The Bureau of Land Management’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

Cover Photo: Jeff Jones
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<th>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</th>
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<td>Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANILCA</td>
<td>Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arctic Refuge</td>
<td>Arctic National Wildlife Refuge</td>
</tr>
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<td>BLM</td>
<td>United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMP</td>
<td>best management practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CFR</td>
<td>Code of Federal Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EIS</td>
<td>environmental impact statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leasing EIS</td>
<td>Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEPA</td>
<td>National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOI</td>
<td>Notice of Intent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPR-A</td>
<td>National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska</td>
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<tr>
<td>ROD</td>
<td>Record of Decision</td>
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<tr>
<td>USFWS</td>
<td>United States Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

The United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska State Office, Anchorage is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS), in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). Its purpose is to implement an oil and gas leasing program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge) Coastal Plain. The Coastal Plain program area is composed of approximately 1.6 million acres in the approximately 19.3-million-acre Arctic Refuge (Map 1-1, Program Area).

The Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS (Leasing EIS) will implement the leasing program, pursuant to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, Public Law 115-97, of December 22, 2017 (the Tax Act). It requires the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the BLM, to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program for leasing, developing, producing, and transporting oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain area in the Arctic Refuge.

Congress identified the Coastal Plain, pursuant to Section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, for its potential for oil and natural gas.

The BLM published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register on April 20, 2018, announcing the beginning of a 60-day public scoping period to solicit public comments and to identify issues (see Appendix A). The comment period ended on June 19, 2018. The BLM has continued to accept comments beyond this date, but they are not included in this report, which describes the scoping process and summarizes the comments received during the comment period only.

1.2 PURPOSE AND NEED FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Section 20001 of the Tax Act requires the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the BLM, to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program for leasing, developing, producing, and transporting oil and gas in and from the
Coastal Plain area in the Arctic Refuge. Further, it requires no fewer than two lease sales be held by December 22, 2024, and that each sale offer no fewer than 400,000 acres area-wide of those lands with the highest potential for the discovery of hydrocarbons within the Coastal Plain. It allows for up to 2,000 surface acres of federal land to be covered by production and support facilities.

The BLM is undertaking the Leasing EIS to implement the leasing program consistent with the Tax Act. The Leasing EIS will inform the BLM as it implements the Tax Act, including the requirement to hold multiple lease sales and to permit associated post-lease activities.

The program also includes seismic and drilling exploration, development, and transport of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain. Specifically, the Leasing EIS considers and analyzes the environmental impact of various leasing alternatives, including the areas that will be offered for sale, and the lease stipulations and required operating procedures to be applied to leases and associated oil and gas activities. These are intended to properly balance the proposed program with surface resources protection. The alternatives also limit the footprint of production and support facilities on federal lands to no more than 2,000 surface acres.

The decisions evaluated in this Leasing EIS would not authorize any drilling associated with the exploration or development of oil and gas on the Coastal Plain. Future on-the-ground actions requiring BLM approval, including exploration plans or development proposals, would require further NEPA analysis based on specific and detailed information about where and what kind of activity is proposed. The BLM Authorized Officer may require additional site-specific terms and conditions before any oil and gas activity is authorized.

1.3 **Overview of the Scoping Process and Scoping Report**

Public involvement is a vital and legally required component of the NEPA process. It vests the public in the decision-making process and allows for full environmental disclosure. Guidance for implementing public involvement under NEPA is codified in 40 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 1506.6.

Scoping is an open and early step in the NEPA process that helps the BLM to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify significant issues related to the proposed program. Information collected during scoping may also be used to develop the alternatives to be analyzed in a NEPA document.

In accordance with the BLM NEPA Handbook, Section 9.1.3 (BLM 2008), the BLM must document the public scoping results. This scoping report summarizes the scoping process and the comments received during the formal scoping period, including those provided during tribal coordination, government-to-government consultation, the internal scoping meeting, and public scoping meetings.
1.4 DESCRIPTION OF THE SCOPING PROCESS

As required by NEPA and its public involvement guidance, the BLM solicited comments from relevant agencies and the public, then organized and analyzed all comments that it received. Then the agency evaluated the position statement of each comment and extracted the overarching issues that it would address during the NEPA process. These issues define the scope of analysis for the Leasing EIS and are used to develop the project alternatives.

1.4.1 Scoping

As defined under NEPA, the scoping period began with the publication of the NOI in the Federal Register on April 20, 2018. It was titled Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska (see Appendix A). During this period, the BLM sought public comments to determine relevant issues that could influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and to guide the process for developing the Leasing EIS.

The official comment period ended on June 19, 2018. Comments received or postmarked by this date are summarized and presented in this document. To the extent practicable, the comments received past this date will be considered during the development of the Leasing EIS, but late comments were not summarized in this report.

The BLM used several additional methods of outreach to notify the public of the Leasing EIS and the scheduled public meetings. It placed advertisements in the Anchorage Daily News, the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, and the Arctic Sounder. The BLM also distributed public notices via press releases, emails, public service announcements, and flyers. Nongovernmental organizations were also active in notifying constituents of the Leasing EIS process and meetings. Additionally, the BLM maintains a project website with information related to the development of the Leasing EIS: https://goo.gl/HVo5Mj. The website includes background documents, maps, information on public meetings, and contact information. See Appendix B for outreach materials.

1.4.2 Tribal Coordination and Government-to-Government Consultation

The BLM, as the lead federal agency, coordinates directly with federally recognized tribal governments during preparation of the Leasing EIS. This is done in compliance with Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments, and the BLM’s Tribal Consultation Policy.

There are several avenues of participation open to tribes, including through the public process, as stakeholders, as cooperating agencies with special expertise, and through the government-to-government relationship. This section is a description of activities under the government-to-government relationship between federal agencies and federally recognized tribes; this is recognized as a special relationship, based on tribal sovereignty.
The BLM has identified a total of 16 tribal entities potentially affected by the leasing program. Consistent with its policies concerning government-to-government consultation with tribes, the BLM first sent a letter offering the opportunity to participate in formal government-to-government consultation, to participate as a cooperating agency, or to simply receive information about the project, on March 2, 2018 to:

- Arctic Village Traditional Council
- Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
- Native Village of Kaktovik
- Native Village of Venetie
- Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government

A second invitation letter to participate in government-to-government consultation was sent out by the BLM on April 23, 2018, to the following tribal entities:

- Beaver Village Council
- Birch Creek Village Council
- Chalkyitski Village Council
- Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Government (Fort Yukon)
- Naqsragmiut Tribal Council (Anaktuvuk Pass)
- Native Village of Barrow Iñupiat Traditional Government
- Native Village of Fort Yukon
- Native Village of Nuiqsut
- Native Village of Stevens

To date, the BLM has held government-to-government consultation meetings with the following tribal governments:

- Arctic Village Council
- Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government
- Venetie Village Council
- Native Village of Kaktovik

Two tribes requested government-to-government consultation that were not included in the initial communications from the BLM and BLM has agreed to consult with, as follows:
1. Introduction (Description of the Scoping Process)

- Circle Village Council
- Native Village of Eagle

The dates and locations of government-to-government meetings that have taken place so far are shown in Table 1-1. Discussions with potentially affected tribal governments will occur throughout the EIS process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Tribal Government</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Village</td>
<td>May 23, 2018</td>
<td>Arctic Village Council, Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government, and Venetie Village Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venetie</td>
<td>June 11, 2018</td>
<td>Arctic Village Council, Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government, and Venetie Village Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaktovik</td>
<td>June 13, 2018</td>
<td>Native Village of Kaktovik</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.4.3 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporation Consultation

The BLM also sent a letter of notification and inquiry on March 2, 2018 to Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation, offering the opportunity to participate in ANCSA consultation. To date, the BLM has held consultation meetings with both of these ANCSA Corporations, as well as Doyon, Limited, to discuss the EIS process.

1.4.4 Internal Scoping Meeting

Cooperating agencies are those that have jurisdiction by law or special expertise, including tribes that request cooperating agency status. At the outset of the EIS process, the BLM asked agencies if they would like to be involved; those that have signed on as cooperating agencies to date are as follows:

- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- US Environmental Protection Agency
- State of Alaska
- The North Slope Borough

Tribal governments that requested and have signed on for participation as cooperating agencies to date are as follows:

- Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government
- Venetie Village Council
- Arctic Village Council
- Native Village of Kaktovik
On May 3, 2018, the BLM held an internal agency scoping meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to identify issues related to the authorities or special expertise of the cooperating agencies. During the meeting, agency resource specialists provided comments relevant to their resource disciplines. Several of the cooperating agencies also provided written scoping comments to more fully identify issues related to their mandates and special expertise.

1.4.5 Public Scoping Meetings

Seven public scoping meetings were held in communities in and near the program area, in communities around Alaska, and in Washington, DC. In addition to the BLM and USFWS representatives and members of the EIS team, a court reporter was present to document comments in a transcript of each meeting. The dates and locations of the public scoping meetings are provided in Table 1-2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Village</td>
<td>May 24, 2018</td>
<td>Arctic Village Community Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairbanks</td>
<td>May 29, 2018</td>
<td>Carlson Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>May 30, 2018</td>
<td>Dena’ina Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utqiagvik</td>
<td>May 31, 2018</td>
<td>Iñupiat Heritage Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venetie</td>
<td>June 12, 2018</td>
<td>Venetie Community Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kaktovik</td>
<td>June 12, 2018</td>
<td>Harold Kaveolook School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td>June 15, 2018</td>
<td>National Housing Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The scoping meetings held in Arctic Village, Venetie, and Kaktovik each began with a presentation by the BLM describing the background and purposes of the EIS, the project schedule, and opportunities for further public involvement (see Appendix C for scoping meeting materials). Following the presentation, the meetings transitioned into a public comment format, where attendees could provide their thoughts on the EIS and the planning process.

The meetings held in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Utqiagvik, and Washington, DC, all began with an open house session, where attendees could view informational posters and maps. Representatives from the BLM and the USFWS (as the land management agency) were available to answer questions. Following the open house period, the BLM gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. Based on prior planning discussions with community leaders, the BLM employed a Gwich’in language translator for meetings in Arctic Village and Venetie; and an Iñupiat translator for the meeting in Kaktovik. A public comment period followed the presentation. Copies of scoping information and blank comment forms were available at all seven meetings.
The scoping meetings were attended by 1,062 people,¹ and oral comments were offered by 334 people.

1.5 Method of Comment Collection and Analysis

All written submissions received on or before June 19, 2018, were evaluated and are considered in this scoping summary report. It provides an overall summary of the types of comments received related to each issue. Comment submissions will be posted to the project website: https://goo.gl/HVo5Mj.

The BLM received 4,226 unique written submissions during the public scoping period; the number of substantive comments extracted from these submissions varied between all letters. Overall, 4,546 substantive comments were identified using the Comment Analysis Response Application, an ePlanning software of the BLM.

To ensure that public comments were properly registered and that none were overlooked, the BLM used a multiphase management and tracking system. Written submissions were given a unique identifier and were logged into the BLM’s comment response and analysis database. It then reviewed each submission and extracted individual substantive comments.

The BLM reviewed each comment to determine if it pertained to an issue that will be resolved though the EIS. Each comment was assigned to one of the two following categories:

   1. Substantive comments related specifically to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
   2. Comments that are nonsubstantive or pertain to issues beyond the scope of the program

All comments in the first category were further classified by commenter affiliation, geographical area, process category, and issue category, as described in Chapter 2, Comment Summary. Comments were next entered into the tracking database for analysis.

The results of the comment analysis are summarized in Chapter 2.

¹ This total includes attendees who signed in at a public scoping meeting. It is possible that attendees were present at meetings who did not officially sign in.
CHAPTER 2
COMMENT SUMMARY

2.1 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS RECEIVED

2.1.1 Commenters by Affiliation
The BLM categorized all submissions received by the commenter's affiliation. Table 2-1, below, shows the number and proportion of commenters by affiliation. Letters written on business, agency, or organization letterhead or letters where the commenter signed using an official agency title were considered to represent that organization or agency; all other letters were considered to represent individuals. In addition, some commenters made multiple submissions, and some letters had more than one signatory.

Table 2-1
Submissions by Affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Number of Commenters*</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Commenters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government (federal, state, tribal, and local)</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>1.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizations (businesses and nonprofits)</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals</td>
<td>4,025</td>
<td>95.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,226</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Calculations do not include form letters or petition signatories. All numbers are approximate.

In addition to unique submissions, nonprofit organizations and individuals submitted a large number of form letters and petition signatures. Letters that represented slight variations of the form letter without additional substantive comments were treated as form letters. Form letter submissions containing additional substantive comments were categorized as unique submissions. In total, the BLM received 756,228 form letter and signed petition submissions, based on 124 different form letter campaigns and 16 petitions.
Note that analyzing identical submissions as a group did not reduce the importance of the comment. The NEPA regulations on public comments are clear that the public involvement process is not a vote but an opportunity to “determine the scope and the significant issues to be analyzed in depth in the environmental impact statement” (40 CFR 1501.7[a][2]), as well as to “identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant, or which have been covered by prior environmental review” (40 CFR 1501.7[a][3]).

