



BLM Issues Draft IAP/EIS

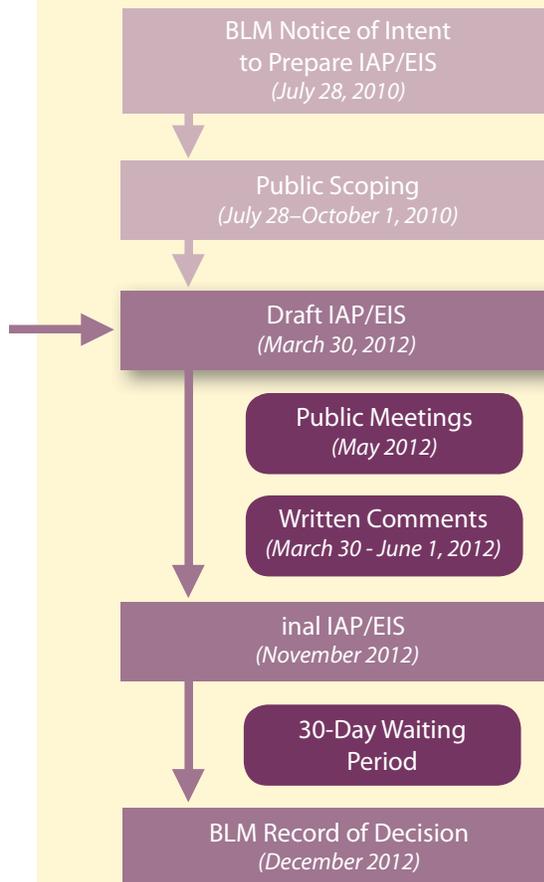
The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has developed a Draft Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) to determine the appropriate management of all BLM-managed lands in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The BLM consulted with tribes, the public, and cooperating agencies (the North Slope Borough; State of Alaska; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management). BLM researched the resources and uses of the area, developed a range of reasonable future management alternatives, and analyzed the impacts of those alternatives. The BLM and cooperating agencies reviewed these analyses, resulting in the Draft IAP/EIS.

The public and agencies are encouraged to comment on this document. The public comment period for the Draft IAP/EIS is scheduled from March 30 to June 1, 2012. Based on these comments and new studies or information that may come to light after publication of the Draft IAP/EIS, the BLM will revise the document and issue a Final IAP/EIS.

As you submit comments, think about what is important to include in BLM's analysis of the impacts of activities in the NPR-A. Be as specific as you can — identify new information that would strengthen the analysis, point out errors, and suggest improved management options or mitigation measures. You can comment on the Draft IAP/EIS by:

- 1** Going to our plan's online site and comment electronically. The website address is: <http://www.blm.gov/ak>
- 2** Writing to us via AECOM, our contractor at:
NPR-A IAP/EIS Comments
AECOM Project Office
1835 South Bragaw Street, Suite 490
Anchorage, AK 99508
- 3** Faxing comments to AECOM at (866) 611-9420 or (907) 268-4224.

National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska IAP/EIS Schedule



- 4** Hand-delivering your comments to us) via AECOM at their Anchorage address in #2. You may also hand-deliver comments at a public meeting on the plan, or to the BLM Public Information Center in the Federal Building, 222 W. 7th Avenue, Anchorage.
- 5** Speaking at public meetings on the Draft IAP/EIS that will be held before the close of the comment period. We will announce the meeting dates, times, and specific locations through our website, public notices, and news releases.



Questions & Answers

What major issues do the alternatives address?

Central issues are the potential for, and the impacts of, oil and gas development. The plan examines a wide range of alternatives for oil and gas development, analyzing which areas should be available for leasing and measures to protect surface resources. The plan considers whether more lands should be designated as Special Areas to protect surface resources and whether the BLM should recommend some additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. In its analysis, the IAP/EIS examines diverse issues, such as the impacts from climate change, the protection

of threatened and endangered species, protections of public health and local residents' subsistence way of life, and impacts to and protection of wilderness characteristics.

What alternatives are BLM considering?

The IAP/EIS contains four alternatives that provide a broad range of oil and gas leasing availability, surface protections, and Special Area designations. The BLM has not identified a Preferred Alternative. (For more information on the alternatives analyzed, see the Draft IAP/EIS Chapter 2).

