

New planning effort underway

Some commonly asked questions

Important dates in NPRA planning schedule

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## NPR-A Newsletter Issue 2

[News Letters](#)[Comments](#)[Science Symp](#)[News Notes](#)[Bilingual Maps](#)[Tract Studies](#)[Planning](#)

## NPR-A Report

Issue 2 May 1997

Public sends BLM more than 100 written comments during  
NPR-A scoping period  
Planning/EIS team also hears many public concerns at five  
scoping meetings.

NPR-A science symposium brings latest information to planning  
team

NPR-A News Notes

North Slope Borough helps BLM produce bilingual NPR-A  
maps

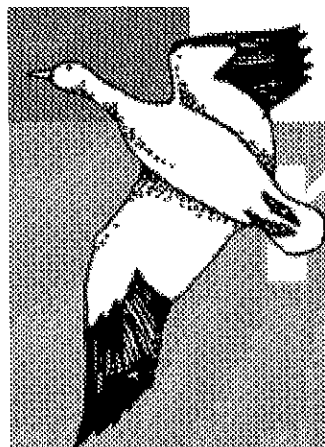
Tract Evaluation Studies in Progress

Important dates in NPRA planning schedule

[\[News Letters\]](#) [\[Comments\]](#) [\[Science Symp.\]](#) [\[News Notes\]](#) [\[Bilingual Maps\]](#) [\[Tract Studies\]](#) [\[Planning\]](#)

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ALASKA STATE LIBRARY  
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS



# npr-a update

Issue 3 August 1997

Tusavutagaqasat itaan-aiyeonregniksranagun tamarigut  
National Petroleum Reserve-gum Alaska-m  
News about planning for the future of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

Secretary of the Interior Bruce  
Babbitt visits NPR-A

Planning team analyzing five  
alternatives

Ducks Unlimited helps BLM learn  
more about NPR-A waterfowl

Important dates in NPRA planning  
schedule

News notes

Issue 2 is still available here.

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# npr-a update

Issue 4  
December 1997

Tuseayugaagaksraq itqannaiyagniañniksrañagun taimanigu  
National Petroleum Reserve-gum Alaska-mi  
News about planning for the future of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

## Key dates coming up

**November 24, 1997**

Draft environmental impact statement (EIS) released on the Internet.

**December 4, 1997**

DEIS distributed by mail.

**December 12, 1997**

Comment period opens.

**December 1997**

Public information meetings on how to comment on draft EIS begin. See schedule on page 2.

**January 1998**

Formal hearings to obtain public comment and testimony. See schedule on page 3.

**February 10, 1998**

Comment period closes.

**June 1998**

Final EIS published.

**July 1998**

Final record of decision document released.

## On line

For more information on the NPR-A, visit the BLM Internet Home Page at <http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/npra/>.

Public's comments needed by February 10

## Draft EIS out for comment

The much-anticipated Draft Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) for the northeast corner of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska will be mailed directly from the printer in early December to those who requested copies. Copies will also be placed in many libraries throughout Alaska and in all BLM-Alaska offices. "The IAP/EIS contains 750 pages of text, 94 maps and nine appendices," says project manager Gene Terland. For those who want to begin reading right away, BLM has made the entire document available on the Internet (see address below, left).

BLM is also sending copies of a special 60-page *Summary* to those on the NPR-A mailing list who did not wish to receive the entire document. Summaries will be mailed by BLM during the week of December 8 and both documents will be available at a series of open house information meetings in December.

The Draft EIS outlines five different approaches to the future management of the northeast part of the NPR-A. Options range from continuing current management including no oil and gas leasing, to designating special areas for resource protection and making the entire study area open for future leasing with protective stipulations.

"The Draft EIS is a product of highly-trained specialists from the federal, state and North Slope Borough governments working cooperatively to produce an objective assessment of the possibilities. Everyone is invited to take an interest in this document and provide us with their views on how this part of Alaska should be managed in the future," said BLM-Alaska State Director Tom Allen.

BLM has planned a series of informal open houses to explain the Draft EIS and provide tips on how to read and comment effectively on it prior to holding a series of formal hearings to take testimony. The schedules for all meetings and hearings are found on pages 2 and 3.

# npr-a update

Issue 5  
June 1998

Tusaayugaagaksraq itqannalyágnlâgniksrañagun talmanigu  
National Petroleum Reserve-gum Alaska-mi  
News about planning for the future of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

## Key dates coming up

**July 3, 1998**

Final Plan/EIS sent to printer.

**July 31, 1998**

Final Plan/EIS published; mailout begins. Document also posted on Internet.

**August 1998**

Final record of decision document released.

