



**Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska
Arctic District Office**

March 2020

Update on BLM North Slope Permitting and Activities

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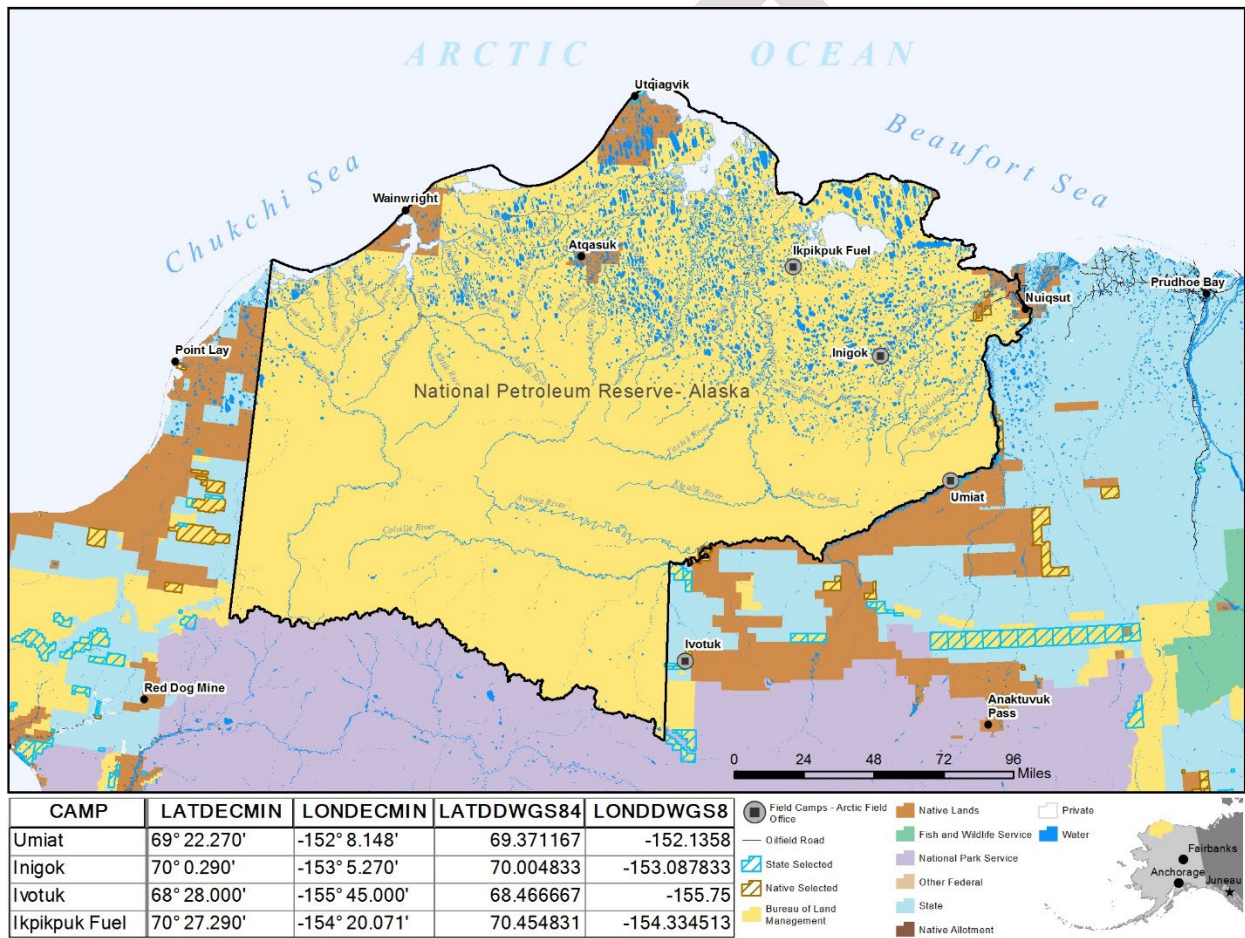
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BLM Arctic District Office Management Overview

The BLM’s Arctic District Office, based in Fairbanks, Alaska, manages public lands within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and an additional 1.6 million acres of subsurface estate in the Coastal Plain area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, both on Alaska’s North Slope.

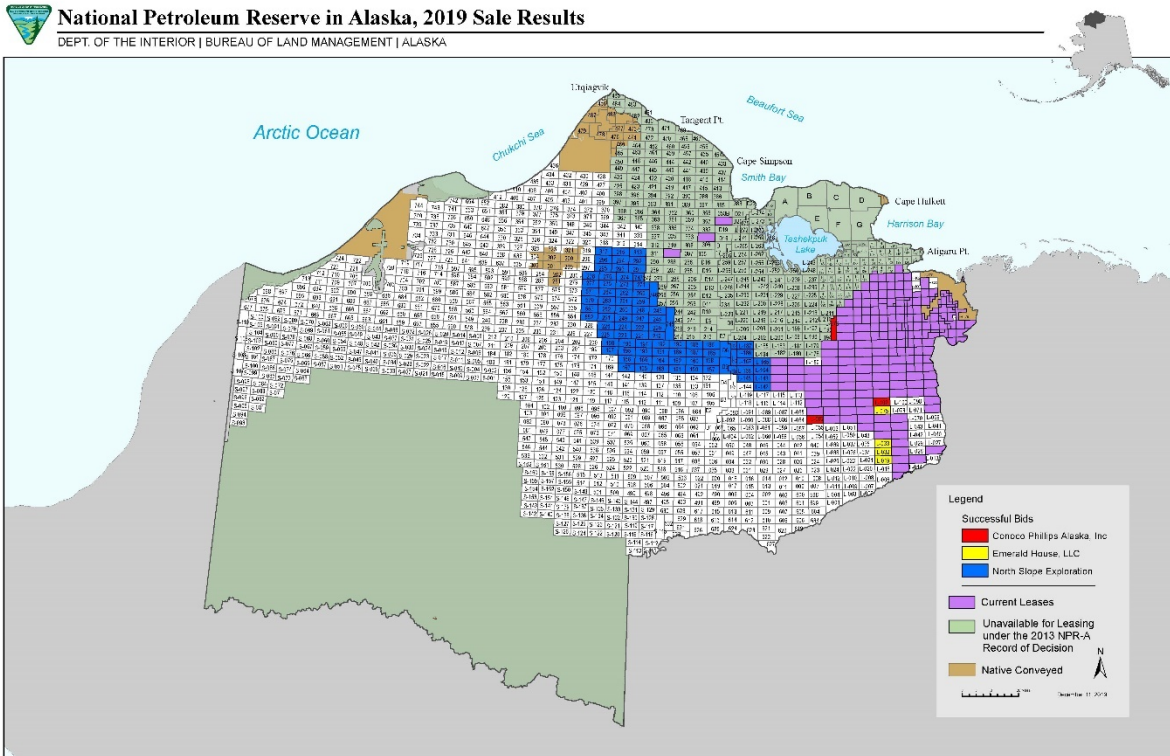
The BLM assumed management of the NPR-A in 1976 when the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA) transferred the Reserve from the Navy to the Department of Interior, and the NPRPA is the guiding legislation for oil and gas leasing, exploration and development within the Reserve.



The NPR-A includes approximately 23 million acres of public lands and constitutes the largest contiguous block of public lands managed anywhere in the United States. Four predominantly Inupiaq (Alaska Native) communities (Utqiagvik, Atqasuk, Nuiqsut, and Wainwright) and their corresponding Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act village corporation lands are located within the NPR-A. The Arctic Office has a Field Station in Utqiagvik (Barrow) and two remote logistic

facilities in NPR-A: Inigok and Umiat.

In the northeast corner of the NPR-A, oil development is expanding westward from the Colville River Delta. There are currently 215 leases covering 1,558,396 acres in the NPR-A and ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) is the largest leaseholder (169 out of 215 leases).



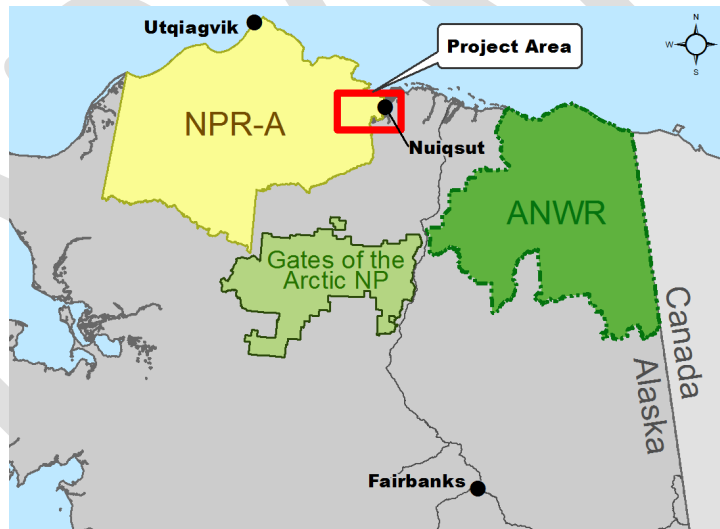
The Arctic District Office also manages the Central Arctic Management Area (CAMA) Wilderness Study Area (WSA), which consists of eight separate tracts of land (totaling 260,060 acres) located between the NPR-A and the Dalton Corridor. Subsistence hunting and personal recreation are allowed in the WSA, and the BLM authorizes land use of the area for commercial activities such as float trips, wildlife viewing and guided hunts. Within CAMA is also the 29,000-acre Nigu-Iteriak Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) that was established to protect geological and cultural resources. Arctic District also manages the CAMA’s Mesa Site, which is the first well-documented Paleoindian site discovered in the North American Arctic and a key source of information about the peopling of the new world. There are no facilities, maintained trails or roads leading to or within the CAMA. Recreational vehicle use is limited to subsistence users; other users typically access the area via aircraft and raft.

Ongoing and Recently Completed Permits and Projects¹

BLM's Arctic District Office generally completes 40-50 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) actions annually, including numerous Categorical Exclusions and Environmental Assessments, for a variety of different projects including activities related to oil and gas development, special recreation permits (SRPs), Rights-of-Ways (ROWs) and permits for research. Staff worked on 3 large-scale Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) in 2019, two of which are ongoing. Many of the office's ongoing and recent permits are described below, and we expect 2020 to be equally productive.

