

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

Coastal Plain Alaska, Oil and Gas Lease Sale 2025

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State

Office ACTION: Detailed Statement of the Sale

1. Authority.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is issuing this Coastal Plain (CP) Detailed Statement of the Sale (DSS) under the authority of Section 20001 of the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, Public Law 115-97 (Dec. 22, 2017; 131 Stat. 2235). Section 20001(b)(1) of PL 115-97 lifted a prior prohibition on oil and gas leasing and development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that had been established by Section 1003 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Public Law 96-487, as that prohibition pertained to the Coastal Plain. Section 20001(b)(2)(A) of PL 115-97 went further to require the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), acting through the BLM, to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program for the “leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain.” The BLM is required to 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 (42 U.S.C. 6501 et. seq.) (including regulations).” Except as otherwise provided for in Section 20001 of PL 115-97, the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement Record of Decision (ROD) signed by the Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior on December 8, 2024, or in this DSS, the regulations in Title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 3130 shall apply. Section 20001(c)(1) of PL 115-97 requires that at least two lease sales be offered by December 22, 2021, and December 22, 2024, respectively, and that each sale offer for lease at least 400,000 acres of the highest hydrocarbon potential lands within the Coastal Plain. The first such sale was held on January 6, 2021. Section 20001(c)(2) of PL 115-97 requires the BLM to issue any rights-of-way or easements across the Coastal Plain for “exploration, development, production, or transportation necessary to carry out the program.” Additionally, Section 20001(c)(3) of PL 115-97 requires the BLM to authorize up to 2,000 surface acres of Federal land to be covered by production and support facilities.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 3131.4-1(a), the Notice of Sale is being published in the Federal Register at least 30 days prior to the scheduled date of sale. Pursuant to 43 CFR 3131.4-1(c), this DSS is being made available to the public on the BLM website at: <http://www.blm.gov/alaska>. The tracts described in this DSS are being offered for competitive oil and gas lease by sealed bid to the highest qualified bidder. The Locator Maps and description of tracts being offered are provided in the Exhibits of this DSS. The tracts in this sale are subject to stipulations and required operating procedures (ROPs) established by the ROD. A call for nominations and comments was not issued for this sale under 43 CFR 3131.2(a) because the entirety of the approximately 400,000-acre area approved for leasing in the CP ROD must be offered for lease in this sale in order to comply with Section 20001(c)(1) of PL 115-97. The United States reserves the right to reject any and all bids received for any tract, regardless of the amount offered.

Stipulations and ROPs are in Exhibit C. Tracts affected by the site-specific stipulations are identified in the tract descriptions in Exhibit B. Exhibit B is based on the BLM's current mapping.

2. Minimum Bid, Yearly Rental, and Royalty System.

The lands described herein are offered for competitive oil and gas lease sale by sealed bid to the qualified bidder submitting the highest cash bonus bid in accordance with the statutory and regulatory authorities cited above. The minimum bid, yearly rental, and royalty rate that apply to this sale are specified below. The minimum bid amount stated below is the minimum amount acceptable to be considered a valid bid.

Leases issued as a result of this sale will have primary terms of ten (10) years.

Variable	Tracts
Minimum Bid	\$30.00 or more per acre or fraction thereof
Fixed Royalty Rate	16.67 percent
Rental Rate and Minimum Royalty	\$10.00 per acre or fraction thereof

3. Acreage and Land Status.

The acreage for each tract is shown on Exhibit B. The successful bidders will be advised of any required adjustments (additional payments or refunds) to the advanced rental payments prior to lease issuance. High bonus bids will be based on the highest bid per tract and will not be affected by such acreage adjustments. Most of the tracts will be free of encumbrances, but some are affected by conveyances to Native Allottees.

4. Split Estate Tracts.

The lessee has a right to access so much of the surface as is reasonably necessary to explore and develop the lease but will be responsible for negotiating any surface use and access issues with the surface owner or managing surface agency for split-estate lands. For Certified Native Allotments, the lessee must also obtain approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs. If a bidder wants to review the land status of particular tracts prior to bidding, details for obtaining the pertinent status plats are found at paragraph 9.

5. Filing of Bids.

Bidders must comply with the following requirements. Times specified hereafter are Alaska Standard Time.

- a) No bid will be accepted for less than an entire tract as described in Exhibit B. For each tract bid upon, a bidder must submit a separate signed bid in a sealed envelope labeled "Sealed Bid for CP Oil and Gas Lease Sale Tract No. 2025-CP-XXX and not to be opened until January 9, 2025.

There will be public viewing on BLM's website via video live streaming at www.blm.gov/live. Details of the information required on the bid(s) and the bid envelope(s) are specified in the document "Bid Form and Envelope" contained in the DSS as Exhibit D.

Each bid must be accompanied by a bid deposit of 1/5th of the bonus bid amount in U.S. currency or by cashier's check, bank draft, or certified check, payable to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. This deposit will be forfeited if a bidder, after being determined the highest qualified bidder, fails to sign the lease or otherwise comply with applicable regulations.

Bidders submitting joint bids must state on the bid form (Exhibit D) the proportionate interest of each participating bidder, in percent to a maximum of five decimal places, e.g., 33.33333 percent. The BLM may require bidders to submit other documents in accordance with 43 CFR Part 3130. The BLM warns bidders against violation of 18 U.S.C. 1860 prohibiting unlawful combination or intimidation of bidders. In accordance with 43 CFR Subpart 3132.5(b), "The United States reserves the right to reject any and all bids received for any tract, regardless of the amount offered."

Submission of a bid constitutes certification of compliance with the regulations found in 43 CFR Part 3130. Anyone seeking to acquire a Federal oil and gas lease may be required to submit additional information to show compliance with the regulations. A statement to this effect must be included on each bid (see the document "Bid Form and Envelope" contained in the DSS as Exhibit E).

Bidders also need to submit with their bids a "Bidder Contact Form" (Exhibit E) which identifies contact information relative to the bids. **This form must not be included in a bid envelope but must be submitted along with the bids.**

- b) Sealed bids must be received by the BLM Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599, during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) no earlier than 8:00 a.m. on December 10, 2024 and prior to the Bid Submission Deadline at 4:00 p.m., January 6, 2025. If bids are received earlier or later than provided for in the times and dates specified above, they will be returned unopened to the bidders. Bidders may not modify or withdraw their bids unless the BLM receives a written modification or written withdrawal request prior to 4:00 pm January 7, 2025.
- c) Bid Opening. The public opening and reading of the bids for the CP oil and gas lease sale will be available for public viewing on BLM's website via video live streaming at www.blm.gov/live. The venue will not be open to the general public, media, or industry.
- d) Natural Disasters. In the event of a natural disaster, the Alaska State Office may extend the bid submission deadline. Bidders may call (907) 271-5960 for information about the possible extension of the bid submission deadline due to such an event.
- e) Tied Bids. In the event the highest bids are tie bids, the tying bidders are allowed to submit on or before 10:00 AM, January 24, 2025, additional sealed bids to break the tie. The additional bids must include any additional amount necessary to bring the amount tendered with his/her bid to 1/5th of the additional bid. Additional bids to break the tie will be opened on the date above, or as soon as practicable after receipt of bids from all tying bidders. When known, the date and time of that additional bid opening will be announced

through a press release, information on BLM's website and direct notice to the tying bidders and will be available for public viewing on BLM's website via video live streaming at www.blm.gov/live. The venue will not be open to the general public, media, or industry. The opening of the tied bids is for the sole purpose of publicly announcing and recording the tied bids received, and no bids will be accepted or rejected at that time.

If tie breaking bids are received later than the time and date specified above, they will be returned unopened to the bidders.

6. Deposit of Payment.

Any payments made in accordance with paragraph 5 will be deposited by the Government in a non-interest-bearing account during the period the bids are being considered. Such a deposit does not constitute and shall not be construed as acceptance of any bid on behalf of the United States.

7. Acceptance, Rejection, or Return of Bids.

No lease for any tract will be awarded to any bidder, unless, at a minimum:

- a) The bidder has complied with all requirements of this DSS, including the requirements listed on documents contained therein, and the applicable regulations;
- b) The bid is the highest valid bid; and
- c) The amount of the bid provides for a cash bonus as specified in Paragraph 2.

Any bid submitted which does not conform to the requirements of this DSS, the laws, and regulations cited in paragraph 1 of this DSS, and other applicable regulations may be returned to the person submitting that bid by the BLM and not considered for acceptance.

8. Successful Bidders.

The following requirements apply to successful bidders in this sale:

- a) Lease Issuance. The BLM will require each person who has submitted a bid accepted by the Authorized Officer (AO) to execute copies of a lease form (sample shown in Exhibit H of this DSS), pay the balance of the bonus bid along with the first year's annual rental, and the lease processing fee for each lease issued in accordance with the requirements of 43 CFR 3132.3, and satisfy the bonding requirements of 43 CFR Subpart 3134.
- b) Who May Hold Leases. In accordance with 43 CFR 3132.1, leases issued may be held only by the following:
 - (1) Citizens and nationals of the United States;
 - (2) Aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States as defined in 8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20);
 - (3) Private, public or municipal corporations organized under the laws of the United States or of any State or of the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, or any of its territories; or

- (4) Associations of such citizens, nationals, resident aliens or private, public, or municipal corporations.
- c) **Bonding Requirements.** Prior to the effective date of an issued lease, an individual lease surety or personal bond must be furnished to the AO in the sum of \$100,000 conditioned on compliance with all the lease terms, including rentals and royalties, and stipulations. An individual lease bond will not be required if a bidder already maintains or furnishes an CP-wide bond in the sum of \$300,000 conditioned on compliance with the terms, conditions, and stipulations of all oil and gas leases held by the bidder within the CP, and furnishes a rider thereto sufficient to bring total coverage to \$300,000 and extending coverage to all of the bidder's oil and gas leases within the CP. A copy of the bond form is included in the DSS as Exhibit F. See Exhibit G for the Geophysical Exploration Rider Form for Use with CP –wide bonds.

9. Description of the Areas Offered for Bids.

Areas Available for Leasing. Land status data regarding tracts offered for lease may be found on the official Master Title Plats (MTPs) available for review or sale at \$1.10 each in the BLM Public Information Center located on the first floor of the Federal Building and Courthouse, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599. MTPs are also available on the BLM website at: <http://sdms.ak.blm.gov/sdms/>. These tracts are shown on the Locator Map of Exhibit A and are described in detail in Exhibit B of this DSS.

10. Lease Terms and Stipulations.

- a) Leases resulting from this sale will have initial terms of 10 years. The terms of leases may be extended or renewed in accordance with 43 CFR 3135.1-5 and 3135.1-6, respectively. A sample of the lease form is available as Exhibit I of this DSS.
- b) The applicability of general and special lease stipulations and best management practices are explained in Exhibit C. The standard stipulations will become a part of all leases. The special stipulations and protection measures affecting each tract are identified in the tracts offered description on Exhibit B will become a part of the leases for those tracts.

11. Information to Lessees.

Surface Development and Access: Section 20001(c)(2) of Public Law 115-97 states that the Secretary acting through the BLM “shall issue any rights-of-way or easements across the Coastal Plain for the exploration, development, production, or transportation necessary to carry out this section.” BLM interprets the plain language of this provision as requiring that it authorize any such rights-of-way necessary to carry out the Coastal Plain oil and gas program established by Section 20001 of PL 115-97. This provision ensures that successful implementation of the mandated oil and gas program in this remote frontier region not be frustrated by the unavailability of necessary access. Off-lease rights of way and easements necessary for development under a particular lease will be granted, as well as any right-of-way or easement necessary to carry out the oil and gas program across the Coastal Plain.

Section 20001(c)(3) of Public Law 115-97 provides that BLM shall authorize up to 2,000 surface acres of Federal land on the Coastal Plain to be covered by production and support facilities (including airstrips and any area covered by gravel berms or piers for support of pipelines) during the

term of the leases under the oil and gas program. This directive will be carried out through leases that allow for regulation of facilities, but may not preclude such infrastructure. If a lessee discovers oil or gas, it may seek approval to develop the resources by submitting an application for a permit to drill that includes a drilling plan and a surface use plan of operations.

- a) The ROD established Required Operating Procedures (ROPs) for the CP. These are pre-application requirements, procedures, management practices, or design features that BLM has adopted as operational requirements. These requirements will be addressed through the permitting process. An oil and gas lease does not in itself authorize any on-the-ground activity. Seismic operations, drilling, ice road construction, pipeline construction, etc. require additional land use authorizations from the BLM. Any applicant requesting such authorization will have to address the required operating procedures either before submitting the application (e.g., subsistence consultation) or as part of the application proposal (e.g., proposal states garbage will not be buried, or pipelines and roads will be separated by 500 ft or more). Requirements that are met prior to submission of the application, as well as procedures, practices, and design features that are an integral part of a proposal, do not need to be stipulated in a permit or lease. Because ROPs are operational requirements and not lease stipulations, their applicability goes beyond oil and gas leasing to any permitted activity where the requirement is relevant.

Consistent with the terms of the lease rights granted and other applicable law (including the Tax Act), the AO may add additional conditions of approval as determined necessary following analysis under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) [42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.] and as developed through consultation with Federal, State, and North Slope Borough (NSB) regulatory and resource agencies. Laws or regulations may require other Federal, State, and NSB permits (e.g., Clean Water Act [CWA] Section 404) for an oil and gas project to proceed. Specific state permits are required when the state has authority, under Federal or State law or regulation, to enforce the provision in question. Specific permits issued by Federal agencies other than BLM could include permit conditions that are more stringent than those identified in the ROD.

The Stipulations and ROPs for the planning area are available in Exhibit C: Appendix A of the ROD. A detailed discussion of ROPs is in the ROD's Appendix A.

- b) Energy Policy Act of 2005. On August 8, 2005, the Energy Policy Act of 2005 was signed into law. The BLM issued a final regulation, codified at 43 CFR Part 3130, effective March 5, 2008, which implemented the change in lease terms mandated by the Act. In furtherance of the statutory direction to “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 (42 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) (including regulations),” required by Section 20001(b)(3) of PL 115-97, the change in lease terms mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 will be applicable to all leases except as otherwise provided in Section 20001 of Public Law 115-97, the ROD or this DSS.

- c) Conservation of Surface Values for CP Planning Area Land. The lessee, his agents, contractors, subcontractors, and operators (hereafter referred to as "Lessee") will operate within the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska. The leasing program is required by Section 20001 of Public Law 115-97. The BLM, not FWS, has jurisdiction to authorize and administer uses related to the oil and gas program. Lessee will be required to protect identified resource values and to operate in accordance with applicable stipulations and required operating procedures described in the CP ROD.

Prior to entry upon the CP for purposes of conducting geophysical operations, the Lessee shall obtain a permit authorizing specific geophysical exploration activities from the BLM Arctic District Office. Such permit shall provide for conditions, restrictions, and prohibitions as the AO deems necessary or appropriate to mitigate reasonably foreseeable and significant adverse effects upon the surface resources, including bonding for geophysical activities not covered by a lease bond or CP-wide bond.

The Lessee shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations, including State and local laws and codes governing the emission or discharge of pollutants from activities which are embraced in the lease permit. Surface disturbing activities may be prohibited during muddy and/or wet soil periods. This limitation does not apply to operations and maintenance of producing wells using authorized roads. During periods of adverse weather conditions, all activities creating irreparable impacts may be suspended. The lessee is advised that conducting activities related to leases issued as a result of this lease sale will be subject to 43 CFR Part 3130, 43 CFR Part 3160 and 43 CFR Part 3171. BLM will add such site-specific conditions of approval derived from the Environmental Assessment / Environmental Impact Statement and the associated field examination, as necessary, to ensure conservation of resource values. These will be in addition to stipulations attached to and made a part of each oil and gas lease.

- d) Early Filing of Applications for Permit to Drill (APD) Recommended The Lessee, the AO, the appropriate Borough and/or Native Regional or Village Corporation (when a subsistence stipulation is part of the lease) and Arctic District Office representatives should hold a conference at least one year prior to each onsite inspection of the proposed drill pad to discuss pertinent stipulations, applicable regulations, other permits, and any research survey and/or analysis and report formats required of the Lessee to complete the APD or to be considered in the formulation of a drilling plan. Common practice dictates that Environmental Assessments/ Environmental Impact Statements and staking must coincide with the snow-free season.

It is recommended that APDs be filed by early to mid-summer and at least six months prior to proposed commencement of drilling operations. This will aid BLM in completing necessary surface and environmental field inspections which can be completed only during the summer months. It will also provide the time required to gather site specific subsistence information and allow for analysis and coordination with other Federal, State, and local entities. Early filing of an APD will provide a greater likelihood of a timely decision.

- e) Other Permits The Lessee is responsible for obtaining all required Federal, State, local, or private permits and authorizations prior to commencing any operations.

- f) Gravel Extraction Use of Federal gravel resources, which is contemplated by and necessary to accomplish the purposes of Section 20001 of the Tax Act (PL 115-97), must also comply with BLM regulations, which require, among other things, that a mineral material sale contract be obtained from the appropriate office (Arctic District Office) for the purpose of gravel extraction and use. Use of sand and gravel from Certified Native Allotments must be arranged with the allottee and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Lessee is advised that gravel is a limited commodity within the Coastal Plain, so conservation of gravel is of utmost concern.
- g) Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Stipulation The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status species. The BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. The BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the Endangered Species Act as amended, 16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq., including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.
- h) Cultural Resources and Tribal Consultation Stipulation The BLM has consulted with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The BLM has a responsibility to consider the effects of the leasing program on historic properties, which are properties listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Formal consultations with the SHPO may also be required during implementation of individual projects. The 2020 Programmatic Agreement remains in effect for the purpose of this SEIS process as outlined in the *Final Programmatic Agreement Among United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Preservation Officer and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program*, executed on October 4, 2019 and available for review at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/102555/570>.
- i) Equal Employment Opportunity The Lessee is advised that, during the period of operations within the Coastal Plain, the Lessee will ensure equal employment opportunity consistent with the authority contained in Section 10 of the Oil and Gas Lease Form.

