 +0000

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Thank you - see you soon.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 6, 2023, at 4:14 PM, Stone-Manning, Tracy M <tstonemanning@blm.gov> wrote:

Foundation members,

Forwarding below the release we sent today on steps we took in the Arctic that I thought may be of interest, given the media attention it is receiving.

Best,  
Tracy

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** U.S. Department of the Interior <info@updates.interior.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:03 PM

**To:** Stone-Manning, Tracy M <tstonemanning@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

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#1128200.1

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

*Department of the Interior cancels oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; proposes new protections in National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska*

**WASHINGTON** — The Biden-Harris administration today announced significant steps to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge) and more than 13 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). These bold actions to protect the Arctic region build on President Biden's [historic conservation and climate agenda](#), which already includes protecting more than 21 million acres of public lands and waters across the nation, and securing the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history.

In the Arctic Refuge, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has authorized the cancellation of the remaining seven oil and gas leases issued by the previous administration in the



Coastal Plain. The leases were suspended in June 2021 following the issuance of [Secretary's Order \(S.O.\) 3401](#), which identified “multiple legal deficiencies in the underlying record supporting the leases.”

In addition, the Department today [proposed new regulations](#) for the NPR-A that would ensure maximum protection for the more than 13 million acres of Special Areas in the reserve, while supporting subsistence activities for Alaska Native communities. The proposed rule, [previewed in March 2023](#), adds to President Biden’s actions to protect millions of acres of lands and waters in the Arctic, including withdrawing approximately 2.8 million acres of the Beaufort Sea, ensuring the entire United States Arctic Ocean is off limits to new oil and gas leasing.

“With climate change warming the Arctic more than twice as fast as the rest of the planet, we must do everything within our control to meet the highest standards of care to protect this fragile ecosystem,” said **Secretary Haaland**. “President Biden is delivering on the most ambitious climate and conservation agenda in history. The steps we are taking today further that commitment, based on the best available science and in recognition of the Indigenous Knowledge of the original stewards of this area, to safeguard our public lands for future generations.”

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The Secretary of the Interior has the authority to cancel or suspend oil and gas leases issued in violation of a statute or regulation. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) released today by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) developed information supporting the Department’s determination that the 2021 lease sale was seriously flawed and based on a number of fundamental legal deficiencies, including: insufficient analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, including failure to adequately analyze a reasonable range of alternatives and properly quantify downstream greenhouse gas emissions; and failure to properly interpret the Tax Act. Accordingly, Secretary Haaland has determined that the leases issued by the previous administration in the Arctic Refuge shall be cancelled.

### **Protections in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska**

Extending from the northwest slope of the Brooks Range to the Arctic Coast, the NPR-A encompasses roughly 23 million acres of public land managed by the BLM. Tribal Nations have occupied lands now within the NPR-A since time immemorial, and over 40 Indigenous communities continue to rely on subsistence activities in the reserve, harvesting caribou, shore and waterbirds, and many other fish and wildlife species, with many communities subsisting primarily from food harvested from the NPR-A.



Under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) of 1976, Congress directed the BLM to balance oil and gas development with the management and protection of sensitive landscapes – known as Special Areas – and surface resources across the reserve. The proposed rule is designed to assure maximum protection of Special Areas, as authorized under the NPRPA. The proposed rule would require that protections for Special Areas remain in place for as long as the values and characteristics in those areas are present, ensuring the durability of the protections into the future. The proposed rule also would require the BLM to review and gather public input – at least every five years – on whether existing special areas should be expanded, whether new special areas should be designated, and whether additional resources within special areas should be identified for protection. Upon finalization of the proposed rule, the Administration will follow this proposed process to inform the creation or expansion of additional special areas in the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would protect 13 million acres encompassed by the existing Special Areas by limiting future oil and gas leasing and industrial development in the Teshekpuk Lake, Utukok Uplands, Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, and Peard Bay Special Areas – places collectively known for their globally significant intact habitat for wildlife, including grizzly and polar bears, caribou and hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. The rule would establish an outright prohibition on any new leasing in 10.6 million acres, more than 40 percent of the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would raise the bar for development throughout the NPR-A by establishing clear guidelines that are consistent with provisions of the current management plan for the reserve, the [NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan](#) (IAP). This current management plan for the reserve was put in place in 2022, and effectively reversed the previous administration's IAP that sought to expand oil and gas leasing and development in the NPR-A and reduce protections for the Special Areas.

The proposed rulemaking would help protect subsistence uses throughout the NPR-A, responding to Alaska Native communities who have relied on the land, water and wildlife to support their way of life for thousands of years. It also advances the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to strengthening the role of Tribal governments in the management of public lands by encouraging the BLM to explore co-stewardship opportunities with Tribes for the Special Areas.

### **Seeking Public Comment**

There will be a 45-day public review and comment period on the draft SEIS for the Coastal Plain. In developing the draft, the BLM and FWS engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders and used the best available data and science, including Indigenous Knowledge. For additional information, go to [BLM's eplanning page](#).

The proposed [NPR-A rule](#) and [map of the five NPR-A Special Areas](#) as delineated in the 2022 IAP, are available for preview. A forthcoming publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register will open a 60-day public comment period. During that time, the BLM will host in-person meetings in communities on the North Slope, as well as virtual public meetings to discuss the proposed rule. Details of those opportunities will be made available soon.

###

## About the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper

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#1128200.5

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[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(b) (5)





**From:** "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>

**To:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Reed, Erika" <e05reed@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Roach, Emma K" <eroach@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Fw: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

**Date:** Wed, 06 Sep 2023 19:15:21 +0000

---

Recommend you forward this to BLM Alaska employees -

With the following contacts:

Please forward any and all media inquiries to

- Melinda Bolton for the Coastal Plain Supplemental EIS process
- Bonnie Million for the NPR-A rulemaking process
- Emma Roach for Coastal Plain leasing

--

Bonnie Million  
Congressional Liaison  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska  
Email: [bmillion@blm.gov](mailto:bmillion@blm.gov)  
Office: 907-271-3335  
Cell: 907-802-1015

---

**From:** U.S. Department of the Interior <info@updates.interior.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 11:01 AM

**To:** Million, Bonnie M <bmillion@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

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#1128204.1

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

*Department of the Interior cancels oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; proposes new protections in National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska*

**WASHINGTON** — The Biden-Harris administration today announced significant steps to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge) and more than 13 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). These bold actions to protect the Arctic region build on President Biden's [historic conservation and climate agenda](#), which already includes protecting more than 21 million acres of public lands and waters across the nation, and securing the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history.

In the Arctic Refuge, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has authorized the cancellation of the remaining seven oil and gas leases issued by the previous administration in the

Coastal Plain. The leases were suspended in June 2021 following the issuance of [Secretary's Order \(S.O.\) 3401](#), which identified “multiple legal deficiencies in the underlying record supporting the leases.”

In addition, the Department today [proposed new regulations](#) for the NPR-A that would ensure maximum protection for the more than 13 million acres of Special Areas in the reserve, while supporting subsistence activities for Alaska Native communities. The proposed rule, [previewed in March 2023](#), adds to President Biden’s actions to protect millions of acres of lands and waters in the Arctic, including withdrawing approximately 2.8 million acres of the Beaufort Sea, ensuring the entire United States Arctic Ocean is off limits to new oil and gas leasing.

“With climate change warming the Arctic more than twice as fast as the rest of the planet, we must do everything within our control to meet the highest standards of care to protect this fragile ecosystem,” said **Secretary Haaland**. “President Biden is delivering on the most ambitious climate and conservation agenda in history. The steps we are taking today further that commitment, based on the best available science and in recognition of the Indigenous Knowledge of the original stewards of this area, to safeguard our public lands for future generations.”