Willow Prospect Master Development Plan Environmental Impact Statement

The BLM initiated a master development plan EIS to evaluate development of the Willow oil prospect in August 2018. ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) is proposing to construct infrastructure for the purpose of oil and gas development in the northeastern region of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A).



Willow Master Development Project Area

The proposed Willow Master Development Plan (MDP) includes (depending on the development scenario selected) a central processing facility, infrastructure pads, up to five drill pads with up

¹ This is not a complete list. See BLM's online NEPA page for all permitting: https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/lup/lup_register.do

to fifty wells on each pad, access and infield roads an airstrip, pipelines, a gravel mine, and updates to an existing dock at Oliktok Point to support module delivery via sealift barges-

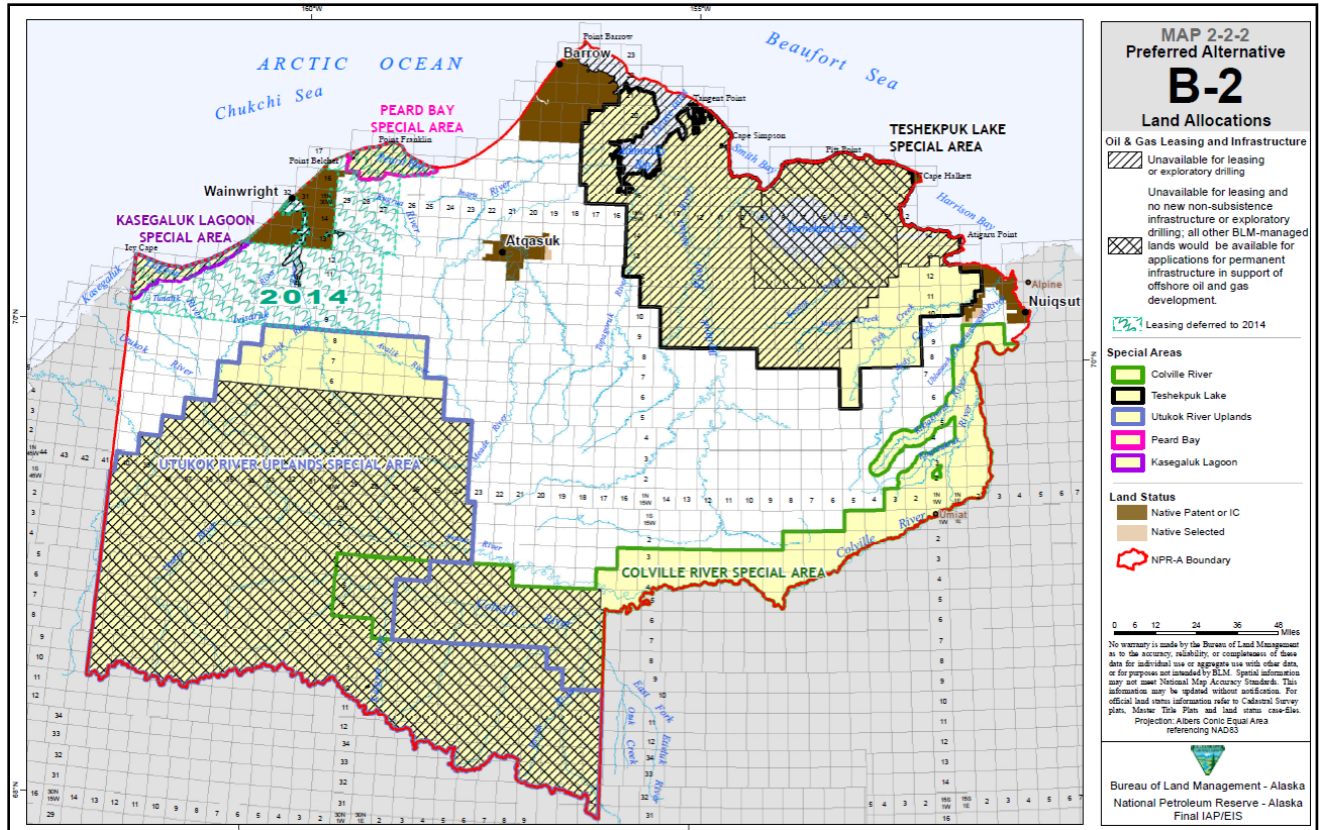
The BLM published the Willow Master Development Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Aug. 23, 2019. Public meetings were held in Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik, Atqasuk, Anaktuvuk Pass, Fairbanks, and Anchorage, and the public comment period was extended to Oct. 29, 2019. The Draft EIS and public comments received are available [on the Willow website](#).

The Bureau of Land Management is currently preparing a supplement to the draft EIS for the Willow Master Development Plan. In response to stakeholder concerns and public comments on the Draft EIS, ConocoPhillips submitted an updated project proposal that includes new project components. The updated project proposal was received by BLM in November 2019, shortly after the comment period closed on the Draft EIS. The new proposal includes transferring modules across the Colville River via ice road, construction of a freshwater reservoir, and up to three boat ramps for subsistence access. The three new project components have not been previously analyzed or shared with the public. For this reason, the BLM will release a supplement to the draft EIS to present the new information and subsequent analysis for a 45-day public comment period, expected to start March 20, 2020.

Please refer to the [project NEPA Register \(ePlanning\) website](#) for additional project information and project updates.

National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (NPR-A IAP/EIS)

The Bureau of Land Management is developing a new Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) and associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) as required by Secretarial Order 3352.



Existing management of the NPR-A (2013 NPR-A IAP Record of Decision)

Cooperating agencies for this project include the North Slope Borough, the State of Alaska, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

The 2013 NPR-A IAP ROD is the current management strategy for the NPR-A, and this new IAP will replace that management strategy in its entirety. There is new information about the technically recoverable reserves of oil and gas in the NPR-A, particularly in the area of Teshekpuk Lake, where there is acreage that is currently not available for leasing. The new IAP/EIS will look at areas of high potential that can be responsibly developed, in accordance with [Secretarial Order 3352](#) and the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA).

Unlike most other public lands in Alaska, NPR-A management is governed by the NPRPA, which affects how the land is managed and the types of uses that are authorized. For example, the NPRPA does not allow the BLM to designate areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs) or allow hard rock mining in the NPR-A. The NPRPA requires the Secretary of the Interior to conduct oil and gas leasing and development within the NPR-A, and to protect significant subsistence, recreational, fish and wildlife, or historical or scenic values to the extent it is consistent with oil and gas exploration and development. Other uses that do not interfere with oil and gas leasing and development and are not explicitly exempted can also be considered.

Section 104(b) of the NPRPA calls out the Utukok River and Teshekpuk Lake areas as “special,” and it allows the Secretary to designate other areas within the NPR-A as Special Areas when they containing significant subsistence, recreational, fish and wildlife, or historic and scenic value. There are currently five Special Areas: Utukok River Uplands (caribou), Teshekpuk Lake (caribou and migratory birds), Colville River (raptors), Peard Bay (migratory birds and sea mammals), and Kasegaluk Lagoon (migratory birds and sea mammals). Every Special Area also contains important subsistence use areas and historical and scenic values. Oil exploration and other activities are generally allowed within special areas in a manner that assures maximum protections of the identified surface values for which the areas were designated.

The Record of Decision, after publication of the Final EIS, will make decisions about which areas should be open for oil and gas leasing and which areas should allow transportation infrastructure and gravel mines.

The BLM released the Draft EIS on November 22, 2019. Public meetings were held in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and six North Slope communities (Point Lay, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, and Anaktuvuk Pass). A 75-day public comment period ended on February 5, 2020. A final EIS is expected in ??, 2020.

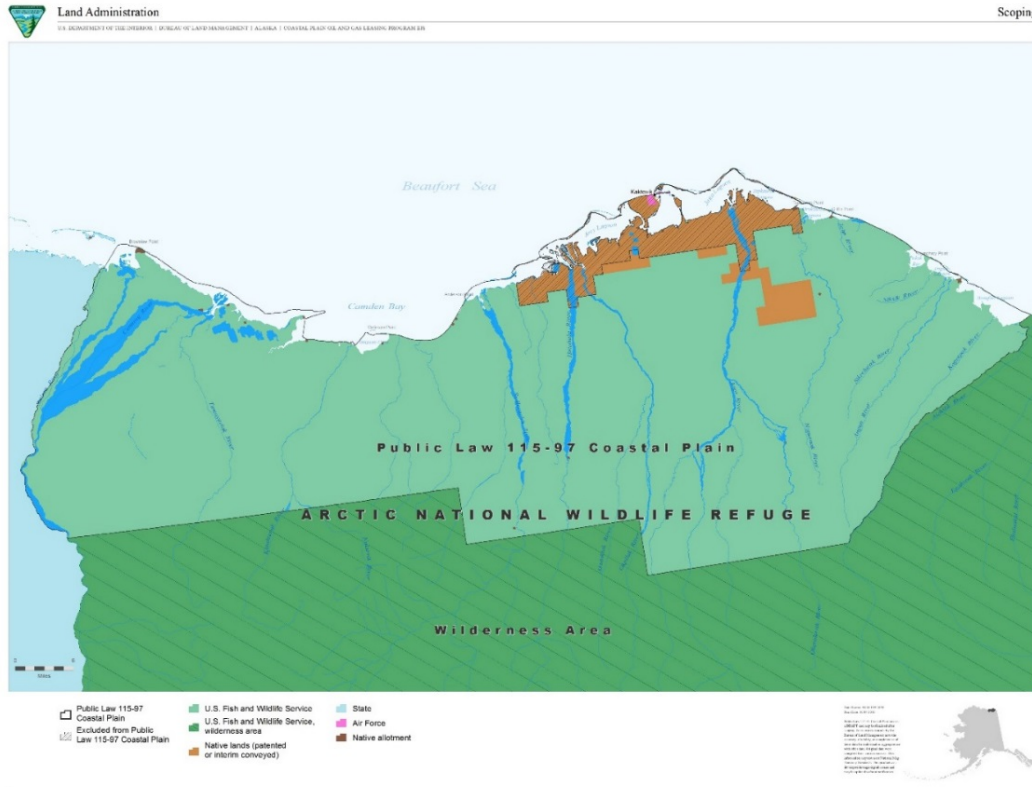
The draft NPR-A IAP EIS and comments are available on [the project website](#)².