12. Detailed Statement of Sale.

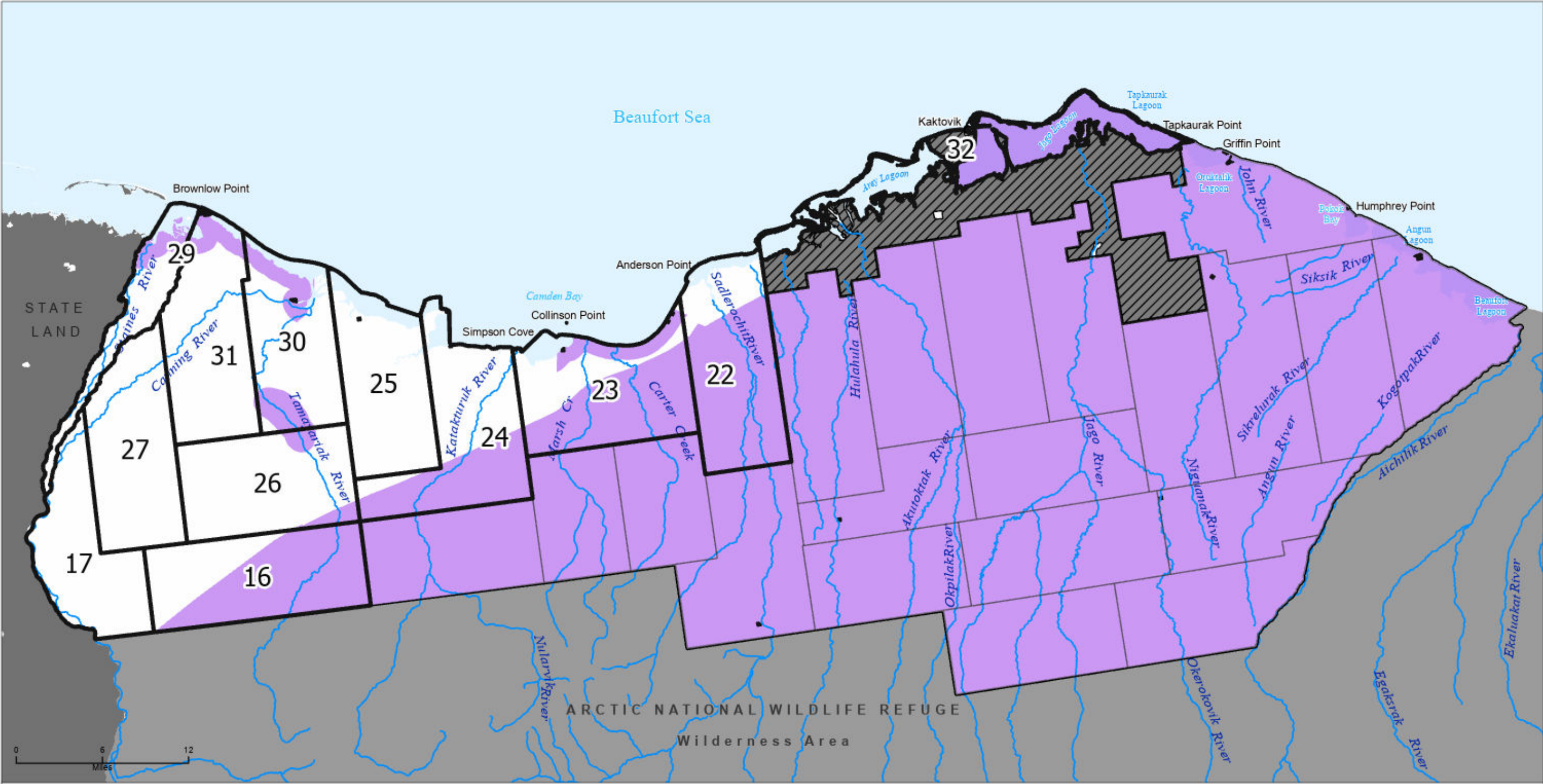
Copies of this DSS and the individual Exhibits contained therein are available on the BLM website, <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/oil-and-gas/leasing/regional-lease-sales/alaska>.

The following Exhibits are included in the DSS and contain additional information essential for bidders. Bidders are expected to understand the information contained therein.

- Exhibit A:** Locator Maps of Tracts Offered
- Exhibit B:** Description of Tracts Offered
- Exhibit C:** Appendix A of the CP Record of Decision with the Lease Stipulations and Required Operating Procedures
- Exhibit D:** Bid Form and Envelope
- Exhibit E:** Bidder Contact Form
- Exhibit F:** Oil and Gas Lease Bond Form 3000-4 (This form may be used for lease, statewide, or CP-wide bonds).
- Exhibit G:** Coastal Plain Wide Oil and Gas Lease Bond Geophysical Exploration Rider
- Exhibit H:** Sample Coastal Plain Lease Form

EXHIBIT A

Locator Maps of Tracts Offered



Lease Tract

Included in sale

Excluded from sale

Closed to leasing

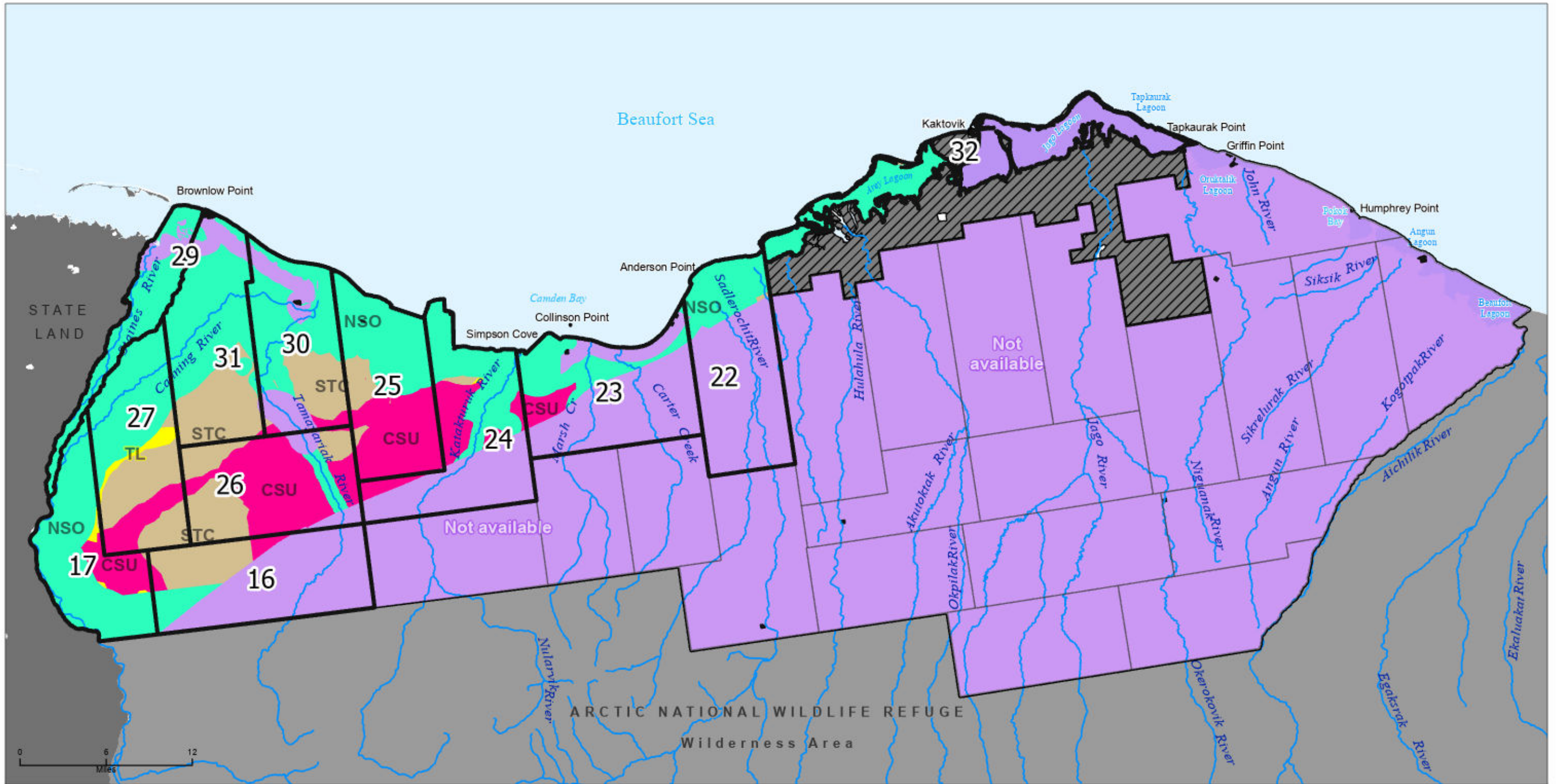
Native Allotment

Excluded from Public Law 115-97
Coastal Plain or outside the BLM's
oil and gas leasing authority

Coastal Plain Supplemental EIS
boundary



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.



Lease Tract
 [Black outline] Included in sale
 [White outline] Excluded from sale

[Green] Closed to leasing
 Available for lease sale
 [Red] Subject to no surface occupancy (NSO)
 [Pink] Subject to controlled surface use (CSU)
 [Yellow] Subject to timing limitations (TL)
 [Brown] Subject to only standard terms and conditions (STC)

[Black square] Native Allotment
 [Hatched square] Excluded from Public Law 115-97 Coastal Plain or outside the BLM's oil and gas leasing authority
 [Dashed line] Coastal Plain Supplemental EIS boundary



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EXHIBIT B

Description of Tracts Offered

NOTE 1: All lands are based on the Umiat Meridian.

NOTE 2: Exhibit B is based on the BLM's current mapping. Stipulations apply to all leases as appropriate based upon mapping current at the time of application for BLM authorization for post-leasing activity.

NOTE 3: The coastal boundary of the ANWR Coastal Plain is defined by reference to geographic features that migrate, accrete, and erode in response to natural phenomena such as ocean currents, waves, storm surges, and sea ice. As a result, the coastal boundary is naturally ambulatory and will change over time. Therefore, the coastal lease tracts depicted in Exhibit A and described below in Exhibit B utilize geospatial data agreed to by the United States and the State of Alaska as an administrative lease line. It does not constitute an official survey but establishes an administrative line that both parties have agreed to use to determine lease tracts.

The line does not represent the actual boundary of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is ambulatory and will therefore migrate as a result of changes in relevant physical features. The line is a reasonable representation, based on geospatial data and information currently available, of the current coastal boundary of the ANWR Coastal Plain for purposes of lease administration. The title to lands offered for lease, or leased, would continue to be governed by the physical location of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge ambulatory coastal boundary.

NOTE 4: For detailed information regarding tract stipulations, refer to signed Record of Decision (ROD) at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2015144/510>

Coastal Plain Tracts					
Tract #	MTR	SEC	STIPULATIONS	ACRES	TRACT ACRES
2025-CP-016	T5N, R24E	Secs 1-3, 10-15, 22-27, 34, 35	1, 6, 10	9,652	18,693
	T5N, R25E	Secs 1-12, 15-20		8,820	
	T5N, R26E	Sec 6		221	
2025-CP-017	T5N, R23E	Secs 1-5, 8-17, 21-28, 34-36	1, 6, 10	13,118	43,880
	T6N, R23E	Secs 1-3, 9-17, 20-29, 32-36		14,933	
	T7N, R23E	Secs 12, 13, 23-27, 34-36		4,355	
	T5N, R24E	Secs 4-9, 16-21, 28-33		11,474	
2025-CP-022	T7N, R31E	Secs 1-9, 18	1, 4, 5, 6, 9	3,705	14,164
	T8N, R31E	Secs 12-16, 19-36		10,459	
2025-CP-023	T6N, R29E	Secs 4-6	1, 4, 5, 6, 9	762	17,965
	T7N, R29E	Secs 2-5, 7-35		14,336	
	T7N, R30E	Secs 1, 12-15, 18-23, 30		2,748	
	T8N, R30E	Sec 36		119	
2025-CP-024	T6N, R27E	Secs 19-23, 29, 30	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9	2,462	33,214
	T6N, R28E	Secs 1-12, 16-18		6,935	
	T7N, R28E	Secs 2-36		20,588	
	T8N, R28E	Secs 17-21, 28-32		3,229	
2025-CP-025	T6N, R27E	Secs 1-18	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9	11,375	48,542
	T7N, R27E	Secs 1-36		22,806	
	T8N, R27E	Secs 5-9, 15-36		14,361	
2025-CP-026	T6N, R25E	Secs 1-36	1, 6	22,900	49,103
	T7N, R25E	Secs 31-36		3,808	
	T6N, R26E	Secs 1-35		19,981	
	T7N, R26E	Secs 31, 32, 34-36		2,414	
2025-CP-027	T6N, R24E	Secs 1-36	1, 2, 5, 6	22,899	52,449
	T7N, R24E	Secs 1-36		22,195	
	T8N, R24E	Secs 12-14, 21-28, 32-36		7,355	
2025-CP-029	T6N, R23E	Secs 3, 4, 9, 10	1, 2, 5, 9	473	19,772
	T7N, R23E	Secs 1, 11-14, 22-24, 26, 27, 33, 34		2,573	
	T7N, R24E	Secs 5-7		581	
	T8N, R24E	Secs 1-3, 9-17, 20-23, 28-33		7,775	
	T9N, R24E	Secs 1, 2, 10-16, 22-29, 32-36		6,677	
	T10N, R24E	Sec 36		1	
	T8N, R25E	Secs 5-7		609	
	T9N, R25E	Secs 5-8, 18		1,083	
2025-CP-030	T9N, R25E	Secs 14, 23-26, 35, 36	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9	1,386	36,112
	T7N, R26E	Secs 1-17, 19, 21-27, 29, 30		13,793	
	T8N, R26E	Secs 1-36		19,245	
	T9N, R26E	Secs 29-34		1,688	

2025-CP-031	T9N, R24E	Secs 24, 25, 35, 36	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9	1,061	49,079
	T7N, R25E	Secs 1-30		18,813	
	T8N, R25E	Secs 1-36		22,102	
	T9N, R25E	Secs 4, 5, 7-10, 15-22, 27-34		7,103	
2025-CP-032	T8N, R32E	Secs 1-4, 7-11, 15-21	1, 4, 9	5,686	17,248
	T9N, R32E	Secs 24-27, 31-36		3,241	
	T8N, R33E	Secs 1-6, 8, 9, 11, 12		2,682	
	T9N, R33E	Secs 13-16, 19-22, 26-35		5,639	

EXHIBIT C

Appendix A of the CP Record of Decision with the Lease Stipulations and Required Operating Procedures

Appendix A

Lease Stipulations and Required
Operating Procedures

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Appendix A. Lease Stipulations and Required Operating Procedures

A.1 APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS

A.1.1 Lease Stipulations

Appropriate stipulations are attached to the lease when the BLM issues it. As part of a lease contract, stipulations are specific to the lease. All oil and gas activity permits issued to a lessee must comply with the lease stipulations appropriate to the activity under review, such as exploratory drilling or production pad construction.

A stipulation included in an oil and gas lease could be subject to a waiver, exception, or modification, as appropriate. The objective of a stipulation must be met before a waiver, exception, or modification would be granted. Waivers, exceptions, and modifications are:

- A waiver—A permanent exemption to a stipulation on a lease
- An exception—A one-time exemption to a lease stipulation, determined on a case-by-case basis
- A modification—A change attached to a lease stipulation, either temporarily or for the life of the lease

The BLM Authorized Officer may authorize a modification to a lease stipulation only if the officer determines that the factors leading to the stipulation have changed sufficiently to make the stipulation no longer justified; the proposed operation would still have to meet the objective stated for the stipulation.

While the BLM may grant a waiver, exception, or modification of a stipulation through the permitting process, it may also impose additional requirements through permitting terms and conditions to meet the objectives of any stipulation. This would be the case if the BLM Authorized Officer considers that such requirements are warranted to protect the land and resources, in accordance with the BLM's responsibility under relevant laws and regulations. Note that PL 115-97 requires that the BLM shall issue any rights-of-way or easements across the Coastal Plain for the exploration, development, production, or transportation necessary to carry out the Tax Act. It should be noted that a ROW or easement could be granted even in areas closed to leasing or with a NSO stipulation. The Authorized Officer will issue a waiver, exception, or modification to a lease stipulation or ROP only following 30 days of public notice. Moreover, the Authorized Officer must document their decision and rationale for any waiver, exception, or modification in writing.

A.1.2 Required Operating Procedures

The ROPs describe the protective measures that the BLM would impose on applicants during the permitting process. Similar to stipulations, the objective of a ROP must be met in order for exceptions, modifications, or waivers to be granted.

Any applicant requesting authorization for an activity from the BLM will have to address the applicable ROPs in one of the following ways:

- Before submitting the application (e.g., performing and documenting subsistence consultation or surveys)
- As part of the application proposal (e.g., including in the proposal statements that the applicant will meet the objective of the ROP and how the applicant intends to achieve that objective)
- As a term imposed by the BLM in a permit or right-of-way authorization

At the permitting stage, the BLM Authorized Officer would not include those ROPs that, because of their location or other inapplicability, are not relevant to a specific land use authorization application. Note also that at the permitting stage, the BLM Authorized Officer may establish additional requirements as warranted to protect the land, resources, and uses in accordance with the BLM's responsibilities under relevant laws and regulations.

A.2 LEASE STIPULATIONS AND REQUIRED OPERATING PROCEDURES

A.2.1 Lease Stipulations

Protections that Apply in Select Biologically Sensitive Areas

Lease Stipulation 1 – Rivers and Streams

Objective: Minimize the disruption of natural flow patterns and changes to water quality; the disruption of natural functions resulting from the loss or change to vegetative and physical characteristics of floodplain and riparian areas, springs, and aufeis; the loss of spawning, rearing, or overwintering fish habitat; the loss of cultural and paleontological resources; the loss of raptor habitat; the disruption to polar bear denning habitat; impacts on subsistence cabins and campsites; the disruption of subsistence activities; impacts on hunting and recreation, and impacts on scenic and other resource values. Protect the water quality, quantity, and diversity of fish and wildlife habitats and populations associated with springs and aufeis across the Coastal Plain.

Requirement/Standard: (NSO) Permanent oil and gas facilities, including gravel pads, roads, airstrips, and pipelines, are prohibited in the streambed and within the described setback distances outlined below, from the southern boundary of the Coastal Plain to the stream mouth. For streams that are entirely in the Coastal Plain, the setback extends to the head of the stream, as identified in the National Hydrography Dataset. Pipelines and road crossings that are essential to carry out operations would be permitted through setback areas in accordance with Section 20001(c)(2) of PL 115-97, which requires issuance of rights-of-way or easements across the Coastal Plain for the exploration, development, production, or transportation necessary to carry out Section 20001. Gravel mines could be permitted in setback areas near rivers and streams that do not support resident, anadromous, or endemic fish populations.

Exceptions: All exception requests will be coordinated between the BLM Authorized Officer and the USFWS as surface manager.

1. Setbacks may not be practical in river deltas; in these situations, an exception may be granted by the Authorized Officer if the operator can demonstrate: (1) there are no practical alternatives to locating facilities in these areas; (2) the proposed action would maintain resource functions; (3)

permanent facilities are designed to withstand a 100-year flood; and (4) the proposed action complies with other applicable laws.

2. In NSO areas a one-time exception may be granted by the Authorized Officer if the operator can demonstrate: (1) there are no practical alternatives to accessing subsurface resources; (2) the proposed action would maintain resource functions; and (3) the proposed action complies with other applicable laws.
 - a. Canning/Staines River: From the western boundary of the Coastal Plain to 3 miles east of the eastern edge of the active floodplain
 - b. Hulahula River: 4 miles in all directions from the active floodplain
 - c. Sadlerochit Spring Creek: 3 miles in all directions from the active floodplain
 - d. Aichilik River: 3 miles from the eastern edge of the Coastal Plain boundary
 - e. The following rivers and creeks would have a 1-mile setback from the active floodplain:
 - i. Sadlerochit River
 - ii. Jago River
 - iii. Itkilyariak Creek
 - f. The following rivers and creeks would have a 0.5-mile setback from the active floodplain:
 - i. West Fork Tamayariak River
 - ii. Middle Fork Tamayariak River
 - iii. Tamayariak River
 - iv. Katakturuk River
 - v. Nularvik River
 - vi. Okerokovik River
 - vii. Niguanak River
 - viii. Angun River
 - ix. Kogotpak River
 - x. Okpilak River
 - xi. Marsh Creek
 - xii. Carter Creek
 - g. The following rivers and creeks would have a 0.25-mile setback from the active floodplain:
 - i. Kajutaakrok River
 - ii. Nataroatuk River
 - iii. Akutotuk River
 - iv. Okpirourak Creek
 - v. Sikrelurak River
 - vi. Igilatvik River
 - vii. John River
 - viii. Pokok River
 - ix. Kimikpaurauk River
 - x. Siksik River

Lease Stipulation 2 – Canning River Delta and Lakes

Objective: Protect and minimize adverse effects on the water quality, quantity, and diversity of fish and wildlife habitats and populations, subsistence resources, and cultural resources; protect and minimize the disruption of natural flow patterns and changes to water quality, the disruption of natural functions resulting from the loss or change to vegetation and physical characteristics of floodplain and riparian areas; the loss of passage, spawning, rearing, or overwintering habitat for fish; the loss of cultural and paleontological resources; and adverse effects to migratory birds.