### **Lease Cancellations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

Following passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Tax Act), the previous Administration held an oil and gas lease sale in the Arctic Refuge’s Coastal Plain on January 6, 2021, and issued 10-year leases on nine tracts covering more than 430,000 acres. On January 21, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 13990, directing the Department to review oil and gas leasing in the Refuge, “[i]n light of the alleged legal deficiencies underlying the program.” S.O. 3401 directed a new, comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Coastal Plain Leasing Program. Since that time, two of the issued leases have been canceled and refunded at the request of the lessees. The remaining seven leases held by the sole lessee covered 365,000 acres in the Coastal Plain.

The Secretary of the Interior has the authority to cancel or suspend oil and gas leases issued in violation of a statute or regulation. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) released today by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) developed information supporting the Department’s determination that the 2021 lease sale was seriously flawed and based on a number of fundamental legal deficiencies, including: insufficient analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, including failure to adequately analyze a reasonable range of alternatives and properly quantify downstream greenhouse gas emissions; and failure to properly interpret the Tax Act. Accordingly, Secretary Haaland has determined that the leases issued by the previous administration in the Arctic Refuge shall be cancelled.

### **Protections in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska**

Extending from the northwest slope of the Brooks Range to the Arctic Coast, the NPR-A encompasses roughly 23 million acres of public land managed by the BLM. Tribal Nations have occupied lands now within the NPR-A since time immemorial, and over 40 Indigenous communities continue to rely on subsistence activities in the reserve, harvesting caribou, shore and waterbirds, and many other fish and wildlife species, with many communities subsisting primarily from food harvested from the NPR-A.



Under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) of 1976, Congress directed the BLM to balance oil and gas development with the management and protection of sensitive landscapes – known as Special Areas – and surface resources across the reserve. The proposed rule is designed to assure maximum protection of Special Areas, as authorized under the NPRPA. The proposed rule would require that protections for Special Areas remain in place for as long as the values and characteristics in those areas are present, ensuring the durability of the protections into the future. The proposed rule also would require the BLM to review and gather public input – at least every five years – on whether existing special areas should be expanded, whether new special areas should be designated, and whether additional resources within special areas should be identified for protection. Upon finalization of the proposed rule, the Administration will follow this proposed process to inform the creation or expansion of additional special areas in the NPR-A.

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### **Seeking Public Comment**

There will be a 45-day public review and comment period on the draft SEIS for the Coastal Plain. In developing the draft, the BLM and FWS engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders and used the best available data and science, including Indigenous Knowledge. For additional information, go to [BLM's eplanning page](#).

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###

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**From:** "Nedd, Michael D" <mnedd@blm.gov>

**To:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Reed, Erika" <e05reed@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Kniola, Benjamin E" <bkniola@blm.gov>, "Wilkinson, Patrick" <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>, "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>

**Subject:** RE: ANWR

**Date:** Tue, 19 Sep 2023 11:17:58 +0000

---

Thx Steve... Very helpful

*Take care and have a wonderful day! : )*

*Michael D. Nedd*  
202-208-3801 Office  
202-236-2867 Cell  
[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)

*A thought to consider based on John Wesley's writing "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for all the people you can, while you can!"*

*Working together we're stronger - BLM Strong" - and our Core Values are "To serve with honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and commitment to make a difference."*

---

**From:** Cohn, Steven M <scohn@blm.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 19, 2023 2:48 AM

**To:** Nedd, Michael D <mnedd@blm.gov>; Reed, Erika <e05reed@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Kniola, Benjamin E <bkniola@blm.gov>; Wilkinson, Patrick <P2Wilkin@blm.gov>; Million, Bonnie M <bmillion@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Re: ANWR

Hi Mike,

I was traveling and just arrived in Fairbanks. A couple folks on my team prepared a few notes - I'm not sure if they've sent them to you already, but just in case, I've attached below. I hope the hearing goes well tomorrow!

Steve

Because The Voice is not a federally recognized Tribe or an ANCSA Corporation we do not consult with them formally. However, Nagruk and others representing the Voice have been invited by ASRC, NSB and other North Slope entities to participate in formal consultations along with them from time to time. Most recently, Nagruk attended an joint consultation hosted by ASRC, NSB and ICAS back in January 2023 where the Willow and the Coastal Plain projects were discussed

Additionally, The Voice as an organization has provided substantive comments on our various NEPA projects and those comments have been appropriately considered

Here is an excerpt from their [website](#) that provides additional details: "Voice of the Arctic Inupiat was formed in 2015 as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation, creating a communication network among the Arctic Slope communities to establish a unified voice for our region and people. Today, our twenty-four member organizations work together to ensure that our collective voice is heard and respected locally, regionally and nationally. Under our current structure, the VOICE is largely funded by Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) and grants from the North Slope Borough (NSB). The generosity of ASRC and the NSB means that

#1128208.1

membership is not determined by an organization's ability to pay member dues. By removing the financial burden of membership due , our region' entitie will alway have a voice at our table "



## [Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat](#) [Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat](#)

[...]Read More... from Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat  
[voiceoftheartcticinupiat.org](http://voiceoftheartcticinupiat.org)

(b) (5)

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**From:** Nedd, Michael D <[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 18, 2023 5:28:06 PM  
**To:** Cohn, Steven M <[scohn@blm.gov](mailto:scohn@blm.gov)>; Reed, Erika <[e05reed@blm.gov](mailto:e05reed@blm.gov)>  
**Cc:** Kniola, Benjamin E <[bkniola@blm.gov](mailto:bkniola@blm.gov)>; Wilkinson, Patrick <[P2Wilkin@blm.gov](mailto:P2Wilkin@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** ANWR

Team,

I'm preparing for a hearing tomorrow and just completed my reading the 9-page testimony of Nagruk Harcharek, President , Voice of the Arctic Inupiat (VOICE), a non-profit organization established in 2015 by leadership of the Inupiat to speak on behalf of the natives. He will be a witness at the hearing.

While it would take more than I currently have to list all his complaints, he seems to consistently make the point that the DOI - BLM continue to take actions on ANWR, NPR-A management, rule making, lease cancellation, etc, without include VOICE who speaks the community.

Any insight you can share in terms of VOICE involvement/engagement in the on going planning, other matters, etc will be helpful.

Take care and have a wonderful day! : )

Michael D. Nedd  
202-236-2867 Cell  
202-208-3801 Office  
[mnedd@blm.gov](mailto:mnedd@blm.gov)

A thought to consider based on John Wesley's writing "Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, for all the people you can, while you can!"

Working together we're stronger - BLM Strong" - and our Core Values are "To serve with honesty, integrity, accountability, respect, courage, and commitment to make a difference."

#1128208.2



# VUNTUT GWITCHIN GOVERNMENT

Government of Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation

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## CHIEF AND COUNCIL

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P.O. Box 94,  
Old Crow, Yukon  
Y0B 1N0

Phone: (867)966-3261  
Fax: (867)966-3116  
Web: [www.vgfn.ca](http://www.vgfn.ca)

October 4, 2023

Secretary Deb Haaland  
U.S. Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

SENT VIA EMAIL

Dear Secretary Haaland,

**RE: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program**

I am writing today on behalf of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in Old Crow, Yukon to respectfully call on the Department of Interior to immediately initiate consultation with our government regarding the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. I am also urging you to reach out to the leaders of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dün, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, and the Inuvialuit Game Council to rightfully offer opportunity for consultation with their governments. As you know, together we represent the governments of the First Nation users of the Porcupine caribou in what is now known as Canada.

I would like to start off by commending you for cancelling the remaining oil and gas leases in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; an area that serves as critical calving and post-calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd and is known by the Gwich'in as *lizhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit* (The Sacred Place Where Life Begins). Your acknowledgment that the 2021 lease sale was seriously flawed and based on a number of legal deficiencies underscores concerns that we raised throughout the Environmental Impact Statement process which left significant legal, policy and technical concerns of ours unaddressed.