Leasing Plan for the Coastal Plain (1002 Area) of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The BLM undertook the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program EIS to implement the leasing program pursuant to Title II of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (Tax Act). The Tax Act established that the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the BLM, shall establish a competitive oil and gas program for the leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Coastal Plain). The Secretary shall manage the oil and gas program on the Coastal Plain in a manner similar to the administration of lease sales under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (NPRPA).

² <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=174095>

The Tax Act included the requirement to hold not fewer than two area-wide lease sales within 10 years. The first lease sale will be within 4 years of the date the Tax Act was enacted and the second lease sale will be within 7 years of that date. Each sale will offer at least 400,000 acres and will include those areas that have the highest potential for petroleum development. The Secretary shall authorize up to 2,000 acres of surface development within the Coastal Plain.



[Click here for the Coastal Plain Leasing EIS website](https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=152109)³

The BLM hosted scoping meetings for the EIS in Arctic Village, Fairbanks, Anchorage, Utqiagvik, Venetie, Kaktovik, and Washington, D.C., May-June 2018. The Draft EIS was published on December 21, 2018 and the BLM held public meetings in the same communities and in Fort Yukon in February 2019. The Final EIS was made available on Sept. 12, 2019.

³ <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=152109>

The leasing EIS considers and analyzes the potential environmental impacts of various leasing alternatives, including the areas to offer for sale, and the lease stipulations and best management practices to be applied. A Record of Decision and lease sale is expected in 2020.

ConocoPhillips 2019-2020 Winter Exploration

The Arctic District Office permitted ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.'s (CPAI's) 2019-2020 winter exploration program in the NPR-A in December 2019. The project includes exploration drilling and testing at up to seven potential sites. CPAI requested approval of ten new well locations to maintain operational flexibility, however they will drill no more than seven new wells.

CPAI's existing suspended wells (Scout 1, Tingmiaq 2, and Tingmiaq 15) are included in the program for access to conduct inspection and potential abandonment.

The activity is occurring from December 2019 through May 2020, with actual timing dependent upon field conditions including tundra conditions and logistical issues. Ice pad and ice road construction began in December 2019 and will continue through March 31, 2020.

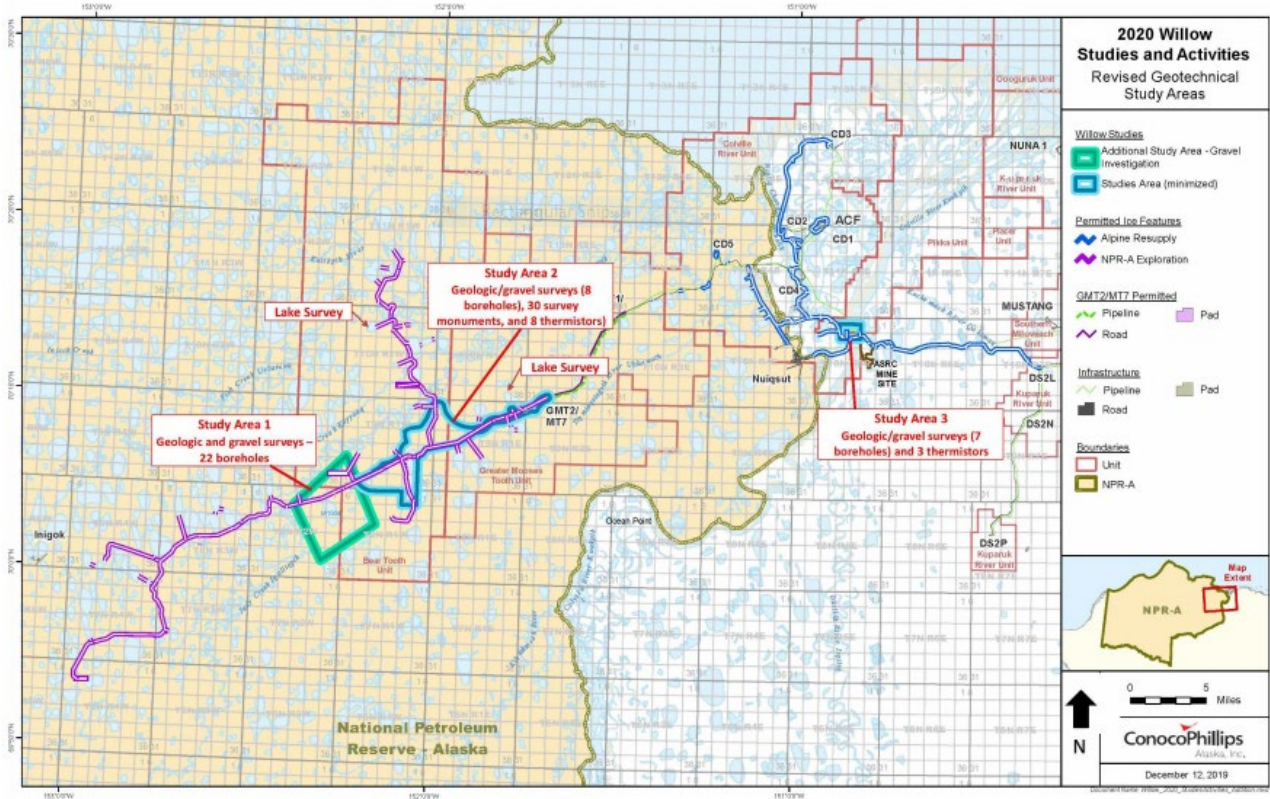
The Environmental Analysis and maps of the project are available [on the project NEPA site](#)⁴.

ConocoPhillips 2020 Geotechnical Studies

In January 2020, Arctic District Office permitted ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.'s (CPAI) field studies on federal, state, and private lands to support the proposed oil and gas Willow Master Development Plan. Engineering and environmental studies include geotechnical surveys to delineate gravel sources by drilling up to 37 boreholes (including soil sampling) (30 on BLM managed lands), installation and maintenance of 11 thermistors (8 on BLM managed lands), installation of up to 30 survey monuments (for survey control of proposed infrastructure), and sampling 2 lakes for potential water sources.

The data are being collected to support appropriate engineering designs and future construction requirements of the proposed Willow Master Development Plan. Each activity would require no more than three weeks to complete. Access to the sites would be by existing CPAI gravel roads (GMT), winter exploration ice roads and overland tundra travel with approved tundra travel vehicles.

⁴ <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/projectSummary.do?methodName=renderDefaultProjectSummary&projectId=1502011>



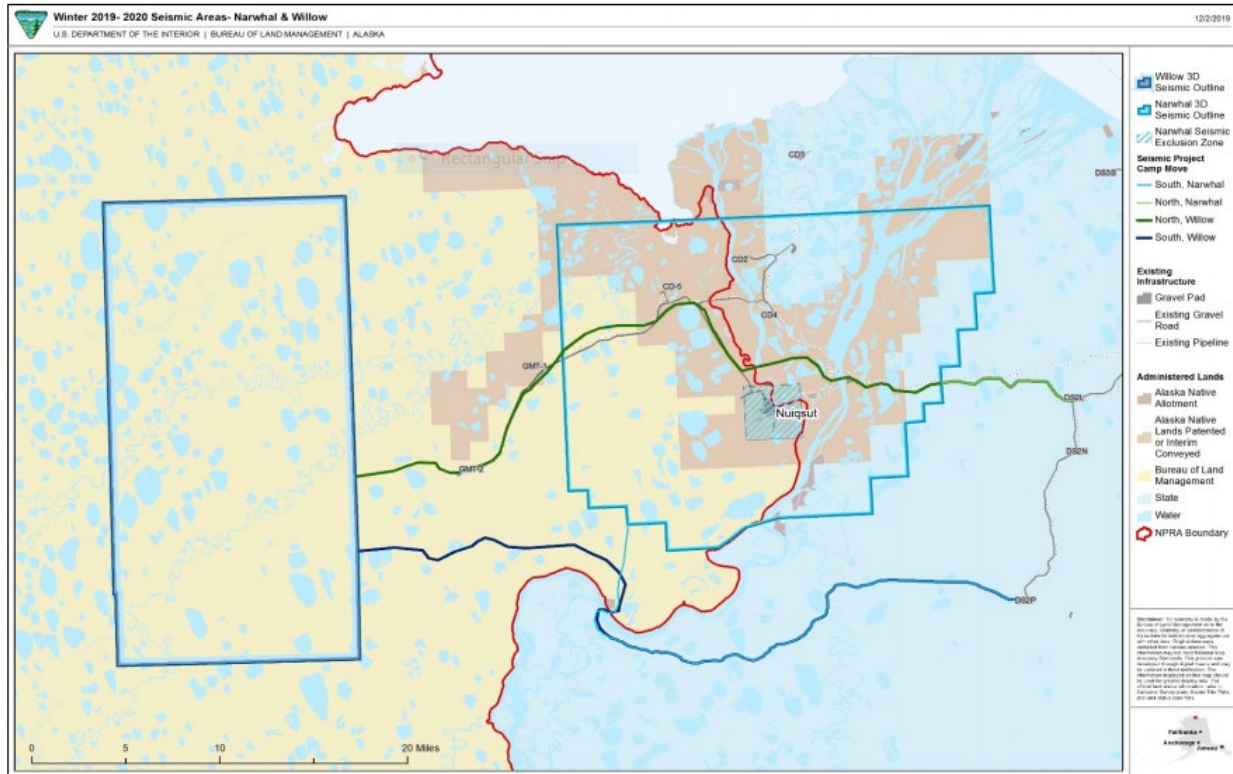
Boreholes for all activities will be created using a portable rotary drill with continuous-core tooling capabilities. The portable drilling equipment would be towed behind a low ground pressure vehicle such as a Tucker Snowcat (Tucker) or Steiger Quad Trac Tractor (Steiger) and contained within an enclosure built on a flexible sled with a smooth plastic bottom. The drill enclosure would include an electric generator and support tools.