2.1.2 Number of Comments by Issue Category

Table 2-2 shows the number and proportion of comments received by issue category. The 4,546 substantive comments were categorized into 42 issue categories. Chapter 3, Issue Statements and Comment Summaries, provides a detailed analysis of the comments received for each issue category.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue Category</th>
<th>Number of Individual Comments*</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEPA</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>2.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Outreach</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>8.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government-to-Government Consultation</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose and Need</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Range of Alternatives</td>
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<td>Best Available Information and Baseline Data</td>
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<td>Direct and Indirect Impacts</td>
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<td>Cumulative Impacts</td>
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<td>Other Laws</td>
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<td>Wetlands and Riparian Areas</td>
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<td>Nonenergy Leasable Minerals</td>
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Table 2-2
Number of Individual Substantive Comments by Issue Category

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<tr>
<th>Issue Category</th>
<th>Number of Individual Comments*</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Comments</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mineral Materials</td>
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<td>Night Sky</td>
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<td>Subsistence Uses and Resources</td>
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<td>Wild and Scenic Rivers</td>
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<td>Public Safety and Hazardous Materials</td>
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<td>Socioeconomics</td>
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<td>Socio-cultural Systems</td>
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</table>

*All numbers are approximate.
< = less than
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CHAPTER 3
ISSUE STATEMENTS AND COMMENT SUMMARIES

For NEPA analysis, an issue is a point of disagreement, debate, or dispute with a proposed program, based on an anticipated environmental effect. An issue is more than just a position statement, such as disagreement with development on public lands. The BLM will use the issues and other information collected during scoping to help formulate a reasonable range of alternatives that it will analyze during the EIS process.

The issue statements presented below are preliminary and are based on the best information known to date. A summary of the comments received has also been developed that apply to each issue; for the full context of comments, see submissions posted on the project website, https://goo.gl/HVo5Mj.

The process of developing this EIS will afford opportunities for collaboration with local, state, federal, and tribal governments, land management agencies, public interest groups, and public land users. As a result of ongoing collaboration, the issues and concerns may be updated and supplemented to accurately reflect public comments and concerns.

3.1 NEPA

Issue: How would the accelerated NEPA process and page limits outlined in Secretarial Order 3355 affect the environmental analysis?

Comment Summary
Commenters were concerned that the 1-year timeline for this EIS would result in rushed analysis and would compromise the BLM’s and the USFWS’s responsible land management mandates. They were concerned that the streamlined timeline would result in hasty decision-making and would hinder meaningful participation by the local communities and the public. Commenters noted that the accelerated timeline may put the BLM at risk for violating federal conservation laws.
Commenters suggested that the page limits are arbitrary and would hinder the analysis of environmental consequences. Another commenter referred to a similar project, the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska EIS, which required three volumes, spanning nearly 1,200 pages, to adequately analyze impacts.

3.2 Public Outreach

**Issue:** How would the public and local stakeholders be involved and informed throughout the NEPA process? How would streamlining affect the public’s role in the NEPA process?

**Comment Summary**

Commenters were concerned that there were not enough public scoping meetings and requested additional public meetings in the lower 48 states, specifically in Seattle, Austin, and Washington, DC. Commenters requested meetings in many additional Alaskan and Canadian towns, including Fort Yukon, Beaver, Circle, Fort McPherson, Aklavik, Beaver, Birch Creek, and Chalkyitsik. Commenters requested that translators be available at these meetings and that all information relating to the project be available in all Alaska native languages, including Gwich’in and Inupiaq. Commenters requested that the BLM ensure that the Hunters and Trappers Committees, Renewable Resource Councils, and the public be notified of all meetings.

Commenters were concerned that the speaking times at the public meetings were not long enough to give everyone a chance to speak and requested more meetings be scheduled during the scoping phase of this project to allow more opportunities to express their concerns.

Commenters were also concerned with the duration of the comment period and requested a comment period extension of at least 60 days. Commenters noted that the timing of the scoping comment period was not convenient for subsistence harvesters and other community members who are busy during the summer. Summer is an important time for many Alaskans to make their living, so these community members could not participate fully in the scoping process.

3.2.1 Government-to-Government Consultation

**Issue:** How would government-to-government consultation occur, and which interested parties would be coordinated with during this NEPA process?

**Comment Summary**

Commenters noted that the BLM has an obligation to reach out to every tribal council that is part of the Iñupiat and Gwich’in communities to host public meetings and to include them in the NEPA process. Commenters would like the BLM to extend consultation invitations to Canadian communities that depend on the Porcupine caribou herd.
Commenters would like USFWS’s role as a cooperating agency to include their oversight and development of the affected environment and impacts analysis portions of the EIS. Commenters believe that the USFWS has baseline data and ongoing studies that should be incorporated into the EIS.

### 3.3 Purpose and Need

**Issue:** What is the purpose and need for this project? Have other areas been considered outside of the Coastal Plain for the oil and gas leasing program?

**Comment Summary**

Commenters asked what the purpose and need is for leasing in the identified program area when other areas on the North Slope might be available that have been leased but not yet developed.

Commenters stated that the EIS should consider all the purposes of the Arctic Refuge in the purpose and need and not just provide for an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain.

### 3.4 Range of Alternatives

**Issue:** What types of activities would be included in the EIS alternatives?

**Comment Summary**

Commenters requested a “no action” alternative be included for analysis in the EIS. They suggested the BLM take an approach similar to the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska EIS, which identified and evaluated five alternatives. Other commenters requested that the EIS propose an alternative that protects resources by identifying special designation areas that prohibit exploration, leasing, development, and production at all times or at specific times of the year. A commenter requested that all post-lease activities be included in the scope of the EIS.

Commenters requested that the BLM analyze a range of alternatives that includes all possible site scenarios for the 2,000-acre limit across the entire Coastal Plain program area. They also asked that the BLM include specific analyses for each 400,000-acre lease sale. Additionally, commenters suggested a “smallest footprint” alternative.
3.5 **BEST AVAILABLE INFORMATION—BASELINE DATA**

**Issue:** What baseline studies would the BLM consult when developing the EIS?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters provided the BLM with studies, references, and other baseline information that they would like to be considered in the EIS development. They stated that while academic research should inform the EIS, the BLM should also include indigenous knowledge provided by tribes and the local community. Commenters would also like to be informed on whether the BLM would conduct new baseline studies as part of this Leasing EIS.

3.6 **DIRECT/INDIRECT IMPACTS**

**Issue:** What is the extent of the 2,000-acre surface disturbance limit, as identified in the Tax Act, and what types of surface disturbance are expected? How will the 2,000-acre footprint be measured and enforced?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters noted that the impacts caused by individual projects are likely to extend beyond the projected 2,000-acre disturbance limits. They would like to know if this limit includes construction of all infrastructure, including roads, drill pads, pipelines, wells, aircraft facilities, landing strips, and boat ramps.

Commenters also requested that the disturbance limit include all operations for production and delivery of oil, such as those involving vehicles, heavy equipment, oil pumping, and pipelines.

Commenters were concerned that the BLM has not included the disturbance that an oil spill could cause beyond the 2,000-acre disturbance limit. They requested clarification on where the acres of disturbance are likely to occur, and whether it will be concentrated in a certain area or dispersed throughout the program area.

Commenters expressed concerns about the method used to account for the 2,000-acre footprint of development. They stated that a patchwork of drilling platforms and structures linked by roads may total 2,000 acres but would have impacts extending far beyond that area. Commenters suggested that the total footprint should be calculated as a polygon with borders around the outermost structures in the program area. Additionally, they requested that the BLM’s method to determine the footprint be included in the EIS.
**Issue: How is the BLM considering impacts on resources in the program area?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters noted that the EIS should include both readily predictable impacts, such as the disruption of a shoreline from equipment, and unpredictable impacts, such as damage from spills. Commenters have requested that a full risk assessment be done. They would like a full analysis of impacts resulting from all stages of development.

Commenters had specific concerns with the short- and long-term impacts on the local populations and the environment from an oil and gas leasing program. They would like to know how the BLM is considering these impacts.

### 3.7 Cumulative Impacts

**Issue: What are the cumulative impacts of the oil and gas development in the program area?**

*Comment Summary*
An area that includes portions of Canada and areas of the North Slope outside of the program area should be included in the cumulative impacts analysis.

### 3.8 Other Laws

**Issue: How would the BLM respect and adhere to the agreements with Canada, particularly those regarding migratory and transboundary species?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters would like the BLM to recognize and address how this program would comply with agreements and treaties with Canada in the EIS, including the following:

- MOU Between the United States and Canada on Conservation and Management of Shared Polar Bear Populations (2008)
- Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears (1973)
- Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds in the United States and Canada (1916)
- Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, Between His Britannic Majesty and the United States of America (commonly known as the Jay Treaty) of 1794
Commenters stated that the US government is required by the 1987 agreement to take appropriate action to conserve the Porcupine caribou herd and its habitat. Commenters ask that the BLM further consider Canadian interests in deliberations and management actions. Commenters emphasized that the EIS must address trans-boundary impacts of development on the Coastal Plain and how management actions may affect the conservation of the Porcupine caribou herd, US/Canada relations, and the Alaskan, Canadian, Gwich'in, and Iñupiat people. A commenter would like the BLM to assess how development can be done while meeting the intent and objectives of the International Porcupine Caribou Agreement.

**Issue: How will the BLM adhere to requirements outlined in applicable federal, tribal, state, and local plans, laws, and statutes?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters would like the BLM to recognize and address how this program will follow federal, tribal, state, and local plans, laws, and statutes in the EIS, including but not limited to:

- Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA)
- Alaska Statute 16.04.094
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Endangered Species Act
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act
- Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (Section 12.6.4)
- Inuvialuit Final Agreement
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- NEPA
- National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act
- Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement
- Public Law 115-97
- Refuge Administration Act
- Production Act (Section 104[b])
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
3. Issue Statements and Comment Summaries (Other Laws)

• Wilderness Act
• Yukon Umbrella Agreement (Section 16.3.11)

3.9 Resources

3.9.1 Air Quality and Climate

Issue: How would the BLM monitor and protect air quality from the proposed program impacts?

Comment Summary
Commenters requested that the BLM monitor the impacts of oil and gas-related infrastructure construction and vehicle use on air quality. They stated that there is a need for the BLM to collect baseline air quality data. Commenters noted concerns for air quality impacts on nearby communities, land management, and visitor use. Specifically, they expressed concerns about localized emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur oxides, carbon monoxide, and particulates from heavy machinery and vehicles. In addition, they mentioned fugitive leaks of methane from pipes and emission of hazardous air pollutants.

Dust from transportation and construction was another concern for commenters. They expressed concern about health repercussions for residents, including respiratory diseases, cancer (especially lung cancer), and other non-cancer health impacts.

Commenters recommended that the BLM evaluate current air quality conditions and trends in the program area for each of the criteria pollutants relevant to the proposed program and that it identify direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from potential development. They requested that a plan for monitoring air quality be included in the EIS. Commenters stated the BLM should also develop a reasonably foreseeable range of air quality scenarios with low, medium, and high emissions.

Commenters suggested that the BLM conduct near-field and far-field modeling analyses of air quality to assess impacts on sensitive locations and populations. Commenters also stated that BLM must complete a Prevention of Significant Deterioration PSD increment analysis to determine how much of the available increments have already been consumed in the affected area and how much additional increment is available for consumption up to the level set by the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
**Issue: Will the EIS include an analysis of cumulative impacts on air quality and greenhouse gas emissions on the Coastal Plain program area and the North Slope from the management alternatives, as well as the synergistic impacts on global climate change from the proposed program?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that the BLM address the short- and long-term effects of management alternatives and development on global climate change and greenhouse gas emissions. They also stated that greenhouse gas emissions from extracting, processing, transporting/transmitting, and combusting fossil fuels should undergo a complete life cycle assessment in low, medium, and high emission scenarios.

Commenters requested that the BLM assess the climate impacts of both the extraction and eventual use of oil and gas from the Coastal Plain. A commenter suggested that better estimates of extractable hydrocarbons would improve the quality of the assessment and warranted more research before leasing.

Commenters also requested that the BLM examine how climate change may directly affect the Coastal Plain, particularly for rising average temperatures, permafrost loss, wildlife migration and life cycle changes, and coastal erosion. They stated that the BLM should include an analysis of current regional climate trends on the North Slope in the EIS, along with projections of regional climate trends with and without development.

### 3.9.2 Cultural Resources

**Issue: How would cultural resources and sites be affected by potential actions identified in the EIS alternatives and how would the BLM monitor these impacts?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters were concerned that leasing may affect cultural resources in the program area. They requested that the BLM consult the North Slope Borough’s Traditional Land Use Inventory and the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey to ensure that potential development is routed away from known sites.

Commenters expressed concern about impacts on the integrity of those sites in or near the program area listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Specifically, commenters were concerned that leasing or development near these sites would affect their National Register of Historic Places eligibility. Additionally, commenters stated that the Coastal Plain may meet at least half the criteria of a UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) World Heritage Site. They suggested that the BLM consider whether the ability of the Coastal Plain to meet those criteria in the future would be significantly affected.
Commenters requested that the BLM consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and affected community members in the case of unavoidable impacts on sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

In addition, commenters requested that the BLM invite members of affected communities to share information on cultural sites known only to community members.