While I welcome this decision and your Order on June 1, 2021 which called for a comprehensive environmental analysis to review potential impacts and address legal deficiencies of the initial process, I remain deeply concerned that the Department of Interior has not yet initiated consultation with our governments or our communities as part of this process. Further, I understand that there was a commitment made by former Department of Interior Assistant Secretary Joe Balash during a meeting with Government of Canada representatives in May 2019 to consult directly with affected Indigenous governments in Yukon and Northwest Territories. This commitment remains unfulfilled.

This is a matter of great importance with the domestic and international rights of our people and the Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd (Agreement) being placed in jeopardy.

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The Agreement acknowledges the custom and traditional use of the herd by people in Yukon and Northwest Territories in Canada and Alaska in the United States and states that we “should participate in the conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and its habitat”. Furthermore, the Agreement states “The Parties will ensure that the Porcupine Caribou Herd, its habitat and interests of users of Porcupine Caribou are given effective consideration in evaluating proposed activities within the range of the Herd”.

On February 23, 2021, President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau confirmed that the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States were united in recognizing the importance of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and “agreed to work together to help safeguard the Porcupine caribou herd calving grounds that are invaluable to the Gwich’in and Inuvialuit people’s culture and subsistence.” This acknowledgement recognizes the magnitude that this area has on our Nations and further supports the need for consultation on this matter.

Protecting the Porcupine caribou is a matter of protecting our inherent and human rights. Opportunities for meaningful consultation within and independent of the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement process, including but not limited to public meetings, should be provided to every potentially impacted community in Canada and Alaska so that you may hear concerns directly from our governments and our citizens and so that we can meaningfully share traditional knowledge from our communities.

I can tell you unequivocally that any development in the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would have devastating impacts to the arctic ecosystems that we belong to. I recognize the work of the Administration to date and we look forward to continuing to work with the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States to ensure the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is permanently protected for future generations.

Mahsi’,



Chief Pauline Frost  
Vuntut Gwitchin Government

cc. Chief Dawna Hope, First Nation of Na-Cho Nyäk Dun  
Hähkè Darren Taylor, Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in Government  
Grand Chief Ken Kyikavichik, Gwich’in Tribal Council  
Chair Dean Arey, Inuvialuit Game Council  
The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Government of Canada  
The Honourable Mélanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs Canada, Government of Canada  
The Honourable Nils Clark, Minister of Environment, Government of Yukon  
The Honourable Shane Thompson, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Northwest Territories  
Serena E Sweet, BLM Supervisory Planner  
Stephanie Kuhns, BLM Planning and Environmental Specialist  
Bobbie Jo Skibo, Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Program Coordinator

**From:** "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>

**To:** "Moody, Aaron G" <Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov>, "Landreth, Natalie A" <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>

**Subject:** RE: for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

**Date:** Fri, 05 Jan 2024 16:39:41 +0000

**Attachments:** Consultation\_Overview\_-\_AK\_1-5-24.docx

---

Thanks, both. (b)(5) ACP [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Moody, Aaron G <Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov>

**Sent:** Wednesday, January 3, 2024 12:39 PM

**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>

**Subject:** RE: for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

(b)(5) ACP [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 2, 2024 10:18 AM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

Good morning – (b)(5) ACP [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, January 1, 2024 10:55 PM

**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** for review in January when all back in the office RE: notes re: consultation

Re-upping for moving this on in early January if possible.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L

**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 1:06 AM

#1128217.1

**To:** Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>; Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** for review RE: notes re: consultation

(b)(5) ACP

Thanks so much for your help here.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:09 PM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: notes re: consultation

(b)(5) ACP

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**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:17:47 PM  
**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: notes re: consultation

**ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED / DRAFT DELIBERATIVE / WORK PRODUCT**

(b) (5) ACP

Thanks for talking with me about this while Natalie is out.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

#1128217.2

---

**From:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:11 PM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: notes to discuss re: consultation

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED / DRAFT DELIBERATIVE / WORK PRODUCT

Hello Nada – (b) (5) ACP [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Deam, Seth R <[seth.deam@sol.doi.gov](mailto:seth.deam@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 3:59 PM

**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: notes to discuss re: consultation

Hi Natalie,

(b) (5) ACP [REDACTED]

Best, Seth

---

**From:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:22 AM

**To:** Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>; Deam, Seth R <[seth.deam@sol.doi.gov](mailto:seth.deam@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: notes to discuss re: consultation

(b) (5) ACP [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 9:29 AM

**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** notes to discuss re: consultation

Privileged and confidential – attorney-client communication

#1128217.3

(b)(5) ACP

- [illegible]

- (b)(5) ACP [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979



**From:** "Skibo, Bobbie Jo" <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>

**To:** "Boario, Sara D" <sara\_boario@fws.gov>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Sweet, Serena E" <ssweet@blm.gov>, "Kuhns, Stephanie L" <skuhns@blm.gov>, "Gieryic, Michael S" <Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov>, "Routhier, Michael P" <michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov>, "Deam, Seth R" <seth.deam@sol.doi.gov>, "Castellanos, Gilbert" <gilbert\_castellanos@fws.gov>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Letter from Inuvialuit Game Council to US Department of the Interior regarding the ANWR SEIS

**Date:** Mon, 06 Nov 2023 19:22:47 +0000

**Attachments:** favicon.ico; IGC-2023-11-06-Letter\_to\_BLM\_-\_Inuvialuit\_Consultation\_for\_the\_SEIS-vF.pdf

---

FYI

---

**From:** Davonna Kasook <igc-rp@jointsec.nt.ca>

**Sent:** Monday, November 6, 2023 9:09 AM

**To:** EXSEC, EXSEC <EXSEC\_EXSEC@ios.doi.gov>

**Cc:** IGC Chair <igc-c@jointsec.nt.ca>; Sweet, Serena E <ssweet@blm.gov>; Kuhns, Stephanie L <skuhns@blm.gov>; Skibo, Bobbie Jo <bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>; ken.kyikavichik@gwichintribal.ca; Pauline.Frost@vgg.ca; ministre-minister@ec.gc.ca; melanie.joly@parl.gc.ca; nils.clarke@yukon.ca; Shane Thompson <Shane\_Thompson@gov.nt.ca>; Erin Kelly <Erin\_Kelly@gov.nt.ca>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter from Inuvialuit Game Council to US Department of the Interior regarding the ANWR SEIS

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Good morning Secretary Haaland,

Please find attached a letter from the Inuvialuit Game Council. This letter has also been submitted to the BLM site using the following link:

[EplanningUi](#)  
[eplanning.blm.gov](#)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact myself and/or IGC Chair Dean Arey.

Kind Regards,

**Davonna Kasook**

Resource Management Coordinator, Inuvialuit Game Council

Joint Secretariat

PO Box 2120

Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0

Ph: (867) 777-2828 // (867) 777-1007 (c)

**#1128221.1**

Fx: (867) 777-2610  
[igc-rp@jointsec.nt.ca](mailto:igc-rp@jointsec.nt.ca)

**From:** "Million, Bonnie M" <bmillion@blm.gov>

**To:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Reed, Erika" <e05reed@blm.gov>, "Pendergast, Kevin J" <kpendergast@blm.gov>

**Cc:** "Roach, Emma K" <eroach@blm.gov>, "Kuhns, Stephanie L" <skuhns@blm.gov>, "Sweet, Serena E" <ssweet@blm.gov>

**Subject:** Snapshot of news clips from today's announcement

**Date:** Thu, 07 Sep 2023 00:12:40 +0000

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BIG thank you to Jim for pulling these together:

[Biden administration cancels state-owned oil leases in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#)

Anchorage Daily News 9/6/23

The Interior Department announced Wednesday it will cancel the last remaining oil leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and move to restrict drilling on 13 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

[Biden administration cancels remaining oil and gas leases in Alaska's Arctic Refuge](#) – Associated Press