3D Seismic Survey - Narwhal

In January 2020, BLM permitted Kuukpik-SAE, LLC to conduct a 3D seismic survey during winter 2020 in either its Willow or Narwhal seismic program areas. Since that decision, Kuukpik-SAE selected the Narwhal program. The Narwhal 3D seismic survey area (approximately 214,900 acres) contains federal lands (BLM, 61,171 acres), State of Alaska owned lands (41,207 acres), Alaska Native Allotments (975 acres), and Alaska Native Lands (111,525 acres).

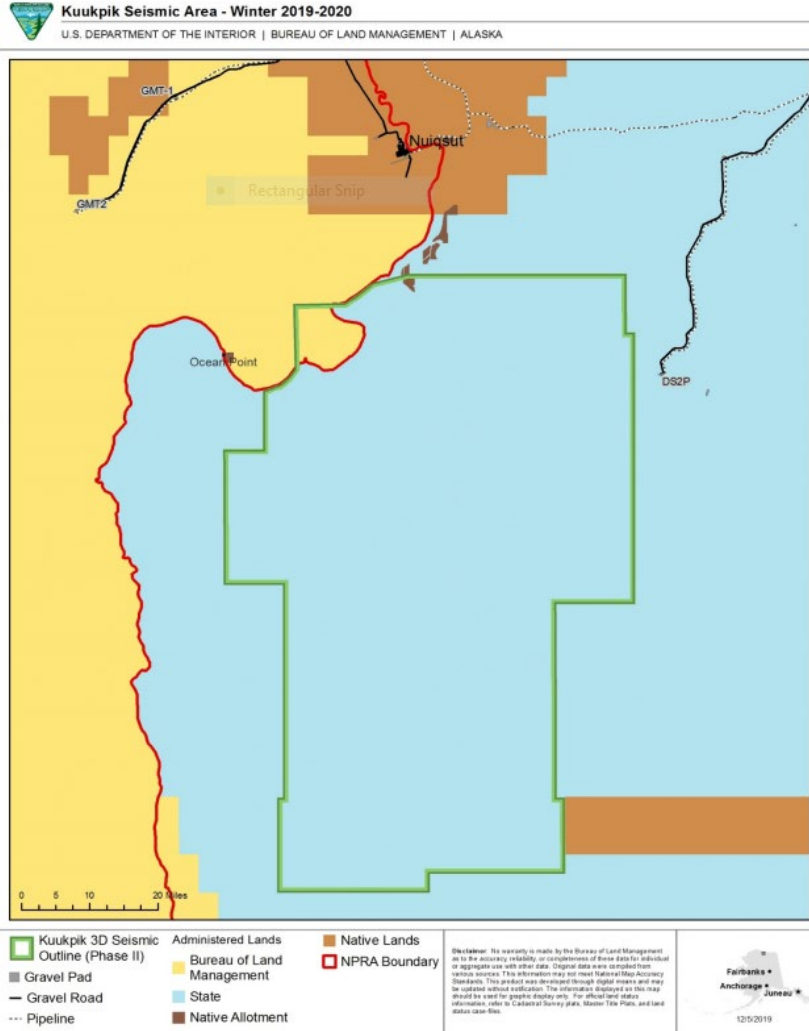
The seismic survey project would use new recording technology to locate potential targets for future oil and gas exploration and development on lands managed by the BLM. The seismic program began in January 2020 once appropriate tundra conditions were met conditions and will

continue through May 2020, with actual timing dependent upon tundra conditions and logistical issues.



Kuukpik 3D Phase II 2020 Winter Seismic Survey

In January 2020, the BLM Arctic Office authorized Kuukpik SAE, LLC (SAE)’s request to conduct a three-dimensional (3D) seismic survey within their Kuukpik 3D Phase II 2020 program area. The project is the second and final portion of a two-year program that began in 2019. The project is mostly on land managed by the State of Alaska, with only a small part of the project, roughly 7.5 square miles, occurring on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management, All BLM managed lands are within the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A).



The SAE proposed seismic program began in January 2020 and will continue until the survey is complete, or tundra is closed (approximately May 2020). The program includes a camp site capable of housing up to 160 people. The total program permitted area encompasses approximately 514 square miles. However, the surface extent of seismic survey on lands managed by BLM is approximately 7.5 square miles.

Greater Mooses Tooth Two

BLM approved the Greater Mooses Tooth Two (GMT2) project in 2018 as a 14 acre pad that can hold up to 48 wells. It is estimated to start in 2020 and will peak at 30,000 barrels per day (BPD). GMT2 components include a drill pad on federally managed (Kuukpik Corporation selected but not conveyed) lands approximately 16 miles west/southwest of Nuiqsut, and pipelines and a road connecting GMT2 to GMT1.

In winter 2018-19, ConocoPhillips Alaska Inc. (CPAI) hauled the gravel and constructed the road and pad for GMT2. In summer 2019 it conducted gravel reconditioning. Currently, reconditioning of the gravel road is 100% complete. The road is closed to oil field traffic with barricades and signage, with an access left open for local subsistence traffic. Pad reconditioning was 100% complete for 2019 season.

Winter 2019-20 facility installation and pipeline construction activities include:

- Installation of vertical and horizontal support members for cross-country pipeline between GMT1 and GMT2.
 - Associated ice construction for pipeline ROW work.
- VSMS will be drilled on the GMT2 pad to prepare for module installation 2020/2021
- Installation of up to 12 pipe racks for the first phase of wells to be drilled.
- Installation of a free-standing communication tower.
- Minor road and pad work (sign installation).

Please visit the [Greater Mooses Tooth 2 Website](#)⁵ for the Final EIS and Record of Decision.

Greater Mooses Tooth One

BLM approved Greater Mooses Tooth One (GMT1) in the Greater Mooses Tooth Unit in 2015 as a 12-acre pad which at full capacity will hold 33 wells. GMT1 is an Alpine satellite connected by road to CD5 and was the first drill site on federal leases within the NPR-A. BLM, ASRC and Kuukpik Corporation share land and mineral rights for the overall project.

Currently there are 7 wells and 9 are expected by 2021. Production began in October 2018 and is currently 13,500 barrels per day (BPD). Peak production is expected to be 20,000 BPD.

In winter 2019-20, a Truck Tanker Loading Area will be installed at GMT1 which was previously permitted under the GMT1 Record of Decision.

Please visit the [Greater Mooses Tooth One website](#)⁶ for the Final EIS and Record of Decision.

BLM Thermistor and Sonic Snow Depth Sensor Installation and Monitoring

In late September 2019 the BLM Arctic District Office installed thermistors and sonic snow

⁵ <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/alaska/GMT2-SEIS>

⁶ <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=50912>

depth sensors at eight locations along the North Slope Borough's Community Winter Access Trail (CWAT) corridor to better assist in the monitoring of soil temperatures and snow depths. Thermistors were installed within approximately 30-150 meters (m) of the expected winter 2019-2020 CWAT location, as conditions allowed.

The crew drilled in frozen soil with a flighted auger and collected all frozen soil shavings excavated from the holes. Crew members installed thermistor sensors embedded in digital temperature cable down holes, as well as a data logging unit, SDS, and mounting hardware above grade with markers to make the sites more visible. The mounting poles are 1.5-1.9 m above surface elevation. The crew used the mineral soil shavings collected from excavation to slurry, backfill, and refreeze the sensors and dug a shallow narrow trench from the thermistor installation site to the data logger. They ran and buried a conduit for the cable in the trench for the cable. Crew members surveyed each site with GPS, marking a snow course for ground-truthing snow-depth measurements during subsequent winter field studies. Three markers at each site (spaced in an L-shaped pattern) consist of stakes with a mounting bracket sunken 15 to 30 cm deep and connected to a flexible, reflective breakaway pole designed to be resilient if hit or run over by snow machine drivers or equipment operators.

BLM Arctic staff expects to continue monitoring efforts indefinitely. Arctic Office staff anticipate that equipment and loggers will function with little to no maintenance required for extended periods, but summer monitoring procedures allow for annual site visits to upload additional logger points and repair non-functioning equipment as needed. Site visits (at least one per year) would involve one helicopter landing and take-off with no additional ground disturbance.

Winter monitoring efforts will focus on snow depth data collection at up to eight sites, with one to three visits annually to each site by helicopter or snow-machine as conditions allow. Winter monitoring will consist of taking 50 snow depth measurements and five density measurements per site. Surface disturbance will be limited to the walking trail and a few small, freshly cut faces in the snow profile to collect density measurements. Each snow survey effort would have a total of eight landings and take-offs for a maximum of 24 landings and take-offs.

If it is determined that monitoring should cease, then the above-ground portion of the installation (conduits, buried cables, and snow course markers) can be removed with minimal disturbance to surface vegetation and negligible soil thermal regime effects.

Native Village of Barrow Debris Removal at Skull Cliff LORAN

The Native Village of Barrow in Utqiagvik, Alaska, is removing debris at the former Skull Cliff Long Range Aid to Navigation (LORAN) site through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP). NALEMP is a Department of Defense program that provides federally recognized

tribes an active role in environmental cleanup resulting from past Department of Defense activities. BLM has issued a Right of Way for the portion of the activity that is on BLM-managed public land.

In 1947, the U.S. Air Force built the Skull Cliff LORAN as a precursor to the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line radar defense system on the coast of the Chukchi Sea about 25 miles southwest of Utqiagvik. The site included a power house, barracks, a transmitter building, a 625-foot tall LORAN tower, and other infrastructure. The Skull Cliff LORAN was closed in 1951, and all of the structures associated with the site have been demolished. Between 1976 and 1978, more than 3,000 tons of debris and 2,200 barrels were removed from the site, including the LORAN tower. The Native Village of Barrow is removing the remaining debris, which includes 350 wooden pilings, 55-gallon drums, concrete anchors, and other miscellaneous items over an 80-acre area.

The Native Village of Barrow began consolidating and staging the debris in August 2019 for removal in October or November 2019. The crew set up a temporary field camp, including a cook tent and two sleeping tents, near the tower pad location, and workers are accessing the site by boat.

Large debris was cut or broken into manageable sizes, and winches were used to remove wooden pilings from the ground. If a piling couldn't be removed, then it was cut off below the ground surface, and the underground portion left in place. In October-November 2019, snow machines with sleds were used to haul the staged LORAN debris to the landfill in Utqiagvik. 538 wooden pilings were removed (cut off 2 feet below ground surface) and are staged for removal.

