

National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A)

Working Group Meeting

Thursday, February 27, 2014

Introductions

Introduction to Meeting Agenda (Lon Kelly)

Foundations of WG and IAM.

IAP and 2013 ROD Overview & Working Group Foundation (Lon Kelly/Bud Cribley)

- Special areas managed for maximum protection of certain values
 - Expanded Teshekpuk Lake and created Peard Bay.
- Deferral of area near Wainwright expires in 2014.
- Designated roughly half the NPR-A for no leasing or exploratory drilling
- Question regarding subsistence use
 - Lon responds that restrictions on O&G activities do not apply to subsistence activities.
- Q: How were the boundaries of the special areas determined? Subsistence, oil & gas potential considered?
 - Lon stated that the special areas were originally set aside for specific wildlife values (birds, marine mammals, caribou). For the 2012 IAP, we looked at new data and used that as the rationale to expand certain special areas and create a new special area
- C: Concerned that setting aside special areas will lead to restricted areas and will reduce the potential for development in these areas, i.e. creation of conservation areas. While we value the subsistence values, we want to have access to jobs from development on the North Slope.
- Q: Does BLM have documentation on how the special areas were selected?
 - Lon stated that BLM does have lots of information regarding the location and patterns of important species.
- Bud: The IAP/EIS is just a land use plan. Decisions made in the plan can be modified and adjust and that is why the WG is so important. BLM has a great deal of respect for the time commitment of the folks in the NS and appreciate their commitment to the WG. We have little information on the future of the NPR-A, except the proposed GMT-1 project. We don't know if the next steps will be more smaller development projects or if a proposed pipeline from the Chukchi Sea to the TAPS will be proposed. We also need to know your needs (The NSB, the NS communities, the State of Alaska, etc.).
- C: We have been allowed to comment on leasing processes, but we have not seen a master leasing plan from the companies for the North Slope. Bud stated that the GMT-1 is the first proposed production project within the NPR-A. The IAP is the Master Leasing Plan that BLM has developed for the entire NPR-A, but we do not have a master development plan. That is what we are hoping to develop in conjunction with the WG.
- C: As the land manager, BLM has the responsibility to balance our opportunities to allow proper development to provide jobs and to protect subsistence way of life.
- ROD directed BLM establish a Working Group consisting of NSB and municipal governments, ANCSA corporations, and tribal entities.
 - Held first meeting in Barrow in August 2013.
 - Provides BLM with information on: O&G leasing, land use conflicts, science and TEK,

adjusting Special Area boundaries, plan amendments. WG will work closely with the SAP.

- BLM Director's Question: Can the WG come up with a collective vision on the future of what the NPR-A would look like after future development takes place? What standards for roads, pads, and airports for both O&G development and villages themselves?

Questions/Answers:

- A copy of presentation will be available
- Subsistence hunters can use cabin and camps so long as they're registered w/ the NSB, BLM considers these authorized.

Integrated Arctic Management (Denny Lassuy)

- Working on Scenario Planning Project for the NS
- Q: For the fish studies, will there opportunities to coordinate with the local to oversee the studies.
Denny stated that NSSI is just the science body that accepts the data, but other agencies that will be doing the data collection could be coordinated with to determine the proper level of coordination with the tribes and the communities.
- Will send out a copy of presentation

Charter Discussion

- This is a potential structure for the Charter, BLM would like WG members to take Draft Charter home and read it over to think about it. Based on structure of other charters for similar groups. Request that WG members email BLM with questions or suggested changes to it. Gave members several minutes to read over.
- Q: Clarification on WG exemption from FACA.
Lon explains it means entities can assign representatives more easily, fewer formal requirements. This group could have closed door if they would like to.
- Add clarification to Charter that villages outside of NPR-A will have one representative.
- It is up to each entity to determine how to pick its representative(s).
- Suggestion that the Charter be a living working document that's easily changed.
- Group members will be compensated for travel expenses, but BLM cannot compensate for time spent on the WG.
- Charter will include description of participation of DOI agencies and State of Alaska, consistent with the language in the ROD.
- Will NPR-A Impact Funds be used to fund this organization?
No, those funds are received and distributed by the State, separately from this WG.
- BLM and other State and federal agencies aren't members of the Group, but participate and provide input.
- How will non-NPR-A villages benefit from the WG?
John Hopson responds that by being at the table, outside villages can effect decisions and discussions of the WG.
- WG is encouraged to send additional comments to Lon Kelly via email.
- John Hopson motions to adopt Charter, subject to changes and clarifications and that the document will be a living document which can be changed. Betty Swan seconds motion. Motion carried unopposed.
- Lon Kelly will fix typos and clarifications and send the Charter back around.

- Crawford moves to nominate a Chair. Nominates John Hopson Jr as Chair. Someone else nominates Howard Patkotak as Chair.
Vote - Unanimous for John Hopson Jr as Chair.
Unanimous for Howard Patkotak as Vice Chair.
- Q: Meeting for Project Chariot next week. Is there a way to address through this Group?
Bud explains that intent of this Group is not to advocate for management of issues outside of NPR-A.
- Put a copy of Executive Order included in the Charter.