[US to cancel Alaska oil, gas leases issued under Trump](#) – Reuters

[Biden Administration to Bar Drilling on Millions of Acres in Alaska](#) – The New York Times

[Biden to Cancel Arctic Oil Drilling Rights Sold by Trump](#) – Bloomberg

[Biden administration cancels years-long attempt to drill in Alaska National Wildlife Refuge](#) – CNN

[The Biden Administration is ending drilling leases in ANWR, at least for now](#) – NPR

[Biden administration cancels oil and gas leases in Arctic wildlife refuge](#) – Al Jazeera

[Biden administration cancels leases in Alaska wildlife refuge](#) – Roll Call

[Biden administration cancels controversial oil leases in Alaska wildlife refuge](#) – The Hill

[Indigenous Leaders, Environmental Organizations Applaud Biden Administration Announcement to Cancel Trump Issued Oil and Gas Leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#) – Defenders of Wildlife

[Now End All the Drilling, Campaigners Say as Biden Rescinds Arctic Refuge Leases](#) – Common Dreams

[Biden Administration Disregards Congress, Attempts to Cancel ANWR Leases](#)

Office of the Governor 9/6/23

"Federal agencies don't get to rewrite laws, and that is exactly what the Department of the Interior is trying to do here," said Governor Mike Dunleavy. "We will fight for Alaska's right to develop its own resources and will be turning to the courts to correct the Biden Administration's wrong."

[Alaska officials outraged after feds cancel Trump-era ANWR oil leases: 'Pulling the rug out'](#)

Fox News 9/6/23

Alaska state officials criticized the Biden administration's latest move to curb oil and gas drilling in the Arctic, following the cancelation of seven Trump-era leases in the Section 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

--

Bonnie Million

Congressional Liaison

Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

Email: [bmillion@blm.gov](mailto:bmillion@blm.gov)

Office: 907-271-3335

Cell: 907-802-1015

#1128234.1

**Page Image Missing**  
**#1128237.1**

**From:** "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>

**To:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Arctic Businesses, Organizations, Indigenous Groups, and Faith Communities' Sign on Letter

**Date:** Wed, 08 Nov 2023 04:29:44 +0000

**Attachments:** FINAL\_Arctic\_Comment\_Period\_Sign-on\_Letter\_Fall\_2023.pdf

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This letter addresses the lease cancellations, the Coastal Plain Draft SEIS, and the NPR-A proposed rule. I'm not sure if she sent to you separately or just somehow thought she did.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[Nculver@blm.gov](mailto:Nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Anna Peterson <anna@conservationcommunications.org>

**Sent:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 10:20 PM

**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>; Estenoz, Shannon A <shannon\_estenoz@ios.doi.gov>; Williams, Martha M <martha\_williams@fws.gov>; State\_Director, BLM\_AK <BLM\_AK\_State\_Director@blm.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; merben.cebrian@fws.gov

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Arctic Businesses, Organizations, Indigenous Groups, and Faith Communities' Sign on Letter

**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Please see the attached letter from 278 businesses, organizations, Indigenous groups, and faith communities.

These signers would like to emphatically thank you for canceling the last remaining oil and gas leases on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (refuge). This announcement is a historic win for America's Arctic and honors the rights of Indigenous People who have been working to protect their sacred lands in the Arctic Refuge for decades. We also thank this administration for taking steps to protect 13 million acres from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (reserve). We celebrate these announcements and applaud the Biden administration for working to protect these irreplaceable landscapes and our climate future.

As we just experienced the hottest summer in recorded human history, and communities across the world are dealing with climate impacts like fires, drought, and flooding, we urge you to continue to make substantial progress on your climate and conservation goals while honoring your commitments to Native Nations and Indigenous communities. We call on you to now do more to meet the necessary threshold to protect America's Arctic.

We submitted the attached reasons and recommendations in response to the comment periods on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain - DOI-BLM-AK-0000-2021-0006-EIS and the proposed regulations for the reserve. We are submitting these comments representing our many millions of members, customers, and supporters nationwide and internationally.

**#1128238.1**

Both the refuge and reserve provide some of our nation's last remaining opportunities to take meaningful climate action, curb biodiversity loss, support Indigenous rights, and protect ecosystems on a landscape scale that are unparalleled in our nation.

--



Connect. Do Good. Make Change.  
Anna Peterson  
612-735-2402 // Durango, Colorado  
[anna@conservationcommunications.org](mailto:anna@conservationcommunications.org)



**From:** "DiPinto, Mary (Michelle)" <mdipinto@blm.gov>

**To:** (b) (6) @gmail.com" <(b) (6) @gmail.com>

**Cc:** "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, "Boario, Sara D" <sara\_boario@fws.gov>

**Subject:** BLM and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Response to Native Village of Kaktovik Letter of February 23, 2023

**Date:** Thu, 04 May 2023 21:57:34 +0000

**Attachments:** BLM-FWS\_Response\_to\_NVK\_re\_CPSEIS.pdf

**Inline-Images:** Outlook-2aqnde0d.png; Outlook-33val02n.png; Outlook-jf2kdtcw.png; Outlook-mefc14su.png; Outlook-5v0fajlp.png; Outlook-bivdpxuy.png

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*Sent on behalf of Sara Boario, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Director, Region 7, and Steve Cohn, Bureau of Land Management - Alaska State Director.*

Greetings Mr. Rexford and Mr. Lampe,

Attached please find our response to your February 23, 2023, letter regarding Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Supplemental EIS and Indigenous Tradition Ecological Knowledge.

Feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,  
Michelle DiPinto

**Michelle DiPinto**

Executive Assistant

State Director's Office

Alaska | Bureau of Land Management

w: 907-271-5076

c: 907-205-1206

w: [www.blm.gov/alaska](http://www.blm.gov/alaska) e: [mdipinto@blm.gov](mailto:mdipinto@blm.gov)



#1128240.1

**From:** Rob Rosenfeld (b) (6) @gmail.com>

**To:** "Skibo, Bobbie Jo" <Bobbiejo\_skibo@fws.gov>

**Cc:** "Sweet, Serena E" <ssweet@blm.gov>, Amy Lewis <amy.lewis@empai.com>, "Loya, Wendy M" <wendy\_loya@fws.gov>, "Boario, Sara D" <sara\_boario@fws.gov>, "Cohn, Steven M" <scohn@blm.gov>, Matthew Newman <mnewman@narf.org>, "Megan Condon" <MCondon@narf.org>, "Kuhns, Stephanie L" <skuhns@blm.gov>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Heads Up: Coastal Plain SEIS Preliminary Draft Released Tomorrow!

**Date:** Fri, 02 Jun 2023 14:10:33 +0000

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**This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.**

Thank you Bobbie Jo for the email regarding the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Preliminary Draft SEIS.

Can BLM / FWS get us the preliminary draft in a digital format please?

Thank you

Rob

Hello Coastal Plain SEIS Cooperating Agencies,

On behalf of the joint lead agencies, BLM and FWS, we are pleased to let you know that you will be receiving the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Preliminary Draft SEIS **tomorrow, Friday, June 2nd.**

We wanted to give you a heads up to keep a look out for the email that will provide the necessary instructions and resources for your review.

We understand that there was a desire for a longer review timeframe but in order to maintain the schedule toward the completion of the SEIS, in time for a 2nd lease sale by December 2024, we must keep to a firm review schedule and will need to **receive input by 5pm Alaska Time on Friday, June 16th.**

Please note that there will be additional opportunities for cooperating agency reviews during the following stages of the SEIS development process; including the minimum 45-day public comment period and the Preliminary Final SEIS.

**#1128254.1**

Also note that the SEIS team is available, upon request, to meet with your entity during this review timeframe. Ideal dates for us are June *5th* and/or *6th*. Please reach out to request a session.