The Native Village of Barrow crew found and staged hundreds more piling than anticipated and many more remain in the ground. They are working with the US Corps of Engineers to secure more funding to remove the staged pilings and cut and remove additional pilings. The proposed plan to is to conduct a detailed site characterization in summer 2020 and 2021 to inform the follow up project.

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources

National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A)

In summer 2019, BLM Arctic Office permitted the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys (DGGS) to conduct a geotechnical survey in the NPR-A through a Right-of-Way Grant. The grant is valid until Dec. 31, 2021. DGGS conducted work under the authorization in 2019 and will continue in summer 2020. The objective is a shared database of currently known resources — including the location and distribution of sand and gravel — and estimates of total material volume and quality. DGGS is generating a GIS map and producing a final report and publically available data sets, including

multiple geodatabases. The team is currently compiling and digitizing all available data (both published and unpublished), including information from legacy wells and oil companies.

A Department of Transportation (DOT) crew ran a helicopter-supported drill rig in July 2019 during 20 days of fieldwork based out of Inigok. A team of three drillers and a geologist broke down the drilling rig, and components were sling loaded by the helicopter from site to site for reassembly. The field crew drilled nine holes during the summer field season. The DGGs field team also used hand-held (2-cycle gasoline) augers to pre-check sites. The auger crew drilled 11 sites during the field season, taking samples and backfilling the holes with cuttings. Field crews also made observations of surface materials at 28 additional field sites during the summer field season.

Coastal Plain

BLM also permitted DGGs to conduct 1-2 days of sampling work in areas between and immediately adjacent to the Staines and Canning rivers in summer 2019. A crew of three geologists and a helicopter pilot made visual observations and collected samples from geological surface exposures. They also used a small gas-powered auger and a hand auger to collect shallow subsurface samples and characterize the type of subsurface geologic material. A total of nine sites were visited (one surface exposure site and eight shallow subsurface sample sites).

BLM is currently (Feb. 2020) evaluating [DGGs's proposal to conduct lake studies and geological surveys within the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge \(ANWR\)](#)⁷ during summer 2020. Lake studies data would be used to identify potential freshwater sources and fishery resources within ANWR. The primary interest of the geological surveys is to reference stratigraphic sections to help inform geologic interpretations of similar units elsewhere in northern Alaska. This work seeks to further DGGs's knowledge base by exposing newer scientists to foundational outcrops. Geologists who visit key localities for the Brookian, Beaufortian, and Ellesmerian Sequences are much better equipped to correlate and interpret equivalent units in the subsurface.

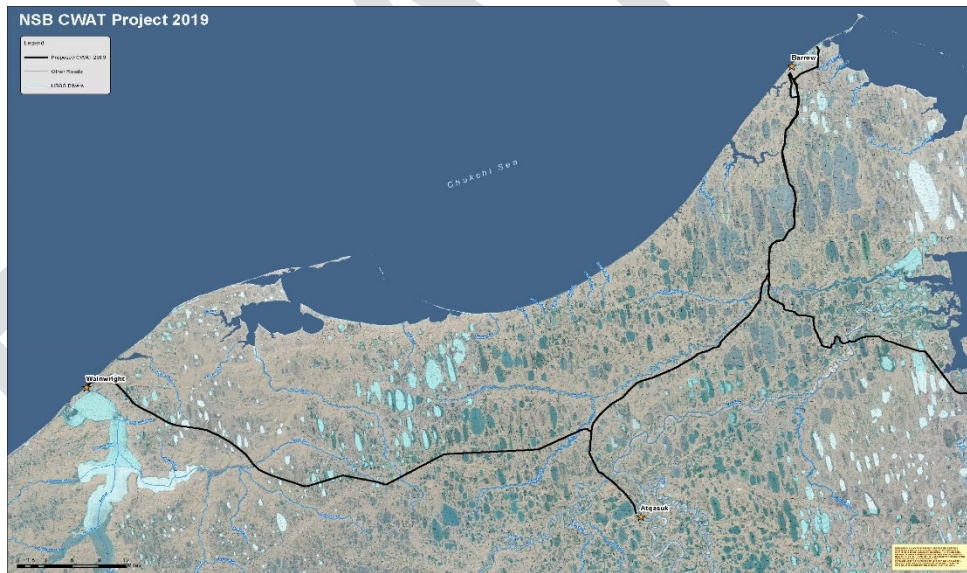
The geographic area of activity for 2020 lake studies includes land on the North Slope of Alaska near Camden Bay of the Beaufort Sea, extending from the Staines River to the Sadlerochit River. The geographic area of activity for geological surveys includes five general localities within the ANWR Coastal Plain Area. The southernmost boundary ranges from 15–35 mi (24–56 km) inland, and the northernmost boundary is where land meets the Beaufort Sea.

⁷ https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/1503753/20011863/250016133/DGGs_Proposed_Project.pdf

North Slope Borough Community Winter Access Trails Right-of-Way

The BLM Arctic District Office permitted the North Slope Borough (NSB) Community Winter Access Trails (CWAT) in fall 2017 with a 5-year Right-of-Way. The CWAT involves annual winter construction of improved snow trails for use by residents along historically established Rolligon trails between Utqiagvik, Atqasuk, Wainwright, Nuiqsut, and Drill Site 2P (on the east side of the Colville River). This project focuses on maintaining existing trails and managing public safety. The five-year permit authorizes the CWAT from winter 2017-18 through winter 2022-23.

The BLM Central Yukon Field Office evaluated the proposed CWAT snow trail route from the Dalton Highway to Anaktuvuk Pass with an Environmental Assessment, but snow and tundra conditions have not yet been sufficient to construct this portion of the CWAT. In winter 2019 the Arctic District amended the Right-of-Way for the CWAT to include a route between Wainwright and Atqasuk. The Arctic Office is currently evaluating a proposed amendment to the Right of Way to authorize the installation of 2 safety shacks along the CWAT route, which would provide heat, shelter, and basic facilities for CWAT travelers.



This project is expected to demonstrate the NSB's capability to provide winter overland access to its communities located adjacent to or within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). The NSB coordinates the establishment and development of the winter access trails. Eskimos, Inc. serves as the NSB's prime contractor for the winter trails and is responsible for the subcontractors conducting work on the trails.

Commercial operators wishing to use the CWAT are permitted separately by the BLM.

[Please visit the CWAT ePlanning website for complete information.](#)

ADF&G Research on Arctic grayling in the lower Colville River

BLM authorized Andrew D. Gryska with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) Sportfish Division to access and landing by helicopter and fixed wing aircraft in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) for summer 2019 research to describe the seasonal habitats and migrations of mature Arctic grayling in the lower Colville River relative to the Nuiqsut subsistence fishery area.

ADFG radio tagged up to 225 Arctic grayling in the lower Colville River and its tributaries between the Killik River and Nuiqsut. A local Nuiqsut resident was hired to provide access to sampling locations in the Colville River adjacent to Nuiqsut. SeeBee Creek and the Colville River at Umiat were accessed by foot. Areas adjacent to Umiat were accessed via R44 helicopter where approximately 25 sites were sampled.

Arctic grayling were captured by hook and line or beach seines, and only Arctic grayling greater than 330 millimeters Fork Length (FL)¹ that appeared to be healthy were surgically implanted with a radio tag. The radio tags can be programmed to have a 16-month operational life. Each tag emits an individual code for each fish on a particular radio frequency. Locations of radio-tagged Arctic grayling were then determined using periodic flights in a fixed wing aircraft.

Members of the North Slope Regional Advisory Council listed Colville River Arctic grayling research as a Priority Information Need and supported of this project. The North Slope Borough's Department of Wildlife Management was consulted regarding the development and execution of this project. In addition, a discussion about sampling methods was started with the Native Village of Nuiqsut and some local subsistence users. ADFG partnered with the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program to hire a university student as an intern to work with the project.

Teshekpuk Lake Observatory, Drew Point and Point Lonely

The Arctic Office is reviewing the application of Dr. Benjamin Jones with the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) for a Right-of-Way (ROW) to use the Naval Arctic Research Laboratory Cabin located at Teshekpuk Lake and to maintain meteorological stations on public land at Teshekpuk Lake, Point Lonely, and Drew Point. Jones maintains and operates meteorological stations that provide information for UAF, other researchers, and federal agencies including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Jones was previously permitted for this under the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Jones has used and rehabilitated the NARL cabin and shed since 2010 and continues to maintain

the site's visual aspect. He is requesting to continue his use of the cabin, outbuilding and site along with weather stations and camera at Teshekpuk Lake, Point Lonely, and Drew Point. The intention is to maintain the Teshekpuk site as a limited-use, long-term ecological Arctic research facility.

Jones would use the sites year-round and would base camp activities out of the NARL cabin. Typically, two to four people at a time would be involved in research activities. Access in the winter/spring would be via snow machine. In the summer, floatplane or R44 helicopter would provide transportation support and Jones anticipates 12 to 15 flights per year.

ASTAC fiber optic line route between Utqiagvik and Atqasuk

The BLM Arctic Office approved a Right-of-Way Grant in August for the Arctic Slope Telephone Association Cooperative, Inc.'s (ASTAC) to install and use a terrestrial fiber optic cable laid on the ground surface connecting Atqasuk to Utqiagvik. The grant will expire on Dec. 31, 2039.

ASTAC plans to lay the fiber optic cable during the 2020/21 winter construction season. ASTAC intends to truck materials and equipment to Deadhorse and transport everything to Utqiagvik in February 2020 via Rolligons. The Rolligon operator would obtain BLM authorizations for equipment transport between Deadhorse and Utqiagvik. Exact start dates would be determined by ground conditions. Actual construction of the fiber optic cable route would take place once the cable arrives in Utqiagvik. Cable seating (inspection and adjustment of how the cable is positioned on the ground and in the waterbodies) would occur during mid to late summer of 2020 (no on the ground activities would be conducted between June 15 and Aug. 1 to avoid disturbing nesting spectacled and/or Steller's eiders) via summer-approved tundra travel vehicles or helicopter.