## Next issue

The final issue of the *NPR-A Update* will be mailed in August or September following the signing of the Record of Decision.

## On line

Complete transcripts of the testimony presented at all the hearings is now available.

For this and other information on the NPR-A, visit the BLM Internet Home Page at <http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/npra/>.

More than 7,000 comments received

## Public Reviews Draft EIS

The 90-day comment period for BLM's Draft Integrated Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the northeast corner of the National Petroleum Reserve ended March 12.

"We are very grateful to all those who took the time to testify, write, fax or e-mail us with their comments and opinions," said BLM Alaska State Director Tom Allen. "We received more than 7,000 comments, which is a lot compared to other EISs we have done in the past. Many comments were well reasoned, thoughtful and helpful. We will use the information provided to develop the preferred alternative for the final EIS," said Allen.

Jim Ducker, who coordinated the distribution of the comments to the planning team, said "We received comments throughout the entire comment period. Each comment was reviewed by at least two people, and usually by three. Technical questions and comments about our description of the environment went to team specialists for analysis. They are incorporating the comments into the plan as appropriate."

Hearings to gather oral comments were held in January on the North Slope in the villages of Barrow, Nuiqsut, Atkasuk and Wainwright; in interior Alaska at Fairbanks and Anaktuvuk Pass; and in Anchorage. Two additional hearings were held in San Francisco and Washington, D. C. to allow people living outside of Alaska an opportunity to make their opinions known.

This was the first time that BLM-Alaska promoted the use of the Internet to send comments electronically. Ducker estimated that BLM received 500 comments on the NPR-A website or by e-mail.

# npr-a

## update & summary

Issue 6  
August 1998

Tusaayugaagaksraq - Iqannalyagniañniksranagun tañmanigu  
National Petroleum Reserve-gum Alaska-mi  
News about planning for the future of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

*This issue of NPR-A Update contains a Summary of the Final Plan/EIS findings. It provides a quick overview of the 1,340-page plan with emphasis on the Preferred Alternative.*

### **Key dates coming up**

#### **August 7, 1998**

Final Plan/Environmental Impact Statement released.

#### **August 10, 1998**

Final Plan/EIS distributed by mail.

#### **August 10, 1998**

Final Plan/EIS released on the Internet.

#### **September 8, 1998**

Last day to comment on the preferred alternative.

#### **Fall 1998**

Record of Decision document released.

### **On line**

For more information on the NPR-A, visit the BLM Internet Home Page at <http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/npra/>.

## **BLM releases preferred plan**

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to make about 87 percent of the 4.6 million acres studied in the northeast corner of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska available for oil and gas leasing. The agency's plan would bar leasing and development in sensitive waterfowl and caribou habitat at Teshekpuk Lake and protect additional caribou habitat with special lease stipulations.

"This is a good plan, based on sound science and a very public outreach process," said Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. "I believe the Department has complied with the law and the intent of Congress when it designated this region a National Petroleum Reserve," he said.

Subsistence activities would be protected by a ban on oil and gas surface facilities around specific rivers and streams (exceptions are allowed for essential pipeline and road crossings). A subsistence advisory panel and an interagency research and monitoring team would also be established. The research and monitoring team would be made up of representatives of federal, state and borough government and would coordinate research and monitoring efforts measuring the effectiveness of stipulations.

The plan would also prohibit oil and gas facilities on Teshekpuk Lake and other locations important for fish and subsistence use.

Raptor habitat would be protected through a "no surface occupancy" zone for the Colville, Kikiakrorak and Kogosukruk rivers. The plan also restricts road construction to drilling units and establishes one-mile setbacks of no surface occupancy (other than pipelines and roads) around cabins and campsites.

"The plan merges the best science, the best technology and a fully open process to produce good management for this area," says BLM State Director Tom Allen. "I would like to thank all the people who have helped us develop this plan. We have benefitted greatly from the many thoughtful comments we have received at public meetings and in writing from hundreds of individuals and organizations," said Allen.

BLM will accept comments on its proposal through September 8, 1998. (See page 8 for details.)

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# NPR-A update

**Issue 7**  
**October 1998**

Tusaayugaagaksraq itqannaiyágniágniksranagun talmanigu  
National Petroleum Reserve-gum Alaska-mi  
News about planning for the future of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

## ***Last issue***

This is the final issue of the  
NPR-A Update.

## ***On line***

Visit the BLM Internet Home Page  
at <http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/npra/>.

The Home page is scheduled to  
close on October 31, 1998.

*Key goose molting and critical caribou habitat remain protected*

## **Record of Decision Signed**

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt signed the Record of Decision (ROD) for the northeast corner of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska on October 7, 1998. The ROD formally adopts the Bureau of Land Management's preferred alternative for managing 4.6 million acres.