Requirement/Standard: (NSO) Permanent oil and gas facilities, including gravel pads, roads, airstrips, and pipelines, are prohibited within 0.5 miles of the active floodplain of any waterbody in T9N R24E, T9N R25E, T8N, R24E, T8N R25E, T8N R26E, T8N R27E within the Canning and Tamayariak watersheds. Pipelines and road crossings that are essential to carry out operations may be considered through setback areas in accordance with Section 20001(c)(2) of PL 115-97, which requires issuance of rights-of-way or easements across the Coastal Plain for the exploration, development, production, or transportation necessary to carry out Section 20001.

Exceptions: All exception requests will be coordinated between the BLM Authorized Officer and the USFWS as surface manager.

1. In NSO areas a one-time exception may be granted by the Authorized Officer if the operator can demonstrate: (1) there are no practical alternatives to accessing subsurface resources; (2) the proposed action would maintain resource functions; and (3) the proposed action complies with other applicable laws.

Lease Stipulation 3—Springs/Aufeis

Objective: Protect the water quality, quantity, and diversity of fish and wildlife habitats and populations associated with springs and aufeis across the Coastal Plain. River systems with springs provide year-round habitat and host the most diverse and largest populations of fish, aquatic invertebrates, and wildlife; they are associated with major subsistence activity and cultural resources. An aufeis is a unique feature associated with perennial springs. It helps sustain river flow during summer and provides insect relief for caribou. Because the subsurface flow paths to perennial springs are unknown and could be disturbed by drilling, use buffer areas around the major perennial springs that support fish populations in which no leasing is permitted. Also, minimize the disruption to polar bear denning habitat.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. No leasing and no new infrastructure would be permitted within 3 miles adjacent to or above Sadlerochit Spring (04N031E) nor within a 1-mile buffer in all directions from the active floodplain from Sadlerochit Spring to its confluence with Itkilyariak Creek and downstream to a location 1 mile below the point at which Itkilyariak Creek enters the Sadlerochit River and along the associated aufeis formation (04N031E and 05N031E).
- b. No leasing and no new infrastructure would be permitted within 4 miles adjacent to or above the perennial spring at Fish Hole 1 on the Hulahula River (05N032E) nor within 1 mile of the associated aufeis field (05N032E and 06N032E).

- c. No leasing and no new infrastructure would be permitted within 1 mile adjacent to or above the perennial Tamayariak Spring, and no new infrastructure would be permitted within 1 mile of the associated aufeis field (07N026E).
- d. No leasing and no new infrastructure would be permitted within 3 miles adjacent to or above the perennial Okerokovik Spring (04N036E) and associate aufeis field.

Before drilling, the lessee/operator/permittee would conduct studies to ensure drilling or other surface activities would not disrupt flow to or from the perennial springs and waste injection wells would not contaminate any perennial springs. Study plans would be developed in consultation with the BLM, USFWS, Tribal Governments, State of Alaska, and other agencies, as appropriate and incorporate local indigenous knowledge, when available.

Lease Stipulation 4—Nearshore marine, lagoon, and barrier island habitats of the Southern Beaufort Sea within the boundary of the Coastal Plain

Objective: Protect fish and wildlife habitat, including that for waterfowl and shorebirds, caribou insect relief, marine mammals, and polar bear summer and winter coastal habitat; preserve air and water quality; and minimize impacts on subsistence activities, recreation, historic travel routes, and cultural resources in the nearshore marine area. Also, minimize the disruption to polar bear denning habitat and disturbance to bears using near shore areas.

Requirement/Standard: (NSO) Exploratory well drill pads, production well drill pads, or a CPF for oil or gas would not be permitted in nearshore marine waters, lagoons, or barrier islands within the boundaries of the Coastal Plain.

Exceptions: All exception requests will be coordinated between the BM Authorized Officer and the USFWS as surface manager.

1. In NSO areas a one-time exception may be granted by the Authorized Officer if the operator can demonstrate: (1) there are no practical alternatives to accessing subsurface resources; (2) the proposed action would maintain resource functions; and (3) the proposed action complies with other applicable laws.
2. The BLM Authorized Officer may approve infrastructure necessary for oil and gas development in these critical and sensitive habitats, such as barge landings, docks, spill response staging and storage areas, and seawater pipelines if the operator can demonstrate: (1) there are no practical alternatives to locating such facilities in these areas; (2) the proposed action would maintain resource functions; and (3) the proposed action complies with other applicable laws. Approval would be on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with the USFWS, NMFS or both as appropriate, local Tribal Governments, subsistence users, and other Arctic Refuge users or user groups, as appropriate.
 - a. All lessees/operators/contractors involved in authorized activities in nearshore marine waters must coordinate construction and use infrastructure with all other prospective Arctic Refuge users or user groups.
 - b. Before conducting open water activities, the lessee/operator/contractor would consult with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, the NSB, Alaska Nanuut Co-management Council, the Inuvialuit-Inupiat Agreement, and local whaling captains' associations to

minimize impacts on subsistence whaling and other subsistence activities of the communities of the North Slope. In a case in which the BLM authorizes permanent oil and gas infrastructure in the nearshore marine area, the lessee/operator/contractor shall develop and implement an impact and conflict avoidance and monitoring plan which would utilize a monitoring and adaptive management approach. This plan would be used to assess, minimize, and mitigate the effects of the infrastructure and its use on these nearshore marine area habitats and their use by wildlife and people.

- c. (TL) Oil and gas activities such as drilling, seismic exploration, and testing, are not allowed on the major nearshore marine waters, lagoons, barrier islands, and coastal islands between May 15 and November 1 or when sea ice edge (as defined by Fetterer et al. 2017) is 10 miles distant or greater from the coast each season, whichever is later. Requests for approval of any activities between November 2-May 14 must be submitted in advance and must be accompanied by evidence and documentation that demonstrates to the Authorized Officer (who will review in coordination with the USFWS) that the actions or activities meet all the following criteria:
 - i. Exploration would not unreasonably conflict with subsistence uses or significantly affect seasonally concentrated fish and wildlife resources. The location of exploration and related activities would be sited to not pose a hazard to navigation by the public using high-use, subsistence-related travel routes into and through the nearshore marine waters, as identified by the NSB and the Native Village of Kaktovik, recognizing that marine and nearshore travel routes change over time and are subject to shifting environmental conditions.
 - ii. Design and construct facilities to minimize impacts on subsistence uses, travel corridors, and seasonally concentrated fish and wildlife resources.
 - iii. Daily operations, including use of support vehicles, watercraft, and aircraft, alone or in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable activities, would be conducted to minimize impacts on subsistence and other public uses, travel corridors, and seasonally concentrated fish and wildlife resources.
 - iv. The location of oil and gas facilities, including artificial islands, platforms, associated pipelines, ice or other roads, and bridges or causeways, would be sited and constructed to not pose a hazard to public navigation, using traditional high-use subsistence-related travel routes into and through the major coastal lagoons and bays, as identified by the community of Kaktovik and the NSB.
 - v. Operators would be responsible for developing comprehensive prevention and response plans, including Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans and Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure plans and maintain adequate oil spill response capability to effectively respond during periods of ice, broken ice, or open water, based on the statutes, regulations, and guidelines of the USFWS, EPA, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), as well as ROPs, stipulations, and policy guidelines of the BLM.

Lease Stipulation 5—Coastal Polar Bear Denning River Habitat

Objective: Minimize disturbance to denning polar bears, and disturbance or alteration of key river and creek maternal denning habitat areas.

Requirement/Standard: Comply with ESA and MMPA requirements, with the following additional requirements/standards applying from the coastline to 5 miles inland within the program area boundary.

Exceptions: All exception requests will be coordinated between the BLM Authorized Officer and the USFWS as surface manager.

1. In NSO areas a one-time exception may be granted by the Authorized Officer if the operator can demonstrate: (1) there are no practical alternatives to accessing subsurface resources; (2) the proposed action would maintain resource functions; and (3) the proposed action complies with other applicable laws.
2. No leasing: From the coast to 1-mile inland along the coastline of the critical denning habitat in the Northwest portion of the 1002 Area near the Canning/Staines Rivers and in the Camden Bay area.
 - a. (NSO) From the coastline to 5 miles inland, no permanent oil and gas infrastructure would be permitted within 1 mile of potential polar bear denning habitat on the Canning/Staines River, Niguanak River, Katakturuk River, Marsh Creek, Carter Creek, and Sadlerochit River, and all associated tributaries as defined by Durner et al. (2006).
 - b. Any infrastructure permitted within 5 miles inland of the coastline must be designed to avoid impeding polar bears seeking to establish or leave dens inland.
 - c. (TL) From the coastline to 5 miles inland, between October 30 and April 30 of any year, the lessee/operator/contractor would not conduct oil and gas activities, such as drilling, seismic exploration, and testing, within 1 mile of potential polar bear denning habitat on the Niguanak River, Katakturuk River, Marsh Creek, Carter Creek, Canning/Staines and Sadlerochit River, and all associated tributaries as defined by Durner et al. (2006), unless the BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS, approves alternative protective measures.
 - d. (TL) From the coastline to 2 miles inland, between October 30 and April 30 of any year, the lessee/operator/contractor would not conduct oil and gas activities, such as drilling, seismic exploration, and testing.

Lease Stipulation 6—Caribou Calving, Post-calving, and Insect Relief

Note: *All lands in the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain are recognized as habitat of the PCH and CAH and would be managed to allow for unhindered movement and use by caribou. The portion of the CAH range that could be affected is encompassed within the range of the PCH.*

- a. **PCH projected calving and post-calving habitat areas** are defined following those identified by Severson et al. (2021) for the projected 2050-2059 ranges.
- b. **PCH comprehensive calving habitat area** is inclusive of current PCH calving habitat, defined as the area used in the 2019 FEIS (BLM 2019) for calving (based on annual 95 percent contours calculated using kernel density estimation of parturient female caribou locations May 26-June 10 during more than 40 percent of the years surveyed), plus the addition of portions of PCH projected calving habitat area (Severson et al. 2021).

- c. **PCH comprehensive post-calving habitat area** is inclusive of current PCH post-calving habitat, defined as the area used in the 2019 FEIS (BLM 2019) for post-calving (based on annual 95 percent contours calculated using kernel density estimation of parturient female caribou locations May 26-June 10 during more than 40 percent of the years surveyed), plus the addition of portions of PCH projected post-calving habitat area (Severson et al. 2021).

Objective: Minimize disturbance and hindrance of caribou to allow for unhindered movement and use by caribou within the 1002 Area, particularly during the sensitive calving, post-calving, and insect relief periods, and maintain caribou access to summer habitats, including calving and post-calving. Avoid Disrupting or breaking up caribou aggregations during calving, post-calving, and insect-relief periods. Minimize disturbance to polar bear denning habitat and to bears using nearshore areas.

Requirement/Standard:

(No leasing) No leasing would be allowed in the PCH comprehensive calving habitat area.

(CSU) No CPFs would be allowed in the PCH comprehensive post-calving habitat area. Well pads, roads, airstrips, and pipelines would be permitted, in accordance with **ROP 23** and **ROP 23.1**. Infrastructure would be limited across the area to 100 acres per township, not to exceed 510 acres total in this area.

(TL) Construction activities using heavy equipment, excluding drilling from existing production pads, would be suspended in the PCH comprehensive post-calving habitat area no later than May 15 through no earlier than July 28, unless approved by the BLM Authorized Officer, in consultation with the appropriate federal (including Arctic Refuge staff, USFWS, and BLM), state, and NSB regulatory and resource agencies.

The intent of this requirement is to restrict activities that would disturb caribou during calving, post-calving, and insect-relief periods. If caribou arrive in the Coastal Plain before May 15, or if they remain in the area past July 28 in significant numbers (greater than approximately 10 percent of the estimated calving cow population or 1,000 during insect-relief periods), construction activities using heavy equipment would be suspended. The lessee shall submit with the development proposal a stop work plan that considers this, and any other mitigation related to caribou early arrival or late departure. The intent of this latter requirement is to provide flexibility to adapt to changing climate conditions that may occur during the life of fields in the region.

The lessee/operator/contractor would develop an Adaptive Research and Management Plan (ARMP) to identify research needs, carry out monitoring and research efforts, evaluate existing/ongoing management and mitigation efforts, quantify impacts, and identify management changes when necessary. This plan would be submitted to USFWS (including Arctic Refuge staff), BLM, and the International Porcupine Caribou Herd Technical Committee for review and approval. The lessee would provide adequate funds to implement this monitoring program. BLM and USFWS would hire an organization or agency to carry out this monitoring program.

As part of the ARMP, caribou occupancy and movement would be monitored from May 15 through August 20. Also, the permittee or contractor would coordinate with local Tribal governments to involve Tribal observers in these observation efforts. The details of how this coordination would occur must be outlined in the ARMP. Based on these observations, traffic would be stopped temporarily to allow crossing by 10 or more caribou. Sections of road would be evacuated whenever a large number of caribou (approximately

100 or more) approach the road within 2 miles (May 15-July 28). The permittee shall submit with the development proposal a vehicle use plan consistent with or exceeding provisions in the ARMP (see **ROP 23.1**) that considers these and any other mitigation to minimize or prevent caribou/vehicle interactions during the post-calving period.

- a. The following ground and air traffic restrictions would apply to permanent oil and gas-related roads in the areas and time periods indicated:
 - a. (TL) Within the PCH comprehensive calving and post-calving habitat areas, from May 15 through July 28, traffic speed shall not exceed 15 miles per hour when caribou are within 2.0 mile of the road. Additional strategies may include limiting trips and using convoys and different vehicle types, to the extent practicable. The lessee shall submit with the development proposal for review and approval by BLM Authorized Officer in consultation with the USFWS a vehicle use plan consistent with or exceeding provisions in the ARMP (see **ROP 23.1**) that considers these and any other mitigation. The plan shall include collection of data on vehicle traffic (counts, times, speed, etc.) and caribou interactions. The BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with local Tribal Governments, the USFWS, and the International PCH Technical Committee would require adjustments if resulting disturbance is determined to be unacceptable.
 - 1) Major equipment, materials, and supplies to be used at oil and gas work sites in the PCH projected post-calving habitat area should be stockpiled prior to the period of May 15 through July 28 to minimize road traffic during that period.

Operators of aircraft used for permitted activities would maintain an altitude of at least 2,000 feet above ground level over both the PCH comprehensive caribou calving and post-calving habitat areas, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices. See ROP 34 for additional conditions.

Lease Stipulation 7—Porcupine Caribou Primary Calving Habitat Area

See **Lease Stipulation 6**.

Lease Stipulation 8—Porcupine Caribou Post-Calving Habitat Area

See **Lease Stipulation 6**.

Lease Stipulation 9—Coastal Area

Objective: Protect nearshore marine waters, lagoons, barrier islands, coastlines, and their value as fish and wildlife habitat, including for waterfowl, loons, shorebirds, and marine mammals; minimize the hindrance or alteration of caribou movement in caribou coastal insect-relief areas; minimize hindrance or alteration of polar bear use and movement in coastal habitats; protect and minimize disturbance from oil and gas activities to nearshore marine habitats for polar bears and seals; prevent loss and alteration of important coastal bird habitat; prevent impacts on nearshore marine subsistence resources and activities; and minimize impacts on historic travel routes and cultural resources in coastal areas.

Requirement/Standard: (NSO) From the coastline to 2 miles inland, no permanent oil and gas infrastructure would be permitted.

Exceptions: All exception requests will be coordinated between the BLM Authorized Officer and the USFWS as surface manager.

In NSO areas a one-time exception may be granted by the Authorized Officer if the operator can demonstrate: (1) there are no practical alternatives to accessing subsurface resources; (2) the proposed action would maintain resource functions; and (3) the proposed action complies with other applicable laws.

(TL) Oil and gas activities such as drilling, seismic exploration, and testing, are not allowed on the major nearshore marine waters, lagoons, barrier islands, and coastal islands between May 15 and November 1 or when sea ice edge (as defined by Fetterer et al. 2017) is 10 miles distant or greater from the coast each season, whichever is later.

Before beginning exploration or development within 2 miles inland of the coastline, the lessee/operator/contractor, with local traditional knowledge experts, would develop and implement an impact and conflict avoidance and monitoring plan to assess, minimize, and mitigate the effects of the infrastructure and its use on these coastal habitats and their use by fish, wildlife and people.

The impact and conflict avoidance and monitoring plan would utilize a monitoring and adaptive management approach. Operators would be responsible for developing comprehensive prevention and response plans, including Oil Discharge Prevention and Contingency Plans and spill prevention, control, and countermeasure plans and maintain adequate oil spill response capability to effectively respond during periods of broken ice or open water, based on the statutes, regulations, and guidelines of the EPA, ADEC, and the BSEE, as well as ROPs, stipulations, and policy guidelines of the BLM.

Lease Stipulation 10—Wilderness Boundary

Objective: Protect wilderness values in the Mollie Beattie Wilderness Area.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. (No leasing) Areas within 3 miles of the Mollie Beattie Wilderness Area would not be offered for lease and would not be available for surface occupancy.
- b. (NSO) Surface occupancy, including exploratory and production well drill pads, structures and facilities, and gravel and ice roads, would not be allowed within 3 miles of the southern and eastern boundaries of the Coastal Plain where they are near designated wilderness. To the extent practicable, aircraft operations would be planned to minimize flights below 2,000 feet when flying within 3 miles of the Mollie Beattie Wilderness Area boundary, where not otherwise closed to leasing.

Exceptions: All exception requests will be coordinated between the BLM Authorized Officer and the USFWS as surface manager.

In NSO areas a one-time exception may be granted by the Authorized Officer if the operator can demonstrate: (1) there are no practical alternatives to accessing subsurface resources; (2) the proposed action would maintain resource functions; and (3) the proposed action complies with other applicable laws.

To the extent practicable, aircraft operations would be planned to minimize flights below 2,000 feet when flying within 3 miles of the Mollie Beattie Wilderness Area boundary.

Lease Stipulation 11—Native Allotments

Objective: Ensure Native allotment owners maintain control over use of their land.

Requirement/Standard: Use of the surface of Native allotments for the construction and maintenance of improvements is prohibited unless written consent to transverse the allotment is obtained from the allotment owner.

Lease Stipulation 12—Ice-rich Soils and Yedoma Deposits

Objective: Prevent additional heat input to all ice-rich soils and yedoma deposits which are thawing and melting due to climate change generating unstable landforms (i.e., thermokarst) and surface disturbances such as subsidence and hydrologic changes. Minimize disturbance to polar bear denning habitat.

Requirement/Standard: Design and construct all infrastructure, including oil and gas facilities, wells, pipelines, and gravel roads and pads, to accommodate the thaw subsidence anticipated over the design life in areas of ice-rich soils and edema deposits.

Lease Stipulation 13—Master Development Plan

Objective: Minimize the areal extent of development and redundant infrastructure by a single operator and among multiple operators.

Requirement/Standard: BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS as the surface manager, must approve a Master Development Plan for each field development. Master Plans shall address:

- a. Compact design – Operators shall design all surface infrastructure with the smallest possible footprint. Development and production infrastructure must avoid creating ponds and other minimally-utilized areas bounded by gravel including gravel roads.
- b. Joint use of surface infrastructure – Operators shall develop comprehensive facility sharing agreements to maximize co-use of:
 - i. construction infrastructure including barge landing docks, gravel pads for material storage, gravel mines, construction water sources, and construction service centers.
 - ii. all permanent surface facilities including gravel roads, gravel drill sites, central production facility (CPF) pads, processing facilities, gravel airstrips, pipelines, power generating facilities and transmission lines, sea water treatment plants, base camps, and oil field service centers.

Standardized facility sharing agreements for future use by others shall be required as a condition of development. Subsequent development shall utilize these agreements to minimize the overall development footprint. Where two or more parties are developing on the same timeline, joint construction and co-use of surface facilities shall be required as a design basis for each party to minimize the overall development footprint.