GMT-1 Project (Bridget Psarianos)

- Q: Will vegetation studies be completed?
Yes, as a part of the ongoing monitoring studies
- Q: Will there be a meeting in Point Lay? All members in the ASRC will be impacted financially if the project is stopped. It seems like the way we look at the processes, the government compartmentalizes communities. But we did not lose our lands to any sale or war. The ANCSA claims were based on the idea that the NS is one group and efforts need to be more inclusive of all villages, not just those with the NPR-A.
Bridget noted that the community of Point Lay is very far away from the GMT-1 proposed project location and that a meeting in the village would likely not be help.
- Q: Is here a concept to establish a road to Umiat?
Yes, because the state had proposed a road to Umiat previously, we considered it in our cumulative impacts assessment.
- Q: We understand that this is the first project for production within NPR-A. Will there be a road into NPR-A?
There is not one proposed right now under this proposal.
- Q: Would this project looked at developing roads to link the communities on the NS?
No, not as part of the GMT-1 project.
- C: CPAI Rep stated that it should be noted that there are Kuukpik Corp. Lands near the project site and the surrounding communities can benefit financially from the project.

Healthy Lands (Steve Cohn)

- Q: In the L48 there have been 13M acres set aside for conservation efforts, but trophy hunters can go use those areas. The NSB has offered 35,000 acres for science and data collection, but we did not get credit for that. How do we get credit when we set aside acres for no development?
Steve noted that we will be looking for opportunities to provide larger scale regional mitigation through conservation easements or investing in actual restoration work on the group. The WG can be a forum for presenting idea to mitigate for impacts on the ground as impacts occur with the goal of proper habitat function being maintained.
- Fanny: As a part of the NSB planning section, we have been working on a document titles "Inupiat traditional land use values plan" and we would like to have you come to our meetings to discuss BLM's goals. Steve noted that we could also look at crossing walking the BLM LUPs and the NSB LUPs. If the NSB LUP identify the opportunities to complete restoration work.
- There are cancer causing agents that were left by the Federal Government, but there are now laws in place that we have to follow to keep the lands clean, but the government has not finished cleaning up their mess.

- Roy Nageak: It gets easier to go to our hunting sites with motor boats and 4-wheelers. Way back, we had to walk and had fewer impacts on the lands. Now it is easier with 4-wheelers, but I needed a bridge to get to a new area, but that made it too easy for lots of people to get to this area and kill more animals. With more rain now and more wetlands, it is much harder to hunt. The permafrost is melting due to global warming. We now need to find ways to restore it and avoid impacting lands. As development comes, we lose hunting areas, so maybe mitigation could provide ways to make it easier to hunt. If trails are built, there would be less impacts in other areas.
- Q: There are legacy wells that were cleaned up in the 1980s, but a lot of material was buried at those sites. Are they going to be re-excavated?
Steve noted that there are over 100 legacy wells that will be cleaned up. We are concerned that the debris could cause accidents for snow machiners. The focus should be to get the debris that is coming out of the ground removed to avoid accidents.
- C: It would be best to work together to share information and maps.
Steve noted that we want to start working on sharing particularly because we know that resources do not stop at the edges of the NPR-A boundaries.
- C: We want to see responsible development and to be treated fairly. The ASRC mitigation bank is a good idea, but it has to be done fairly and we want to have the chance to have a say.
- Director's Questions on O&G Development within NPR-A

Round Table

- Bud revisits Director's question. Director would like an answer in the next few months.
- Bud asks WG what they think they should work on over the next few months.
- John Hopson says he'd like to take the questions home - airports, roads, pads - back home and talk to his community. Roads, power lines and cell towers are a good idea, but not sure how far communities will be willing to go.
Would like to see a road to Barrow. Need additional gravel, but there is little available.
- Challenge is how to move forward living a traditional subsistence way of life while at the same time dealing with rising cost of living.
- Concern over being "boxed in" by development, and preventing access to traditional subsistence hunting areas, similar to concerns that are being seen in Nuiqsut. Need to use TEK for identifying areas for development.
- Oil and gas report is being finalized by the NSB Planning Dept. It's similar to a primer to talk about how to develop in the NSB. NSB will be recipient of conservation easement for the Nuiqsut Spur Road.
- Fanny thinks roads connecting all of the villages are a good idea.
- Margaret Pardue notes that 3 roads are scheduled to be built near Nuiqsut. There is confusion regarding whether Nuiqsut residents can use the CPAI roads. Nuiqsut is opposed to aircraft because they affect caribou.

Closing

- BLM will be in the NPR-A villages in two weeks from now. We could bring a handout about the issue of the Director's question to distribute during workshops.
- Could we have a teleconference during the last week of March to further discuss?
Lon and Chairman Hopson can work on an agenda.
- We can post minutes of this and future meetings on the web.
- Bud also suggests meeting again at end of April/early May to talk about these principles,

look at maps.

- ANCSA Guiding Principles for pipeline Development and Construction were just adopted in the past couple of days. BLM now has copies of it.
- Suggested that BLM encourage other agencies to attend these meetings.