The decision, based on extensive scientific evaluation of the area, makes approximately 87 percent of this area available to oil and gas leasing.

Approximately 580,000 acres is not available to leasing. This area encompasses nearly all the key goose molting habitat and critical caribou habitat. In addition, 900,000 acres is available for oil and gas leasing, but under special stipulations that restrict or prohibit surface activities and exploratory drilling. Essential road and/or pipeline crossings can be allowed. Special stipulations protect subsistence activities and provide protection to other resource values.

"This is a balanced plan that carefully weighs the impacts on a fragile Arctic landscape and its abundant wildlife with the long-term economic future of Alaskans," Babbitt said. "A great deal of hard work went into the planning process and I believe with this decision the Department has complied with the law and the intent of Congress when it authorized leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve in 1981."

"I have instructed the BLM to begin the next step in the process," he continued. "The BLM will develop a schedule to implement the complex components of the decision, including a schedule for conducting an oil and gas lease sale."

Copies of the decision can be requested from the BLM by calling (907) 271-5960.

# npr-a update

Issue 8 December 2001

Tusaayugaagaksrao Itqannaiyagniañniksrañagun taimanigu  
National Petroleum Reserve-gum Alaska-mi  
News about planning for the future of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

## Meet the planning team to express your concerns

Scoping meetings are scheduled  
for the following Alaska communi-  
ties, beginning at 7 pm:

December 3, 2001  
Point Lay Community Center

December 4, 2001  
Anaktuvuk Pass Community Hall

December 5, 2001  
Wainwright Community Building

December 6, 2001  
Atkasuk Community Center

December 10, 2001  
Barrow City Conference Room

December 11, 2001  
Nuiqsut Community Center

January 15, 2002  
Fairbanks

January 16, 2002  
Anchorage

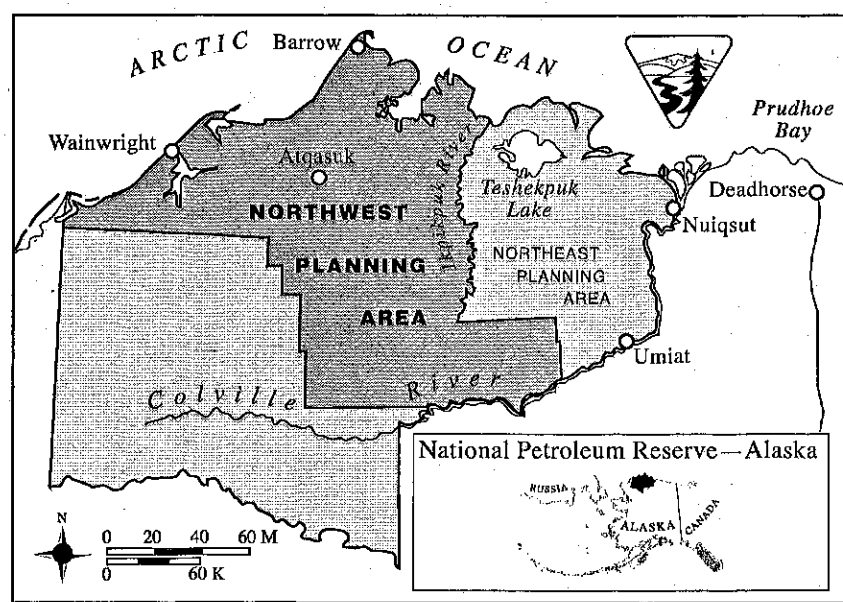
**NOTE:** BLM staff will be present at  
6 pm each evening to answer  
questions before the start of the  
meetings.

BLM will also accept comments on  
the Multiple Use Activity Manage-  
ment Plan for the Colville River at  
the meetings in Barrow, Nuiqsut,  
Fairbanks and Anchorage.

## BLM begins planning for northwest NPR-A

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in cooperation with the North Slope Borough, the State of Alaska and the Minerals Management Service and other federal agencies, is starting to develop a new management plan for 9.4 million acres of public lands\* in the northwest corner of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. To produce the best plan, the BLM wants information from the public on a wide range of resource issues including wildlife, subsistence, and the prospects for oil and gas development.

Right now the BLM is meeting with the public at "scoping" meetings to obtain information and learn about people's concerns, desires and expectations for the area. This information will be used to develop the plan and alternatives both of which will be pre-  
sented for public review in November of 2002.



\*The NPR-A Northwest Planning Area is approximately 9,980,000 acres of which approximately 9,437,000 are public lands (federal) and approximately 543,000 acres are in private ownership.

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