Thank you again for your involvement in the SEIS process. We look forward to continuing this important work with all of you.

Sincerely,

The SEIS Team (*Bobbie Jo, Serena, and Stephanie*)

\*\*\*\*\*

Bobbie Jo Skibo, MS (she/her)

Coastal Plain SEIS Project Lead

Science Applications Program

US Fish and Wildlife Service

907-441-1539

**From:** BLM Press <blm\_press@blm.gov>  
**To:** "jkrauss@blm.gov" <jkrauss@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska  
**Date:** Wed, 06 Sep 2023 20:16:53 +0000

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 U.S. Department of the Interior: News Release

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## **Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska**

*Department of the Interior cancels oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; proposes new protections in National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska*

WASHINGTON The Biden-Harris administration today announced significant steps to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge) and more than 13 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). These bold actions to protect the Arctic region build on President Biden's [historic conservation and climate agenda](#), which already includes protecting more than 21 million acres of public lands and waters across the nation, and securing the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history.

In the Arctic Refuge, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has authorized the cancellation of the remaining seven oil and gas leases issued by the previous administration in the Coastal Plain. The leases were suspended in June 2021 following the issuance of [Secretary's Order \(S.O.\) 3401](#), which identified "multiple legal deficiencies in the underlying record supporting the leases."

In addition, the Department today [proposed new regulations](#) for the NPR-A that would ensure maximum protection for the more than 13 million acres of Special Areas in the reserve, while supporting subsistence activities for Alaska Native communities. The proposed rule, [previewed in March 2023](#), adds to President Biden's actions to protect millions of acres of lands and waters in the Arctic, including withdrawing approximately 2.8 million acres of the Beaufort Sea, ensuring the entire United States Arctic Ocean is off limits to new oil and gas leasing.

"With climate change warming the Arctic more than twice as fast as the rest of the planet, we must do everything within our control to meet the highest standards of care to protect this fragile ecosystem," said Secretary Haaland. "President Biden is delivering on the most ambitious climate and conservation agenda in history. The steps we are taking today further

**#1128305.1**

that commitment, based on the best available science and in recognition of the Indigenous Knowledge of the original stewards of this area, to safeguard our public lands for future generations.”

### Lease Cancellations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Following passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Tax Act), the previous Administration held an oil and gas lease sale in the Arctic Refuge’s Coastal Plain on January 6, 2021, and issued 10-year leases on nine tracts covering more than 430,000 acres. On January 21, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 13990, directing the Department to review oil and gas leasing in the Refuge, “[i]n light of the alleged legal deficiencies underlying the program.” S.O. 3401 directed a new, comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Coastal Plain Leasing Program. Since that time, two of the issued leases have been canceled and refunded at the request of the lessees. The remaining seven leases held by the sole lessee covered 365,000 acres in the Coastal Plain.

The Secretary of the Interior has the authority to cancel or suspend oil and gas leases issued in violation of a statute or regulation. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) released today by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) developed information supporting the Department’s determination that the 2021 lease sale was seriously flawed and based on a number of fundamental legal deficiencies, including: insufficient analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, including failure to adequately analyze a reasonable range of alternatives and properly quantify downstream greenhouse gas emissions; and failure to properly interpret the Tax Act. Accordingly, Secretary Haaland has determined that the leases issued by the previous administration in the Arctic Refuge shall be cancelled.

### Protections in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska

Extending from the northwest slope of the Brooks Range to the Arctic Coast, the NPR-A encompasses roughly 23 million acres of public land managed by the BLM. Tribal Nations have occupied lands now within the NPR-A since time immemorial, and over 40 Indigenous communities continue to rely on subsistence activities in the reserve, harvesting caribou, shore and waterbirds, and many other fish and wildlife species, with many communities subsisting primarily from food harvested from the NPR-A.

Under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) of 1976, Congress directed the BLM to balance oil and gas development with the management and protection of sensitive landscapes – known as Special Areas – and surface resources across the reserve. The proposed rule is designed to assure maximum protection of Special Areas, as authorized under the NPRPA. The proposed rule would require that protections for Special Areas remain in place for as long as the values and characteristics in those areas are present, ensuring the durability of the protections into the future. The proposed rule also would require the BLM to review and gather public input – at least every five years – on whether existing special areas should be expanded, whether new special areas should be designated, and whether additional resources within special areas should be identified for protection. Upon finalization of the proposed rule, the Administration will follow this proposed process to inform the creation or expansion of additional special areas in the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would protect 13 million acres encompassed by the existing Special Areas by limiting future oil and gas leasing and industrial development in the Teshekpuk Lake, Utukok Uplands, Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, and Peard Bay Special Areas – places collectively known for their globally significant intact habitat for wildlife, including grizzly and polar bears, caribou and hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. The rule would

establish an outright prohibition on any new leasing in 10.6 million acres, more than 40 percent of the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would raise the bar for development throughout the NPR-A by establishing clear guidelines that are consistent with provisions of the current management plan for the reserve, the [NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan](#) (IAP). This current management plan for the reserve was put in place in 2022, and effectively reversed the previous administration's IAP that sought to expand oil and gas leasing and development in the NPR-A and reduce protections for the Special Areas.

The proposed rulemaking would help protect subsistence uses throughout the NPR-A, responding to Alaska Native communities who have relied on the land, water and wildlife to support their way of life for thousands of years. It also advances the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to strengthening the role of Tribal governments in the management of public lands by encouraging the BLM to explore co-stewardship opportunities with Tribes for the Special Areas.

#### Seeking Public Comment

There will be a 45-day public review and comment period on the draft SEIS for the Coastal Plain. In developing the draft, the BLM and FWS engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders and used the best available data and science, including Indigenous Knowledge. For additional information, go to [BLM's eplanning page](#).

The proposed [NPR-A rule](#) and [map of the five NPR-A Special Areas](#) as delineated in the 2022 IAP, are available for preview. A forthcoming publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register will open a 60-day public comment period. During that time, the BLM will host in-person meetings in communities on the North Slope, as well as virtual public meetings to discuss the proposed rule. Details of those opportunities will be made available soon.

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## About the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.



This email was sent to [jkrauss@blm.gov](mailto:jkrauss@blm.gov)  
Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St., Washington, D.C. 20240, United States  
[Unsubscribe](#)

#1128305.3



**From:** "Daniel-Davis, Laura E" <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**To:** "Anderson, Robert T" <Robert.Anderson@sol.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <tstonemanning@blm.gov>, "Landreth, Natalie A" <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>, "Culver, Nada L" <nculver@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: FWS Proposal for Coastal Plain SEIS - Voluntary Carbon Avoidance Concept  
**Date:** Wed, 12 Apr 2023 00:55:03 +0000

---

Thank you Bob. Look forward to further discussing.

---

**From:** Anderson, Robert T <Robert.Anderson@sol.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 8:47 PM  
**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Stone-Manning, Tracy M <tstonemanning@blm.gov>; Landreth, Natalie A <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: FWS Proposal for Coastal Plain SEIS - Voluntary Carbon Avoidance Concept

(b)(5) ACP I have to miss tomorrow's meeting, but should have some time to share my thoughts.

Robert T. Anderson  
Solicitor  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240  
202-208-4210

On Apr 11, 2023, at 8:42 PM, Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

(b)(5) ACP

---

**From:** Stone-Manning, Tracy M <tstonemanning@blm.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 8:28 PM  
**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Anderson, Robert T <Robert.Anderson@sol.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: FWS Proposal for Coastal Plain SEIS - Voluntary Carbon Avoidance Concept

(b)(5) ACP

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---

**From:** Landreth, Natalie A <natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 2:58 PM  
**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>; Stone-Manning, Tracy M <tstonemanning@blm.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>  
**Cc:** Anderson, Robert T <Robert.Anderson@sol.doi.gov>

#1128312.1

**Subject:** FW: FWS Proposal for Coastal Plain SEIS - Voluntary Carbon Avoidance Concept

ATTORNEY CLIENT PRIVILEGED / DRAFT DELIBERATIVE / WORK PRODUCT

FYI

---

**From:** Deam, Seth R <[seth.deam@sol.doi.gov](mailto:seth.deam@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023 12:35 PM

**To:** Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Moody, Aaron G <[Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Aaron.Moody@sol.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** Gieryic, Michael S <[Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** FWS Proposal for Coastal Plain SEIS - Voluntary Carbon Avoidance Concept

Natalie, Aaron, FYI.