ASTAC completed winter and summer surveys of the route of the route in 2018. The 65-mile-long route follows the Walakpa Gas Field Pipeline to its southern terminus, and then it continues south toward Atqasuk paralleling a commonly used winter travel corridor. This route avoids eider nesting concentrations south of Utqiagvik, avoids most known camps, cabins, and cultural resources, and minimizes larger stream crossings. The cable will be elevated to cross Niklavik Creek, Inaru River, and Nigisaktuvik River.

IRIS Removal of Earthquake Monitoring Systems

The Arctic Office reviewed and approved IRIS/USArray's (USArray) application to renew its Right-of-Way (ROW) grant for the removal of 12 earthquake monitoring systems in various locations in the NPR-A. The USArray is an earthquake-monitoring network, operated and maintained by IRIS (a non-profit consortium of US Universities) on behalf of the National

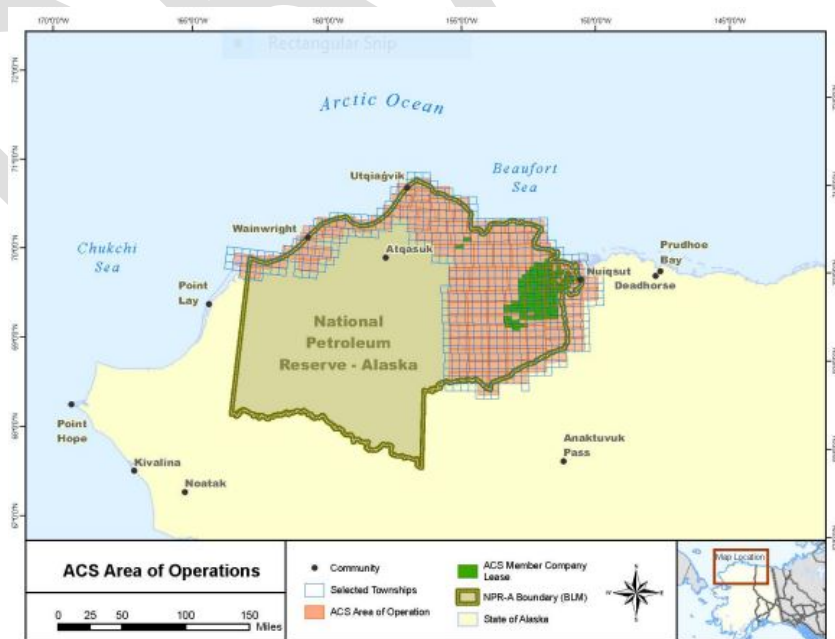
Science Foundation. Data gathered from the network is used to build a 3D image of the structure of the deep crust and mantle of the Earth.

The stations include seismometers in cased holes 3-15 feet below ground surface and electronics and power housed in an above ground insulated enclosure. These grey fiberglass huts have solar panels mounted directly on them and have no moving parts. IRIS installed the North Slope stations 2016-18 and plans to remove the seismic stations in the NPR-A starting in the spring of 2020 and continuing into fall of 2021.

Alaska Clean Seas Oil Spill Response Training and Reconnaissance

BLM Arctic Office renewed a Right of Way authorizing Alaska Clean Seas (ACS) to conduct oil spill response training, deploy equipment cache, and perform reconnaissance to determine the feasibility of pre-deploying a containment boom.

ACS will continue to provide planning, training and logistical support for oil spill response operations in the areas of NPR-A highlighted in pink and green on the map below. They will also continue to conduct summer reconnaissance activities to determine potential pre-staged equipment and pre-deployed containment booming sites and obtain area knowledge to increase oil spill response preparedness. Training will consist of transporting Spill Response Team (SRT) members to the sites and deploying boom and small skimming systems in the areas to determine the best methods of responding to an oil spill. This training would continue to identify ideal sites for collection and recovery of oil spilled from proposed pipelines and operating areas.



Training will be conducted once or twice a month year-round for both summer and winter activities as timing permits and need demands. The training groups of six to 20 personnel per exercise will access training areas in the summer primarily by small boats (summer only) or on foot via existing roads. When accessing by boat, ACS anticipates 2-4 boats per training event. Access from the Chukchi Sea and Beaufort Sea shorelines will be with shallow-draft vessels up to 55 feet long. Boats will include jet boats, various types of vessels employing outboard motors, airboats, or screw driven vessels.

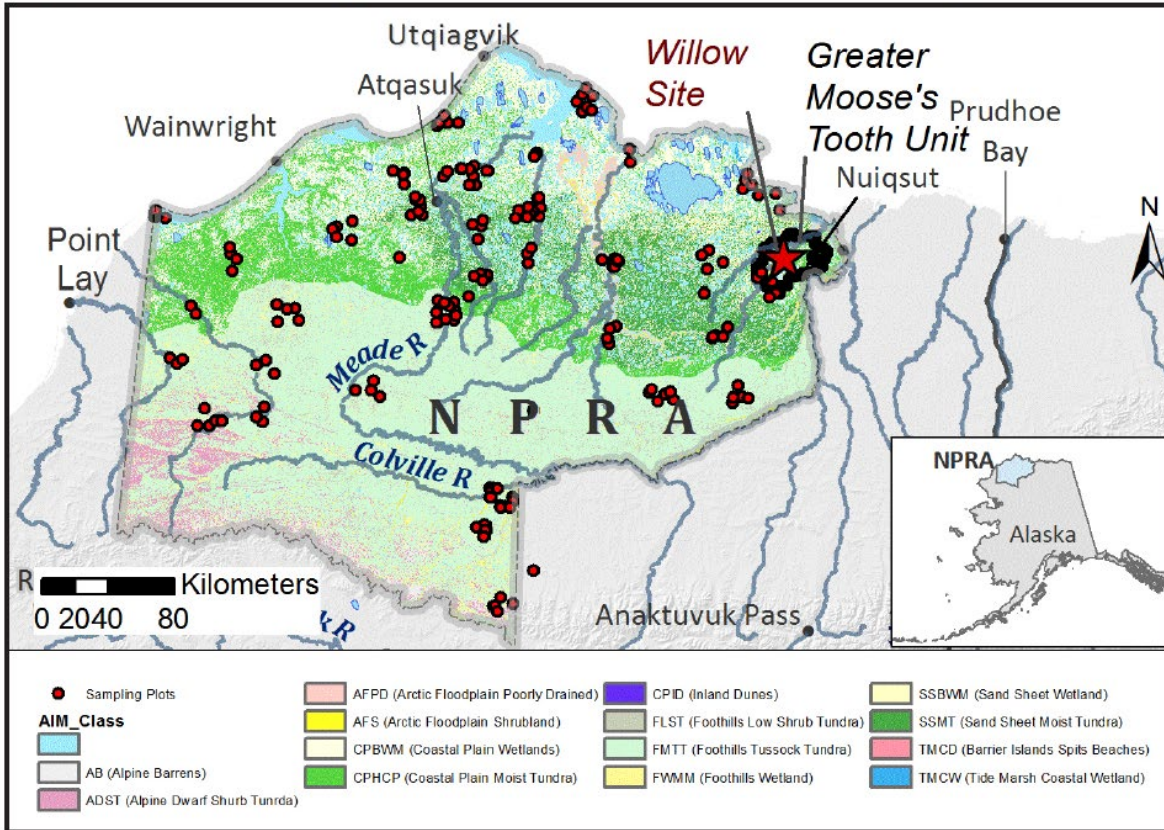
Land vehicle access will primarily be conducted in the winter after tundra travel has been opened and will be by snow machine or other tundra approved vehicles. Remote sites may be accessed by helicopter.

BLM Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Vegetation Project

Starting in 2012, BLM Alaska began an Assessment, Inventory and Monitoring (AIM) pilot project within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). The purpose of the project is to: 1) monitor the magnitude of climate change impacts to tundra ecosystems, 2) understand how climate change will affect our ability to sustain species, biodiversity, and traditional subsistence uses into the future, and 3) develop baseline knowledge about the environment in the face of increased oil and gas exploration and anthropogenic impacts. Since 2012, data has been collected across the NPR-A at more than 190 field-monitoring sites.

In summer 2019, the BLM contracted with the Alaska Center for Conservation Science (ACCS) to conduct a two-year field sampling effort in and around the Greater Mooses Tooth 2 (GMT2) oil and gas project to determine if there are any development impacts. The 2019 AIM project ran July 31-Aug. 11 from the BLM Inigok field camp and collected information on 40 field sites. In 2020, ACCS and BLM plan to return to complete the contract.

In summer 2020, the AIM crew will first work out of Nuiqsut, accessing sites from the road system. They will base the second half out of Inigok using a helicopter.



Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring Sites in the NPR-A

UAF lake drainage, thermokarst lake basins, sudden flood research project

BLM Arctic permitted University of Alaska at Fairbanks hydrologist Chris Arp's research project ("Causes and Consequences of Catastrophic Lake Drainage in an Evolving Arctic System") to study lake drainage causes and consequences and feedback between shrub succession within drained thermokarst lake basins and enhanced snowfall and warmer temperatures in arctic Alaska. Data collected in this study will feed into future model development to enhance predictive capacity of hydrologic hazards and landscape responses to climate change in the Arctic.

With field activities occurring in both winter and summer from April 2019 to August 2021, the study will involve predicting where and when lakes might drain and the magnitude and impacts of downstream flooding. Floods generated from snow-dam outburst may help explain abnormally large flood peaks in many arctic rivers. These processes are increasingly important to consider for future petroleum development and the associated expansion of roads and pipelines through coastal plain terrain.

Instrumentation will be installed at up to 22 High Drainage Potential (HDP) Lakes. Spring traverses (by snowmachine) will be conducted to deploy instruments, conduct snow surveys, and collect permafrost cores. Early summer visits (by helicopter) will be conducted to photograph the extent of flooding, ensure instruments are operating correctly, and document meltout conditions. Summer visits (by helicopter) will be conducted to download and service instruments, collect permafrost cores, and conduct vegetation surveys. Details of the project are available on the BLM's ePlanning website: [UAF Lake Drainage Project](#)⁸

Legacy Wells Program Update

Background

Between 1944 and 1982, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Geological Survey drilled 136 wells on Alaska's North Slope to explore for oil and gas resources within what is now the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A).