Lease Stipulation 14 – Polar Bear Den Detection, Avoidance, Monitoring, and Reporting

Objective: Minimize disturbance to denning polar bears.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. In order to limit disturbance around known polar bear dens:
 - i. *Attempt to locate polar bear dens.* Lessees/operators/contractors seeking to carry out onshore activities during the denning season must conduct two separate surveys for

occupied polar bear dens in all denning habitat within 1.6 km (1 mi) of proposed activities using aerial infrared (AIR) imagery. The first survey must occur between the dates of November 25 and December 15, and the second between the dates of December 5 and December 31. AIR surveys will be conducted during darkness or civil twilight and not during daylight hours. Ideal environmental conditions during surveys would be clear, calm, and cold. If there is blowing snow, and form of precipitation, or other sources of airborne moisture, use of AIR detection is not advised. Flight crews will record and report environmental parameters including air temperature, dew point, wind speed and direction, cloud ceiling, and percent humidity, and a flight log will be provided to BLM and USFWS within 48 hours of the flight. A scientist with experience in the in-air interpretation of AIR imagery will be on board to analyze the AIR data in real time. The data (infrared video) will be made available for viewing by BLM and USFWS immediately upon return of the survey aircraft to the base of operations. All observed or suspected polar bear dens must be reported to BLM and USFWS prior to the initiation of activities.

- ii. *Observe the exclusion zone around known polar bear dens.* Lessees/operators/contractors must observe a 1.6-km (1-mi) operational exclusion zone around all known polar bear dens during the denning season (approximately November–April, or until the female and cubs leave the areas). Should previously unknown occupied dens be discovered within 1 mi of activities, work must cease and the BLM and USFWS contacted for guidance. The BLM and USFWS would evaluate these instances on a case-by-case basis to recommend the appropriate action. Potential actions may range from cessation or modification of work to conducting additional monitoring, and the holder of the authorization must comply with any additional measures specified.
- iii. *Use the den habitat map developed by the US Geological Survey (USGS).* This product will help locate potential polar bear dens when conducting activities in the coastal areas of the Beaufort Sea. This measure helps identify the location of potential polar bear dens and ensures they are considered when conducting activities in the coastal areas of the Beaufort Sea.
- iv. *Polar bear den restrictions.* Restrict the timing of the activity to range from cessation or modification of work to conducting additional monitoring, and the holder of the authorization must comply with any additional measures specified.

b. In order to limit disturbance around known polar bear dens:

Monitoring requirements

- i. Develop and implement a site-specific, BLM and USFWS-approved marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and the effects of activities on polar bears, and the subsistence use of this species.
- ii. Provide trained, qualified, and BLM and USFWS-approved onsite observers to carry out monitoring and mitigation activities identified in the marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan.
- iii. For offshore activities, provide trained, qualified, and BLM and USFWS-approved observers on board all operational and support vessels to carry out monitoring and mitigation activities identified in the marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan.
- iv. Cooperate with the BLM and USFWS and other designated Federal, State, and local agencies to monitor the impacts of Industry activities on polar bears. Where information is

insufficient to evaluate the potential effects of activities on polar bears, and the subsistence use of this species, operators may be required to participate in joint monitoring and/or research efforts to address these information needs and ensure the least practicable impact to these resources.

Reporting requirements

Lessees/operators/contractors must report the results of monitoring and mitigation activities to the BLM and USFWS.

- a. In-season monitoring reports
 - i. Activity progress reports. Notify the BLM and USFWS at least 48 hours prior to the onset of activities; provide the BLM and USFWS weekly progress reports of any significant changes in activities and/or locations; and notify the BLM and USFWS within 48 hours after ending of activities.
 - ii. Polar bear observation reports. Report all observations of polar bears and potential polar bear dens, during any Industry activity. Information in the observation report must include, but is not limited to: (1) Date, time, and location of observation; (2) Number of bears; (3) Sex and age; (4) Observer name and contact information; (5) Weather, visibility, sea state, and sea-ice conditions at the time of observation; (6) Estimated closest distance of bears from personnel and facilities; (7) Industry activity at time of sighting; (8) Possible attractants present; (9) Bear behavior; (10) Description of the encounter; (11) Duration of the encounter; and (12) Mitigation actions taken.
- b. Notification of LOA incident report. Report all bear incidents during any Industry activity. Reports must include: (1) All information specified for an observation report; (2) A complete detailed description of the incident; and (3) Any other actions taken.
- c. Final report. The results of monitoring and mitigation efforts identified in the marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan must be submitted to the BLM and USFWS for review within 90 days of project completion or, for multi-year activities, within 90 days of the end of each annual reporting period. Information in the final report must include: (1) Copies of all observation reports submitted under an authorization; (2) A summary of the observation reports; (3) A summary of monitoring and mitigation efforts, including areas, total hours, total distances, and distribution; (4) Analysis of factors affecting the visibility and detectability of polar bears during monitoring; (5) Analysis of the effectiveness of mitigation measures; (6) Analysis of the distribution, abundance, and behavior of polar bears observed; and (7) Estimates of “take” as defined by the MMPA and its implementing regulations.

A.2.2 Required Operating Procedures

Waste Prevention, Handling, Disposal, Spills, and Public Safety

Required Operating Procedure 1

Objective: Protect public health, safety, and the environment by disposing of solid waste and garbage, in accordance with applicable federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

Requirement/Standard: Areas of operation would be left clean of all debris. All solid waste and industry-derived trash originating from permitted activities are required to be properly containerized while on-site or removed from the area of operation and activity.

Required Operating Procedure 2

Objective: Minimize impacts on the environment from nonhazardous and hazardous waste generation. Encourage procedures, processes and a cultural environment which foster continuous improvement of environmental stewardship. Protect the health and safety of oil and gas field workers, local communities, Coastal Plain subsistence users, Coastal Plain recreationists, and the general public. Avoid human-caused changes in predator populations. Minimize attracting predators, particularly bears, to human use areas.

Requirement/Standard: The lessee/operator/contractor would prepare and implement a comprehensive waste management plan for all phases of exploration, development, and production, including seismic activities. The plan would include methods and procedures to use bear resistant containers for all waste materials and classes. The plan would be submitted to the BLM Authorized Officer for approval, in consultation with the USFWS, and other federal, State, and NSB regulatory and resource agencies, as appropriate (based on agency legal authority and jurisdictional responsibility), as part of a plan of operations or other similar permit application.

Management decisions affecting waste generation would be addressed in the following order of priority: (1) prevention and reduction, (2) recycling, (3) treatment, and (4) disposal. The plan would consider and take into account the following requirements:

- a. Methods to avoid attracting wildlife to food and garbage: The plan would identify precautions that are to be taken to avoid attracting wildlife to food and garbage. The use of bear-resistant containers for all waste would be required.
- b. Disposal of putrescible waste: Requirements prohibit burying garbage. Lessees/operators/contractors would have a written procedure to ensure that rotting waste would be handled and disposed of in a manner that prevents the attraction of wildlife. All rotting waste would be incinerated, backhauled, or composted in a manner approved by the BLM Authorized Officer. All solid waste, including incinerator ash, would be disposed of in an approved waste-disposal facility, in accordance with EPA and ADEC regulations and procedures.
- c. Disposal of human waste: Burying human waste is prohibited, except as authorized by the BLM Authorized Officer. The use of human waste receptacles should be used when possible and remain bear resistant to minimize attraction.
- d. Disposal of pumpable waste products: Except as specifically provided, the BLM requires that all pumpable solid, liquid, and sludge waste be disposed of by injection, in accordance with the applicable regulations and procedures. On-pad temporary muds and cuttings storage, as approved by the ADEC, would be allowed as necessary to facilitate annular injection and backhaul operations.
- e. Disposal of wastewater and domestic wastewater: The BLM prohibits wastewater discharges or disposal of domestic wastewater into bodies of fresh, estuarine, and marine water, including wetlands, unless authorized by an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) or State permit. See Lease Stipulation 3 for additional requirement/standard.

Prevention of the release of poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances: At facilities where fire-fighting foam is required, use fluorine-free foam unless other state or federal regulations require AFFF use. If AFFF use is required, contain, collect, treat, and properly dispose of all runoff, wastewater from training events, and, to the greatest extent possible, from any emergency response events. All discharges must be reported to the

ADEC Spill Response Division, Contaminated Sites Program. Measures should also be taken to fully inform workers/trainees of the potential health risks of fluorinated foams and to specify appropriate personal protective equipment to limit exposure during training and use. Training events shall be conducted in lined areas or basins to prevent the release of poly- and perfluoroalkyl substances associated with AFFF.

All plans for waste prevention, handling, disposal, spills, and public safety will comply with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's CCP.

Required Operating Procedure 3

Objective: Minimize the impact of contaminants from refueling operations on fish, wildlife, and the environment.

Requirement/Standard: Permanent fuel storage stations within the setback distances identified in **Lease Stipulation 1** is prohibited. Refueling equipment within 500 feet of the active floodplain of any waterbody is prohibited. Temporary or seasonal fuel storage stations would be at least 500 feet from any waterbody, except for small caches (up to 210 gallons) for motorboats, float planes, ski planes, and small equipment, such as portable generators and water pumps. The BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS, may allow storage and operations at areas closer than the stated distances if properly designed and maintained to account for local hydrologic conditions.

Required Operating Procedure 4

Objective: Minimize conflicts from the interaction between humans and bears during oil and gas activities.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. Implement policies and procedures to conduct activities in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts on polar bears, their habitat, and their availability for subsistence uses.
- b. Implement adaptive management practices, such as temporal or spatial activity restrictions, in response to the presence of polar bears or polar bears engaged in a biologically significant activity, must be used to avoid interactions with and minimize impacts to them and their availability for subsistence uses.
- c. Cooperate with the BLM, USFWS and other designated federal, state, and local agencies to monitor and mitigate the impacts of Industry activities on polar bears through reporting the monitoring data to BLM and USFWS.
- d. Designate trained and qualified personnel (hired locally whenever possible) to monitor for the presence of polar bears, initiate mitigation measures, and monitor, record, and report the effects of Industry activities on polar bears.
- e. Provide polar bear awareness training that incorporates Indigenous knowledge, when available, to personnel.
- f. Contact affected subsistence communities and hunter organizations including the Alaska Nannut Co-Management Commission to discuss potential conflicts.
- g. Polar bears: The lessee/operator/contractor, as a part of lease operation planning, would prepare and implement polar bear-interaction plans to minimize conflicts between polar bears and humans. These polar bear interaction plans would be developed in consultation with local Tribal

Governments and the community of Kaktovik and approved by the BLM and USFWS. These plans must include:

- i. The type of activity and where and when the activity would occur (i.e., a plan of operation);
 - ii. A food, waste, and other “bear attractants” management plan;
 - iii. Personnel training policies, procedures, and materials;
 - iv. Site-specific polar bear interaction risk evaluation and mitigation measures;
 - v. Polar bear avoidance and encounter procedures; and
 - vi. Polar bear observation and reporting procedures.
- h. Grizzly bears: The lessee/operator/contractor would prepare and implement a grizzly bear interaction plan as necessary, in consultation with, and approved by the BLM and ADFG. The interaction plans would include appropriate Traditional knowledge on bear/human interactions, when available.

Required Operating Procedure 5

Objective: Reduce air quality impacts.

Requirement/Standard: All oil and gas operations (vehicles and equipment) that burn diesel fuels must use ultra-low sulfur diesel, as defined by the EPA.

Required Operating Procedure 6

Objective: Prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the air and lands and protect health.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. All relevant projects and permitted uses would comply with all applicable NAAQS/ AAAQS and ensure AQRVs are protected under the Clean Air Act, or other applicable statutes.
- b. Prior to initiation of a NEPA analysis for an application to develop a CPF, production pad/well, airstrip, road, gas compressor station, or other potential air pollutant emission source (hereafter called project), the BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS, may require the project proponent to provide a minimum of 1 year of baseline ambient air monitoring data for pollutants of concern. Such a determination would be made in consultation with the EPA/ADEC and with the permittee, to assess the technical practicability of any new data collection. This would apply if no representative air monitoring data are available for the project area or if existing representative ambient air monitoring data are insufficient, incomplete, or do not meet minimum air monitoring standards set by the ADEC or the EPA. If it is determined that baseline monitoring is required, this pre-analysis data must meet ADEC and EPA air monitoring standards and cover the year before the submittal. Pre-project monitoring would not be required when the life of the project is less than 1 year.
- c. For an application to develop a CPF, production pad/well, airstrip, road, gas compressor station, or other potential substantial air pollutant emission source:
 - i. The project proponent shall prepare and submit for approval an emissions inventory that includes quantified emissions of regulated air pollutants from all direct and indirect sources related to the proposed project, including reasonably foreseeable air pollutant emissions of criteria air pollutants, VOCs, hazardous air pollutants, and GHGs estimated for each year for the life of the project. The estimated emissions inventory would be used to identify

pollutants of concern and to determine the appropriate form of air analysis to be conducted for the proposed project.

- ii. Air quality modeling may be required for the purposes of analyzing project direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts on air quality. The BLM would base its determination to require air quality modeling on:
 - 1) the magnitude of potential air emissions from the project;
 - 2) proximity to a federally mandated Class I area;
 - 3) proximity to a population center;
 - 4) location within or proximity to a nonattainment or maintenance area;
 - 5) meteorological or geographic conditions;
 - 6) existing air quality conditions;
 - 7) magnitude of existing development in the area; or
 - 8) issues identified during the NEPA process.

The BLM would determine the information required for a project-specific modeling analysis through the development of a modeling protocol for each analysis. The BLM would consult with appropriate federal (including federal land managers), State, and/or local agencies regarding modeling to inform its modeling decision and avoid duplication of effort.

- iii. The BLM may require the proponent to provide an emissions reduction plan that includes a detailed description of operator-committed measures to reduce project-related air pollutant emissions, including, but not limited to, criteria pollutants, GHGs, heavy metals, mercury, and fugitive dust.
- d. Air monitoring or air modeling reports will be provided to the BLM; federal land managers; federal, state, local community, or affected Tribal governments; and other interested parties, annually or at a frequency set by the BLM Authorized Officer.
- e. The BLM may require monitoring for the life of the project based on:
 - i. the magnitude of potential air emissions from the project;
 - ii. proximity to a federally mandated Class I area;
 - iii. proximity to a population center;
 - iv. location within or proximity to a nonattainment or maintenance area;
 - v. meteorological or geographic conditions;
 - vi. existing air quality conditions;
 - vii. magnitude of existing development in the area; or
 - viii. issues identified during the NEPA process.
- f. If ambient air monitoring or air quality modeling indicates that project-related emissions cause or contribute to impacts, unnecessary or undue degradation of the lands including AQRVs, exceedances of the NAAQS/AAAQS, or fails to protect health (either directly or through use of subsistence resources), then the BLM may require changes to a project proposal or propose mitigation to reduce air impacts. Project changes and mitigation measures will be analyzed through appropriate NEPA analysis to determine effectiveness.

- g. Publicly available reports on air quality baseline monitoring, emissions inventory, and modeling results developed in conformance with this ROP shall be provided by the project proponent to the NSB and to local communities and Tribal Governments in a timely manner.

Required Operating Procedure 7

Objective: Ensure that permitted activities do not create human health risks by contaminating subsistence foods.

Requirement/Standard: A lessee/operator/contractor proposing a permanent oil and gas development would design and implement a monitoring study of contaminants in locally used subsistence foods. The monitoring study preparers would examine subsistence foods for all contaminants that could be associated with the proposed development. The study would identify the level of contaminants in subsistence foods before the proposed permanent oil and gas development and would monitor the level of these contaminants throughout the operation and abandonment phases. The study would include coordinating with Tribal Governments to include Indigenous knowledge of contaminants to subsistence foods, when available. If ongoing monitoring detects a measurable and persistent increase in a contaminant in subsistence foods, the operator would design and implement a study to determine how much, if any, of the increase originates from the operator's activities. If the study preparers determine that a portion of the increase in contamination is caused by the operator's activities, the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS may require changes in the operator's processes to reduce or eliminate emissions of the contaminant. The design of the study must meet the approval of the BLM Authorized Officer and Tribal Governments, who may coordinate with appropriate entities before approving the study design. The BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS, and Tribal Governments, may require or authorize changes in the design of the studies throughout the operations and abandonment period or terminate or suspend studies if results warrant.

Water Use for Permitted Activities

Required Operating Procedure 8

Objective: In flowing waters (rivers, springs, and streams), ensure water of sufficient quality and quantity to conserve fish, waterbirds, and wildlife populations and habitats in their natural diversity.

Requirement/Standard: The removal of ice aggregate from aufeis fields identified in **Lease Stipulation 3** and aufeis fields along the Canning River is prohibited. The removal of ice aggregate from grounded areas 4 feet deep or less may be authorized from rivers on a site-specific basis.

Winter Water Use

- a. Withdrawal of unfrozen water from springs, rivers, and streams during winter (onset of freeze-up to break-up) is prohibited.

Summer Water Use

- a. Water withdrawals from springs identified in Lease Stipulation 3 is prohibited. Withdrawal of unfrozen water would be prohibited from the following rivers that support resident, anadromous, or endemic fish populations:
 - i. Canning/Staines River
 - ii. West Fork Tamayariak River
 - iii. Middle Fork Tamayariak River

- iv. Tamayariak River
 - v. Itkilyariak Creek
 - vi. Hulahula River
 - vii. Aichilik River
 - viii. Sadlerochit River
 - ix. Sadlerochit Spring Creek
- b. Requests for summer water use from rivers and streams that do not support populations of resident, anadromous, or endemic fish must be made separately, and the volume allowance would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Approval from the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS and local traditional knowledge holders is required.
 - c. Additional modeling or monitoring may be required to assess water level and water quality conditions before, during, and after water use from any river in summer.

Required Operating Procedure 9

Objective: Maintain natural hydrologic regimes in soils surrounding lakes and ponds, and maintain populations of, and adequate habitat for, fish, birds, and aquatic invertebrates.

Requirement/Standard: Withdrawal of unfrozen water from lakes or artificial water reservoirs and the removal of ice aggregate from grounded areas 4 feet deep or less during winter (onset of freeze-up to break-up) and withdrawal of water from lakes or artificial water reservoirs during the summer may be authorized on a site-specific basis, depending on water volume and depth, the fish community, and connectivity to other lakes or streams and adjacent bird nesting habitat. Implement policies and procedures to conduct activities in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts on fish, their habitat, and their availability for subsistence uses.

Current water use guidelines are as follows:

All Water Use

- a. Any water intake structures in fish-bearing or non-fish-bearing waters would be designed, operated, and maintained to prevent fish entrapment, entrainment, or injury. Note: All water withdrawal equipment must be equipped with and use fish screening devices approved by the BLM and ADFG, Division of Habitat.
- b. Additional modeling or monitoring is required to assess water level, water quality conditions, and recharge before, during, and after water use from all lakes to ensure natural hydrologic regime, water quality, and aquatic habitat connectivity for birds and fish species.
- c. Local Traditional knowledge will be used, when available, in monitoring and modeling efforts.
- d. A daily record of water removed as unfrozen water or ice aggregate (separately) must be maintained and submitted to the BLM with the weekly report of activities. Submitting water and ice use in the format specified by the BLM is required. These modeling and monitoring efforts must include local traditional knowledge, when available, to define the natural hydrologic regime, water quality, and aquatic habitat for birds to understand impacts.
- e. The BLM must be notified within 48 hours of any observation of dead or injured fish on water source intake screens, in the hole being used for pumping, or within any portion of ice roads or

pads. If observed at a particular lake, pumping must cease temporarily from that hole until additional preventative measures are taken to avoid further impacts on fish.

- f. The BLM must be notified within 48 hours if water removal exceeds the volume approved at any lake.