(b) (5) ACP



Best, Seth

---

**From:** Skibo, Bobbie Jo <[bobbiejo\\_skibo@fws.gov](mailto:bobbiejo_skibo@fws.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 6, 2023 3:44 PM

**To:** Sweet, Serena E <[ssweet@blm.gov](mailto:ssweet@blm.gov)>; Kuhns, Stephanie L <[skuhns@blm.gov](mailto:skuhns@blm.gov)>; Gieryic, Michael S <[Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Mike.Gieryic@sol.doi.gov)>; Deam, Seth R <[seth.deam@sol.doi.gov](mailto:seth.deam@sol.doi.gov)>; Routhier, Michael P <[michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov](mailto:michael.routhier@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Voluntary Carbon Avoidance

**When:** Friday, April 7, 2023 1:30 PM-2:30 PM.

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

All,

(b)(5) ACP



#1128312.2

(b)(5) ACP



Sincerely, Bobbie Jo

**From:** "Culver, Nada L" <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**To:** "Annatoyn, Travis J" <[travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov](mailto:travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov)>, "Stone-Manning, Tracy M" <[tstonemanning@blm.gov](mailto:tstonemanning@blm.gov)>, "Daniel-Davis, Laura E" <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>, "Landreth, Natalie A" <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** "Anderson, Robert T" <[Robert.Anderson@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Robert.Anderson@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: OMB questions on Press Release fot Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

**Date:** Thu, 07 Sep 2023 15:23:18 +0000

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Yup. And of course we're all clear on the next sale, including in our documents, and happy re-confirm we talked to our lawyers (seriously????) and the White House (referred them to the President's statement). Anyway, seems a conversation would make more sense to start since some of it seems a bit squishier.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Annatoyn, Travis J <[travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov](mailto:travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:22 AM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Stone-Manning, Tracy M <[tstonemanning@blm.gov](mailto:tstonemanning@blm.gov)>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** Anderson, Robert T <[Robert.Anderson@sol.doi.gov](mailto:Robert.Anderson@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: OMB questions on Press Release fot Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

(b) (5)ACP



---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:14 AM

**To:** Stone-Manning, Tracy M <[tstonemanning@blm.gov](mailto:tstonemanning@blm.gov)>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Landreth, Natalie A <[natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov](mailto:natalie.landreth@sol.doi.gov)>; Annatoyn, Travis J <[travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov](mailto:travis.annatoyn@sol.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: OMB questions on Press Release fot Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

**Importance:** High

Hi – I asked the team to hold off on trying to write anything until we can discuss but also of course happy to meet with whomever and provide the overview – without sharing internal legal documents, etc. Could we discuss on Friday at our 4:30 if we're having it? I will be on a plan during 4:30 today and Tracy is out.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Principal Deputy Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)  
202-255-6979

---

**From:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 11:11 AM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Blasing, Francesca M <[fblasing@blm.gov](mailto:fblasing@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>; Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S

#1128313.1

<[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Shugert, Matthew J <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** OMB questions on Press Release fot Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

**Importance:** High

Nada,

I see you are out today – if you have time, I would appreciate your thoughts on how to engage on this. Would you be the correct person to meet with Michael Hagan on his questions? Would you prefer to answer the questions from the e-mail in writing?

Appreciate any advice and insight you may have for this.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jessica Ray Huffman  
(She/Her, [What's This?](#))  
Budget Officer  
Bureau of Land Management

[jruffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)

Ph: (301) 875-3856

US Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW. Washington, DC. 20240

---

**From:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 10:29 AM

**To:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jruffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Shugert, Matthew J <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>; Gruber, Benjamin E <[BEGruber@blm.gov](mailto:BEGruber@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] FW: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

Thanks Jessica, I believe Nada needs to weigh in on these questions.

Thanks

Lonny

Lonny R Bagley  
Bureau for Land Management  
Deputy Assistant Director (acting)  
Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management  
307-622-6956  
[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jruffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, September 7, 2023 7:57 AM

**To:** Bagley, Lonny R <[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)>

**#1128313.2**

**Cc:** Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>; Shugert, Matthew J <[mshugert@blm.gov](mailto:mshugert@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] FW: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

Good morning Lonny,

Can you take a look at the questions OMB has raised, and help me identify who needs to be involved in either briefing Mike or drafting written answers?

Thank you!

Jessica

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**From:** Gordon, Bill J <[Bill\\_Gordon@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Bill_Gordon@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 5:05 PM

**To:** Huffman, Jessica R <[jrhuffman@blm.gov](mailto:jrhuffman@blm.gov)>

**Cc:** Pryor, Ernest L <[epryor@blm.gov](mailto:epryor@blm.gov)>; McDonald, Monique S <[m1mcdona@blm.gov](mailto:m1mcdona@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] FW: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

Hi Jessica - I just saw this press release after Mike Hagan brought it to my attention. Can we arrange a phone call with the appropriate person(s) to discuss this announcement further, especially the ANWR piece. He wants to make sure he completely understands the decision and rationale, and their implications. For example, how was the 2021 lease sale in violation of ("not correctly interpret") the the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017? And is it just the existing leases that are not in compliance; e.g. even if these existing leases are cancelled, does BLM still have a statutory obligation under the Tax Cut and Jobs Act of 2017 to conduct a new lease sale? Do you know if SOL was involved in this decision/rationale; I assume so but just want to confirm. And do you know if policy folks at OMB or the White House were consulted in advance of the decision/announcement. Finally, do you know what this means for the President's budget, which reflects ANWR revenues? Perhaps that is actually a question for OMB, even though Mike asked the question.

Thanks,

Bill

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**From:** Hagan, Michael B. EOP/OMB <[Michael\\_B.\\_Hagan@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Michael_B._Hagan@omb.eop.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 4:16 PM

**To:** Gordon, Bill J <[Bill\\_Gordon@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Bill_Gordon@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] FW: Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

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**#1128313.3**


**From:** U.S. Department of the Interior <[info@updates.interior.gov](mailto:info@updates.interior.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, September 6, 2023 3:01 PM

**To:** Hagan, Michael B. EOP/OMB <[Michael.B.Hagan@omb.eop.gov](mailto:Michael.B.Hagan@omb.eop.gov)>

**Subject:** Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

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 U.S. Department of the Interior: News Release

Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023

Contact: [Interior\\_Press@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov)

## Biden-Harris Administration Takes Major Steps to Protect Arctic Lands and Wildlife in Alaska

*Department of the Interior cancels oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge; proposes new protections in National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska*

**WASHINGTON** — The Biden-Harris administration today announced significant steps to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge) and more than 13 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). These bold actions to protect the Arctic region build on President Biden's [historic conservation and climate agenda](#), which already includes protecting more than 21 million acres of public lands and waters across the nation, and securing the Inflation Reduction Act, the largest investment in climate action in history.

In the Arctic Refuge, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland has authorized the cancellation of the remaining seven oil and gas leases issued by the previous administration in the Coastal Plain. The leases were suspended in June 2021 following the issuance of [Secretary's Order \(S.O.\) 3401](#), which identified "multiple legal deficiencies in the underlying record supporting the leases."