In 1976, BLM was given responsibility for managing the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A), and in 1982 BLM inherited the responsibility for the legacy wells. Many of the legacy wells were not properly plugged or abandoned, and surface debris or contaminated soil may have been left in place. The BLM prepared the NPR-A 2013 Legacy Wells Summary Report and the NPR-A 2013 Legacy Wells Strategic Plan to assess the condition of each well and prioritize remediation of the wells.

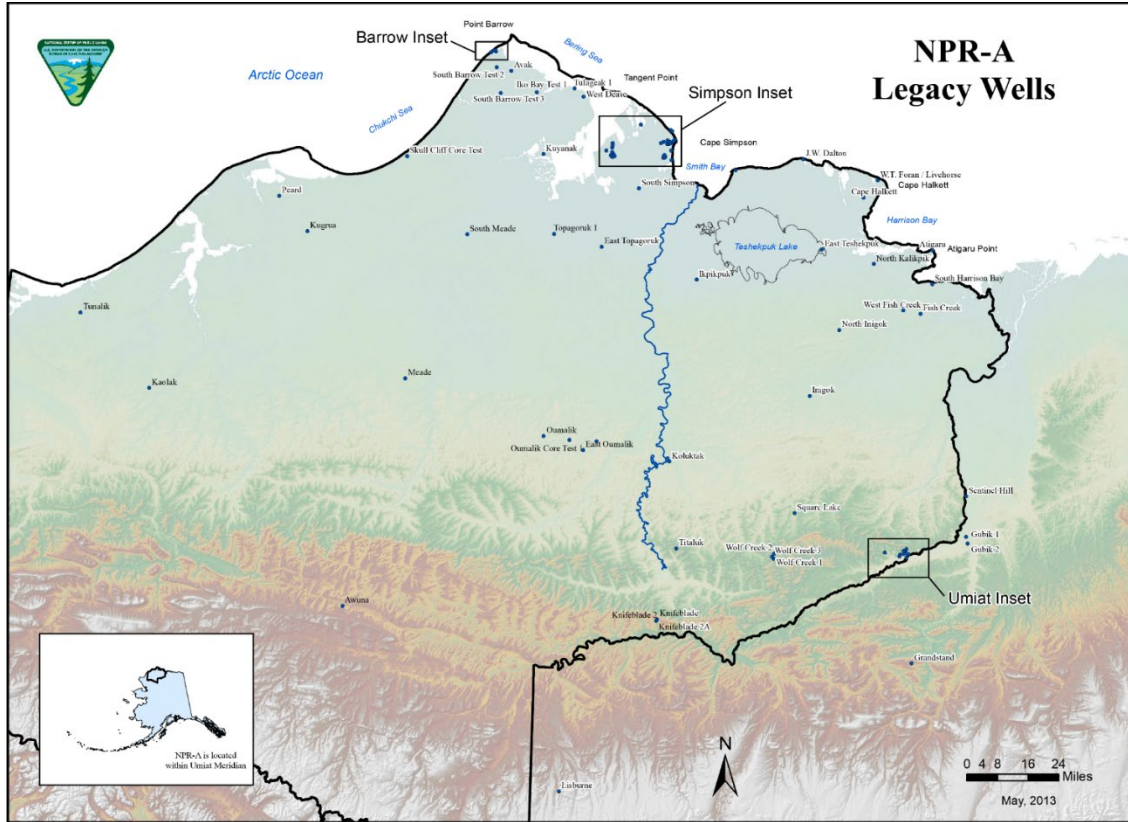
2019-2020 Winter Season

Olgoonik Construction Services (OCS), under contract to and authorization by the BLM, is mobilizing in February 2020 to plug and abandon (P&A) four legacy wells: Simpson Core Test 26, Simpson 1, North Simpson 1, and South Simpson 1, and to remove accessible/visible surface debris at each location.

Work will be conducted from February to May 2020. OCS will mobilize to the wells via a winter snow trail and complete P&A activities which would include removing any existing drilling muds or fluids from the well, filling the well casing with cement, cutting the well casing off at least 5 feet below the existing ground surface, welding an identification well plate to the top of each casing, and backfilling the excavation.

⁸ https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/projects/nepa/120771/170587/207220/UAF_Chris_Arp_CX20_2019.pdf

Work will begin at Simpson Core Test 26, then progress to Simpson 1 and North Simpson 1. Work at South Simpson 1 will be completed at the same time as the other wells with a separate crew. Follow up activities including site sampling, minor debris cleanup and route inspections will be completed between June and August 2020.



Legacy Wells Upcoming Work:

The BLM is working on updating the 2013 Legacy Wells Summary Report and 2013 Legacy Wells Strategic Plan.

More Information:

More information on legacy wells can be found on the BLM Alaska website at:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/alaska-legacy-wells>

Photos of the 2017/2018 winter plugging and abandonment activities are available on the BLM Alaska Flickr site:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/blmalaska/albums>

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Nuiqsut Environmental Information Website and Web Map

BLM's 2017 Record of Decision for the Greater Mooses Tooth 2 (GMT2) Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) included a Best Management Practice establishing a specific webpage to make available data, maps, and reports that describe development and environmental conditions in the vicinity of the community of Nuiqsut.

The [Nuiqsut Environmental Information Website](https://northslopescience.org/nuiqsut/)⁹ (NEIW) is hosted by the North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI). ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. provides environmental monitoring studies that are required on BLM-managed lands within 50 miles of Nuiqsut. Other research relevant to the community of Nuiqsut or that was previously conducted to support GMT2 within 50 miles of Nuiqsut on BLM-managed lands is also included. There are currently approximately 400 reports available through NEIW, including air quality reports, Nuiqsut subsistence caribou monitoring reports, and Colville River fish reports. Additional reports will be added as they become available.

NSSI also provides a web map service on the page that highlights various infrastructure and land ownership themes in the North Slope region. This web map also provides access to recent high resolution imagery and USGS topographical maps.

State of Alaska NPR-A Impact Grant Program

The State of Alaska receives 50% of National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) lease revenues, which it uses to help North Slope communities mitigate impacts from oil and gas development under its NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program

Key Facts

- Eligible communities submit grant proposals through a competitive application process. Priority is given to municipalities experiencing or expected to experience the most direct or severe impacts. The grants are subject to legislative approval and awarded and managed by the State of Alaska Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development.
- The State of Alaska retains any payments that are not needed to fund NPR-A impact mitigation grants (25% to the Alaska Permanent Fund, 0.5% to the Public School Trust Fund, up to the

⁹ <https://northslopescience.org/nuiqsut/>

remaining amount may be appropriated by the legislature to the Power Cost Equalization and Rural Electric Capitalization Fund, and any remaining amount to the State's General Fund).

- ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) estimated that the GMT1 and GMT2 projects will provide more than \$350 million in payments to the State of Alaska NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program 2018-2050.
- CPAI estimated that the proposed Willow Master Development Project will result in \$2.5 billion in royalty payments to the State of Alaska's NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program¹⁰.

Annual NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program reports to the Alaska Legislature include the history of the program and a list of all the grantees, projects, and amounts granted since the program began receiving money in State fiscal year 1983:

(<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/GrantsSection/NPR-AlaskaImpactMitigationGrant.aspx>)

Background

Section 6506a of the federal statute¹¹ requires that 50% of the money received by the federal government from “sales, rentals, bonuses, and royalties on leases issued...” in the NPR-A be paid to the State of Alaska. The State deposits those revenues into the NPR-A Special Revenue Fund (NPR-A Fund), to use for (1) planning; (2) construction, maintenance, and operation of essential public facilities; and (3) other necessary public services provided by a municipality. In the allocation of the funds, the State gives priority to communities most impacted by development in the NPR-A. Fund levels change every year because they are based on lease sales.

Prior to 1984, half of the total NPR-A revenue received by the State was deposited in the Alaska Permanent Fund, 0.5% percent went to the Public School Trust Fund, and the remainder was deposited in the General Fund and used to fund various legislative appropriations. In 1985, the North Slope Borough, Wainwright, and Barrow filed suit. As a result, the State was required to restructure its program and to give first priority to the municipalities and/or communities most directly impacted by NPR-A development.

Fiscal year 1987 was the first year of the NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program. From 1987 through 1996, \$10,462,965 was distributed. By 1996, all existing NPR-A leases were terminated, relinquished, or expired; therefore, the NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program was inactive from FY96 through FY99. In 1999, the BLM entered into new 10-year leases in the northeastern NPR-A, and grants were distributed again.

¹⁰ NEI 2019. "Economic Analysis of Proposed Alternatives for the Willow Master Development Plan EIS". Unpublished Memorandum from Patrick Burden and Leah Cuyano, NEI to Kristen Hansen, DOWL. April 4, 2019.

¹¹ 42 U.S.C. Chapter 78, Sections 6501-6508

Priority is given to those communities most directly or severely impacted by oil and gas development. This has historically meant those communities located within the NPR-A (Barrow, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, and Wainwright). Anaktuvuk Pass (AKP) is also eligible because it was determined in 1987 that AKP's subsistence activities take place or are impacted by activities in the NPR-A. Because the North Slope Borough is an umbrella organization that has received and distributed a significant percentage of this grant money, all NSB communities benefit, including Kaktovik, Point Lay, and Point Hope. Tribal governments are not municipalities, so they are not qualified to submit applications to the State of Alaska-administered NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program.

The State of Alaska Division of Community and Regional Affairs has an application selection committee made up of three people familiar with issues in NPR-A communities. This committee scores and ranks the proposals and provides that list to its commissioner for a determination on which projects to fund.

Fiscal Year 2019 Appropriations¹²

The following section contains information excerpted from the [*NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program Report to the First Session of the Thirty-first Alaska Legislature*](#) issued by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development in January 2019.