Winter Water Use

- a. Lakes with sensitive fish (i.e., any fish except ninespine stickleback or Alaska blackfish): unfrozen water available for withdrawal is limited to 15 percent of calculated volume deeper than 7 feet. When both ice and water are being withdrawn, withdrawal is limited to 20 percent of the calculated lake volume if the conditions in (b) above are met.
- b. Lakes with only nonsensitive fish (i.e., ninespine stickleback or Alaska blackfish): unfrozen water available for withdrawal is limited to 30 percent of calculated volume deeper than 5 feet. When both ice and water are being withdrawn, withdrawal is limited to 20 percent of the calculated lake volume if the conditions in (b) above are met.
- c. Lakes with no fish, regardless of depth: water available for use is limited to 20 percent of total lake volume.
- d. Compacting snow cover or removing snow from fish-bearing water bodies would be prohibited, except at approved ice road crossings, water pumping stations on lakes, or areas of grounded ice.

Summer Water Use

- a. Requests for summer water use must be made separately, and the volume allowance would be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Approval from the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS is required.

Winter Overland Moves and Seismic Work

The following ROPs apply to overland and over-ice moves, seismic work, and any similar cross-country vehicle use and heavy equipment on surfaces without roads during winter. These restrictions do not apply to the use of such equipment on ice roads after they are constructed.

Required Operating Procedure 10

Objective: Protect grizzly bear, polar bear, and seal denning and birthing locations.

Requirement/Standard:

In addition to any NMFS MMPA requirements: Prior to operating in the nearshore areas (≤ 3 m water depth) during the ice-covered season (between approximately November-June of any year), a lessee/operator/contractor working in seal lair habitat would conduct a survey to detect seal lairs, in consultation with the NMFS, throughout the planned area of activities.

- a. Grizzly bear dens: Cross-country use of all vehicles, equipment, and oil and gas activity is prohibited within 1.0 miles of occupied grizzly bear dens identified by the ADFG or the USFWS, unless alternative protective measures are approved by the BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS, ADFG and Tribal Governments.
- b. Polar bear dens: Cross-country use of vehicles, equipment, oil and gas activity, and seismic survey activity is prohibited within 1 mile of known, observed, or suspected polar bear dens, unless

alternative protective measures are approved by the BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS and Tribal Governments, and are consistent with the MMPA and the ESA.

Polar bear and seal mitigation measures.

- a. In order to limit disturbance around known polar bear dens:
 - i. *Attempt to locate polar bear dens.* Operators seeking to carry out onshore activities during the denning season must conduct two separate surveys for occupied polar bear dens in all denning habitat within 1.6 km (1 mi) of proposed activities using aerial infrared (AIR) imagery. The first survey must occur between the dates of November 25 and December 15, and the second between the dates of December 5 and December 31. AIR surveys will be conducted during darkness or civil twilight and not during daylight hours. Ideal environmental conditions during surveys would be clear, calm, and cold. If there is blowing snow, and form of precipitation, or other sources of airborne moisture, use of AIR detection is not advised. Flight crews will record and report environmental parameters including air temperature, dew point, wind speed and direction, cloud ceiling, and percent humidity, and a flight log will be provided to BLM and USFWS within 48 hours of the flight. A scientist with experience in the in-air interpretation of AIR imagery will be on board to analyze the AIR data in real time. The data (infrared video) will be made available for viewing by BLM and USFWS immediately upon return of the survey aircraft to the base of operations. All observed or suspected polar bear dens must be reported to BLM and USFWS prior to the initiation of activities.
 - ii. *Observe the exclusion zone around known polar bear dens.* Operators must observe a 1.6-km (1-mi) operational exclusion zone around all known polar bear dens during the denning season (approximately November–April, or until the female and cubs leave the areas). Should previously unknown occupied dens be discovered within 1 mi of activities, work must cease and the BLM and USFWS contacted for guidance. The BLM and USFWS would evaluate these instances on a case-by-case basis to recommend the appropriate action. Potential actions may range from cessation or modification of work to conducting additional monitoring, and the holder of the authorization must comply with any additional measures specified.
 - iii. *Use the den habitat map developed by the US Geological Survey (USGS).* This product will help locate potential polar bear dens when conducting activities in the coastal areas of the Beaufort Sea. This measure helps identify the location of potential polar bear dens and ensures they are considered when conducting activities in the coastal areas of the Beaufort Sea.
 - iv. *Polar bear den restrictions.* Restrict the timing of the activity to range from cessation or modification of work to conducting additional monitoring, and the holder of the authorization must comply with any additional measures specified.
- b. In order to limit disturbance around known polar bear dens:

Monitoring requirements

- a. Develop and implement a site-specific, BLM and USFWS-approved marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and the effects of activities on polar bears, and the subsistence use of this species.

- b. Provide trained, qualified, and BLM and USFWS-approved onsite observers to carry out monitoring and mitigation activities identified in the marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan.
- c. For offshore activities, provide trained, qualified, and BLM and USFWS-approved observers on board all operational and support vessels to carry out monitoring and mitigation activities identified in the marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan.
- d. Cooperate with the BLM and USFWS and other designated Federal, State, and local agencies to monitor the impacts of Industry activities on polar bears. Where information is insufficient to evaluate the potential effects of activities on polar bears, and the subsistence use of this species, operators may be required to participate in joint monitoring and/or research efforts to address these information needs and ensure the least practicable impact to these resources.

Reporting requirements

Operators must report the results of monitoring and mitigation activities to the BLM and USFWS.

- a. In-season monitoring reports
 - i. *Activity progress reports.* Notify the BLM and USFWS at least 48 hours prior to the onset of activities; provide the BLM and USFWS weekly progress reports of any significant changes in activities and/or locations; and notify the BLM and USFWS within 48 hours after ending of activities.
 - ii. *Polar bear observation reports.* Report all observations of polar bears and potential polar bear dens, during any Industry activity. Information in the observation report must include, but is not limited to: (1) Date, time, and location of observation; (2) Number of bears; (3) Sex and age; (4) Observer name and contact information; (5) Weather, visibility, sea state, and sea-ice conditions at the time of observation; (6) Estimated closest distance of bears from personnel and facilities; (7) Industry activity at time of sighting; (8) Possible attractants present; (9) Bear behavior; (10) Description of the encounter; (11) Duration of the encounter; and (12) Mitigation actions taken.
- b. *Incident report.* Report all bear incidents during any Industry activity. Reports must include: (1) All information specified for an observation report; (2) A complete detailed description of the incident; and (3) Any other actions taken.
- c. *Final report.* The results of monitoring and mitigation efforts identified in the marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan must be submitted to the BLM and USFWS for review within 90 days of project completion or, for multi-year activities, within 90 days of the end of each annual reporting period. Information in the final report must include: (1) Copies of all observation reports submitted under an authorization; (2) A summary of the observation reports; (3) A summary of monitoring and mitigation efforts, including areas, total hours, total distances, and distribution; (4) Analysis of factors affecting the visibility and detectability of polar bears during monitoring; (5) Analysis of the effectiveness of mitigation measures; (6) Analysis of the distribution, abundance, and behavior of polar bears observed; and (7) Estimates of “take” as defined by the MMPA and its implementing regulations.

In order to limit disturbance of activities to seal lairs in the nearshore area (<3 m water depth):

Specific to seismic operations:

- a. Before the seismic survey begins, the operator would conduct a sound source verification test to measure the distance of vibroseis sound levels through grounded ice to the 120 dB re 1 μ Pa threshold in open water and water within ungrounded ice. Once that distance is determined, it would be shared with the BLM and NMFS. The distance would be used to buffer all on-ice seismic survey activity operations from any open water or ungrounded ice throughout the project area. The operator would draft a formal study proposal that would be submitted to the BLM and NMFS for review and approval before the activity begins.
- b. Before the seismic survey begins, the operator would work closely with regulators to ensure that mitigation measures are developed that are consistent with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and agency marine mammal guidelines, and take into account practicability, site-specific information, and project activity details.

For all activities:

- a. Maintain airborne sound levels of equipment below 100 dB re 20 μ Pa at 66 feet. If different equipment would be used than was originally proposed, the applicant must inform the BLM Authorized Officer and share sound levels and air and water attenuation information for the new equipment.
- b. On-ice operations after May 1 would employ a full-time trained PSO on vehicles to ensure all basking seals are avoided by vehicles by at least 500 feet and would ensure that all equipment with airborne noise levels above 100 dB re 20 μ Pa were operating at distances from observed seals that allowed for the attenuation of noise to levels below 100 dB. All sightings of seals would be reported to the BLM using a NMFS-approved observation form.
- c. Ice paths must not be greater than 12 feet wide. No driving beyond the shoulder of the ice path or off planned routes unless necessary to avoid ungrounded ice or for other human or marine mammal safety reasons. On-ice driving routes should minimize travel over snow/ice/topographical features that lead to birthing lair development.
- d. No unnecessary equipment or operations (e.g., camps) would be placed or used on sea ice.

Required Operating Procedure 11

Objective: Protect stream banks and freshwater sources, existing vegetations and hydrology, and polar bear denning habitat. Minimize soils compaction and the breakage, abrasion, compaction, or displacement of vegetation.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. Ground operation would be allowed when soil temperature at 12 inches below the tundra surface (defined as the top of the organic layer) reaches 23 °F and 3 inches measured snow water equivalent (SWE). Ground operations would cease when the spring snowmelt begins (approximately May 5 in the foothills, where elevations reach or exceed 500 feet, and approximately May 15 in the northern coastal areas). The exact dates would be determined by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS. USFWS/BLM would release a weekly tundra travel report online.

- b. Low ground pressure vehicles used for off-road travel would be defined by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS. These vehicles would be selected and operated in a manner that eliminates direct impacts on the tundra caused by shearing, scraping, or excessively compacting it.
Note: This provision does not include the use of heavy equipment required during ice road construction; however, heavy equipment would not be allowed on the tundra until conditions in “a,” above, are met.
- c. Bulldozing tundra mat and vegetation, trails, or seismic lines is prohibited. Clearing or smoothing drifted snow is allowed, to the extent that the tundra mat is not disturbed. Only smooth pipe snow drags would be allowed for smoothing drifted snow.
- d. To reduce the possibility of excessive compaction, local traditional knowledge holders would be consulted on the most practical sites for routes. Additionally, vehicle operators would avoid using the same routes and water crossings for multiple trips if excessive tundra disturbance is detected or necessitated by serious safety or environmental concerns and approved by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS. It may be environmentally preferred to use the same travel corridor in sequential years. This provision does not apply to hardened snow trails or ice roads.
- e. Ice roads and water crossings would be designed and located to avoid the most sensitive and easily damaged tundra types as much as practicable. Ice roads may not use the same route each year; offsets may be required to avoid using the same route or track in subsequent years.
- f. Conventional ice road construction may not begin until off-road travel conditions are met (as described in “a,” above) within the ice road route and approval to begin construction is given by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS.
- g. Seismic operations and winter overland travel may be monitored by agency representatives, and the operator may be required to accommodate the representative during operations.
- h. Incidents of damage to the tundra would be reported to the BLM Authorized Officer within 72 hours of occurrence using a standardized incident report form. Follow-up corrective actions would be determined in consultation with and approved by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS.
- i. Provide the BLM with an as-built of all ice roads, snow trails, and ice pads after the infrastructure is completed. Data must be in the form of Environmental Systems Research Institute shapefiles referencing the North American Datum of 1983.

Required Operating Procedure 12

Objective: Maintain natural spring (breakup) runoff patterns and fish passage, minimize flooding from human-made obstructions, prevent streambed sedimentation and scour, and protect water quality and stream banks.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. Crossing of waterway courses shall be made using a low-angle approach. Crossings that are reinforced with additional snow or ice (“bridges”) shall be removed, breached, or slotted before spring breakup. Ramps shall be removed to the extent possible without damaging stream banks. Ramps and bridges shall be substantially free of soil and debris.

- b. The permittee shall provide the BLM with any ice thickness and water depth data collected at ice road or snow trail stream crossings during the pioneering stage of road/trail construction.
- c. The permittee shall conduct on-site monitoring of streamflow prior to installing ice or snow bridge to determine the site-specific natural flow regime during the spring.
- d. At the end of operations in spring, the permittee must provide the BLM with photographs of all stream crossings that have been removed, breached, or slotted.

Required Operating Procedure 13

Objective: Avoid additional freeze-down of aquatic habitat harboring overwintering fish and aquatic invertebrates that fish prey on.

Requirement/Standard: BLM Authorized Officers, in coordination with the USFWS and in consultation with local traditional knowledge holders, must approve construction of the primary ice road or snow trail route along streambeds without grounded ice is prohibited unless it can be demonstrated (by collection of ice thickness and liquid water depths) that there will be no additional impacts from such travel to overwintering fish. Rivers, streams, and lakes shall be crossed at areas of grounded ice whenever possible.

Some travel up and down streambeds would be allowed by the individual vehicles collecting snow from river drifts or ice aggregate from the channel (where snow is less than 4 feet deep).

Required Operating Procedure 14

Objective: Minimize the effects of high-intensity acoustic energy from seismic surveys on fish.

Requirement/Standard: Seismic surveys would not be conducted over unfrozen water with fish overwintering potential (water 6 feet deep or greater, ice plus liquid depth). Proposed actions should include local traditional knowledge, when available, to help define potential overwintering areas.

Required Operating Procedure 15

Objective: Reduce changes in snow distribution associated with the use of snow fences to protect water quantity and wildlife habitat, including snow drifts used by denning polar bears.

Requirement/Standard: The use of snow fences to reduce or increase snow depth requires permitting by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with USFWS. Snow fences shall not be sited within 5 miles of the coast.

Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling

Required Operating Procedure 16

Objective: Protect water quality in fish-bearing water bodies and minimize alteration of riparian habitat.

Requirement/Standard: Exploratory drilling is prohibited in fish-bearing rivers and streams and other aquatic habitats with confirmed fish presence and the habitats connected by perennial or temporary aquatic water to locations with confirmed fish presence. On a case-by-case basis, the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS may consider exploratory drilling in floodplains of rivers and streams that do not support resident, anadromous, or endemic fish populations.

Required Operating Procedure 17

Objective: Minimize surface impacts from exploratory drilling.

Requirement/Standard: Construction of gravel roads and pads would be prohibited for exploratory drilling. Use of a previously constructed road or pad may be permitted if it is environmentally preferred.

Facility Design and Construction

Required Operating Procedure 18

Objective: Protect subsistence use and access to subsistence hunting and fishing areas.

Requirement/Standard: All roads (snow, ice, or gravel) must be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated to create minimal environmental impacts and to avoid or minimize impacts on subsistence use and access to subsistence hunting and fishing areas. The BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS would consult with appropriate entities before approving construction of roads. Subject to approval by the BLM Authorized Officer, the construction, operation, and maintenance of oil and gas field roads would be the responsibility of the lessee/operator/contractor, unless the construction, operation, and maintenance of roads are assumed by the appropriate governing entity.

BLM will consult with Tribal Governments on road design, construction, and use to avoid and minimize environmental and subsistence impacts.

Required Operating Procedure 19

Objective: Protect water quality and the diversity of fish, aquatic invertebrates, and wildlife populations and habitats.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. Permanent oil and gas facilities, including roads, airstrips, and pipelines, are prohibited within 500 feet, as measured from the active floodplain of any waterbody, unless further setbacks are stipulated under Lease Stipulations 1, 2, or 3. Essential pipeline and road crossings in setback areas outlined in Lease Stipulation 3 would be prohibited. Essential pipeline and road crossings would be permitted by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS and in consultation with local traditional knowledge holders, and in accordance with PL 115-97 in setback areas outlined in Lease Stipulations 1 and 2, following coordination with the appropriate entities.
- b. Temporary winter exploration and construction camps are prohibited on frozen lakes and river ice.
- c. Siting temporary winter exploration and construction camps on river sand and gravel bars is allowed. Where trailers or modules must be leveled and the surface is vegetation, they would be leveled using blocking in a way that preserves the vegetation.

Required Operating Procedure 20

Objective: Maintain free passage of marine, estuarine, and freshwater fish species, protect subsistence use and access to subsistence hunting and fishing and anadromous fish, and protect subsistence use and access to subsistence and non-subsistence hunting and fishing.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. Causeways and docks are prohibited in river mouths and deltas. Artificial gravel islands and permanent bottom-founded structures are prohibited in river mouths and active stream channels on river deltas.
- b. Causeways, docks, artificial islands, and bottom-founded drilling structures would be designed to ensure free passage of marine and anadromous fish and to prevent significant changes to nearshore oceanographic circulation patterns and water quality characteristics. A monitoring program, developed in coordination with appropriate entities (e.g., USFWS, NMFS, State of Alaska, or NSB or local traditional knowledge holders), would be required to address the objectives of water quality and free passage of fish.

Required Operating Procedure 21

Objective: Minimize impacts of the development footprint.

Requirement/Standard: Permanent facilities would be designed and located to minimize the development footprint and impacts on other purposes of the Arctic Refuge. Issues and methods that are required include:

- a. Using extended-reach drilling for production drilling to minimize the number of pads and the network of roads between pads
- b. Sharing facilities with existing development
- c. Collocating all oil and gas facilities with drill pads, except airstrips, docks, base camps, and seawater treatment plants (STPs)
- d. Using gravel-reduction technologies, e.g., insulated or pile-supported pads
- e. Using approved impermeable liners under gravel infrastructure to minimize the potential for hydrocarbon and other hazardous materials spills to migrate to underlying ground.
- f. Harvesting and properly maintaining the tundra organic layer within gravel pad footprints for use in rehabilitation
- g. Coordinating facilities with infrastructure in support of adjacent development
- h. Locating facilities and other infrastructure outside areas identified as important for wildlife habitat, subsistence uses, and recreation at distances needed to protect from disturbance.
- i. Where aircraft traffic is a concern, balancing gravel pad size and available supply storage capacity with potential reductions in the use of aircraft to support oil and gas operations
- j. Facilities and infrastructure will be designed to minimize alteration of sheetflow/overland flow.
- k. Where gravel is brought in from outside of the Coastal Plain, require the use of Certified Weed-Free Gravel
- l. Avoid road construction for the sole purpose of ensuring pipeline integrity or other types of monitoring (e.g., lakes, air quality), to the greatest extent practical.
- m. Minimize acreage in each constructed pond.

Required Operating Procedure 22

Objective: Reduce the potential for ice-jam flooding, damage from aufeis, impacts on wetlands and floodplains, erosion, alteration of natural drainage patterns, and restriction of fish passage.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. To allow for sheet flow and floodplain dynamics and to ensure passage of fish and other organisms, single-span bridges are preferred over culverts, if technically feasible. When necessary, culverts could be constructed on smaller streams, if they are large enough to avoid restricting fish passage or adversely affecting natural stream flow.
- b. The BLM would require fish sampling at any stream crossing where flow is channelized. The permittee would be required to gather these data, or this requirement may be waived if an acceptable dataset already exists and is approved by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS and local traditional knowledge holders. Alternatively, the permittee may assume fish presence and design accordingly.
- c. A minimum of one year of hydrologic data (i.e., permanent stage data and discharge measurements) must be collected at stream and marsh crossings. Additional years of hydrologic data collection may be required if further information is needed to inform the crossing structure design.
- d. To ensure that crossings provide for fish passage, all proposed crossing designs would adhere to the Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined in Fish Passage Design Guidelines, developed by the USFWS Alaska Fish Passage Program, USFWS Culvert Design Guidelines for Ecological Function (USFWS 2020), McDonald & Associates (1994), Stream Simulation: An Ecological Approach to Providing Passage for Aquatic Organisms at Road-Stream Crossings (USFS 2008), and other generally accepted best management procedures prescribed by the BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS and local traditional knowledge holders. When available, crossing design and construction would include local traditional knowledge of fish, erosion, natural drainage, ice-jamming, aufeis, wetlands, floodplains, and stream flow.
- e. To maintain natural flow regimes, construction of in-river training structures would be prohibited in rivers that support resident, anadromous, or endemic fish populations.
- f. In addition to the BMPs outlined in the aforementioned documents for stream simulation design, the design engineer would ensure that crossing structures are designed for aufeis, permafrost, sheet flow, additional freeboard during breakup, and other unique conditions of the arctic environment.
- g. All roads and crossing structures must be maintained in a manner that prevents off road disturbance.