Alternative A

Alternative A, the no action alternative, would continue the management established in current plans for the area (Northwest NPR-A IAP, Northeast NPR-A Supplement IAP, and the Colville River Special Area Management Plan). There are no current BLM IAP decisions effective for the southern portion of the NPR-A. Under this alternative, 57 percent of the



Caribou in NPR-A

Land Allocation	Alternative A	Alternative B
Lands that could be offered for oil & gas leasing	13 million acres (57% of NPR-A subsurface available; 1.57 million deferred until 2014; 425,000 deferred until 2018)	11 million acres (48% of NPR-A subsurface current deferrals honored until expiration)
Special Areas	4 (8.3 million acres) TLSA: 1.75 million acres CRSA: 2.44 million acres URUSA: 3.97 million acres KLSA: 97,000 acres	5 (15.5 million acres) TLSA: 3.76 million acres CRSA: 2.44 million acres URUSA: 7.06 million acres KLSA: 364,000 acres PBSA: 1.6 million acres
Wild and Scenic River	0	12 Wild River recommendations: Colville, Etivluk, Ipnavik, Kuna, Kiligwa, Nuka, A Kokolik, and Utukok Rivers and Driftwater Carbon Creeks within the NPR-A

TLSA = Teshekpuk Lake Special Area **CRSA** = Colville River Special Area **URUSA** = Utukok River Uplands Special Area



Sea ice near Barrow in the Chukchi Sea.

NPR-A subsurface would be available for oil and gas leasing, while maintaining the four current Special Areas covering 8.3 million acres.

Alternative B

Alternative B describes a future management that emphasizes the protection of the surface resources of NPR-A. This includes substantial increases in areas designated as Special Areas, designation of extensive areas that would be unavailable for leasing around Teshekpuk Lake and in the southwestern part of the Reserve with its important caribou habitat and primitive recreation values, and recommendation for designation of 12 Wild and Scenic Rivers. This would still offer opportunities for oil and gas leasing on nearly half of the NPR-A.

Alternative C

Alternative C provides for smaller additions to Special Areas than Alternative B, and makes the most remote part of the NPR-A that has the greatest potential for

providing a primitive recreation experience unavailable for leasing. It provides for leasing with extensive surface protection stipulations near Teshekpuk Lake. It also recommends three rivers for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers, while offering opportunity to lease oil and gas resources in more than three-quarters of the Reserve.

Alternative D

Alternative D would allow the BLM to offer all of the NPR-A for oil and gas leasing, while protecting surface values with a collection of protection measures, contained within oil and gas leasing stipulations and best management practices.

	Alternative C	Alternative D
Surface area; (a)	17.9 million acres (76% of NPR-A subsurface; current deferrals honored until expiration)	22.8 million acres (100% of NPR-A subsurface; current deferrals honored until expiration)
	5 (9.0 million acres) TLSA: 1.87 million acres CRSA: 2.44 million acres URUSA: 4.44 million acres KLSA: 97,000 acres PBSA: 107,000 acres	4 (8.3 million acres) TLSA: 1.75 million acres CRSA: 2.44 million acres URUSA: 3.97 million acres KLSA: 97,000 acres
Wild and Scenic Rivers (where the BLM manages the bed and both banks), Nigun, Nigunawuna, and Utukok Rivers and	3 Scenic River recommendations: Colville (where the BLM manages the bed and both banks), Kiligwa, and Utukok Rivers within the NPR-A	0

KLSA = Kasegaluk Lagoon Special Area **PBSA** = Peard Bay Special Area

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Learn More about the NPR-A Draft IAP/EIS:

The Draft IAP/EIS consists of five volumes, with Volume 5 providing maps portraying the area, its resources, and various alternatives. All five volumes are available to view online at BLM’s website; paper and CD versions can be requested. This spring, the BLM will hold public meetings during the comment period. We will announce the meeting dates, times, and specific locations through our website, public notices, and news releases.

Visit us:
www.blm.gov/ak



Upper Colville River



Like other NPR-A exploratory wells, the Pioneer 1 well was drilled in winter from a temporary ice pad to protect underlying tundra.