In addition, the Department today [proposed new regulations](#) for the NPR-A that would ensure maximum protection for the more than 13 million acres of Special Areas in the reserve, while supporting subsistence activities for Alaska Native communities. The proposed rule, [previewed in March 2023](#), adds to President Biden's actions to protect millions of acres of lands and waters in the Arctic, including withdrawing approximately 2.8 million acres of the Beaufort Sea, ensuring the entire United States Arctic Ocean is off limits to new oil and gas leasing.

"With climate change warming the Arctic more than twice as fast as the rest of the planet, we must do everything within our control to meet the highest standards of care to protect this fragile ecosystem," said **Secretary Haaland**. "President Biden is delivering on the most ambitious climate and conservation agenda in history. The steps we are taking today further that commitment, based on the best available science and in recognition of the Indigenous

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Knowledge of the original stewards of this area, to safeguard our public lands for future generations.”

### **Lease Cancellations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge**

Following passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Tax Act), the previous Administration held an oil and gas lease sale in the Arctic Refuge’s Coastal Plain on January 6, 2021, and issued 10-year leases on nine tracts covering more than 430,000 acres. On January 21, 2021, President Biden issued Executive Order 13990, directing the Department to review oil and gas leasing in the Refuge, “[i]n light of the alleged legal deficiencies underlying the program.” S.O. 3401 directed a new, comprehensive analysis of the potential environmental impacts of the Coastal Plain Leasing Program. Since that time, two of the issued leases have been canceled and refunded at the request of the lessees. The remaining seven leases held by the sole lessee covered 365,000 acres in the Coastal Plain.

The Secretary of the Interior has the authority to cancel or suspend oil and gas leases issued in violation of a statute or regulation. The draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) released today by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) developed information supporting the Department’s determination that the 2021 lease sale was seriously flawed and based on a number of fundamental legal deficiencies, including: insufficient analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act, including failure to adequately analyze a reasonable range of alternatives and properly quantify downstream greenhouse gas emissions; and failure to properly interpret the Tax Act. Accordingly, Secretary Haaland has determined that the leases issued by the previous administration in the Arctic Refuge shall be cancelled.

### **Protections in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska**

Extending from the northwest slope of the Brooks Range to the Arctic Coast, the NPR-A encompasses roughly 23 million acres of public land managed by the BLM. Tribal Nations have occupied lands now within the NPR-A since time immemorial, and over 40 Indigenous communities continue to rely on subsistence activities in the reserve, harvesting caribou, shore and waterbirds, and many other fish and wildlife species, with many communities subsisting primarily from food harvested from the NPR-A.

Under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) of 1976, Congress directed the BLM to balance oil and gas development with the management and protection of sensitive landscapes – known as Special Areas – and surface resources across the reserve. The proposed rule is designed to assure maximum protection of Special Areas, as authorized under the NPRPA. The proposed rule would require that protections for Special Areas remain in place for as long as the values and characteristics in those areas are present, ensuring the durability of the protections into the future. The proposed rule also would require the BLM to review and gather public input – at least every five years – on whether existing special areas should be expanded, whether new special areas should be designated, and whether additional resources within special areas should be identified for protection. Upon finalization of the proposed rule, the Administration will follow this proposed process to inform the creation or expansion of additional special areas in the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would protect 13 million acres encompassed by the existing Special Areas by limiting future oil and gas leasing and industrial development in the Teshekpuk Lake, Utukok Uplands, Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, and Peard Bay Special Areas – places collectively known for their globally significant intact habitat for wildlife, including grizzly and polar bears, caribou and hundreds of thousands of migratory birds. The rule would establish an outright prohibition on any new leasing in 10.6 million acres, more than 40 percent of the NPR-A.

The proposed rule would raise the bar for development throughout the NPR-A by establishing clear guidelines that are consistent with provisions of the current management plan for the reserve, the [NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan](#) (IAP). This current management



plan for the reserve was put in place in 2022, and effectively reversed the previous administration's IAP that sought to expand oil and gas leasing and development in the NPR-A and reduce protections for the Special Areas.

The proposed rulemaking would help protect subsistence uses throughout the NPR-A, responding to Alaska Native communities who have relied on the land, water and wildlife to support their way of life for thousands of years. It also advances the Biden-Harris administration's commitment to strengthening the role of Tribal governments in the management of public lands by encouraging the BLM to explore co-stewardship opportunities with Tribes for the Special Areas.

### Seeking Public Comment

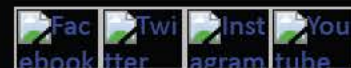
There will be a 45-day public review and comment period on the draft SEIS for the Coastal Plain. In developing the draft, the BLM and FWS engaged with a wide variety of stakeholders and used the best available data and science, including Indigenous Knowledge. For additional information, go to [BLM's eplanning page](#).

The proposed [NPR-A rule](#) and [map of the five NPR-A Special Areas](#) as delineated in the 2022 IAP, are available for preview. A forthcoming publication of the proposed rule in the Federal Register will open a 60-day public comment period. During that time, the BLM will host in-person meetings in communities on the North Slope, as well as virtual public meetings to discuss the proposed rule. Details of those opportunities will be made available soon.

###

### About the U.S. Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior (DOI) conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.



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This email was sent to [mhagan@omb.eop.gov](mailto:mhagan@omb.eop.gov) by: U.S. Department of the Interior - 1849 C Street, N.W. - Washington DC 20240 - 202-208-3100



#1128313.6

**From:** "Bagley, Lonny R" <lbagley@blm.gov>

**To:** "Lindow, Emily R" <Emily.Lindow@boem.gov>, "Gruber, Benjamin E" <BEGruber@blm.gov>

**Subject:** FW: President's Budget FY2025 Onshore Receipts Estimate Request - DUE Thursday, November 16th

**Date:** Fri, 27 Oct 2023 21:09:49 +0000

**Attachments:** PB25\_NPR2\_Upload.xlsx; PB25\_NPRA\_Upload.xlsx; PB25\_OIL\_and\_GAS\_Upload.xlsx; PB25\_ANWR\_Upload.xlsx; PB25\_COAL\_Upload.xlsx; PB25\_GEOTHERMAL\_Upload.xlsx; FY2023\_PB2025\_ONRR\_Data.xlsx

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For your awareness

Lonny R Bagley  
Bureau for Land Management  
Advisor to the Assistant Director  
Energy, Minerals, and Realty Management  
307-622-6956  
[lbagley@blm.gov](mailto:lbagley@blm.gov)

---

**From:** OS\_POB\_Receipts <os\_pob\_receipts@ios.doi.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, October 27, 2023 10:47 AM

**To:** Bagley, Lonny R <lbagley@blm.gov>; Barnes, Timothy L <tbarnes@blm.gov>; Bluma, Jeremy P <jbluma@blm.gov>; Brumbaugh, Robert <rbrumbau@blm.gov>; Brumley, Legion <lbrumley@blm.gov>; Coodey, Kevin C <kcoodey@blm.gov>; Frost, Troy A <tfrost@blm.gov>; Fusilier, Stephen L <SFusilie@blm.gov>; Good, Rebecca A <rgood@blm.gov>; Gruber, Benjamin E <BEGruber@blm.gov>; Hall, Sandra A <sahall@blm.gov>; Huebner, Thomas A <thuebner@blm.gov>; Huffman, Jessica R <jrhuffman@blm.gov>; Muehl, Gregory S <gmuehl@blm.gov>; Rickard, Scott S <srickard@blm.gov>; Sackett, Tyson J <tsackett@blm.gov>; Spencer, Jennifer E <j35spenc@blm.gov>; Svejnoha, Wayne <wsvejnoh@blm.gov>; Tichenor, James C <jtichenor@blm.gov>; Trimble, Lorenzo R <ltrimble@blm.gov>; Valdez, Roberto <rvaldez@blm.gov>; Warren, Matthew (Matt) <mwarren@blm.gov>

**Cc:** Nicholson, Laura K <Laura\_Nicholson@ios.doi.gov>; Shahani, Cassandra M <cassandra\_shahani@ios.doi.gov>; Rose-Dullaghan, Jeni L <Jeni\_Rose-Dullaghan@ios.doi.gov>

**Subject:** President's Budget FY2025 Onshore Receipts Estimate Request - DUE Thursday, November 16th

All,

Let's get this party started!