Required Operating Procedure 23

Objective: Minimize disruption of caribou movement and subsistence use.

Requirement/Standard: Pipelines and roads will be designed to allow the free movement and habitat use of caribou and the safe, unimpeded passage of those participating in subsistence activities. Listed below are the accepted design practices.

- a. Aboveground pipelines would be elevated a minimum of 7 feet, as measured from the top of the tussocks to the bottom of the pipeline at vertical support members (VSMs).
- b. In areas where facilities or terrain would funnel caribou movement or impede subsistence or public access, ramps of appropriate angle and design over pipelines, buried pipelines, or pipelines buried under roads may be required by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS and Tribal Governments. Include extra measures to prevent external corrosion at these locations.
- c. A minimum distance of 500 feet between pipelines and roads would be maintained. Where it is not feasible, alternative pipeline routes, designs, and possible burial under the road for pipeline road

crossings would be considered by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS and Tribal Governments.

- d. Aboveground pipelines would have a nonreflective finish.
- e. When laying out oil and gas field developments, lessees would orient infrastructure to avoid impeding caribou migration and to avoid corralling effects.
- f. Before the construction of permanent facilities is authorized, the lessee would provide funding to USFWS to design and carry out a study of caribou movement and spatial use. The lessee/operator/contractor would develop an Adaptive Research and Management Plan (ARMP) to identify research needs, carry out monitoring and research, evaluate existing/ongoing management and mitigation efforts, quantify impacts, and identify management changes when necessary. This plan will be submitted to USFWS, BLM, and the International Porcupine Caribou Herd Technical Committee for review and approval. The lessee will provide adequate funds to implement this monitoring program. BLM/USFWS will hire a consulting company to carry out this monitoring program (see ROP 23.1).
- g. Facilities will be sited to avoid local traditional caribou harvesting areas through coordination with Tribal Governments. Where avoidance of traditional harvesting areas is not possible, agencies, companies, and harvesters will negotiate a compensation agreement to acknowledge loss of harvest opportunities as a result of lack of traditional access.
- h. In recognition of the uncertainty around the formation, movements, and dispersion of large aggregations (>5,000) of caribou, satellite location data would be evaluated daily by the Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee and Canadian agency counterparts who monitor PCH movements and locations. If a large aggregation of caribou is within 30 km of any infrastructure, associated activity related to identified infrastructure would be subject to the provisions of the Emergency Closure Plans (see ROP 23.1).
- i. A vehicle use management plan would be developed by the lessee/operator/contractor and approved by the BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS, consultation with Tribal Governments, the appropriate federal, State, and NSB regulatory and resource agencies. The management plan would minimize or mitigate displacement during calving, post-calving and insect-relief periods and would avoid disruptions to caribou movements and vehicle collisions. By direction of the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS, traffic may be stopped throughout a defined area whenever necessary to prevent displacement of caribou. The monitoring plan will include collection of data on vehicle traffic (counts, times, speed, etc.) and caribou interaction.
- j. Lessee/operator/contractor will study and produce a report in coordination with BLM, USFWS, and Tribal Governments on Gwich'in and Iñupiaq knowledge of road and pipeline impacts to caribou movement and subsistence use. BLM, USFWS, and Tribal Governments must review and approve this report prior to road and pipeline construction to inform best design practices.

Required Operating Procedure 23.1

Objective: To ensure monitoring and research in place to implement a caribou Adaptive Research and Management Plan (ARMP).

Requirement/Standard: The lessee/operator/contractor would develop an ARMP to identify research needs, evaluate existing/ongoing management and mitigation efforts, quantify impacts, and identify management

changes when necessary. This plan would be submitted to USFWS, BLM, and the International Porcupine Caribou Herd Technical Committee (PCTC) for review and approval. The lessee would provide adequate funds to implement this monitoring program. BLM and USFWS would hire an organization or agency to carry out this monitoring program. The ARMP would be initiated after leasing and before the facility planning stage and will include but not be limited to:

- a. Formation of an ARMP Steering Committee, including staff from the BLM, USFWS, the PCTC, and Tribal representatives, to oversee the ARMP and its implementation
 - i. The PCTC would prioritize projects that address research questions.
- b. Development of an ARMP monitoring program with full industry engagement,
- c. Development of an accessible and comprehensive data repository,
- d. Annual monitoring and evaluation program,
- e. In consultation with BLM, USFWS, the PCTC, industry representatives, and Tribal Governments, develop, standardize, and modify as necessary operational mitigation plans and procedures, including but not limited to:
 - ii. Traffic management plans
 - iii. Emergency closure plans (stop work plans)
 - iv. Aircraft use plan (see ROP 34)

Required Operating Procedure 24

Objective: Minimize the impact of mineral materials mining on air, land, water, fish, and wildlife resources.

Requirement/Standard: Gravel mine site design, construction, and reclamation would be done in accordance with a plan approved by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS and local traditional knowledge holders. The plan would take into consideration the following:

- a. Construction of gravel mine sites would be prohibited from the following rivers that support resident, anadromous, or endemic fish populations:
 - i. Canning/Staines River
 - ii. West Fork Tamayariak River
 - iii. Middle Fork Tamayariak River
 - iv. Tamayariak River
 - v. Itkilyariak Creek
 - vi. Hulahula River
 - vii. Aichilik River
 - viii. Sadlerochit River
 - ix. Sadlerochit Spring Creek
- b. Design and construction of gravel mine sites may be considered at locations inside or outside of the active floodplain
- c. Design and construction of gravel mine sites that may also serve as water reservoirs may be considered in active floodplains, except for rivers or creeks that support resident, anadromous, or endemic fish populations as outlined in Lease Stipulation 1 and identified above.

- d. Potential storage and reuse of sod/overburden for the mine site or at other disturbed sites on the North Slope.
- e. All constructed water storage reservoirs shall be a sufficient distance from drill sites, fueling stations, or other temporary or permanent site that generates or maintains more than 220 gallons of fuel, drilling fluids, or other hazardous materials to avoid contamination via surface or groundwater of the storage reservoir; the lessee shall implement a water quality and contaminants monitoring program for any constructed water storage facility. The monitoring program would be described in the Mine Plan.
- f. If any sand or gravel mining is proposed at outcrops or cliffs, the lessee/permittee/operator would map suitable raptor nesting habitat and conduct surveys for known raptor nest sites prior to submitting a Plan of Operations. This information would be used in the development of Mine Plans to show how mine sites would be located and designed to minimize impacts to suitable raptor nesting habitat and nesting raptors.

Required Operating Procedure 25

Objective: Avoid human-caused changes in predator populations on ground-nesting birds.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. Lessee/operator/contractor would use best available technology to prevent facilities from providing nesting, denning, or shelter sites for ravens, raptors, and foxes. The lessee/operator/contractor would provide the BLM Authorized Officer with an annual report on the use of oil and gas facilities by ravens, raptors, and foxes as nesting, denning, and shelter sites. This report will be shared with local traditional knowledge holders upon request.
- b. Feeding of wildlife and allowing wildlife to access human food or odor-emitting waste would be prohibited.

Required Operating Procedure 26

Objective: Minimize the risk of migrating birds being attracted to and colliding with oil and gas related infrastructure during low light conditions.

Requirement/Standard: All structures would be designed to direct artificial exterior lighting, from August 1 to October 31, inward and downward, rather than upward and outward, unless otherwise required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Required Operating Procedure 27

Objective: Minimize the impacts to bird species from direct interaction with oil and gas facilities.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. To reduce the possibility of birds colliding with aboveground utility lines (power and communication), such lines would be limited in extent and exceptions would be rare. Exceptions would be limited to the following situations:
 - i. Overhead power or communication lines may be allowed when located entirely within the boundaries of a facility pad;
 - ii. Overhead power or communication lines may be allowed when engineering constraints at a specific location make it infeasible to bury or connect the lines to a VSM; or

- iii. Overhead power or communication lines may be allowed in situations when human safety would be compromised by other methods.
 - iv. If exceptions are granted allowing overhead wires, overhead wires would be clearly marked along their entire length to improve visibility to low-flying birds. Such markings would be developed through consultation with the USFWS and local traditional knowledge holders.
- b. To reduce the likelihood of birds colliding with them, communication towers would be located, to the extent practicable, on existing pads and as close as possible to buildings or other structures and on the east or west side of buildings or other structures. Towers would be designed to reduce both bird strikes and raptor nesting. Support wires associated with communication towers, radio antennae, and other similar facilities, would be avoided to the extent practicable. If support wires are deemed necessary, they would be clearly marked along their entire length to improve visibility to low-flying birds. Such markings would be developed through consultation with the USFWS.

Required Operating Procedure 28

Objective: Use ecological mapping (or equivalent) as a tool to assess fish and wildlife habitat before developing permanent facilities to conserve important habitat types.

Requirement/Standard: An ecological land classification map (or similar instrument) that incorporates available Traditional knowledge of the area would be developed before approval of facility construction. The map would integrate geomorphology, surface form, and vegetation including BLM sensitive plant species and habitat for BLM sensitive fish and wildlife species, local Traditional knowledge when available, and ice rich soils and locations of yedoma deposits, at a scale and level of resolution and position accuracy adequate for detailed analysis of development alternatives. The map would be prepared in time to inform siting of facilities and to plan an adequate number of seasons of ground-based wildlife surveys needed, if deemed necessary by the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS. A separate map shall be developed displaying detailed water flowlines and small-scale delineation of drainage catchments based on LIDAR (or other high-accuracy surface imaging) to inform facility location. Consider climate change modeling of ecosystem changes and key ecological regions before the exact facility location and facility construction is approved.

Required Operating Procedure 29

Objective: Protect cultural resources.

Requirement/Standard: The lessee/operator/contractor shall adhere to the conditions and stipulations of the Coastal Plain's Section 106 Programmatic Agreement (PA) or otherwise assist BLM with carrying out the requirements of the PA.

Required Operating Procedure 29.1

Objective: Protect paleontological resources.

Requirement/Standard: The lessee/operator/contractor shall, in consultation with the federal agencies, refer to available resources to avoid impacting areas known to contain, or likely to contain, paleontological resources. If any potential paleontological resource is found, the lessee/operator/contractor would notify the BLM Authorized Officer and would suspend all operations in the immediate area until she or he coordinates with the USFWS and issues a written authorization to proceed.

Required Operating Procedure 30

See **ROP 24**.

Required Operating Procedure 31

Objective: Prevent or minimize the loss of raptors due to electrocution by power lines.

Requirement/Standard: Comply with the most up-to-date, industry-accepted, recommended practices for raptor protection on power lines. Current accepted standards were published in Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2012, by the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC 2012) and are updated as needed.

Required Operating Procedure 32

Objective: Avoid and reduce temporary impacts on productivity from disturbance near Steller's or spectacled eider nests.

Requirement/Standard: Ground-level vehicle or foot traffic within 200 meters (656 feet) of occupied Steller's or spectacled eider nests, from June 1 through July 31, would be restricted to existing thoroughfares, such as pads and roads. Construction of permanent facilities, placement of fill, alteration of habitat, and introduction of high noise levels within 200 meters (656 feet) of occupied Steller's or spectacled eider nests would be prohibited. Between June 1 and August 15, support/construction activity that must occur off existing thoroughfares, require BLM and USFWS-approved nest surveys to be conducted during mid-June before the activity is approved. Data collected from Steller's or spectacled eider nesting habitats would be used to evaluate whether the action could occur based on a 200-meter (656-foot) buffer around known nests or if the activity would be delayed until after mid-August once ducklings are mobile and have left the nest site. The BLM would also work with the USFWS to conduct oil spill response training in riverine, marine, and intertidal areas outside sensitive nesting/brood-rearing periods. If these activities must take place during the nesting and brood-rearing periods surveys for nesting and/or brood-rearing eiders would be required. The protocol and timing of nest or brood surveys for Steller's or spectacled eiders would be determined in cooperation with, and must be approved by, the USFWS. Surveys would be supervised by biologists who have previous experience with Steller's or spectacled eider nest surveys. The survey results would be provided to the NSB upon request.

Required Operating Procedure 33

Objective: Provide information to be used in monitoring and assessing wildlife movements during and after construction.

Requirement/Standard: The operator/lessee will provide representation, in the form of ArcGIS-compatible shapefiles, of the footprint of all temporary and new permanent infrastructure construction would be provided to the BLM Authorized Officer, the USFWS Arctic Refuge Manager, State of Alaska, appropriate Tribal Governments, and NSB by the operator. During the planning and permitting phase, GIS shape files representing proposed footprint locations would be provided. Within 6 months of construction completion, shapefiles of all temporary and new permanent infrastructure footprints would be provided. Infrastructure includes all ice, snow and gravel roads, ice and gravel pads, facilities built on pads, pipelines, mines, reservoirs, islands, docks, and independently constructed power lines (as opposed to those incorporated in pipeline design). ArcGIS compatible shapefiles would also be provided for all proposed water sources. Gravel pads would be included as polygon features. Roads, pipelines, and power lines may be represented

as line features but must include ancillary data to denote such data as width and number of pipes. Poles for power lines may be represented as point features. Ancillary data would include construction beginning and ending dates.

Required Operating Procedure 34

Objective: Minimize the effects of low-flying aircraft on wildlife, subsistence activities, local communities, and recreationists of the area, including hunters and anglers.

Requirement/Standard: The operator would ensure that operators of aircraft used for permitted oil and gas activities and associated studies (such as cultural resource surveys) maintain altitudes according to the following guidelines (*Note: This ROP is not intended to restrict flights necessary to survey wildlife to gain information necessary to meet the stated objectives of the lease stipulations and ROPs; however, such flights would be restricted to the minimum necessary to collect such data and should consider other technologies, such as remote sensing and drones, in order to minimize impacts from aircraft*):

- a. The lessee/operator/contractor would review and report on local Traditional Knowledge, as available, of the effects of low-flying aircraft on wildlife, subsistence activities, and local communities prior to construction to inform best operations principles. The lessee/operator/contractor would consult with Tribal Governments, BLM, and USFWS throughout the review. Tribal Governments, BLM, and USFWS would review, request changes, or finalize the report prior to operation.
- b. Land users would submit an aircraft use plan as part of an oil and gas exploration or development proposal, which includes a plan to monitor flights and includes a reporting system for subsistence hunters to easily report flights that disturb subsistence harvest. The plan would address strategies to minimize impacts on subsistence hunting and associated activities, including the number of flights, type of aircraft, and flight altitudes and routes, and would also include a plan to monitor flights. Proposed aircraft use plans would be reviewed by the appropriate Alaska Native or subsistence organization. Consultations with these same agencies would be required if unacceptable disturbance is identified by subsistence users. Adjustments, including possible suspension of all flights, may be required by the BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS and Tribal Governments, if resulting disturbance is determined to be unacceptable. The number of takeoffs and landings to support oil and gas operations with necessary materials and supplies would be limited to the maximum extent practical and consistent with prudent operation of facilities.
- c. Use of aircraft, especially rotary wing aircraft, would be kept to a minimum near known subsistence camps and cabins or during sensitive subsistence hunting periods (e.g., spring goose hunting, summer caribou) and when recreationists are present.
- d. Operators of aircraft used for permitted activities would maintain an altitude of at least 2,000 feet above ground level (except for takeoffs and landings) within 0.5 miles of cliffs identified as raptor nesting sites, and over PCH comprehensive caribou calving and post-calving areas, or within 1 mile of polar bear denning habitat (as identified by USGS polar bear den habitat maps) between October 30 and April 30, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices. An exception to flight altitudes may be approved by the BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS and Tribal Governments, after coordination and review of the aircraft use plan to

accommodate requirements to fly lower for some required activities (e.g., archaeological clearance).

- e. Avoid operation of aircraft over parturient caribou and caribou calves between May 20 and July 20. This window may be shifted earlier if parturient caribou move towards calving grounds before May 20 due to warming climate conditions.
- f. Prohibit landing helicopters in PCH comprehensive calving and post-calving habitat areas from May 20 through July 20 to avoid disturbing cow-calf pairs unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices.
- g. Pursuing running wildlife is hazing. Hazing wildlife by aircraft pilots is prohibited, unless otherwise authorized. If wildlife begins to run as an aircraft approaches, the aircraft is too close, and the operator must break away.
- h. Avoid operation of aircraft over snow goose staging areas between August 15 and September 30. Necessary overflights during this timeframe should avoid areas of heavy snow goose concentrations.
- i. To avoid impacts on productivity of breeding birds, aircraft take-offs and landings must be minimized at unimproved sites during the nesting season.
- j. When polar bears are present:
 - i. Operators of support aircraft should conduct their activities at the maximum distance (greater than 1 mile) possible from polar bears.
 - ii. Aircraft would not operate at an altitude lower than 457 meters (2,000 feet) within 805 meters (0.5 miles) of polar bears observed on ice or land. Helicopters may not hover or circle above such areas or within 805 meters (0.5 miles) of such areas. When weather conditions do not allow a 457-meter (2000-foot) flying altitude, operators would take precautions to avoid flying directly over or within 805 meters (0.5 miles) of these areas.
 - iii. Operators would avoid flying over areas where polar bears are known to congregate during different seasons (for example, along the coastline from August to October) when practicable.
 - iv. Plan all aircraft routes to minimize any potential conflict with known subsistence polar bear hunting activity.
 - v. To minimize disturbance of unobserved polar bears, aircraft operations will maintain an altitude of 2,000 feet above ground level when safe and operationally possible.

Oil and Gas Field Abandonment

Required Operating Procedure 35

Objective: Ensure ongoing and long-term reclamation of land to its previous condition and use.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. Oil and gas infrastructure, including gravel pads, roads, airstrips, wells and production facilities, would be removed and the land reclaimed on an ongoing basis, starting as soon as possible after extraction is completed.
- b. Before final abandonment, land used for oil and gas infrastructure—including well pads, production facilities, access roads, and airstrips—would be reclaimed to ensure eventual restoration of ecosystem function and to restore general wilderness characteristics. The leaseholder would

develop and implement a BLM and USFWS-approved abandonment and reclamation plan which would be provided to the NSB upon request. The plan would describe short-term stability, visual, hydrological, and productivity objectives and steps to be taken to ensure timely ecosystem restoration to the land's previous hydrological, vegetation, and habitat condition, wild and scenic river (WSR) eligibility/suitability, and intent to restore general wilderness characteristics of the area. The BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS, may grant exceptions to satisfy stated environmental or public purposes.

- c. Reclamation shall include but not be limited to:
- i. Saving and properly maintaining topsoil to ensure seed source remains viable of topsoil for final application after reshaping of disturbed areas have been completed;
 - ii. Adequate and approved measures to control erosion, landslides, and water runoff;
 - iii. Adequate and approved measures to isolate, remove, or control toxic materials, including soil testing where applicable;
 - iv. Reshaping the area disturbed, application of viable topsoil, and revegetation of disturbed areas, where reasonably practicable; and
 - v. Rehabilitation of fisheries and wildlife habitat.

When reclamation of each of the disturbed area has been completed, the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS shall be notified so that an inspection of the area can be made. The survey results would be provided to the NSB upon request.

Subsistence Consultation for Permitted Activities

Required Operating Procedure 36

Objective: Provide opportunities for subsistence users to participate in planning and decision-making to prevent unreasonable conflicts between subsistence uses and other activities.