Commenters were also concerned with disturbance or destruction of unknown archaeological sites and artifacts through ground-disturbing activities during potential development; they requested that archaeological monitors be present during such activities.

3.9.3 Fish and Wildlife

Issue: How would the proposed program and production affect the Porcupine caribou herd, including population levels, reproductive success, habitat fragmentation, predation, migration patterns, and their associated habitat requirements? Will the EIS require the BLM to monitor, mitigate, and address the cumulative impacts on caribou and other wildlife populations from the proposed program and climate change? How would the BLM address impacts on Canadian interests in caribou herds and coordinate data sharing with Canada on sensitive habitat for caribou herds?

Comment Summary
Commenters made the following suggestions:

- Requested that the BLM fully analyze how the proposed program and any associated facilities and access routes could affect population levels and habitat of caribou, including calving grounds, insect relief habitat, and migration routes. They requested these data be used to develop leasing stipulations that protect these habitats, including considering no leasing or no surface occupancy in important caribou habitat. Commenters were concerned that the proposed program would displace caribou and reduce available foraging and calving habitat and insect relief areas.

- Suggested that the BLM consider a zone of influence and modeling of potential impacts at the individual and population level for caribou

- Requested that the EIS analyze data from the Porcupine caribou herd and take a precautionary approach when using data from other herds, due to the differing ecological and geographical context of the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge
3. Issue Statements and Comment Summaries (Resources)

- Expressed concern regarding the impacts of the proposed program on the reproductive success of caribou, due to diminished forage quality and habitat availability.

- Requested that the EIS account for differences in geography between migration routes of the Porcupine caribou herd and other northern herds (e.g., Teshekpuk and Central Arctic) and acknowledged the inevitability of infrastructure creep on caribou habitat.

- Noted that increased hunting opportunities can affect the migration patterns of caribou.

- Expressed concern that the proposed program could displace caribou, forcing the caribou into areas of poor quality forage. They expressed concern that the proposed program could displace caribou, leading to increased predation.

- Expressed concern that the proposed program could affect caribou calf survival rates by decreasing the quality and quantity of tussock cottongrass (*Eriophorum*), which young calves depend on for nutrition.

- Requested that the EIS examine baseline descriptions of Porcupine caribou. Specifically, they asked it to look at timing and use of sensitive habitats, including inter-annual variability in use and the changing role of sensitive habitats during a severe population low. Other topics for the BLM to examine are annual movement ecology, migration routes, and mineral lick use.

- Expressed concern that caribou exhibit slow degrees of habituation, if any, to the proposed program in caribou habitat.

- Requested that the EIS include further scientific investigation into caribou habituation.

- Expressed concern regarding the effect of pipelines on the capacity of caribou to avoid insects by decreasing their ability to seek relief habitat.

- Requested that the EIS include a description of the use and importance of the Coastal Plain to species movement during different life stages and seasons and across multiple years. The discussion should include scientifically defendable methods of delineation and areas for importance ratings.

- Noted that the cumulative effects of climate change and the proposed program may result in negative impacts on caribou and other wildlife populations.
- Requested that the EIS explain the monitoring tools used to distinguish natural fluctuations in Porcupine caribou herd populations from declines associated with the proposed program

- Requested that the EIS identify gaps in knowledge that may increase the uncertainties of any proposed caribou-specific mitigation scenarios

- Requested that the EIS evaluate the indirect effects of the proposed program on the predator and scavenger species that rely on Porcupine caribou

- Requested that the EIS adhere to wildlife monitoring standards in order to maintain the health of caribou in the program area

- Requested that studies and monitoring be conducted in order to understand how caribou are likely to respond to warming conditions

- Requested that the EIS fully analyze existing and reasonably foreseeable impacts of climate change on caribou and other wildlife populations, including in the environmental baseline and affected environment, across alternatives, and within cumulative effects

- Requested that the EIS explain the monitoring tools used to distinguish natural fluctuations in Porcupine caribou herd populations from declines associated with the proposed program

- Requested that the EIS take into account the long-term studies documenting the disturbance and environmental degradation from oil development in Prudhoe Bay and the impact on caribou herds in the region

- Suggested that the EIS include detailed and fine-scale modeling of climate change impacts on the Arctic Refuge that could affect wildlife.

- Requested that the EIS analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed program on marine species, including noise pollution and oil spills, as well as cumulative impacts from increased greenhouse gas emissions contributing to climate change and other development actions in the Southern Beaufort Sea

- Expressed the need to identify wildlife migration routes and the mitigation of impacts on these routes through the use of bypass or pass-through structures

- Noted that caribou herds occupy and migrate across international boundaries and that data from the entire range of the herd would be needed for a robust impact analysis

- Requested that the BLM seek input from Canadian scientists, governments, and Indigenous knowledge holders on the potential
effects of oil and gas activities on caribou and the transboundary impacts of the proposed activities

- Requested a review on the relevant sections of the 1987 Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on the Conservation of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, with specific reference to what constitutes a “significant, long-term, adverse impact” on the herd or its habitat

- Expressed the need for the BLM to research the impacts of development activities on caribou herds in Canada

- Requested that the EIS include data regarding availability of alternative suitable habitat for caribou

**Issue:** How would the proposed program affect migratory bird nesting, breeding, and foraging habitat at the individual and population level? Will the BLM analyze the potential for increased populations of predators, such as the Arctic fox and raven, on migratory birds?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters noted that impacts on migratory bird breeding grounds may lead to negative impacts on migratory birds at the population level. They stated that at least 158 species of migratory birds have been recorded in the northern foothills, Coastal Plain, and adjacent marine waters, with at least 57 species regularly breeding, not breeding, or both in the Coastal Plain. Commenters recommended including best management practices (BMPs) and stipulations, which minimize loss and disturbance of resident and migratory birds, including red-throated loons and other species of conservation concern.

Commenters expressed concern that nesting birds would be vulnerable to oil spills.

Commenters stated that the cumulative effect analysis should include activities across the Arctic Coastal Plain (including Canada) as well as impacts outside of Alaska in areas where migratory birds stage and winter.

Commenters noted that predation from Arctic foxes and ravens on migratory birds has increased at other drilling areas near the Arctic Refuge and that predation may increase due to the proposed program.
3. Issue Statements and Comment Summaries (Resources)

**Issue: How would management actions identified in the EIS affect other wildlife species, and how would the BLM monitor and reduce or mitigate these impacts?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters noted that mitigation may be necessary to reduce potential negative impacts from the proposed program that could affect a wide variety of wildlife, including anadromous fish, migratory birds, and large mammals.

Commenters expressed the need for an in-depth analysis of the impacts on all wildlife in the program area at the individual and population levels.

Commenters requested that the EIS include the impacts of the proposed program on snow goose populations. They expressed concern regarding the impacts on muskoxen, both at the individual and population level, and muskoxen habitat resulting from oil and gas exploration and development in riparian zones and throughout muskoxen habitat. One commenter requested mitigation measures be developed in the event that muskoxen relocate to their former habitats.

Commenters noted that increased human presence and access to the region due to an increase of roads would likely lead to increased hunting and poaching of muskoxen. Commenters expressed concern that increasing muskoxen hunting could result in population level impacts.

Commenters requested that the EIS consider and analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of an oil and gas program on species recognized under Alaska’s State Wildlife Action Plan as well as how a program may affect the coordination and management of the plan itself.

**Issue: How would the EIS address indirect and direct impacts on wildlife from road construction, noise, and water, land, and air traffic?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that, except in cases of emergency, refueling helicopters and aircraft should be prohibited on or near bodies of water. Commenters requested the EIS evaluate the impacts of the use of any nonessential air and vessel traffic that may be associated with the action or alternatives.

Commenters were concerned that aircraft and vessel noise would disturb marine mammals at the individual and population levels. On land, commenters were concerned that vehicular collisions would increase, along with increased traffic.

Commenters suggested that any aircraft used in oil and gas exploration should maintain an altitude sufficient to avoid harassing concentrations of caribou and other wildlife.
Commenters were concerned that traffic from trucks, planes, and ships would disturb wildlife, reduce habitat functionality, and cause habitat avoidance.

Commenters expressed the need for the EIS to consider how noise associated with the proposed program would affect bird courtship and territorial vocalizations.

Commenters were concerned that light and sound associated with the proposed program could lead to negative impacts on wildlife (see Sections 3.10.6, Night Sky, and 3.10.7, Acoustics).

**Issue: How would the BLM analyze the effect of the proposed program, including seismic exploration, on marine wildlife populations, individuals, and habitat?**

**Comment Summary**

Commenters requested consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service to determine whether oil and gas leasing may affect marine species and to ensure that permitted activities do not jeopardize threatened marine species.

Commenters requested that the EIS identify sufficient and contiguous coastal habitat that would be left undeveloped to protect fish and wildlife.

Commenters requested that the EIS include the potential impacts of ocean acidification on wildlife in the refuge.

Commenters noted that damage to wetlands and reduction in surface water would affect fish. They request that the EIS evaluate direct and cumulative impacts on fish resulting from ice road and pad development.

Commenters were concerned that the proposed program would decrease the quality of fish spawning habitat and impede fish migration.

Commenters requested that the EIS discuss mitigation measures to decrease the impacts of marine traffic on marine wildlife and habitat.

Commenters requested that the EIS describe the current quality and capacity of marine habitat and its use by wildlife and that it identify known migration routes and timing of wildlife.

Commenters requested that the EIS include existing BLM regulations, guidance, or policies providing direction for ballast water and noxious species management, a description of current conditions, and BMPs that it would use to address invasive species.
Commenters requested that the EIS address the impact of a major, catastrophic oil spill on the Coastal Plain and the potential impact on terrestrial mammals and marine mammals.

Commenters noted that contaminants from oil drilling can accumulate on the sea floor and affect organisms with malformations and genetic damage.

Commenters noted that seismic exploration may affect terrestrial and marine wildlife and wildlife corridors.

3.9.4 Paleontological Resources

**Issue: What measures would be taken to mitigate damage to or loss of paleontological resources during exploration and development?**

*Comment Summary*

Commenters requested that the EIS include plans for identifying, evaluating, and protecting paleontological resources in the Coastal Plain. In addition, they expressed the need for protocols for processing items of paleontological interest unearthed during development. Commenters also suggested that an inventory of known sites of paleontological, archaeological, or scientific importance be included in the EIS.

3.9.5 Soil Resources

**Issue: What measures would be taken to avoid or minimize damage to pipelines and other structures due to increasingly unstable permafrost?**

*Comment Summary*

Commenters expressed concerns about damage to structures built on permafrost soils, which current research indicates is degrading in some areas due to increasing Arctic temperatures. Commenters were specifically concerned with pipelines, which could experience fugitive leaking if built on thawing permafrost or taliks. In addition, commenters noted that increased impermeable surfaces could negatively affect soil resources.

**Issue: How would ground transportation and road construction affect soil resources in the program area?**

*Comment Summary*

Commenters noted that soil compaction and localized temperature increases from roads could negatively affect permafrost, exacerbating thermal erosion, thermokarst, discontinuity, and active layer thickening. Commenters suggested that the BLM conduct more research on which soils in the program area are most and least susceptible to degradation or erosion.
Issue: Would the EIS analyze the effects of seismic exploration and exploratory drilling on permafrost?

Comment Summary
Commenters presented concerns about the effects of seismic exploration and exploratory drilling on the stability of permafrost soils in the program area. They suggested that it could increase thermal erosion and thermokarst.

Issue: Would the EIS include an analysis of the cumulative impacts of oil and gas extraction on Coastal Plain permafrost?

Comment Summary
Commenters expressed concern about the effects of the proposed program on the climate of the North Slope of localized and global greenhouse gas emissions, specifically noting the already rising temperatures and increasing discontinuity of permafrost. Commenters also requested that the analysis include a discussion of carbon emissions from thawing permafrost.

3.9.6 Special Status Species

Issue: How would the BLM coordinate with federal, state, local, and international agencies to minimize or mitigate potential impacts on polar bears and other special status species that may result from infrastructure, such as roads, airstrips, and pipelines, and the associated equipment and vehicles, such as trucks and planes?

Comment Summary
Commenters noted the presence of habitat for special status species in the program area that may be affected by the proposed program. They noted that the proposed program on the Coastal Plain could reduce and fragment available terrestrial denning habitat for polar bears, and they requested mitigation measures and subsequent monitoring be planned for areas in and near critical habitat for polar bears.

Commenters noted that the proposed program is within the range of the Southern Beaufort Sea subpopulation of polar bears, which is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. They noted that the estimated size of this subpopulation had decreased from 1,526 in 2006 to 900 in 2010 and that size and body condition had also declined. Commenters also mentioned that polar bears were spending more time on land in recent years and noted that the importance of the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plan as denning area was likely to increase. Commenters recommended BMPs and stipulations be developed in close cooperation with the Marine Mammals Management Office to ensure their effectiveness and also consistency with measures required in Marine Mammal Protection Act incidental take authorizations.
Commenters also noted the United States’ legal obligation to conserve polar bear habitat, in compliance with the 1973 Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears. They also requested that the EIS include input from appropriate Canadian officials on species listed under Canada’s Species at Risk Act.