We have not yet received updated guidance from OMB for the 2025 President's Budget (PB) and are still assuming the timelines described in the A-11 are good. The 2025 President's Budget requires the recalculation of receipt estimates for the Department based on updated economic and policy assumptions and will be compared to the 2024 President's Budget across the 10-year budget window. While we wait for final guidance, we are sending this request to get you started preparing your data. The timeline always feels compressed, so we want to give you as much notice as possible.

**Good news!** ONRR's Actual Data for this exercise is attached to this email. We will pass on the OMB Economic Assumptions as soon as we receive them. Economic Assumptions are scheduled to be released on **Thursday,**

**November 9<sup>th</sup>.** Of course, as you know, OMB may adjust the Economic Assumptions release date slightly, and POB is committed to forwarding them to you as soon as they become available. *Reminder: A delay in the Economic Assumptions does not adjust the listed deadlines.*

The data you provide is important to us! As we continue to capture lessons learned from each budget cycle, we are identifying ways to improve our data collection and integrity while ensuring leadership can quickly and easily understand your submissions. We continue to strive to strengthen management controls, improve Bureau ownership

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over numbers, and reduce risk in program outputs. By working together with you, we continue to ensure accurate receipt estimates in all our budget submissions.

As a part of our lessons learned from the 2024 President's Budget, POB piloted two deliverables during the 2024 Mid-Session cycle and collected feedback to finalize the requirements for these deliverables for the 2025 President's Budget. In addition to your customary estimate submissions, please plan to prepare the following:

1. **Executive Summary:** To communicate your estimates and assumptions more accurately through Departmental leadership and OMB, we are requesting a brief, narrative executive summary to accompany the commodity estimates. We know you'll be working quickly, so you have latitude on the format, but please make sure your summary minimally answers the following questions for the relevant commodities in your submission (e.g., oil, gas, renewable energy, coal, etc.):
  - a. What are the key assumptions included in your estimates?
  - b. How are these assumptions different than what was assumed in the last President's Budget?
  - c. What key policy decision and/or legislative direction are reflected in your assumptions?
  - d. How much of the estimated increase/decrease over the 10yr budget window is a result of the new economic assumptions vs other programmatic/policy assumptions?
  - e. How do your assumptions reflect current Administration priorities?

You will note on the schedule that we have staggered the due dates: your number estimates are due to POB first, followed by the narrative summary, the 10yr Explanations, and confirmation of estimates the following week. We know you need to focus on preparing the numbers first, then pulling the narrative about the assumptions together should hopefully be pretty straightforward.

2. **Bureau Entry of 10-year Bullet Explanations:** As we did in Mid-Session, we will leverage the POB External Communications SharePoint site to allow bureaus access to a shared document to provide bulleted explanatory notes for the estimates. We will update an Excel template that shows the outputs from the prior submission, the current submission, and the delta – you provide quick notes about what caused the delta for each of the specific commodities.
  - a. **Note:** Keep in mind that your explanations for the lowest level commodity breakout may be different than the overall trend for a commodity. For example, oil and gas pricing in total may be decreasing, but a subset of oil and gas (say, rents and bonuses in a particular area, for example) may be *increasing* because of different lease sale or production assumptions. Please be sure your line-item commodity level explanation tracks with the delta for each line (so you don't talk about decreases on a line that's clearly increasing, etc.). If you have questions about this, please let us know.

Good news: These explanations are likely to form the more detailed basis for the explanations of assumptions you'll be providing in your Executive Summaries, so we believe these two tasks work nicely in tandem.

**Clearance Requirements:** We anticipate continued high levels of interest, significant leadership engagement, and additional review for receipt estimates again this cycle. To ensure adequate coordination, **please clear your submission data and underlying assumptions through your Assistant Secretary by November 21<sup>st</sup> to finalize your submission**. We recognize clearance of your inputs is generally standard practice, so we don't expect this to be a heavy lift. We are flagging the importance of clearance since we expect additional questions about the impact of statutory and policy direction on your assumptions and estimates.

**A few process/procedure reminders:**

1. **Use The Shared Mailbox:** All receipts data submissions must be submitted to POB via the shared Energy Receipts email ([OS\\_POB\\_Receipts@ios.doi.gov](mailto:OS_POB_Receipts@ios.doi.gov)) Use of this shared email allows better coverage and backup for this important function.
2. **Remember to Submit Bureau-Populated Upload Templates:** Please continue to complete the attached upload template with the appropriate estimates in thousands of dollars (in addition to your customary backup submissions). Your template will be uploaded directly into the receipts estimation and allocation model (REAM). ***Please do not make any formatting changes to the template(s).*** They are formatted specifically to upload into the model. Simply enter your updated estimates on the appropriate row in thousands of dollars.
3. **Bureau Validation:** Once estimates are uploaded in REAM, POB will ask you to confirm the estimates have been uploaded correctly (e.g. amounts are correctly reflected, correct values in the correct fiscal years, etc.) If you find something is in error, simply provide us a revised upload template with the corrected data, and we'll upload again until it's right.

Please submit the following 10-year (FY 2024- FY 2034) estimates to POB using the new Energy Receipts email [OS\\_POB\\_Receipts@ios.doi.gov](mailto:OS_POB_Receipts@ios.doi.gov) by **Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**. As soon as we have uploaded your estimates, we will circle back with you for confirmation that the estimates have been uploaded correctly so you can get started loading your 10yr Explanations on our shared space [HERE](#). We anticipate the explanations will be ready for you by Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. All 3 deliverables (the estimates, the executive summary(s) and the 10yr explanations) should be finalized and reviewed through your Assistant Secretary by Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>. A detailed schedule, with as much information as we know right now, is below:

**PB 2025 SCHEDULE (Per OMB A-11):** Bureau inputs highlighted in yellow.

Action	Date	Bureau Deliverable(s)	Clearance Level
MAX database opens	October 26	N/A	N/A
ONRR Data Request Due	October 26	ONRR PY Data ( <i>attached!</i> )	Program Officer
Agency A-11 PY Lockout	November 8	N/A	N/A
Economic assumptions released	November 9	N/A	N/A
Energy Receipt Estimates Due to POB	November 16	Number inputs (estimates) for energy leasing rents/bonuses/royalties, pricing, production, etc., including the following deliverables: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Oil and Gas [including rents, bonuses, and royalties]</li> <li>2. Federal Coal Forecast Summary</li> <li>3. Geothermal Receipt Estimates</li> <li>4. NPRA bonuses, rents, and royalties</li> <li>5. NPR-2 Receipt Estimates</li> <li>6. ANWR Receipt Estimates</li> <li>7. Onshore Renewable Estimates</li> <li>8. Oil Shale Receipt Estimates</li> <li>9. Hardrock Estimates</li> </ol>	BBO
Executive Summaries Due to POB	November 21	Brief narrative explaining key assumptions, policy direction, etc.	Assistant Secretary
10-Year Explanations Due to POB	November 21	Update SharePoint Template explaining increases/decreases between 24PB and 25PB at commodity level	Assistant Secretary
Clearance Affirmation on Energy Receipt Estimates to POB	November 21	Confirm/finalize number inputs and deliverables provided previously	Assistant Secretary
Agency MAX DE Baseline Lockout	December 4	N/A	N/A
Agency MAX DE Lockout	January 9	N/A	N/A

Please let us know if you have any questions or need any assistance.

Jeni

**Jeni Rose-Dullaghan**

Office of Budget  
U.S. Department of Interior  
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