Requirement/Standard: The lessee/operator/contractor would coordinate directly with affected communities, using the following guidelines:

- a. Before submitting an application to the BLM for exploration or development, the applicant would work with directly affected subsistence communities, the Native Village of Kaktovik, NSB, and the North Slope and Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils in the development of a subsistence access plan. They would discuss access, siting, timing, and methods of their proposed operations to help discover local traditional and scientific knowledge. This is to minimize impacts on subsistence uses. Through this coordination, the applicant would make every reasonable effort, including such mechanisms as conflict avoidance agreements (CAAs) and mitigating measures, to ensure that proposed activities would not result in unreasonable interference with subsistence activities. In the event that no agreement is reached between the parties, the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS would work with the involved parties and determine which activities would occur, including the time frames.
- b. Applicants would submit documentation of coordination as part of operation plans to the North Slope and Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils for review and comment. Applicants must allow time for the BLM to conduct formal government-to-government consultation with Native Tribal governments if the proposed action requires it.

- c. A plan would be developed that shows how the activity, in combination with other activities in the area, would be scheduled and located to prevent unreasonable conflicts with subsistence activities. The plan would also describe the methods used to monitor the effects of the activity on subsistence use. The plan would be submitted to the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS as part of the plan of operations. The plan would address the following items:
 - i. A detailed description of the activities to take place (including the use of aircraft).
 - ii. A description of how the applicant would minimize or address any potential impacts identified by the BLM Authorized Officer and the USFWS during the coordination process.
 - iii. A detailed description of the monitoring to take place, including process, procedures, personnel involved, and points of contact both at the work site and in the local community.
 - iv. Communication elements to provide information on how the applicant would keep potentially affected individuals and communities up-to-date on the progress of the activities and locations of possible, short-term conflicts (if any) with subsistence activities. Communication methods could include holding community open house meetings, workshops, newsletters, and radio and television announcements.
 - v. Procedures necessary to facilitate access by subsistence users to conduct their activities.
 - vi. Barge operators requiring a BLM permit would be required to demonstrate that barging activities would not have unmitigable adverse impacts, as determined by NMFS, on the availability of marine mammals to subsistence hunters.
 - vii. All operators of vessels over 50 feet in length engaged in operations requiring a BLM permit must have an automatic identification system transponder system on the vessel.
- d. Permittees who propose transporting facilities, equipment, supplies, or other materials by barge to the Coastal Plain in support of oil and gas activities in the Arctic Refuge would notify and coordinate with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, the appropriate local community whaling captains' associations, and the NSB to minimize impacts from the proposed barging on subsistence whaling.
- e. For polar bears: Operators must minimize adverse impacts on the availability of polar bears for subsistence uses.
 - i. Community consultation. Applicants must consult with potentially affected communities and appropriate subsistence user organizations to discuss potential conflicts with subsistence polar bear hunting caused by the location, timing, and methods of operations and support activities.
 - ii. Plan of Cooperation (POC). If conflicts arise, the applicant must address conflict avoidance through the development and implementation of a BLM and USFWS-approved POC.

Required Operating Procedure 37

Objective: Avoid conflicts between subsistence activities and seismic exploration.

Requirement/Standard: In addition to the coordination process described in **ROP 36** for permitted activities, before seismic exploration begins, applicants would notify the local search and rescue organizations in proposed seismic survey locations for that operational season. For the purpose of this standard, a potentially affected cabin or campsite is defined as one used for subsistence purposes and located within the boundary

of the area subject to proposed geophysical exploration or within 1 mile of actual or planned travel routes used to supply the seismic operations.

- a. Because of the large land area covered by typical geophysical operations and the potential to affect a large number of subsistence users during the exploration season, the permittee/operator would notify all potentially affected subsistence use cabin and campsite users.
- b. The official recognized list of subsistence users of cabins and campsites is the NSB's most current inventory of cabins and campsites, which have been identified by the subsistence users' names.
- c. A copy of the notification letter, a map of the proposed exploration area, and the list of potentially affected users would also be provided to the office of the appropriate Native Tribal government.
- d. The BLM Authorized Officer would prohibit seismic work within 1 mile of any known subsistence use cabin or campsite, unless an alternate agreement between the owner or user is reached through the consultation process and presented to the BLM Authorized Officer.
- e. Each week, the permittee would notify the appropriate local search and rescue of the operational location in the Coastal Plain. This notification would include a map indicating the extent of surface use and occupation, as well as areas previously used or occupied during the operation. The purpose of this notification is to give hunters up-to-date information regarding where seismic exploration is occurring and has occurred, so that they can plan their hunting trips and access routes accordingly. A list of the appropriate search and rescue offices to be contacted can be obtained from the coordinator of the North Slope and Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils in the BLM's Arctic District Office.

Required Operating Procedure 38

Objective: Minimize impacts from non-local hunting, trapping, and fishing activities on subsistence resources.

Requirement/Standard: Hunting, trapping, and fishing by lessees/operators/contractors would be prohibited when persons are on work status. This is defined as the period during which an individual is under the control and supervision of an employer. Work status is terminated when workers' shifts ends, and they return to a public airport or community (e.g., Kaktovik, Utqiagvik, or Deadhorse). Use of operator/permittee facilities, equipment, or transport for personnel access or aid in hunting, trapping, and fishing would be prohibited.

Required Operating Procedure 39

See **ROP 36**.

Orientation Programs Associated with Permitted Activities

Required Operating Procedure 40

Objective: Minimize cultural and resource conflicts.

Requirement/Standard: All personnel involved in oil and gas and related activities would be provided with information concerning applicable lease stipulations, ROPs, standards, and specific types of environmental, social, traditional, and cultural concerns that relate to the region. The operator would ensure that at least once each year, all personnel involved in permitted activities would attend an orientation program designed in coordination with local traditional knowledge holders. The proposed orientation program would be

submitted to the BLM Authorized Officer in coordination with the USFWS for review and approval and would accomplish the following:

- a. Provide sufficient detail to notify personnel of applicable lease stipulations and ROPs and to inform individuals working on the project of specific types of environmental, social, traditional, and cultural concerns that relate to the region.
- b. Address the importance of not disturbing archaeological, paleontological, and biological resources and habitats, including endangered species, fisheries, bird colonies, and marine mammals, and provide guidance on how to avoid disturbance, including on the preparation, production, and distribution of information cards on endangered or threatened species.
- c. Be designed to increase personnel's sensitivity and understanding of community values, customs, and lifestyles in areas in which personnel would be operating.
- d. Include information concerning avoidance of conflicts with subsistence and pertinent mitigation.
- e. Include information for aircraft personnel concerning subsistence activities and areas and seasons that are particularly sensitive to disturbance by low-flying aircraft; of special concern is aircraft use near traditional subsistence cabins and campsites, flights during spring goose hunting and fall caribou and moose hunting seasons, and flights near potentially affected communities.
- f. Provide that individual training would be transferable from one facility to another, except for elements of the training specific to a site.
- g. Include on-site records of all personnel who attend the program for so long as the site is active, though not to exceed the 5 most recent years of operations; this record would include the name and dates of attendance of each attendee.
- h. Include a module discussing bear interaction plans to minimize conflicts between bears and humans.
- i. Provide a copy of 43 CFR 3163 regarding noncompliance assessment and penalties to on-site personnel.
- j. Include training designed to ensure strict compliance with local and corporate drug and alcohol policies; this training would be offered to the NSB Health Department for review and comment.
- k. Include employee training on how to prevent transmission of communicable diseases, including sexually transmitted diseases, to the local communities; this training would be offered to the NSB Health Department for review and comment.

In order to limit disturbance around known polar bear dens:

Monitoring requirements.

- i. Develop and implement a site-specific, BLM and USFWS-approved marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and the effects of activities on polar bears, and the subsistence use of this species.
- ii. Provide trained, qualified, and BLM and USFWS-approved onsite observers to carry out monitoring and mitigation activities identified in the marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan.

- iii. For offshore activities, provide trained, qualified, and BLM and USFWS-approved observers on board all operational and support vessels to carry out monitoring and mitigation activities identified in the marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan.
- iv. Cooperate with the BLM and USFWS and other designated Federal, State, and local agencies to monitor the impacts of Industry activities on polar bears. Where information is insufficient to evaluate the potential effects of activities on polar bears, and the subsistence use of this species, operators may be required to participate in joint monitoring and/or research efforts to address these information needs and ensure the least practicable impact to these resources.

Reporting requirements.

- a. Operators must report the results of monitoring and mitigation activities to the BLM and USFWS.
 - i. In-season monitoring reports
 - 1) *Activity progress reports.* Notify the BLM and USFWS at least 48 hours prior to the onset of activities; provide the BLM and USFWS weekly progress reports of any significant changes in activities and/or locations; and notify the BLM and USFWS within 48 hours after ending of activities.
 - 2) *Polar bear observation reports.* Report all observations of polar bears and potential polar bear dens, during any Industry activity. Information in the observation report must include, but is not limited to: (1) Date, time, and location of observation; (2) Number of bears; (3) Sex and age; (4) Observer name and contact information; (5) Weather, visibility, sea state, and sea-ice conditions at the time of observation; (6) Estimated closest distance of bears from personnel and facilities; (7) Industry activity at time of sighting; (8) Possible attractants present; (9) Bear behavior; (10) Description of the encounter; (11) Duration of the encounter; and (12) Mitigation actions taken.
 - 3) *Incident report.* Report all bear incidents during any industry activity. Reports must include: (1) All information specified for an observation report; (2) A complete detailed description of the incident; and (3) Any other actions taken.
 - 4) *Final report.* The results of monitoring and mitigation efforts identified in the marine mammal monitoring and mitigation plan must be submitted to the BLM and USFWS for review within 90 days of the expiration of an authorization. Information in the final report must include: (1) Copies of all observation reports submitted under an authorization; (2) A summary of the observation reports; (3) A summary of monitoring and mitigation efforts, including areas, total hours, total distances, and distribution; (4) Analysis of factors affecting the visibility and detectability of polar bears during monitoring; (5) Analysis of the effectiveness of mitigation measures; (6) Analysis of the distribution, abundance, and behavior of polar bears observed; and (7) Estimates of “take” as defined by the MMPA and its implementing regulations

Summer Vehicle Tundra Access

Required Operating Procedure 41

Objective: Protect stream banks and water quality; minimize compaction and displacement of soils; minimize the breakage, abrasion, compaction, or displacement of vegetation; protect cultural and paleontological resources; maintain populations of and adequate habitat for birds, fish, and caribou and

other terrestrial mammals; and minimize impacts on subsistence activities. Minimize potential for degrading bluff line impacts along stream banks that provide polar bear denning habitat.

Requirement/Standard: On a case-by-case basis, the BLM Authorized Officer, in coordination with the USFWS and appropriate Tribal Governments, may permit low-ground-pressure vehicles to travel off gravel pads and roads during times other than those identified in **ROP 11**. Permission for such use would be granted only after an applicant has completed the following:

- a. Submitted studies of the impacts on soils and vegetation of the low-ground-pressure vehicle(s) as equipped. The AK-DNR off-road tundra vehicle certification qualifies as an acceptable study. Other studies satisfactory to both the BLM Authorized Officer and the USFWS would also be considered. These studies would reflect use of such vehicles under conditions like those of the route proposed and would demonstrate that the proposed use would have no more than minimal impacts on soils and vegetation. Alternatively, the most current list of summer off-road vehicles approved by the State may be used to fulfill this requirement.
- b. Submitted surveys satisfactory to the BLM Authorized Officer and USFWS, in coordination with the local community, of subsistence uses of the area as well as of the soils, vegetation, hydrology, wildlife, and fish (and their habitats), paleontological and archaeological resources, and other resources, as required by the BLM Authorized Officer.
- c. Designed or modified the use proposal to minimize impacts to the satisfaction of the BLM Authorized Officer and the USFWS; design steps to achieve the objectives and based on the studies and surveys may include timing restrictions (generally it is considered inadvisable to conduct tundra travel before August 1 to protect ground-nesting birds), shifting work to winter, rerouting, and not proceeding when certain wildlife are present or subsistence activities are occurring.

General Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Required Operating Procedure 42

Objective: Minimize disturbance of wildlife or alteration and hinderance of wildlife movements through the Coastal Plain.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. Prior to vehicle use, the lessee/operator/contractor would consult with BLM, USFWS, and Tribal Governments to consider and understand vehicle caused disturbance of wildlife or alteration and hindrance of wildlife movements throughout the Coastal Plain.
- b. BLM, USFWS, and Tribal Governments would review and request changes to lessee/operator/contractor operations to minimize disturbance.
- c. Following wildlife with ground vehicles or aircraft is prohibited. Particular attention would be given to avoid disturbing caribou and polar bears.
- d. Avoid and minimize the disturbance to loafing, brood-rearing and nesting birds to the extent practicable.

Also see **ROP 34**.

Required Operating Procedure 43

Objective: Prevent the introduction or spread of nonnative, invasive species in the Coastal Plain.

Requirement/Standard:

- a. Ensure that all equipment, supplies (including gravel, lumber, erosion control material), and vehicles (including helicopters, planes, boats, off-road vehicles, trucks, tracked vehicles, and barges) intended for use are free of invasive species, such as but not limited to BLM priority invasive plants as defined in BLM Instructional Memorandum (IM) 2022-008 (or current version of the related policy IM) and invasive vertebrates and invertebrates, before transiting into the Coastal Plain. Standard stipulations for invasive species management shall be required as applicable by permitted activities (BLM IM 2022-08, Attachment 1).
- b. Survey annually along roads, drilling platforms, and barge access points for invasive species and begin effective eradication measures on evidence of their introduction.
- c. Before beginning operations into the Coastal Plain, submit a plan, for BLM approval, detailing the methods for: 1) cleaning equipment, supplies, and vehicles, including off-site disposal of cleaning fluids or materials and detected organisms, and 2) early detection surveys, and eradication response measures (including post treatment monitoring) for all invasive species, noxious plants and animals, and weeds.

Required Operating Procedure 44

Objective: Minimize loss of populations and habitat for plant species designated as sensitive by the BLM and USFWS Refuge Resources of Concern in Alaska.

Requirement/Standard: If a development is proposed in an area that provides potential habitat for a BLM sensitive plant species and USFWS Refuge Resources of Concern, the development proponent, in coordination with local traditional knowledge holders, and/or the NSB, would conduct surveys at appropriate times of the summer season and in appropriate habitats for the sensitive plant species. The results of these surveys and plans to minimize impacts would be submitted to the BLM with the application for development.

Required Operating Procedure 45

Objective: Minimize loss of individuals, populations, and habitat for species designated as sensitive by the BLM in Alaska and as USFWS Refuge Resources of Concern.

Requirement/Standard: If a development is proposed in an area that provides potential habitat for BLM sensitive species and USFWS Refuge Resources of Concern, the development proponent, in coordination with local traditional knowledge holders, and/or the NSB, would conduct surveys at appropriate times of the year and in appropriate habitats to detect the presence of BLM sensitive species and the USFWS Refuge Resources of Concern. The results of these surveys and plans to minimize impacts would be submitted to the BLM with the application for development.

Marine Vessel Traffic-Associated Activities

Required Operating Procedure 46

Objective: Minimize impacts on marine mammals from vessel traffic.

Requirement/Standard:

General Vessel Traffic

- a. Operational and support vessels would be staffed with dedicated PSOs, hired locally whenever possible, to alert crew of the presence of marine mammals and to initiate adaptive mitigation responses.
- b. When weather conditions require, such as when visibility drops, support vessel operators must reduce speed and change direction, as necessary (and as operationally practicable), to avoid the likelihood of injuring marine mammals.
- c. The transit of operational and support vessels is not authorized before July 1. This operating condition is intended to allow marine mammals the opportunity to disperse from the confines of the spring lead system and minimize interactions with subsistence hunters. Exemption waivers to this operating condition may be issued by the NMFS and USFWS, in coordination with local Tribal governments, on a case-by-case basis, based on a review of seasonal ice conditions and available information on marine mammal distributions in the area of interest.
- d. Vessels may not be operated in such a way as to separate members of a group of marine mammals from other members of the group.
- e. Operators should take reasonable steps to alert other vessel operators in the vicinity of marine mammals.
- f. Operators should report any dead or injured listed marine mammals to NMFS and the BLM and USFWS.
- g. Vessels will not allow tow lines to remain in the water when not towing, all closed loops will be cut, and all trash will be retained on board for disposal in secure landfills, thereby reducing the potential for marine mammal entanglement.
- h. The lessees will implement measures to minimize risk of spilling hazardous substances. These measures will include: avoiding operation of watercraft in the presence of sea ice to the extent practicable and using fully operational vessel navigation systems composed of radar, chartplotter, sonar, marine communication systems, and satellite navigation receivers, as well as Automatic Identification System for vessel tracking.

Vessels in Vicinity of Whales

- a. Vessel operators would avoid groups of three or more whales by staying at least 1 mile away. A group is defined as being three or more whales observed within a 1,641-foot (500 meter) area and displaying behaviors of directed or coordinated activity (e.g., group feeding).
- b. Lessees will coordinate with the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission to enter into a Conflict Avoidance Agreement such that vessel activities do not occur during sensitive whaling periods. All boat and barge traffic will be scheduled to avoid periods when bowhead whales are migrating through the area. Boat, hovercraft, barge, and aircraft will remain at least 12 miles from Cross Island during the bowhead whale subsistence hunting consistent with the CAA.

- c. The transit of operational and support vessels through the North Slope region is not authorized prior to July 1. This operating condition is intended to allow marine mammals the opportunity to disperse from the confines of the spring lead system and minimize interactions with subsistence hunters. Exemption waivers to this operating condition may be issued by NMFS on a case-by-case basis, based upon a review of seasonal ice conditions and available information on marine mammal distributions in the area of interest.
- d. If the vessel approaches within 1 mile of observed whales, except when providing emergency assistance to whalers or in other emergency situations, the operator would take reasonable precautions to avoid potential interaction with the whales by taking one or more of the following actions, as appropriate:
 - i. Reducing vessel speed to less than 5 knots within 900 feet of the whale
 - ii. Steering around the whale if possible
 - iii. Operating the vessel to avoid causing a whale to make multiple changes in direction, avoiding sudden or multiple course changes
 - iv. Checking the waters around the vessel to ensure that no whales are within 164 feet of the vessel prior to engaging the propellers. Reducing vessel speed to 9 knots or less when weather conditions reduce visibility to avoid the likelihood of injury to whales
 - v. Vessels shall not exceed speeds of 10 knots in order to reduce potential whale strikes
 - vi. If a whale approaches the vessel and if maritime conditions safely allow, the engine will be put in neutral and the whale will be allowed to pass beyond the vessel. If the vessel is taken out of gear, vessel crew will ensure that no whales are within 50 m of the vessel when propellers are re-engaged, thus minimizing risk of marine mammal injury.
- e. Vessels will stay at least 1000 feet away from cow-calf pairs, feeding aggregations, or whales that are engaged in breeding behavior. If the vessel is approached by cow-calf pairs, it will remain out of gear as long as whales are within 984 feet of the vessel (consistent with safe operations)
- f. Consistent with NMFS marine mammal viewing guidelines (<https://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/pr/mm-viewing-guide>), operators of vessels will, at all times, avoid approaching marine mammals within 300 feet. Operators will observe direction of travel and attempt to maintain a distance of 300 feet or greater between the animal and the vessel by working to alter course or slowing the vessel.
- g. Special consideration of North Pacific right whale and their critical habitat:
 - i. Vessel operators will avoid transit through North Pacific right whale critical habitat. If such transit cannot be avoided, operators must post a dedicated PSO on the bridge and reduce speed to 10 knots while in the North Pacific right whale critical habitat. Alternately, vessels may transit at no more than 5 knots without the need for a dedicated PSO.
 - ii. Vessel operators will remain at least 800 meters from all North Pacific right whales and avoid approaching whales head-on, consistent with vessel safety.
 - iii. Operators will maintain a ship log indicating the time and geographic coordinates at which vessels enter and exit North Pacific right whale critical habitat.

Vessels in Vicinity of Pacific Walruses and Polar Bears

- a. Operators should take all reasonable precautions, such as reduce speed or change course heading, to maintain a minimum operational exclusion zone of 0.5 miles around groups of feeding walruses.