Commenters also expressed concerns about increased human-polar bear conflict due to increased terrestrial denning.

**Issue: Would the EIS analyze potential impacts on polar bears and marine mammals from oil spills?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters noted that polar bears and other marine mammals could be affected by oil spills, and that damage to marine mammal habitat from spills could decrease available prey for polar bears. Commenters requested that the BLM consult with the National Marine Fisheries Service on potential impacts of spills on marine mammals under their jurisdiction, including ringed seals, bearded seals, and bowhead whales.

Commenters stated that the BLM should conduct a thorough analysis of impacts, including spills on marine mammals, to ensure compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1973, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the United States-Russia Polar Bear Conservation and Management Act of 2006.

### 3.9.7 Vegetation

**Issue: How would the BLM revegetate the Coastal Plain after the proposed program?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters suggested that flora in the program area could be adversely affected by oil and gas exploration, transportation, and construction. Commenters added that removal or destruction of vegetation could change the natural thermal regime of permafrost in the program area, leading to increased erosion, thermokarst, and active layer thickening.

Commenters also noted the lack of success of previous vegetation restoration in the Arctic, citing incomplete species composition, compared to the former undisturbed habitat.

**Issue: How would oil and gas activities affect tussock cottongrass?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters expressed concerns about the preservation of tussock cottongrass (*genus Eriophorum*), which is a primary food source for calving caribou, prevents erosion, and preserves the integrity of underlying permafrost. Additionally,
commenters noted that dust accumulation can alter vegetation community composition and soil pH next to roads and gravel pads.

**Issue: How would the BLM prevent or reduce the introduction of invasive species to the program area during the proposed program?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that a baseline assessment of invasive species presence be included in the EIS. In addition, they requested that a plan to prevent and monitor future proliferation of nonnative species be included in the EIS.

**Issue: How would the BLM protect vegetation, soils, and permafrost?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters expressed concern about the need to protect the underlying permafrost and vegetation from the proposed program. They also noted the importance of riparian willows as overwintering habitat for moose and ptarmigan and recommended the inclusion of BMPs to avoid disturbance during winter operations and infrastructure development.

### 3.9.8 Visual Resource Management

**Issue: How would the proposed program affect visual resources in and next to the program area?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters expressed concern of impacts on visual resources from the proposed program and asserted that these impacts would extend outside the program area. One commenter suggested that the BLM should determine objectives for each scenic and visual resource area and evaluate how development could affect the objectives. Another commenter noted that many of the potential impacts on visitors would result from changes to the viewshed; thus, modeling visibility of reasonably foreseeable infrastructure and operations from permanent development on the diverse terrain should be included. This would provide guidance on infrastructure setbacks in high visitor use areas, including river corridors.

### 3.9.9 Water Resources

**Issue: How would the BLM address impacts on water quantity associated with water withdrawal methods used for the proposed program? How would the BLM address impacts to water quality within the program area?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters expressed concern about the degradation or contamination of potable water sources (both surface and groundwater) and the potential effect on wildlife and humans in the Coastal Plain. They were especially concerned
with wastewater disposal practices, noting that the proposed program requires a large quantity of water diversions and withdrawals. They expressed concern that the Arctic Refuge does not have readily accessible or available water in high quantities. Commenters suggested that desalination of marine waters be evaluated as a potential alternative to limited freshwater resources. Commenters requested that the BLM list potential water sources, characterize baseline water quality, and analyze impacts on aquatic and riverine systems associated with diversions, withdrawals, and wastewater.

Commenters noted that ANILCA states that one purpose of the Arctic Refuge is to ensure water of sufficient quality and quantity to conserve fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity. Commenters recommended that the EIS adopt BMPs used for the development of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), prohibiting water withdrawal from rivers at all times, and prohibit withdrawals from springs and aufeis.

Commenters stated that degradation of water quality and quantity on the Coastal Plain could negatively affect overwintering fish, caribou, polar bears, and other fauna that consume or inhabit water in the program area.

**Issue: Would the EIS include an analysis of potential impacts of the proposed program on marine and coastal areas?**

**Comment Summary**

Commenters suggested that the BLM document and analyze coastal and marine hydrology during different seasons, coastal and underwater geology, characteristics of sea ice coverage and movement, coastal and marine currents, and the physical and chemical characteristics of marine and coastal zones. They added that the EIS should analyze impacts associated with the proposed program on coastal lagoons, including fresh water inflow and coastal stability.

**Issue: Would the BLM analyze the hydrological repercussions of ice roads?**

**Comment Summary**

Commenters presented concerns about the long-term impacts of ice roads on hydrology and the program area’s natural thermal regime and recommended further study before their use. They noted that liquid water is especially scarce during winter, and it likely is not sufficient for more than 10 miles of ice roads. Additionally, commenters stated that effects associated with the construction of ice roads and other surface disturbances related to hydrologic processes within rive corridors and lake recharge should be analyzed. A commenter requested that any current data on the environmental impact of ice roads be included in the EIS.

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1 Aufeis can be found along rivers in Alaska’s arctic regions. Aufeis is a sheet-like mass of layered ice that forms from successive flows of groundwater during freezing temperatures.
**Issue: What are the impacts of and methods for pipelines that would cross rivers?**

*Comment Summary*
A commenter suggested the EIS analyze pipeline river crossing methods.

### 3.9.10 Wildland Fire Management

**Issue: How would surface disturbance affect the fire regime and management of fire in the program area?**

*Comment Summary*
A commenter noted that changes in soil hydrology could influence the fire regime in the program area.

### 3.9.11 Wetlands and Riparian Areas

**Issue: How would the proposed program affect wetland and riparian areas and the species that depend on these areas during various life stages?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters requested the EIS analyze potential impacts from the proposed program on aquatic and riverine systems and that the BLM consider the localized and downstream effects. One commenter suggested that the EIS should include an analysis of recovery patterns from past, present, and future activities under the proposed program and how wetland areas could be affected. Another commenter noted that various species such as muskoxen, caribou, and polar bears, rely on riparian areas for movement, calving, and feeding.

### 3.10 Resource Uses

#### 3.10.1 Lands and Realty

**Issue: Would the BLM conduct a review of closed and pending Alaska Native allotments?**

*Comment Summary*
A commenter requested that the BLM conduct a thorough review of closed and pending Alaska Native allotments, especially those close to the withdrawal area of the military from Barter Island. Additionally, commenters requested that unresolved Alaska Native allotment claims be resolved before leasing begins.
**Issue: Would the EIS include a geospatial data gap analysis as it relates to high-resolution topography over the program area?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters stated that the program area is mapped only to mid-level topographic resolution. They suggested this resolution is not sufficient for accurately delineating, identifying cultural and environmental exclusion zones, optimizing siting and routing decisions to limit disturbance, and determining optimal access points (according to slope elevation, water body crossings, subsistence trails, vegetation, and other concerns). Commenters also suggested the data gap analysis include bathymetry and cartographic charting data to support an understanding of marine transportation and coastal access alternatives.

**Issue: Would the BLM guarantee access for residents to Coastal Plain hunting, fishing, camping, and subsistence use sites?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters requested that the BLM include an inventory of subsistence use, scenic, and biologically and culturally sensitive sites in the EIS. They suggested that these sites be excluded from the proposed program to preserve their utility to residents and visitors.

### 3.10.2 Fluid Minerals

**Issue: How would the BLM estimate the potential amount of oil and gas available in the program area?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters requested that the BLM investigate the potential for oil and gas production in the program area and consider the opportunity to extend the working life of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System, thus extending the benefits that the pipeline provides.

**Issue: How would the BLM investigate direct and indirect impacts of oil and gas exploration and development?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters stated that the BLM needs to consider direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of all aspects of oil and gas exploration and development; examples given are access routes, support facilities and other infrastructure needed for exploration and development, and potential future impacts. Commenters stated that a thorough investigation of the impacts of seismic activities related to oil and gas exploration and development should be included in the EIS.
A commenter requested that the BLM consider the possibility of increased seismicity due to the proposed program.

Another commenter suggested that the BLM should review and use new technology that could reduce the impacts of development.

**Issue:** What leasing restrictions would be implemented to mitigate adverse effects of oil and gas leasing and development on the Coastal Plain and how would the BLM ensure that lessees would cover costs for spill cleanup and site reclamation?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters suggested that the BLM require a bonding process to ensure potential cleanup costs would be covered by lessees. Commenters requested that the BLM consider restrictions on leasing in order to mitigate adverse effects on the Coastal Plain.

**Issue:** Should cultural sites, subsistence use areas, and other areas used by local communities be excluded from lease sales?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that community trails, campsites, cultural sites, and subsistence use areas should be excluded from lease sales.

A commenter suggested that the BLM collaborate with the Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation to use its lands next to the program area as a support area for development activities.

A commenter suggested that development should be kept away from the southern border of the Coastal Plain in order to minimize impacts on the designated wilderness to the south.

**Issue:** What other currently developed areas are there that the BLM could consider for expanded oil and gas leasing, instead of the Coastal Plain?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters suggested that the BLM expand oil and gas leasing and exploration in the NPR-A or other areas of the country, instead of the Coastal Plain.

### 3.10.3 Locatable Minerals

**Issue:** How would the proposed program affect opportunities for locatable mineral exploration and extraction in the program area?

**Comment Summary**
A commenter cited a report prepared by the US Geological Survey and noted that the program area could contain opportunities for locatable mineral
exploration and extraction for valuable minerals, such as gold and copper. This commenter also noted that the mineral resource potential for beach sand type placer gold or heavy minerals is currently unknown for the program area.

3.10.4 Nonenergy Leasable Minerals

**Issue:** How would the proposed program affect opportunities for nonenergy leasable mineral exploration and extraction in the program area?

**Comment Summary**
A commenter cited a report prepared by the US Geological Survey and noted the program area could contain opportunities to explore and extract nonenergy leasable minerals such as phosphate and the rare-earth elements yttrium and ytterbium.

3.10.5 Mineral Materials

**Issue:** Where would gravel be extracted in the program area for the proposed program?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that the BLM consider the impacts of extracting gravel for the proposed program and asked that the EIS analyze where gravel extraction would occur in the program area.

**Issue:** What would be the long-term and short-term impacts of gravel extraction on the environment?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that the BLM develop a strategy for the disposing of gravel removed during field closure and reclamation of the proposed program.

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that the BLM analyze the impacts of creating gravel mines and associated overburden piles on permafrost, ecology, and hydrology in the program area.

3.10.6 Night Sky

**Issue:** How would the proposed program in the program area affect night skies?

**Comment Summary**
A commenter noted that potential impacts on visitors would result from changes to the viewshed, including the night sky, and could have impacts on aurora borealis viewing, stargazing, and other related visitor experiences.
3.10.7 Acoustics

**Issue: How would the BLM assess the potential effects of noise on wildlife?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters expressed concern about noise pollution extending beyond the footprint of production and support facilities. Commenters were concerned about how noise may interfere with the behavior and spatial distribution of wildlife, specifically how noise pollution may cause wildlife to avoid certain areas.

**Issue: Would the BLM analyze the effect of construction and development on the natural soundscape of the Coastal Plain?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters are concerned about impacts in the natural soundscape and natural silence in the Arctic Refuge. Commenters have stated that soundscapes are intrinsic elements of wilderness and their perpetuation is important for meeting the Arctic Refuge’s purpose. A commenter asked that acoustic modeling be used to fully analyze impacts on the natural soundscape.

**Issue: What baseline information is available, and would additional studies be performed during this EIS process to analyze impacts on acoustics?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters requested that acoustic issues should be considered in the EIS, including the need for baseline (pre-development) acoustic conditions, acoustic characteristics of development-related noise sources, modeled spatial predictions of acoustic impacts, disturbance-response information for wildlife and people, and the combined acoustic and visual disturbance caused by aircraft.

3.10.8 Recreation

**Issue: What kind of recreation would be allowed in the program area?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters are concerned that development may limit access to certain recreation opportunities in the Arctic Refuge. Some commenters would like the opportunity to continue low-impact ecotourism in the program area, while other commenters said that public recreation should not be allowed at all.

**Issue: How would recreation be affected in the Coastal Plain?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters stated that the proposed program and associated activities are not compatible with recreation and could discourage recreationists from coming to the area. Some commenters were concerned that the proposed program would
impede public access, while others suggested public access should be eliminated entirely from the program area.