¹² <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/4/pub/2019%20Report%20to%20the%20Legislature.pdf>

National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Impact Mitigation Grant Program

NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grants Awarded--Based on January 2018 recommendations
 FY19 Appropriation (Page 1 of 3)

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Grant Status</u>
Anaktuvuk Pass 19-NPRA-11	Local Operations/ Community Center Upgrades	\$571,536	This project is to provide key administrative personnel positions as well as other costs associated with the successful operation of a local government. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, insurance, utilities, communication, materials, supplies, freight, equipment purchases and community center upgrades.	Active
Atkasuk 19-NPRA-09	Local Government Operations and Youth Program	393,061	This project is to supplement the operations and maintenance costs necessary to successfully operate the local government of Atkasuk and provide continued services to residents including the youth program. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, insurance, utilities, communications, materials, supplies, professional services, travel and training.	Active
North Slope Borough 19-NPRA-01	Monitoring Waterfowl in the NPR-A	337,550	This project is to provide support to the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management to continue a long-term waterfowl-monitoring project initiated in the 1990s. The project includes monitoring the population size, trends, and productivity of the Black Brant and Lesser Snow Geese waterfowl within the NPR-A. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, contractual services, materials, supplies, freight, travel and administration.	Active
North Slope Borough 19-NPRA-02	Area-Wide Air Quality Study	1,187,500	This project will focus on several aspects of air quality and air quality monitoring by collecting baseline data in the NPR-A impacted communities. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, contractual services, materials, supplies, travel and administration.	Active
North Slope Borough 19-NPRA-03	Monitoring Nearshore Fish and their Habitats in the NPR-A	562,500	This project is to provide support to the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management to conduct studies on the abundance and habitat of nearshore fishes in the NPR-A region. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, contractual services, equipment rental/purchase, materials, supplies, freight, travel, and administration.	Active
North Slope Borough 19-NPRA-08	Monitoring fish in the Colville River for presence of water mold (Saprolegnia)	187,500	This project is to monitor broad whitefish for the presence of mold on the Colville River. The study will provide baseline information on the broad whitefish to produce a health assessment index. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, contractual services, materials, supplies, freight, travel, and administration.	Active
North Slope Borough 19-NPRA-12	North Slope Borough Community Winter Access Trails (CWAT)	3,576,798	This project is to design, construct, monitor and maintain the North Slope Borough Community Winter Access Trails. Grant funds will be for contractual services, equipment rental/purchase, materials, supplies, freight, travel, training, and administration.	Active
Sub-Total (Page 1)		\$6,816,445		

NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grants Awarded--Based on January 2018 recommendations
 FY19 Appropriation (Page 2 of 3)

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Grant Status</u>
Nuiqsut 19-NPRA-04	Youth Center Operations and Maintenance	\$267,826	This project is to continue operations and maintenance of the youth center. The center will provide a safe, healthy and controlled environment for the community's youth to gather, socialize and recreate. Grant will be for labor, fringe benefits, materials, supplies, freight, communications, maintenance and repairs, fuel, utilities, cultural camps/expeditions, and special events.	Pending
Nuiqsut 19-NPRA-05	Local Government Operations and Maintenance	949,203	This project is to provide funding for local government operations and maintenance for the city of Nuiqsut. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, equipment rental/purchase, materials, supplies, freight, travel, maintenance, communication, utilities, fuel and insurance.	Active
Nuiqsut 19-NPRA-10	Kisik Center Maintenance Project	192,035	This project is to repair Kisik Community Center HVAC system and general maintenance to the facility such as electrical, plumbing, and mechanical. Grant funds will be for contractual services, building materials, and freight.	Pending
Utqiagvik 19-NPRA-13	Repair of the city of Utqiagvik's shop subfloor and BCI Support	160,000	This project is to replace the old shop floor by installing BCI support and all new subfloors at the city's maintenance shop. Grant funds will be for contractual services, materials, supplies, and freight.	Active
Utqiagvik 19-NPRA-14	Local Government Operations	1,890,000	This project is to continue operations including city council, administration costs, maintenance department, business licensing, Department of Motor Vehicles, taxicab regulations services, alcohol registration services, concessions, summer youth program, scholarship expenses, little dribblers, and ice rink. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, contractual services (audit, computer support, legal), materials, supplies, and freight.	Active
Utqiagvik 19-NPRA-15	Purchase New John Deere Loader	400,000	This project is to purchase a loader. Grant funds will be for equipment purchase and freight.	Active
Utqiagvik 19-NPRA-16	Purchase New Tent for Existing Hockey Facility	147,690	This project is to purchase a tent cover for the hockey and curling facility. Grant funds will be for materials, supplies, and freight.	Active
Wainwright 19-NPRA-06	Youth Program	289,272	This project is to continue the Wainwright Youth Program. The program is to provide the young people of Wainwright a safe, supervised place where they can socialize with their friends, enjoy recreational activities, and participate in traditional cultural activities. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, insurance, contractual services, recreational materials, supplies, utilities, heating fuel, communications, maintenance and repairs.	Active

NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grants Awarded--Based on January 2018 recommendations
 FY19 Appropriation (Page 3 of 3)

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Grant Status</u>
Wainwright 19-NPRA-07	Local Government Operations	499,251	Rectangular Ship This project is to provide supplemental funding for the city of Wainwright local government operations to enable it to manage its financial affairs, grant programs, and community activities, to fulfill its municipal responsibilities as a second-class city under Title 29. The city will facilitate communication between the community, the state, federal agencies, and the oil industry to address the current and future effects of exploration activities. Grant funds will be for labor, fringe benefits, communications, utilities, maintenance, repairs, travel/training, materials, supplies, professional services, and insurance.	Active
Sub-Total (Page 1)		\$6,816,445		
Sub-Total (Page 2)		\$4,296,026		
Sub-Total (Page 3)		\$ 499,251		
Total		\$11,611,722		

Fiscal Year 2020 Applications Recommended for Funding¹³

National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Impact Mitigation Grant Program

FY20 NPR-A Applications Recommended for Funding

January 2019

APPLICANT	PROJECT TITLE	COMMUNITY TO BENEFIT	AMOUNT RECOMMENDED
City of Anaktuvuk Pass	Local Operations	Anaktuvuk Pass	\$478,523
	Total Recommended for City of Anaktuvuk Pass		\$478,523
City of Atkasuk	Local Government Operations and Youth Program	Atkasuk	\$455,792
	Total Recommended for City of Atkasuk		\$455,792
City of Nuiqsut	Local Government Operations and Maintenance	Nuiqsut (NUI)	\$1,100,000
	Community Recreation Youth Center Operations and Maintenance	NUI	\$400,000
	Capacity Building and Planning	NUI	\$245,000
	Nuiqsut Playground Upgrades	NUI	\$385,116
	Total Recommended for City of Nuiqsut		\$2,130,116
City of Utqiagvik	Local Government Operations	Utqiagvik (UTI)	\$785,000
	Purchase of Heating System for Admin Building and Piuraagvik		\$1,660,000
	Total Recommended for City of Utqiagvik		\$2,445,000
City of Wainwright	Local Government Operations	Wainwright (WAI)	\$563,658
	Youth Program	WAI	\$287,277
	Skate Park Design	WAI	\$47,000
	Total Recommended for City of Wainwright		\$897,935

¹³ <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/4/pub/2019%20Report%20to%20the%20Legislature.pdf>

North Slope Borough	Iñupiatun Revitalization	Utqiagvik	\$682,000
	Health Impact Assessment - Mental Health	AKP, ATQ, NUI, UTI, WAI	\$350,000
	Health Impact Assessment and baseline petroleum/heavy metal exposure	AKP, ATQ, NUI, UTI, WAI	\$187,500
	EMS Equipment Upgrades & Emergency Training Equipment	AKP, ATQ, NUI, UTI, WAI	\$1,174,100
	CWAT - 2020	AKP, ATQ, NUI, UTI, WAI	\$4,000,000
	Acoustic Monitoring of fish in the NPR-A	NUI, UTI, WAI	\$335,000
	Upgrades to Search & Rescue Equipment	AKP, ATQ, NUI, UTI, WAI	\$1,155,000
	Student Outreach/Science Education for NPR-A Villages	AKP, ATQ, NUI, UTI, WAI	\$377,500
	Portable Boat Ramps	NUI, UTI, WAI	\$3,000,000

	NSBPD Training & Personnel for NPR-A Impacted Communities	AKP, ATQ, NUI, UTI, WAI	\$300,000
	Monitoring of Ice Seal movements, behavior and condition in the Arctic Alaska	NUI, UTI, WAI	\$174,745
	Land Management Enforcement	AKP, ATQ, NUI, UTI, WAI	\$500,000
	Winter sampling of fish in the nearshore and Arctic Lagoons	NUI, UTI, WAI	\$160,000
	Village Comprehensive Plan Updates	AKP, ATQ, NUI, UTI, WAI	\$1,000,000
	Total Recommended for North Slope Borough		\$13,392,845
	GRAND TOTAL - FY20 NPR-A		\$19,800,211

References

The [2019 NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grant Program Report to the Alaska Legislature](#) is available online.¹⁴

Federal Statutes (42 USC Chapter 78)

Alaska Statutes (AS 37.05.530)

Alaska Regulations (03 AAC 150)

¹⁴ <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/Portals/4/pub/2019%20Report%20to%20the%20Legislature.pdf>

BLM Arctic Office Staff Information

Arctic District currently has a staff of 12 people, including one of the Petroleum Technicians from the State Office in Anchorage and one employee who staffs our single person office in Utqiagvik (Roy Nageak). We have a new Soils/Snow specialist and will soon have 2 more local hires in Kaktovik and Nuiqsut.

The office has a budget of approximately \$3.7 million. Roughly \$1.7 million is spent on labor and about \$1 million on our aviation program (a 100-day helicopter and fixed wing contract, fuel and runway maintenance). Much of the rest is spent through agreements and partnerships with UAF, USGS, USFWS, ADF&G and NSB on various hydrology, fish and wildlife monitoring studies.

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BLM NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan/EIS Project Lead Stephanie Rice: srice@blm.gov, 907-271-3202

BLM Coastal Plain Leasing EIS Project Lead Nicole Hayes: mnhayes@blm.gov, 907-271-4354

BLM Legacy Wells Program: Melody Debenham: kdebenham@blm.gov, 907-474-2307

Permitting Links

- BLM Alaska Webpage: <https://www.blm.gov/alaska>
- BLM National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) Webpage: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/about/alaska/NPR-A>
- BLM ePlanning (NEPA): https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/lup/lup_register.do
 - Allows online review of and comment on BLM planning and implementation projects. This site also simplifies document searches by enabling searches by geographic location, project resource type, project year, and other specific fields.
- BLM NPR-A News Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/BLM.NPRA.SAP/>