Commenters noted that the identified purpose of the Arctic Wildlife National Range, as proposed in 1960, was the preservation of wilderness values, wildlife, and recreation. Commenters recommended that the EIS analyze the following:

- Possible impacts on recreation experiences and opportunities by persistent compacted snow trails, which may lead to surface ice buildup and possible impacts on flow
- Effects on recreation by staging and exploration, keeping in mind that recreation occurs mainly from February through October
- Effects on night skies, open landscape views, and other visual resources as they affect aurora borealis viewing and other visitor experiences
- Effects on soundscapes as they affect visitor experiences
- Economic effects on commercial guides and outfitters who operate in the Coastal Plain
- Evaluation and minimization of all effects on resources in river drainages that have been recommended to Congress for Wild and Scenic River designation, as required by the Wild and Scenic River Act
- Evaluation and minimization of all effects on resources, which include visitor opportunities, in the Mollie Beattie Wilderness

3.10.9 Renewable Energy

**Issue: Would the EIS consider renewable energy as an alternative?**

**Comment Summary**

Commenters recommended investing in renewable energy alternatives to reduce climate change impacts in the Arctic Refuge and around the globe. Commenters suggested that investing in alternative energy sources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and tidal energy, would provide more reliable infrastructure and cheaper energy, which could have fewer impacts on local resources than the proposed program.

Commenters also stated that renewable energy investment could create sustainable jobs, provide energy independence, and allow our nation to be less dependent on fossil fuels.
Issue: How does the proposed program advance our energy independence and national security?

Comment Summary
Commenters requested that a full energy independence and national security analysis be performed during this EIS process.

3.10.10 Subsistence Uses and Resources

Issue: Would the EIS include an analysis of impacts on the social and cultural values of subsistence resources, along with the availability of subsistence food resources?

Comment Summary
Commenters were concerned about how the proposed program could affect fish and wildlife, such as the Porcupine caribou herd, bowhead whales, and migratory waterfowl. Native populations, including Gwich’in, and Iñupiat, have relied on these subsistence resources for generations. Commenters stated that the proposed program could reduce resource populations, displace them from traditional harvesting areas, and reduce access. Some commenters have asked that the BLM establish a subsistence advisory panel. The BLM should also consider food security and subsistence use rights as part of the EIS analysis.

Commenters stated that impacts on subsistence hunters from the proposed program can include the direct impacts of activity and infrastructure and changes in hunter behavior by having to avoid industrial areas for personal safety or fear of contaminants. They recommended that alternatives or cooperative measures be identified and evaluated, in cooperation with potentially affected people. Such measures would reduce the negative effects of oil and gas industry activity on subsistence resources harvested. Best management practices should be evaluated that take contemporary hunting practices and locations where harvest occurs into consideration.

Commenters recommended evaluating the effects of oil and gas industry activity on the health of fish, wildlife, and vegetation used for subsistence. Such effects would come from exposure to contaminants. Commenters recommend including BMPs for baseline monitoring and minimizing contaminant exposure of important subsistence resources.
3.10.11 Travel and Transportation

**Issue:** How would the EIS address potential impacts from the construction and use of new access roads and transportation in the program area? How would new transportation systems interact with existing systems and uses, such as subsistence resources?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that the Leasing EIS fully analyze the impacts of transporting equipment, personnel, and supplies in the program area. They were concerned about the impacts that these activities and road construction and maintenance would have on resources and resource uses. Commenters stated that travel and transportation via air, ship, and vehicle could have impacts on vegetation, fish, wildlife, and recreation.

Commenters were concerned about who would have access to the new roads and whether local communities would be able to incorporate them into existing transportation networks.

**Issue:** Where would travel and transportation routes be located in the program area, and how would rights-of-way be issued in the program area?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters suggested that the BLM consider identifying transportation corridors needed to facilitate access for the proposed program as part of the EIS. A commenter mentioned that a right-of-way must be constructed for transportation and utility systems of the oil and gas program. This would be done to fulfill the requirements of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980.

### 3.11 Special Designations

#### 3.11.1 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

**Issue:** How would the EIS consider existing Arctic Refuge management plans and other National Wildlife Refuge System directives, such as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge’s Comprehensive Conservation Plan, National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act, and the Arctic Refuge’s establishing purposes?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters stated that the EIS should evaluate the effects of the various alternatives on the following purposes of the Arctic Refuge:

- Preservation of unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreational values
3. Issue Statements and Comment Summaries (Special Designations)

- Conservation of fish and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity
- Fulfillment of international treaty obligations of the United States with respect to fish and wildlife and their habitats
- Continued subsistence uses by residents
- Ensuring water quality and quantity in the refuge
- Providing for an oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain

Commenters stated that the proposed program conflicts with the Arctic Refuge’s establishing purposes (Public Land Order 2214) to preserve its unique wildlife, wilderness, and recreation values. Commenters wanted the BLM to analyze impacts on these resources in the Leasing EIS. They said that the BLM should consider current Arctic Refuge management plans in the EIS, specifically the Arctic Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan, which includes direction for the proposed program and lease sales. Commenters would like the BLM to address whether the Arctic Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan would need to be revised to be consistent with the Tax Act.

3.11.2 Wild and Scenic Rivers

**Issue: How would the EIS analyze impacts on rivers found to be eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that the BLM consider the impacts to rivers possessing outstandingly remarkable values, including the Marsh Fork of the Canning, the main stem of the Canning, Hulahula, Kongakut, Jago, and Okpilak Rivers.

3.11.3 Wilderness Areas

**Issue: How would designated wilderness areas be affected by the proposed program on the Coastal Plain?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters requested that the impacts analysis area of the Leasing EIS include the Mollie Beattie Wilderness. For example, commenters believe that the viewshed of the Mollie Beattie Wilderness could be affected by the proposed program.

Commenters stated that the proposed program is not compatible with the designated wilderness in the Arctic Refuge. Preserving wilderness is one of its original establishing purposes, and commenters believed that the proposed program is not compatible with this original purpose.
Commenters requested that the BLM analyze impacts on the Mollie Beattie Wilderness and on nearby Canadian public lands. A portion of the Vuntut National Park (Canada) has a “declared wilderness area”; these lands potentially exhibit what would be considered wilderness characteristics, as defined in the Wilderness Act of 1964. Commenters would like the BLM to analyze the effect of the program on these Canadian lands and on the remainder of the Arctic Refuge, as an ecosystem.

3.11.4 Wilderness Characteristics

**Issue: How would impacts on the wilderness character of the program area be addressed in the EIS?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters were concerned about impacts on wilderness character from the proposed program. Some commenters believed that the value of preserving wilderness should outweigh the economic value that oil and gas drilling in the Coastal Plain would provide to the country.

**Issue: How should wilderness character be managed in light of the US Fish and Wildlife Service’s Record of Decision for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Final Comprehensive Conservation Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, which recommends that the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area be designated as wilderness?**

*Comment Summary*
Commenters believed that the program area exhibits wilderness characteristics, and they would like the wilderness values of the Coastal Plain to be preserved. Commenters believe that one of the features of value when considering wilderness characteristics is that this is the only protected coast in the Alaskan Arctic. Commenters believed that by allowing the proposed program, wilderness characteristics could be damaged so as to change the recommended wilderness designation eligibility.

Commenters requested that the BLM consider the USFWS’s recommendation of the Coastal Plain program area to be designated as wilderness. Commenters would like the EIS to engage this topic and requested that the gathered information that led to this wilderness recommendation be included in the current EIS. Some commenters opined that the public’s support for wilderness designation has not been given adequate consideration. Some commenters expressed the opinion that leasing land for the proposed program on the Coastal Plain is contradictory to a wilderness recommendation.

Commenters suggested that the EIS describe and evaluate impacts on the following four primary qualities of wilderness, as described in the Wilderness Act of 1964:
• Undeveloped—Free from roads, structures, and other evidence of modern human occupation or improvements, where the land essentially retains its original character and ecological function
• Untrammeled—Essentially unrestricted and free from modern human control or manipulation
• Natural—When ecological systems are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization
• Primitive or unconfined recreation in wilderness settings—Characterized by freedom from management restrictions on visitor behavior

3.12 Socioeconomic Concerns

3.12.1 Public Safety and Hazardous Materials

**Issue:** How would the EIS analyze the potential impacts on human and wildlife health and safety from the proposed program, including planning for potential oil spills or waste produced?

**Comment Summary**

Commenters were concerned about potential oil spills and leaks and the difficulty that cleaning up a spill would pose, given the remoteness and arctic conditions of the program area. There were also concerns about the impacts on human and wildlife health from exposure to methane gas, reduced air quality, reduced water quality, and noise pollution. There are concerns about human and wildlife health impacts from spills, cleanups, fires, refuse and waste containers, sewage, injection fluids pumped into the ground, and the potential for contaminated groundwater. Another commenter suggested that the EIS discuss the potential for seismic risk and how this risk would be evaluated, monitored, and managed.

Many commenters also expressed concerns about who would pay for an oil spill cleanup and mitigation. Other commenters stated that the EIS should define and quantify the benefits that this oil and gas leasing would have on health and safety for the employees and their families.

One commenter stated that the BLM should analyze the direct, indirect, and cumulative health effects of its proposed program. Many commenters requested that the BLM complete a human health impact assessment. Some specified that the BLM should undertake a screening process to determine which aspects of health—including impacts on public, environmental, mental, social, and cultural health—could be affected by the proposed project. Depending on the screening results, a health impact assessment may need to be conducted to determine the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on human health. Commenters
3. Issue Statements and Comment Summaries (Socioeconomic Concerns)

recommended that the BLM involve public health professionals to assist with this assessment and to determine the appropriate level of analysis.

Commenters also requested that a village health assessment be completed to provide a baseline measure of the health of the community and to ensure that the health of Kaktovik is not negatively affected should any development occur. Commenters also stated that if native communities do not have access to healthy traditional food resources, direct health impacts from poor diet would occur, medically, socially, and economically.

One commenter noted that resource development activities have been shown to correlate to increased life expectancy within the North Slope region.

3.12.2 Socioeconomics

**Issue: How would the EIS assess the impacts of the proposed program on state and local economies, local communities, native populations, and nonmarket values?**

**Comment Summary**

Commenters stated that the short-term economic gains and few jobs created from this project do not outweigh the negative environmental and cultural impacts. They were concerned about potential negative impacts on tourism, fishing, and local native economies from the proposed program and requested that the EIS analyze economic impacts on other industries as a result of development. There were also concerns that any jobs created would be short term and given to outside labor or non-local workers only.

Commenters also expressed concerns that the economic benefits of this project would apply to only a few individuals and corporations and that profit-sharing would not extend to the state or local economies. In contrast, others stated that development would provide economic opportunities for local communities and that the BLM should include an evaluation of the direct local benefit of leasing and development, including analysis of benefits to Alaska Native corporations.

One commenter requested that the BLM require lessees to develop an economic opportunity plan before construction begins. One commenter also requested that development of local infrastructure be considered in the alternatives.

Commenters also suggested the use of project labor agreements to keep costs down and make construction contracting efficient. Additionally, it was stated that the EIS should include analysis of the economic and social benefits of using project labor agreements for construction activities that could result from leasing.
Some commenters stated that the project would bring beneficial economic surpluses to Alaska, thereby improving its public services. Others stated the analysis of potential revenue from any lease sales must use accurate projections, based on similar recent sales, to avoid overestimating economic contributions. Commenters requested that the EIS examine the impact of global energy markets on the scale of development and economic viability.

Commenters stated that development in the Arctic Refuge would allow the US to rely on domestic, as opposed to foreign, energy sources. Commenters also stated that completing this project would extend the economic life of other oil fields in Alaska.

Commenters requested an economic assessment of the leasing and construction implementation phases of this project, including direct and indirect impacts, and analysis of short-term and long-term impacts. Some specifically requested that economic analysis be presented in a peer-reviewed report. One commenter requested that the BLM examine option values to account for the value associated with the timing of resource extraction.

Commenters requested that the BLM assess the nonmarket values of the Arctic Refuge. Commenters also requested that the EIS contain an analysis of the social and economic impacts from climate change, including the social cost of carbon and methane.

Commenters also requested that the EIS include an analysis of the social impacts of development on local communities, including impacts on women and girls and impacts from increased variability in household incomes in communities.

One commenter requested that the economic benefits of this project be used to explore alternative energy sources.

3.12.3 Tribal Interests

**Issue: How would the EIS address and analyze impacts on local tribes?**

**Comment Summary**
Commenters noted that the BLM should recognize tribal treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements concluded with states or their successors.

Commenters described specific requirements for oil and gas developers that should be in place before development begins that would have economic implications for tribes and tribal members. These requirements included consultations, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) leasing preferences, subsistence protections, required Arctic Slope ANCSA Corporation Economic Development and Land Use Plans, and preferential hiring, training, and contracting for Arctic Slope shareholders and tribal members.
Commenters are concerned about impacts on tribes, such as the Gwich'in and Iñupiat, who rely on the Porcupine caribou herd for subsistence needs, such as food and clothing. Access, including off-highway vehicle trails, to the area for subsistence use should be provided for in the plan. A travel management plan and access for tribes to travel in the program area should be addressed. This is because there are concerns that tribal access issues have historically been ignored, but development access issues are being expedited.

There are concerns from commenters that impact aid for tribes affected by the project has not been or would not be addressed. Some commenters also request that traditional Alaska Native allotments be reviewed through this planning effort.

3.12.4 Environmental Justice

**Issue:** How would the EIS address and analyze impacts on environmental justice populations?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters noted that applying arbitrary page and timing limitations for EIS planning would not provide an adequate analysis for impacts on environmental justice populations.

Commenters requested meaningful engagement of remote communities and Alaska Native tribes and that the plan disclose all efforts taken to meet requirements consistent with Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations. The plan should describe efforts to avoid or mitigate disproportionate and adverse environmental or human health impacts on environmental justice populations.

Commenters request that more refined geographic areas, other than Census tracts, be used to accurately assess impacts on environmental justice populations. The plan should also address how climate change would affect environmental justice populations.

3.12.5 Socio-cultural Systems

**Issue:** How would the BLM address and analyze impacts on traditional and cultural beliefs and value systems of the Gwich’in and the Iñupiat people?

**Comment Summary**
Commenters noted that local tribes are culturally tied to the Coastal Plain and the Porcupine caribou herd. Commenters expressed the opinion that the proposed program is a threat to these cultural and spiritual values and traditional way of life for the local tribes and that the EIS should analyze the social, cultural, and economic impacts of development on tribes.
Specifically, commenters requested that the EIS analyze positive and negative economic changes to families and communities, income inequalities from development, changes to local social norms from outside temporary workers, impacts on the traditional subsistence-based economy, food scarcity, the replacement costs, both nutritionally and monetarily, of traditional foods, the accessibility of traditional use areas, and the impacts of light and noise pollution on traditional use areas.

Commenters report that the area is known to the Gwich’in as “The Sacred Place Where Life Begins” and that tribal entities should be consulted for their ancestral knowledge of the area. Commenters would like lessees of the program area to be required to attend cultural and environmental seminars presented by tribes.
CHAPTER 4

FUTURE STEPS

4.1 FUTURE STEPS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

The next phase of the BLM's EIS process is to develop draft leasing program alternatives for the EIS, based on the issues presented in Chapter 3. This includes the areas that will be offered for sale and the lease stipulations and required operating procedures to be applied to leases and associated oil and gas activities. These alternatives will address issues identified during scoping and will meet goals and objectives to be developed by the BLM's interdisciplinary team in coordination with cooperating agencies. In compliance with NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality regulations, and the BLM regulations and guidance, alternatives should be reasonable and implementable. The BLM will also meet with cooperating agencies and interested tribes and ANCSA Corporations to seek their input on the development of the alternatives. A detailed analysis of the alternatives and term lease stipulations and required operating procedures will be completed, and the BLM will then identify the preferred alternative in the draft Leasing EIS if has one at that time.

The analysis of the alternatives will be documented in the draft Leasing EIS. Although the BLM welcomes public input at any time during the environmental analysis process, the next official public comment period will begin when the draft Leasing EIS is published, which is anticipated in fall 2018. The availability of the draft document will be announced via a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, and a public comment period of at least 45 days will follow. Public meetings will be held during the draft Leasing EIS comment period.

At the conclusion of the public comment period, the BLM will revise the draft Leasing EIS, followed by publication of the final Leasing EIS. The final Leasing EIS will identify BLM's preferred alternative. The availability of the final Leasing EIS will be announced in a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. The date that the notice appears in the Federal Register will begin the required 30-day waiting period before a Record of Decision (ROD) may be issued.
4. Future Steps

The BLM will prepare the ROD to document the selected alternative and any accompanying additional mitigation measures, and the approving official will sign it. No action concerning the proposal will be allowed until the ROD has been issued, except under conditions specified in Council on Environmental Quality regulations 40 CFR 1506.1.

4.2 Contact Information

The public is encouraged to participate throughout the environmental analysis process for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS. Those wishing to be added to or deleted from the distribution list, or wishing to change their contact information, or requesting further information may email a request to blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov or mail a request to the following address:

Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office
Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Please provide your name, mailing address, and email address, as well as the preferred method to receive information. Before submitting written comments on a NEPA action, be advised that your entire comment—including personally identifiable information (such as your address, phone number, and email address)—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can request that your personally identifiable information be withheld from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.
CHAPTER 5
REFERENCES

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Duty-Free Entry Summaries
As of April 22, 2018, filers may resume filing GSP-eligible entry summaries without the payment of estimated duties.

GSP Duty Refunds

**Formal/Informal Entries**
CBP will automatically liquidate or reliquidate formal and informal entries of GSP-eligible merchandise that were entered on or after January 1, 2018, through April 21, 2018, and filed electronically via the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) using Special Program Indicator (SPI) Code “A” as a prefix to the listed tariff number. Such entry filings will be treated as a conforming request for a liquidation or reliquidation pursuant to section 501(b)(2)(A) of the Act, and no further action by the filer is required to initiate a retroactive GSP duty refund. To avoid confusion, importers should not submit post-importation GSP claims on tariff items filed with the SPI “A” at entry summary. CBP expects to begin processing automatic refunds for these entries shortly after April 22, 2018.

CBP will not automatically process GSP duty refunds for formal covered entries that were not filed electronically via ABI, nor for formal and informal covered entries that were filed electronically via ABI with payment of estimated duties, but without inclusion of the SPI Code “A” as a prefix to the listed tariff number. In both situations, requests for liquidation or reliquidation of covered entries must be made no later than September 19, 2018, pursuant to the procedures set forth in http://www.cbp.gov/trade/priority-issues/trade-agreements/special-trade-legislation/generalized-system-preferences.

**Mail Entries**
For merchandise that was imported via the mail, addressees must request liquidation or reliquidation of covered entries no later than September 19, 2018, pursuant to the procedures set forth in http://www.cbp.gov/trade/priority-issues/trade-agreements/special-trade-legislation/generalized-system-preferences.

Baggage Declarations and Non-ABI Informals

**Legislation**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[18X.LLA930100.L16100000.PN0000]

**Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with Section 20001 of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Tax Act), and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, (NEPA) as amended, and in a manner similar to the administration of lease sales under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976, as amended, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska State Office, Anchorage, Alaska, intends to prepare a Leasing Environmental Impact Statement (Leasing EIS) to implement an oil and gas leasing program within the area defined as the “Coastal Plain.”

**DATES:** This Notice initiates the public scoping process for the Leasing EIS. Comments on issues, impacts and potential alternatives to be analyzed may be submitted in writing until June 19, 2018. The BLM will hold public scoping meetings in Anchorage, Arctic Village, Fairbanks, Kaktovik and Utqiagvik. The BLM may hold additional public scoping meetings in other communities if there is strong community interest. The dates, times, and locations of scoping meetings will be announced through local news media, newspapers, and the BLM website.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:
- Website: [insert full URL].
- Email: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov.
- Mail: BLM, Alaska State Office, Attention—Coastal Plain EIS, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, AK 99513–7599.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Nicole Hayes, 907–271–4354; email blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov; or by mail: Bureau of Land Management, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513–7599. You may also request to be added to the mailing list for the EIS. Documents pertaining to the EIS may be examined at http://www.blm.gov/alaska.

Persons who use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Relay Service (FRS) at 1–800–877–8339 to contact the above individual during normal business hours. FRS is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to leave a message or question with the above individual. You will receive a reply during normal business hours.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The BLM is undertaking a Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing EIS to implement the leasing program pursuant to the Tax Act (Pub. L. 115–97, Dec. 22, 2017). The Leasing EIS will serve to inform BLM’s implementation of the Tax Act, including the requirement to hold not fewer than two lease sales area-wide. It may also inform post-lease activities, including seismic and drilling exploration, development, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain. Specifically, the Leasing EIS will consider and analyze the potential environmental impacts of various leasing alternatives, including the areas to offer for sale, and the terms and conditions (i.e., lease stipulations and best management practices) to be applied to leases and associated oil and gas activities to properly balance oil and gas development with existing uses and conservation of surface resources, and to limit the footprint of production and support facilities on Federal lands to no more than 2,000 surface acres. The area comprising the Coastal Plain includes approximately 1.6 million acres within the approximately 19.3 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to determine the scope of issues to be addressed and to identify the significant issues related to implementing an oil and gas leasing program within the Coastal Plain. Information received during scoping will influence the development of the proposed action and alternatives and guide the environmental analysis. The BLM will work collaboratively with interested parties to identify the management decisions best suited to local, regional, and national needs and concerns, as well as to develop a proposed action and alternatives consistent with the following criteria:
- The EIS will consider all Federal lands and waters within the area defined by Congress as the Coastal Plain;
The EIS will address oil and gas leasing and will use scoping to identify issues, impacts and potential alternatives to be addressed;
• Under the Tax Act, not fewer than two lease sales, each to include not fewer than 400,000 acres area-wide of the areas with the highest potential of hydrocarbons, must occur by December 2024;
• The BLM will consider subsistence resources and users, as well as potential actions to minimize adverse impacts to subsistence in accordance with section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA); and
• The EIS will appropriately consider the surface management of the Coastal Plain.

Future on-the-ground actions requiring subsequent BLM approval, including proposed seismic and exploration plans or development proposals, would require subsequent NEPA analysis based on specific and detailed information about where and what kind of activity is proposed. Additional site-specific terms and conditions may be required by the Authorized Officer prior to authorizing any oil and gas activity.

Upon completion of a Record of Decision, the BLM intends to conduct lease sales in accordance with the Tax Act.

Authority: 40 CFR 1501.7.

Karen E. Mouritsen,
Acting State Director, Alaska.

Federal Register / Vol. 83, No. 77 / Friday, April 20, 2018 / Notices 17563

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
[18X LLW0600000.L18200000.XP0000]

National Call for Nominations for Resource and Monument Advisory Councils

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of call for nominations.

SUMMARY: The purpose of this notice is to request public nominations for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Advisory Councils (RAC) that have members whose terms are scheduled to expire. RACs provide advice and recommendations to the BLM on land use planning and management of the National System of Public Lands within their geographic areas.

DATES: All nominations must be received no later than June 4, 2018.

ADDRESSES: Nominations and completed applications for RACs should be sent to the appropriate BLM offices listed in the SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Twinkle Thompson, BLM Communications, 1849 C Street NW, Room 5645, Washington, DC 20240, telephone: 202–208–7301; email: pseitts@blm.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) directs the Secretary of the Interior to involve the public in planning and issues related to management of lands administered by the BLM. Section 309 of FLPMA (43 U.S.C. 1739) directs the Secretary to establish 10- to 15-member citizen-based advisory councils that are consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). As required by FACA, RAC membership must be balanced and representative of the various interests concerned with the management of the public lands. The rules governing RACs are found at 43 CFR subpart 1784 and include the following three membership categories:

Category One—Holders of Federal grazing permits and representatives of organizations associated with energy and mineral development, the timber industry, transportation or rights-of-way, developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle use, and commercial recreation:

Category Two—Representatives of nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, archaeological and historic organizations, dispersed recreation activities, and wild horse and burro organizations; and

Category Three—Representatives of State, county, or local elected office, employees of a State agency responsible for management of natural resources, representatives of Indian tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the council is organized, Alaska Natives as appropriate to the state of Alaska, representatives of academia who are employed in natural sciences, and the public-at-large. Individuals may nominate themselves or others. Nominees must be residents of the State in which the RAC has jurisdiction. The BLM will evaluate nominees based on their education, training, experience, and knowledge of the geographic area of the RAC. Nominees should demonstrate a commitment to collaborative resource decision-making. The following must accompany all nominations:
—Letters of reference from represented interests or organizations;
—A completed Resource Advisory Council application; and
—Any other information that addresses the nominee’s qualifications.

Simultaneous with this notice, BLM State Offices will issue press releases providing additional information for submitting nominations, with specifics about the number and categories of member positions available for each RAC in the state.

Before including any address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in the application, nominees should be aware this information may be made publicly available at any time. While the nominee can ask to withhold the personal identifying information from public review, BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Nominations and completed applications for RACs should be sent to the appropriate BLM offices listed below:

Alaska
Alaska RAC
Lesli J. Ellis-Wouters, BLM Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Street, Anchorage, AK 99513, 907–271–4418.

Arizona
Arizona RAC
Amber Cargile, BLM Arizona State Office, One North Central Avenue, Suite 800, Phoenix, AZ 85004, 602–417–9214.

California
California Desert District Advisory Council
Steve Razo, BLM California Desert District, 22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos, Moreno Valley, CA 92553, 951–697–5217.

Carrizo Plain National Monument Advisory Committee

Central California RAC

Northern California RAC
Jeff Fontana, BLM Northern California District Office, 2550 Riverside Drive Susanville, CA 96130, 530–252–5332.

Colorado
Rocky Mountain RAC
Amber Iannella, BLM Rocky Mountain District Office, 3028 East Main Street, Cañon City, CO 81212, 719–269–8553.

BILLING CODE 4310–JA–P
News Releases
News Release

BLM Alaska to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

ANCHORAGE – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today announced a 60-day public scoping period to assist in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

The publication tomorrow of a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS in the Federal Register begins the implementation of provisions in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Tax Act) requiring the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the BLM, to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program for the leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain area within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

“Developing our resources on the Coastal Plain is an important facet for meeting our nation’s energy demands and achieving energy dominance,” said Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash. “This scoping process begins the first step in developing a responsible path forward. I look forward to personally visiting the communities most affected by this process and hearing their concerns.”

The members of Alaska’s congressional delegation -- Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Lisa Murkowski, Senator Dan Sullivan, and Congressman Don Young -- issued a joint statement of support for the action. “We welcome this scoping announcement and the Department’s continued work to implement our legislation opening the Coastal Plain to responsible energy development,” the delegation said. “We appreciate the Department following the law, planning multiple public meetings with Alaskans, and moving forward on this important program to help ensure the energy and economic security of our nation.”

The Coastal Plain was specifically identified by Congress, pursuant to Section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, for its potential for oil and natural gas resources. Oil and gas from the Coastal Plain is an important resource for meeting our nation’s energy demands and achieving energy dominance.
The first lease sale will be held after completion of an environmental analysis and will offer not fewer than 400,000 acres area-wide of high-potential lands for bid.

The purpose of the public scoping process is to assist BLM in identifying relevant issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development, including the formation of alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the Tax Act. The BLM invites the public to provide comments on scoping issues. The BLM will hold public scoping meetings in: Anchorage, Arctic Village, Fairbanks, Kaktovik, and Utqiaġvik at times and locations to be announced in local media, newspapers, and on the BLM website. The BLM may hold additional public scoping meetings in other communities if there is strong community interest.

Comments on scoping issues for the proposed Leasing EIS will be accepted through June 19, 2018, and can be sent by any of the following methods:

- email: blm.ak.coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov
- mail: Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
  
  222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13
  
  Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Documents pertinent to this proposal may be examined at the BLM Alaska State Office, BLM Alaska Public Information Center, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

# # #

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency’s mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America’s public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Diverse activities authorized on these lands generated $75 billion in sales of goods and services throughout the American economy in fiscal year 2016—more than any other agency in the Department of the Interior. These activities supported more than 372,000 jobs.
ANCHORAGE – The Bureau of Land Management is engaging communities across Alaska in person to gather relevant comments, concerns and/or issues pertaining to the development of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM will host meetings in communities in and near the program area and additional meetings in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Utqiagvik and Washington D.C. The meetings in Anchorage and Fairbanks will be livestreamed to reach a broader audience.

At the meetings, the BLM seeks to identify relevant comments, concerns and/or issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development, including the formation of alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Tax Act). The complete meeting schedule is available at the project website at www.blm.gov/alaska/coastal-plain-eis.

Those unable to attend one of the meetings are encouraged to participate via BLM’s project website, which includes a project area map and frequently asked questions. Comments can be submitted via the project website or email to blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov. BLM will accept comments through June 19, 2018.

“We have already received a substantial amount of input on this project and look forward to these meetings and listening to the concerns people have,” said Acting State Director Karen Mouritsen. “It’s important that we take the time to gather all the relevant issues to guide our environmental analysis of the Coastal Plain. We realize the importance of this place to not only Alaskans, but the nation in its quest to responsibly develop our natural resources and achieve energy dominance.”

Meetings are scheduled in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Washington, D.C. from 4:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Fairbanks meeting will take place May 29 at the Carlson Center at 2010 2nd. Ave., in Fairbanks and the Anchorage meeting will take place May 30 at the Dena’ina Center located at 600 W. 7th Ave. The Washington, D.C. meeting will take place June 15 at the National Housing Center located at 1201 15th St., NW. There will be scheduled speaking spots for representatives
of interested organizations and/or governments. All meetings will afford the public an opportunity to provide input on the process and anyone wishing to provide public comments will need to sign up in person. Public meeting procedures will be available on the BLM Alaska website at [www.blm.gov/alaska](http://www.blm.gov/alaska). The Fairbanks and Anchorage events can be viewed live at [www.blm.gov/live](http://www.blm.gov/live). Computers will be available for the public to comment electronically.

Meetings for Kaktovik, Arctic Village, Utqiagvik, and Venetie are as follows:

May 22: Kaktovik – Community Hall – 6:30 p.m.
May 24: Arctic Village – Community Hall – 10 a.m.
May 31: Utqiagvik – Iñupiat Heritage Center – 5 p.m.
June 12: Venetie – Village of Venetie Tribal Hall – 10 a.m.

The Leasing EIS will serve to inform the BLM’s implementation of the Tax Act, including the requirement to hold not fewer than two lease sales area-wide. It may also inform post-lease activities, including seismic and drilling exploration, development, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain. Specifically, the Leasing EIS will consider and analyze the potential environmental impacts of various leasing alternatives, including the areas to offer for sale, and the terms and conditions (i.e., lease stipulations and best management practices) to be applied to leases and associated oil and gas activities to properly balance oil and gas development with existing uses and conservation of surface resources, and to limit the footprint of production and support facilities on Federal lands to no more than 2,000 surface acres. The area comprising the Coastal Plain includes approximately 1.6 million acres within the approximately 19.3 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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Postcard Mailing
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to attend a public scoping meeting to identify issues for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At the meetings, the BLM seeks to identify relevant comments, concerns and/or issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development, including the formation of alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Tax Act). The complete meeting schedule is available at the project website at www.blm.gov/alaska/coastal-plain-eis. Those unable to attend a meeting are encouraged to participate via the project website, which includes a project map, a place to submit comments, and frequently asked questions. Comments and input may also be submitted by email to blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov through June 19, 2018. For more information or special needs requests, please contact Nicole Hayes at (907) 271-4354, email blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov, or visit the project website listed above.

**Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please check the project website for updates.**

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**Notice for Public Scoping Meetings**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to attend a public scoping meeting to identify issues for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At the meetings, the BLM seeks to identify relevant comments, concerns and/or issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development, including the formation of alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Tax Act). The complete meeting schedule is available at the project website at www.blm.gov/alaska/coastal-plain-eis. Those unable to attend a meeting are encouraged to participate via the project website, which includes a project map, a place to submit comments, and frequently asked questions. Comments and input may also be submitted by email to blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov through June 19, 2018. For more information or special needs requests, please contact Nicole Hayes at (907) 271-4354, email blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov, or visit the project website listed above.

**Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please check the project website for updates.**

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**Kaktovik:** Tuesday May 22
6:30pm, Community Hall

**Arctic Village:** Thursday, May 24
10:00am, Community Hall

**Fairbanks:** Tuesday May 29
Carlson Center, 2010 2nd Ave.
3:00-4:30pm open house, followed by a presentation at 4:30pm and comment period until 9:00pm.

**Anchorage:** Wednesday May 30
Dena’ina Center, 600 W. 7th Ave.
3:00-4:30pm open house, followed by a presentation and comment period until 9:00pm.

**Utqiaġvik:** Thursday, May 31
5:00pm, Iñupiat Heritage Center

**Venetie:** Tuesday, June 12
10:00am, Community Hall

**Washington, DC:** Friday, June 15
National Housing Center, 1201 15th St., NW.
3:00-4:30pm open house, followed by a presentation and comment period until 9:00pm.
Notice for Public Scoping Meetings

Please forward this to anyone you think may be
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to attend a public scoping meeting to identify issues for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At the meetings, the BLM seeks to identify relevant comments, concerns and/or issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development, including the formation of alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Tax Act).

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Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please check the project website for updates.
Newspaper Advertisements
**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

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**TANNY WALKER**

GENERAL MANAGER

**SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME THIS 17th day of May 2018**

**KATHLEEN L SEWARD**

NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF ALASKA

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES ON FEBRUARY 1, 2021

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**STATE OF ALASKA**

**NOTARY PUBLIC**

Kathleen L. Seward

My Commission Expires Feb. 1, 2021
PUBLIC NOTICE

NATIVE VILLAGE OF BARROW TRIBAL COURT CHILDREN'S COURT
IN THE MATTER OF:
J.N.K.
A minor child
Case No. 4-2018-1882NUM

NOTICE
TO: FREDDIE MAY HOPCION
Father of Child

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The hearing has been scheduled for the Native Village of Barrow Tribal Court at 10:00 a.m. on July 12, 2018, at the Tribal Government Center located at 1150 Herman Street, Barrow, Alaska, for the purpose of determining the rights, duties, and obligations that you have with regard to the minor child.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Native Village of Barrow Housing Dept. is soliciting bids/proposals for the following: 2000 sq. ft. of real property located in the village of Barrow, AK.

For more information, please contact:
James K. Zink
Native Village of Barrow Housing
P.O. Box 263
Barrow, Alaska 99723
(907) 441-2467

PUBLIC NOTICE

U.S. NAVY ANNOUNCES NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY TO REVIEW THE FIRST FIVE-YEAR REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIES AT FORMER DILUTE BUSINESS WASTE SITE, POINT McINTYRE, ALASKA

This notice is to inform the public that the U.S. Navy has recently completed the first five-year review of previously implemented environmental remedies at the former Dillie Business Waste (DBW) Site located in Point McIntyre, Alaska.

The Navy has prepared a draft report, which is now available for public review and comment, documenting the results of the review, status of the site, and recommendations for future activities.

The first five-year review for former DBW Site focuses on the former Dillie Business Waste (DBW) Site located in Point McIntyre, Alaska. The remedial actions included removing the waste from the former Dillie Business waste and constructing a new landfill at the location identified in the record.

The Navy has demonstrated that the remedy at the former Dillie Business Waste has been fully functional as intended by the record of decision because concentrations of chemicals in soil or manure above the cleanup levels in post-cleanup samples. Concentrations of polychlorinated Biphenyls in groundwater remain above the cleanup levels for testing.

The Navy welcomes public comments on the community during the five-year review process. Comments will be accepted until June 19, 2018.

To provide comments, please contact:
Remedial Project Manager, Point McIntyre
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
1301 Tobacco Street, Duluth, MN 55802
Ph: (888) 482-2297
Fax: (218) 622-2765

For more information please contact:
Leslie Younger
Public Affairs Officer
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Northwest
(260) 395-6380
Leslie.younger@nawc.navy.mil

Northwest Arctic Borough

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2018, THE GENERAL ELECTION FOR THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH, ALASKA, WILL BE HELD IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALASKA STATUTE CHAPTER 39.25 AND THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH CODE CHAPTER 4.04 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING OFFICERS IN THE FOLLOWING PRECINCTS AS DESCRIBED IN AUG 201, 2102, 2104-7124 WHICH ARE THREE YEARS.

Northwest Arctic Borough will accept nominations for candidates from June 4, 2018, until August 17, 2018.

MAYORAL GENERAL ELECTION

District 1 Seat A: Kivalina, Noatak, Kivalina, Noatak District 1 Seat B: Kivalina, Noatak, Kivalina, Noatak
District 2 Seat B: Kivalina, Noatak, Kivalina, Noatak, Noatak
District 2 Seat D: Kivalina, Noatak, Kivalina, Noatak

QUALIFICATIONS:
1. A candidate must be a qualified (registered voter) of the borough and reside within the district they seek to represent.

Northwest Arctic Borough Voter Qualifications

Voter qualifications: "Voter" means a United States citizen who is qualified to vote in state elections and has been a resident of the borough for at least thirty (36) days preceding the election and is registered to vote in state elections and is not disqualified.

Northwest Arctic Borough Campaigning: Prohibited within 200 feet of any entrance to polling place (§15.05.170)

If you have any questions, please contact the borough clerk's office at (907) 243-1100 ext. 2024 or 2025 or direct at (907) 448-8200 (907) 448-8200.

Notice for Public Scoping Meetings

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to attend a public scoping meeting to identify issues for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At the scoping meeting, the BLM seeks to identify relevant comments, concerns, and issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development, including the formation of alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the 2010 West and North Alaska (WCNA) Plan and section.

The complete meeting schedule is available at the project website at www.blm.gov/alaska/2016-wcna.NEIS-scn.

These meetings are open to the public, and all comments will become part of the public record.

Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please check the project website for updates.

Kodiak: Tuesday, May 22, 2018 6:30 p.m., Community Hall

Fairbanks: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 11:00 a.m., Community Hall

Anchorage: White Street, May 30, 2018 5:00 p.m.

Unalaska: Monday, June 4, 2018 6:00 p.m.

Washington, D.C.: Friday, June 8, 2018 2:00 p.m.

National Housing Center, 2151 1st St., NW

3:00-4:00 p.m., open house, followed by a presentation and comment period until 6:00 p.m.

Notice from the Arctic Sounder
AFFFP
Notice for Public Scoping Meet

Affidavit of Publication

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATE OF ALASKA
FOURTH DISTRICT

Before me, the undersigned, a notary public, this day personally appeared Tameka Ambersley, who, being first duly sworn, according to law, says that he/she is an Advertising Clerk of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, a newspaper (i) published in newspaper format, (ii) distributed daily more than 50 weeks per year, (iii) with a total circulation of more than 500 and more than 10% of the population of the Fourth Judicial District, (iv) holding a second class mailing permit from the United States Postal Service, (v) not published primarily to distribute advertising, and (vi) not intended for a particular professional or occupational group. The advertisement which is attached is a true copy of the advertisement published in said paper on the following day(s):

May 14, 2018, May 21, 2018

and that the rate charged thereon is not excess of the rate charged private individuals, with the usual discounts.

Advertising Clerk

Subscribed to and sworn to me this 21st day of May 2018.

Samuel M. Crabtree, Notary Public in and for the State Alaska.

My commission expires: November 20, 2018

00009953 00045818

Amy Lewis
EMPSI

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to attend to a public scoping meeting to identify issues for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At the meetings, the BLM seeks to identify relevant comments, concerns and/or issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development, including the formation of alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Tax Act).

The complete meeting schedule is available at the project website at www.blm.gov/alaska/coastalplain-eis. Those unable to attend a meeting are encouraged to participate via the project website, which includes a project map, a place to submit comments, and frequently asked questions. Comments and input may also be submitted by email to blm_ak_coastplain_eis@blm.gov through June 19, 2018. For more information or special needs requests, please contact Nicole Hayes at (907)271-4354, email blm_ak_coastplain_eis@blm.gov, or visit the project website listed above.

Meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. Please check the project website for updates.

Katovik: Tuesday, May 22
6:30 pm, Community Hall

Arctic Village: Thursday, May 24
10:00 am, Community Hall

Fairbanks: Tuesday, May 29
Carlson Center, 2010 2nd Ave,
3:00-4:30pm open house, followed by a presentation and comment period until 9:00pm.

Anchorage: Wednesday, May 30
Dena'ina Center, 600 W. 7th Ave.
3:00-4:30pm open house, followed by a presentation and comment period until 9:
00pm.

Utqiagvik: Thursday, May 31
5:00pm, Inupiat Heritage Center

Venetie: Tuesday, June 12
10:00am, Community Hall

Washington, DC: Friday, June 15
National Housing Center, 1201 15th St., NW
3:00-4:30pm open house, followed by a presentation and comment period until 9:00pm.

Publish: 05-14 & 5-21-18
AFFP
Notice for Public Scoping Meet

Affidavit of Publication

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STATE OF ALASKA
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STATE OF ALASKA
NOTARY PUBLIC
Samuel M. Crabtree
My Commission Expires November 20th, 2018

NOTICE FOR PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

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3:00-4:30pm open house, followed by a presentation and comment period until 5:00pm.

Publish: 05-14 & 5-21-18
STATE OF ALASKA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Joleesa Stepetin
being first duly sworn on oath
deposes and says that she is
a representative of the
Anchorage Daily News, a
daily newspaper. That said
newspaper has been approved
by the Third Judicial Court,
Anchorage, Alaska, and it now
and has been published in the
English language continually as a
daily newspaper in Anchorage,
Alaska, and it is now and during
all said time was printed in an
office maintained at the aforesaid
place of publication of said
newspaper. That the annexed is
a copy of an advertisement as it
was published in regular issues
(and not in supplemental form)
of said newspaper on
May 15, 2018

and that such newspaper was
regularly distributed to its
subscribers during all of said
period. That the full amount of
the fee charged for the foregoing
publication is not in excess of
the rate charged private individuals.

Signed

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this 15 day of May
20 18

Notary Public for
The State of Alaska.
Third Division
Anchorage, Alaska
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

Notice for Public Scoping Meetings
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites
you to attend a public scoping meeting to
identify issues for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas
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Washington, DC: Friday, June 15
National Housing Center, 1201 15th St., NW
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period until 9:00pm.

Published: May 15, 2018

Notary Public
BRITNEY L. THOMPSON
State of Alaska
My Commission Expires Feb 23, 2019
Online Notification
May 22, 24, 29, 30, 31 & June 12

Public scoping meetings will be held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to identify issues for the ARCTIC REFUGE COASTAL PLAIN OIL and GAS LEASING PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS) to be held in the following locations:

- **May 22** – KAKTOVIK at 6:30 pm in the Community Hall
- **May 24** – ARCTIC VILLAGE at 10 am in the Community Hall
- **May 29** – FAIRBANKS at the Carlson Center with an open house from 3 to 4:30 pm followed by comment period until 9 pm
- **May 30** – ANCHORAGE at the Dena’ina Center with an open house from 3 to 4:30 pm followed by comment period until 9 pm.
- **May 31** – UTQIAGVIK at 5 pm in the Inupiat Heritage Center
- **June 12** – VENETIE at 10 am in the Community Hall

At the meetings, the BLM seeks to identify relevant comments, concerns and/or issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development, including the formation of alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (Tax Act). The complete meeting schedule is available at [www.blm.gov/alaska/coastal-plain-eis](http://www.blm.gov/alaska/coastal-plain-eis). The Fairbanks and Anchorage meetings will be livestreamed at [www.blm.gov/live](http://www.blm.gov/live).

Those unable to attend a meeting are encouraged to participate via the project website, which includes a project map, a place to submit comments, and frequently asked questions. Comments and input may also be submitted to blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov through June 19. For more information or special needs requests, please contact Nicole Hayes at (907) 271-4354 or email blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov.

May 16

**FAIRBANKS** – Deadline for applications for an AIR QUALITY STAKEHOLDERS GROUP whose purpose is identify, evaluate, and recommend community based solutions to bring the area into compliance with federal air quality standards for fine particulates (PM$_{2.5}$). In finding solutions to meet these standards, there are a variety of factors to be considered, such as health, economic, and personal property rights that must be addressed. The hope is that the Air Quality Stakeholders Group will represent a cross section of our community and will be professionally facilitated by a third party. Fairbanks was designated as a serious nonattainment area for fine particulates (PM$_{2.5}$) by the EPA in 2017. This designation triggered additional regulations and requirements, which require progressively more stringent controls for our community. Many of these, such as the curtailment of wood burning, present a unique challenge for our community. The stakeholder process represents the public’s opportunity for input in a flexible plan to bring the area into attainment. Applications for nominations are available at fnsb.us, aqfairbanks.com, or investfairbanks.com and can be submitted airquality@investfairbanks.com.

To unsubscribe, send a blank email to:
whatsup-unsubscribe@npogroups.org

To change your subscription options, view list
information and archives, visit this list's Web page:
http://npogroups.org/lists/info/whatsup
Example Flyer
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) invites you to attend a public scoping meeting to identify issues for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). At the meetings, the BLM seeks to identify relevant comments, concerns and/or issues that will influence the scope of the EIS and guide its development, including the formation of alternatives to the proposed action within the parameters outlined in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

The complete meeting schedule is available at the project website at www.blm.gov/alaska/coastal-plain-eis. Those unable to attend a meeting are encouraged to participate via the project website, which includes a project map, a place to submit comments, and frequently asked questions. Comments and input may also be submitted by email to blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov through June 19, 2018. For more information or special needs requests, please contact Nicole Hayes at (907) 271-4354, email blm_ak_coastalplain_eis@blm.gov, or visit the project website listed above.
PowerPoint Presentation
Agenda

- Why we are here
- Requirements
- Agency Responsibilities
- NEPA Process
- Subsistence and ANILCA Section 810
- How to participate
Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017
Agency Responsibilities for Coastal Plain Leasing EIS

• Bureau of Land Management
  – Lead Federal Agency for EIS
  – Leasing program
  – Lease sales

• Fish and Wildlife Service
  – Administers surface of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
  – Cooperating Agency
BLM Oil and Gas Leasing and Development Process

- Leasing (EIS, Sales, Lease Issuance)
- Geophysical Exploration (pre and post lease)
- Applications for Permits to Drill
  - Drilling Exploration
  - Development
- Operations and Production
- Inspection and Enforcement
- Reclamation

Note: Any on-the-ground activities will require separate NEPA analysis and would not be authorized as a result of this EIS
National Environmental Policy Act

- Project Requirement
  December 22, 2017, Tax Act

- April 20, 2018 Notice of Intent

- Scoping April 20
  June 19, 2018

- Draft EIS Released for Public Comment

- BLM Writes Draft EIS

- Scoping Report
  what issues need analysis in EIS?

- Public Comments Received/Addressed

- Publish Final EIS

- Record of Decision and Lease Sales
Subsistence and ANILCA Section 810

**NEPA and EIS**
- Draft EIS includes impacts to subsistence uses and resources

**Section 810 of ANILCA**
- Initial 810 Evaluation is appended to Draft EIS

- If Initial Evaluation is “may significantly restrict subsistence uses” Subsistence Hearings are held

- Final Determination Appended to Final EIS

**Public Comment Meetings**

**Final EIS is prepared**
Decisions to be Made

- Alternatives
  - Lease Sale Tracts to Offer for Sale
  - Lease Stipulations
  - Best Management Practices
Cooperating Agencies to date

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- State of Alaska
- North Slope Borough
- Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government
- Venetie Village Council
- Arctic Village Council
# Tentative Schedule

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Scoping Meetings

- May 24: Arctic Village
- May 29: Fairbanks
- May 30: Anchorage
- May 31: Utqiagvik
- June 12: Venetie
- June 12: Kaktovik
- June 15: Washington, DC
How to Provide Comments

Webform  https://goo.gl/HVo5Mj

Email   blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

Comment Form  Email or mail to the address below

Mail  Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
       222 West 7th Avenue, #13
       Anchorage, Alaska 99513

Comments accepted through June 19
Thank you
Quyanaq
Mahsi’ Choo
Meeting Handout
Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

THE PROJECT
The Bureau of Land Management is engaging communities across Alaska in person to gather relevant comments, concerns and/or issues pertaining to the development of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS will serve to inform the BLM’s implementation of the Tax Act, including the requirement to hold not fewer than two lease sales area-wide. It may also inform post-lease activities, including seismic and drilling exploration, development, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain. Specifically, the EIS will consider and analyze the potential environmental impacts of various leasing alternatives, including the areas to offer for sale, and the terms and conditions (i.e., lease stipulations and best management practices) to be applied to leases and associated oil and gas activities to properly balance oil and gas development with existing uses and conservation of surface resources, and to limit the footprint of production and support facilities on Federal lands to no more than 2,000 surface acres. The area comprising the Coastal Plain includes approximately 1.6 million acres within the approximately 19.3 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

SCOPING COMMENTS
The scoping period provides an opportunity for people who could be affected by the proposed action to express their views and concerns, and to offer suggestions. The most effective comments include specific details regarding issues or concerns and provide rationale for the concern or suggestion. Ideas for effective scoping comments include:

- What are your specific concerns about a resource — and why?
- Do you know of any geographic areas of concern for a specific resource — and why?
- Do you have any ideas for alternatives to analyze?
- Give us ideas for mitigation measures or new technologies to consider in an alternative.
- Let us know about important information available in your community.

HOW TO COMMENT
There are several ways to submit a comment on the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS:

- Speak your comment at today’s public meeting
- Submit your comment via comment form at the public meeting or to the address below
- Submit your comment via webform: https://goo.gl/HVo5Mj
- E-mail your comment to: blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov
- Mail your comment to:

  Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
  222 West 7th Avenue, #13
  Anchorage, Alaska 99513
Scoping Meeting Boards
Welcome!

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement

Public Scoping Meeting
Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 *(Tax Act)*

Requires competitive oil and gas leasing program within the Coastal Plain:

- At least two lease sales within 7 years;
  - First lease sale within 4 years of passage of Tax Act
  - Second lease sale within 7 years of passage of Tax Act
- At least 400,000 acres of federal mineral estate offered for lease at each sale
- Up to 2,000 acres of disturbance from production and support facilities
Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 Coastal Plain Boundary
BLM Oil and Gas Leasing Process and Development Process

- Leasing (EIS, Sales, Lease Issuance)
- Geophysical Exploration (pre and post lease)
- Applications for Permits to Drill
  - Drilling Exploration
  - Development
- Operations and Production
- Inspection and Enforcement
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*Note: Any on-the-ground activities will require separate NEPA analysis and would not be authorized as a result of this EIS*
Decisions to be Made

• Alternatives
  – Lease Sale Tracts to Offer for Sale
  – Lease Stipulations
  – Best Management Practices
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- June 12: Venetie
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Comments accepted through June 19, 2018
Speaking Process and Guidelines
Speaking Guidelines
Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

Speaking Process

• Speakers cards are being distributed on a first-come, first-served basis
• Please fill out the speaker card and keep it with you during the meeting
• Speaker cards have a number in the upper right corner
• Speakers will be called to the microphones in groups of 10 based on the number on the speaker card (evens and odds will be divided)
• When your number is called, please proceed to the indicated microphone and hand your speaker card to the person attending the microphone
• Begin by stating your name and whether you a representing an organization or yourself, speaking clearly into the microphone
• You will have a maximum of 3 minutes to speak, as indicated by the digital countdown timer on the projection screen

Please Note:

• We will accommodate as many speakers as time allows; receipt of a speaker card does not guarantee that you will have the opportunity to speak
• Speaking time may not be pooled among participants
• You must be present to speak; no comments will be accepted via cell phone, Facetime, or Skype
• If you have written comments that you are speaking from, we encourage you to submit them in the comment boxes located at the commenting table
Scoping Comment Form
Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS

Public Scoping Comment Form

Please submit your comments by **June 19, 2018** via one of the following methods:

**E-mail:**
blm_ak_coastalplain_EIS@blm.gov

**Via webform on the project website:**
https://goo.gl/HVo5Mj

**Mail:**
Attn: Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS
222 West 7th Ave., Stop #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Public Disclosure. Before including your address, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be advised that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you may request that we withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments:

____________________________________________________________________________________________
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(Continue comments on the back if needed)