- b. Except in an emergency, vessel operators would not approach within 0.5 miles of observed polar bears, within 0.5 miles of walrus observed on ice, or within 1 mile of walrus observed on land.
- c. For Polar Bears:
 - i. Operational and support vessels must be staffed with dedicated marine mammal observers to alert crew of the presence of polar bears and initiate mitigation responses.
 - ii. Vessels must maintain the maximum distance possible from polar bears. No vessel should approach within an 805-meter (0.5-mile) radius of polar bears observed on land or ice.
 - iii. Vessels must avoid areas of active or anticipated polar bear subsistence hunting activity as determined through community consultations.
 - iv. The BLM and USFWS may require trained marine mammal monitors on the site of the activity or on board any vessel or vehicles to monitor the impacts of Industry's activity on polar bear.

Vessels in Vicinity of Seals

- a. Vessels used as part of a BLM-authorized activity would be operated in a manner that minimizes disturbance to wildlife in the coastal area. Vessel operators would maintain a 1-mile buffer from the shore when transiting past an aggregation of seals (primarily spotted seals) when they have hauled out on land, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe boating practices.

Vessel Transit through Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat/Near Major Rookeries and Haulouts

- a. Vessels will remain 3 nautical miles (nm) (5.5 km) from all Steller sea lion rookery sites listed in paragraph 50 CFR 224.103 (d)(1)(iii). The vessel operator will not purposely approach within 3 nm of any major Steller sea lion rookery or haulout unless doing so is necessary to maintain safe conditions.

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EXHIBIT D

Bidder Form and Envelope

Bidders are **strongly urged** to use the attached formats for the bid form and envelope. A blank bid form is provided which may be copied and filled in.

Additional Information:

- 1. Name of bidding entity, official address, Tract Number.**
- 2. Use large boldface type-style, such as Times New Roman Bold - 12 pt.**
- 3. A statement must be included on the bid form acknowledging that the bidder(s) understand that they are legally required to comply with all applicable regulations.**
- 4. Amount Bid must be in whole dollar figure.**
- 5. Indicate “Amount of payment submitted with bid” (right column).**
- 6. Proportional interest of joint bids must not exceed 5 decimal places; total must always equal 100%. There is no limit to the number of joint bidders that may participate.**
- 7. Type Signer’s name under signature; each joint bidder must sign.**

SAMPLE BID FORM

Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

CP Oil and Gas Lease Sale 2025
Date of Sale: _____
Bid Submitter: _____

CP OIL AND GAS LEASE BID

It is understood that this bid legally binds the bidder(s) to comply with the relevant regulations in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 3132, other applicable regulations, and requirements of the Detailed Statement of Sale.

The following bid is submitted for an oil and gas lease for the tract specified below:

Tract Number	Amount Bid	Amount of Payment Submitted with Bid
_____	_____	\$ _____
Bidder Name	Percent Interest	Name(s), Address(es), and Signature(s)

By: _____

By: _____

By: _____

TOTAL: 100.00

SAMPLE OF BID FORM

Bureau of Land Management
 Alaska State Office
 222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
 Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599

CP Oil and Gas Lease Sale 2025
 Date of Sale: _____
 Bid Submitter: **Explorer LTD**

CP OIL AND GAS LEASE BID

It is understood that this bid legally binds the bidder(s) to comply with the relevant regulations in Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations Subpart 3132, other applicable regulations, and requirements of the Detailed Statement of Sale.

The following bid is submitted for an oil and gas lease on the tract specified below:

Tract Number	Amount Bid	Amount of Payment Submitted with Bid
<u>2025-CP-XXX</u>	<u>\$6,157,623</u>	<u>\$1,231,524.60</u>
<u>Explorer LTD.</u>	<u>33.33</u>	<u>Explorer LTD</u> <u>Box 123456</u> <u>Dime Box, Texas 12345</u> By: <u>(signature)</u> <u>I. W. In</u> <u>Vice President</u>
<u>Oil Musher's Inc.</u>	<u>33.33</u>	<u>Oil Musher's Inc.</u> <u>General Delivery</u> <u>Cicely, Alaska 99000</u> By: <u>(signature)</u> <u>M. E. Too, II</u> <u>Attorney-in-Fact</u>
<u>Let's Explore</u>	<u>33.34</u>	<u>Let's Explore</u> <u>246 Muskeg Lane</u> <u>Anchorage, Alaska 99000</u> By: <u>(signature)</u> <u>I. Al So</u> <u>President</u>
TOTAL:	<u>100.00</u>	

Sample Bid Envelope

1. Use standard size envelopes not to exceed 4-1/2" x 10-1/2" when submitting bids.
2. Use large boldface type, such as Times New Roman Bold - 12 pt.

<p style="text-align: center;">Bid Submitter</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Tract No.</p> <p>SEALED BID FOR CP OIL AND GAS LEASE SALE 2025 NOT TO BE OPENED UNTIL 10:00 am, <u>January 9, 2025</u> -</p>

EXHIBIT E

Bidder Contact Form

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513-7599

EXHIBIT E

Bidder Contact Form
CP Oil and Gas Lease Sale

Bidder Name: _____
(Bidder submitting bids)

Signature: _____
Title _____

Area Code - Phone Number _____

Date _____

I. Payments and Refunds

Indicate below the contact for notification of bid acceptance and payment instructions for the 1/5th bonus and first year rental amounts (please also indicate an alternate):

(Name) _____ (Alternate) _____

(Company or Bidder) _____

(Area Code - Phone Number) _____

(Area Code - Fax Number) _____

II. Deliver Leases to:

(Company/Bidder) _____

(Street) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

(Attention)

(Area Code - Phone Number)

III. Return of Unsuccessful Checks

The bid deposit check or checks for unsuccessful bids will be returned to only one bidder within a bidding combine. Indicate preferred method of delivery:

Pick-up at Alaska State Office

(Individual Authorized to Pick up Checks)

(Company/Bidder) _____

(Area Code - Phone Number)

Mail to:

(Company/Bidder) _____

(Street) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

(Attention) _____

(Area Code - Phone Number) _____

IV. Return of Deposit for Rejected Bids

All refunds for rejected bids will be made to only one bidder within a bidding combine. Indicate in which manner you would like these refunds returned.

Mail Pick-up at Alaska State Office

(Name of Authorized Individual)

(Address)

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

(Phone Number)

EXHIBIT F

Oil and Gas Lease Bond Form 3000-4

Note to Bidders: BLM will accept the form in this exhibit for use in bonding for the Coastal Plain Lease sale.

Form 3000-4
(June 1988)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Bond Number

OIL AND GAS OR GEOTHERMAL LEASE BOND

Act of February 25, 1920 (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.)
Act of August 7, 1947 (30 U.S.C. 351-359)
Department of the Interior Appropriations Act, FY 1981 (42 U.S.C. 6508)
Act of December 24, 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001-1025)
Other Oil and Gas and Geothermal Leasing Authorities as Applicable

Lease Serial Number (For Individual Bond Only)

CHECK ONE OIL AND GAS GEOTHERMAL RESOURCES

CHECK ONE

SURETY BOND

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS, THAT _____ (name)

of _____ (address)

as principal, and _____ (name)

of _____ (address), as surety,

are held and firmly bound unto the United States of America in the sum of _____ dollars (\$ _____),

lawful money of the United States, which may be increased or decreased by a rider hereto executed in the same manner as this bond.

PERSONAL BOND

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS, That _____ (name)

of _____ (address), as principal, is held and firmly

bound unto the United States of America in the sum of _____ dollars (\$ _____), lawful money of the United States which sum may be

increased or decreased by a rider hereto executed in the same manner as this bond.

The principal, in order to more fully secure the United States in the payment of the aforesaid sum, hereby pledges as security therefore United States negotiable securities of a par value equal to the amount specified. The principal, pursuant to the authority conferred by Section 1 of the Act of September 13, 1982 (31 U.S.C. 9303), does hereby constitute and appoint the Secretary of the Interior to act as his attorney. The interest accruing on the United States securities deposited, in the absence of any default in the performance of any of the conditions, or stipulations set forth in this bond and the instrument(s) granting rights and interests in Federal lands, must be paid to the principal. The principal hereby for himself/herself, any heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, joint and severally, ratifies and confirms whatever the Secretary shall do by virtue of these presents.

The principal/surety shall apply this bond or the Secretary shall transfer this deposit as security for the faithful performance of any and all of the conditions and stipulations as set forth in this bond and the instruments granting rights and interests in Federal lands. In the case of any default in the performance of the conditions and stipulations of such undertaking, it is agreed that: (1) for a Surety Bond, the surety/principal shall apply the bond or any portion thereof; (2) for a Personal Bond, the Secretary shall have full power to assign, appropriate, apply or transfer the deposit or any portion thereof, to the satisfaction of any damages, assessments, late payment charges, penalties, or deficiencies arising by reason of such default.

This bond is required for the use and benefit of (1) the United States; (2) the owner of any of the land subject to the coverage of this bond, who has a statutory right to compensation in connection with a reservation of the oil and gas and geothermal deposits to the United States; (3) any lessee, permittee, or contractor, under a lease, permit, or resource sale contract issued, or to be issued, by the United States covering the same land subject to this bond, covering the use of the surface or the prospecting for, or the development of other mineral deposits in any portion of such land, to be paid to the United States. For such payment, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves and each of our heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, jointly and severally.

This bond shall cover all surface disturbing activities related to drilling operations on a Federal leasehold(s) in accordance with authorization(s) granted under the Acts cited above for:

CHECK ONE:

STATEWIDE BOND - Operations conducted by or on behalf of the principal(s) or on the leasehold(s) of the principal(s), except the NPR-A, and, provided a rider is obtained, also coverage of multiple exploration operations within the single state of _____.

INDIVIDUAL BOND - Operations conducted by or on behalf of the principal or on the leasehold of the principal on the single lease identified by the serial number above.

NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE IN ALASKA (NPR-A) OR COASTAL PLAIN BOND - This bond shall cover:

NPR-A LEASE BOND CP LEASE BOND - The terms and conditions of a single lease.

NPR-A WIDE BOND CP LEASE BOND - The terms and conditions of all leases. and provided a rider is obtained, coverage of multiple exploration operations.

(Continued on page 2)

BOND CONDITIONS

The conditions of the foregoing obligations are such that:

- 1. WHEREAS the principal has an interest in a lease(s) and/or responsibility for operations on a lease(s) issued under the Acts cited in this bond; and
- 2. WHEREAS the principal and surety agree(s) that with notice to the surety the coverage of this bond, in addition to the present holding(s) of and/or authorization(s) granted to the principal, shall extend to and include:
 - a. Any lease(s) hereafter issued to or acquired by the obligor/principal, except under individual lease bonds, the coverage is to be confined to the principal's holding(s) and/or authorization(s) granted under the Acts cited in this bond, and to become effective immediately upon such authorization, approval or issuance of a transfer in favor of the principal; and
 - b. Any transfer(s) of operating rights hereafter entered into or acquired by the principal affecting lease(s); and
 - c. Any activity subsequent hereto of the principal as operator under a lease(s) issued pursuant to the Acts cited in this bond; and

Provided, That the surety may elect to terminate the additional coverage authorized under this paragraph. Such termination will become effective 30 days after the BLM receives notice of the election to terminate. After the termination becomes effective, the additional interest(s) identified in this paragraph will not be covered by this bond; and

- 3. WHEREAS the principal and surety agree(s) that with notice to the surety that this bond shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding: Any assignment(s) of an undivided interest in any part or all of the lands in the lease(s) in which event the assignee(s) shall be considered to be coprincipal(s) on an individual CP or NPR-A bond as fully and to the same extent as though his/her or their duly, authenticated signatures appeared thereon; and
- 4. WHEREAS the obligor/surety hereby waives any right to notice of, and agrees that this bond shall remain in full force and effect notwithstanding:
 - a. Any assignment(s) of 100% of some of the lands described in the lease(s), the bond to remain in full force and effect only as to the lands retained in the lease(s); and
 - b. Any transfer(s) either in whole or in part, of any or all of the operating rights and further agrees to remain bound under this bond as to the interests in the operating rights retained by the principal; and
 - c. Any modification of a lease or operating right, or obligation thereunder, whether made or effected by commitment of lease or operating right to unit, cooperative, communitization or storage agreements, or development contracts, suspensions of oper-

- ations or production, waivers, suspensions or changes in rental, minimum royalty and royalties, compensatory royalty payments, or otherwise; and
- d. Any extension of a lease(s) covered by this bond, such coverage to continue without any interruption due to the expiration of the term set forth in the lease(s); and
- 5. WHEREAS the principal and surety hereby agree(s) that notwithstanding the termination, expiration, cancellation or relinquishment of any lease(s), whether by operation of law or otherwise, the bond shall remain in full force and effect as to the terms and conditions of all remaining leases and obligations covered by the bond; and
- 6. WHEREAS the principal, as to any lease or part of a lease for land on which he/she is the operator, in consideration of being permitted to furnish this bond in lieu of the lessee(s) or operating rights owner(s), agrees and by these presents does hereby bind himself/herself to fulfill on behalf of each lessee or operating rightsowner all obligations of such for the entire leasehold in the same manner and to the same extent as though he/she were lessee or operating rights owner; and
- 7. WHEREAS the obligor/principal and surety agree(s) that the neglect or forbearance of said lessor in enforcing, as against any responsible party, the payment of rentals or royalties or the performance of any other term or condition of the lease(s) shall not, in any way, release the principal and surety, or either of them from any liability under this bond; and
- 8. WHEREAS the principal and surety agree(s) that in the event of any default under the lease(s) the lessor may commence and prosecute any claim, suit, or other proceeding against the principal and surety or either of them, without the necessity of joining the lessee(s); and
- 9. WHEREAS if the principal fails to comply with any provisions of an oil and gas lease, and the noncompliance continues for thirty (30) days after written notice thereof, such lease shall be subject to cancellation and the principal shall also be subject to applicable provisions and penalties of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act (30 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act. This provision shall not be construed to prevent the exercise by the United States of any other legal and equitable remedy, including waiver of the default.
- 10. NOW, THEREFORE If said principal, his/her heirs, executors, administrators, successors, or assigns shall in all respects faithfully comply with all of the provisions of the instrument(s) granting rights and interests in Federal lands referred to above, then the obligations are to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20_____, in the presence of :

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF WITNESSES

 _____ (Principal) (L.S.)
 _____ (Business Address)

 _____ (Surety) (L.S.)
 _____ (Business Address)

If this bond is executed by a corporation, it must bear the seal of that corporation.

Sec. 12. Delivery of premises – At such time as all or portions of this lease are returned to lessor, lessee shall place affected wells in condition for suspension or abandonment, reclaim the land as specified by lessor, and within a reasonable period of time, remove equipment and improvements not deemed necessary by lessor for preservation of producible wells.

Sec. 13. Proceedings in case of default – If lessee fails to comply with any provisions of this lease, and the noncompliance continues for 30 days after written notice thereof, this lease shall be subject to cancellation unless or until the leasehold contains:

- (a) a well capable of production of oil and gas in paying quantities or
- (b) meets criteria under 43 CFR 3135.1-5 or

The lease is committed to an approved cooperative or unit plan or communitization agreement which;

- (a) contains a well capable of production of unitized substances in paying quantities or
- (b) meets the criteria under 43 CFR 3137.70 and 43 CFR 3137.82.

This provision shall not be construed to prevent the exercise by lessor of any other legal and equitable remedy, including waiver of the default. As such, remedy or waiver shall prevent later cancellation of the same default occurring at any other time. Lessee shall be subject to applicable provisions and penalties of FOGPMA (30 U.S.C. 1701).

Sec. 14. Heirs and successors-in-interest – Each obligation of this lease shall extend to and be binding upon and every benefit hereof shall inure to: the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, beneficiaries, or assignees of the respective parties hereto.

Sec. 15. This lease represents a tract in the CP that is subject to the stipulations and required operating procedures established by the 2024 Record of Decision for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Program.

INSTRUCTIONS

A. General

1. The front of this form is to be completed only by parties filing for a noncompetitive lease. The BLM will complete front of the form for all other types of leases.
2. Entries must be typed or printed plainly in ink. Offeror must sign Item 4 in ink.
3. An original and two copies of this offer must be prepared and filed in the proper BLM State Office. See regulations at 43 CFR 1821.10 for office locations.
4. If more space is needed, additional sheets must be attached to each copy of the form submitted.

B. Special:

Item 1 - Enter offeror's name and billing address.

Item 2 - A single tract number and Sale Date shall be the only acceptable description.

Item 3 - This space will be completed by the United States.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT STATEMENT

The Paperwork Reduction Act of 1990 (44 U.S.C. 3501 et seq.) requires us to inform you that:

1. This information is being collected pursuant to the law.
2. This information will be used to create and maintain a record of oil and gas lease activity.
3. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit.

EFFECT OF NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION - If you do not provide all the information, the offer may be rejected. See regulations at 43 CFR Part 3130.

EXHIBIT G

Geophysical Exploration Rider Form
for Use with CP

EXHIBIT G

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALASKA STATE OFFICE – ANCHORAGE, ALASKA**

**COASTAL PLAIN WIDE
OIL AND GAS LEASE BOND
GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION RIDER**

**Department of the Interior Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 1981 (P.L. 96-514)
Other Oil and Gas Leasing Authorities as Applicable**

Coverage under Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Lease Bond, which has been assigned Serial Number _____, or which is being filed concurrently with this rider in the Alaska State Office of the Bureau of Land Management, is hereby extended to include oil and gas exploration operations as prescribed by the regulations at 43 CFR 3152.

Signed this _____ day of _____, 20__ in the presence of:

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF WITNESSES:

(Signature of Witness)

(Signature of Principal)

(Address)

(Business Address)

(Signature of Witness)

(Signature of Surety)

(Address)

(Business Address)

EXHIBIT H

Sample Coastal Plain Lease Form

(b) Undersigned agrees that signature to this offer constitutes acceptance of this lease, including all terms, conditions, and stipulations of which offeror has been given notice, and any amendment or separate lease that may include any land described in this offer open to leasing at the time this offer was filed but omitted for any reason from this lease. The offeror further agrees that this offer cannot be withdrawn, either in whole or in part.

This offer will be rejected and will afford offeror no priority if it is not properly completed and executed in accordance with the regulations, or if it is not accompanied by the required payments. 18 U.S.C. Sec. 1001 makes it a crime for any person knowingly and willfully to make to any Department or agency of the United States any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations as to any matter within its jurisdiction.

NOTICE

The Privacy Act of 1974 and the regulations at 43 CFR 2.223(d) provide that you be furnished with the following information:

AUTHORITY: 50 Stat. 900; 25 U.S.C. 500

PRINCIPAL PURPOSE: The primary uses of the records are (1) to determine your qualification to receive an oil and gas lease; and (2) to provide information concerning oil and gas leases for administrative and public use.

ROUTINE USES: BLM and the Department of the Interior (DOI) may disclose your information on this form: (1) to members of the public who have a need for the information that is maintained by BLM for public record; (2) to the U.S. Department of Justice, court, or other adjudicative body when DOI determines the information is necessary and relevant to litigation; (3) to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating, prosecuting violations, enforcing or implementing this statute, regulation, or lease; and (4) to a congressional office when you request the assistance of the Member of Congress in writing.

EFFECT OF NOT PROVIDING THIS INFORMATION: If you do not furnish all the information required by this form, your application may be rejected.

Duly executed this _____ day of _____, 20____, _____
(Signature of Lessee or Attorney-in-fact)

LEASE TERMS

Sec. 1. Rentals - Rentals must be paid to the proper office of lessor in advance of each lease year. Annual rental rates per acre or fraction thereof are specified in the detailed statement of sale.

If this lease or a portion thereof is committed to an approved cooperative or unit plan which includes a well capable of producing leased resources, or a well that meets criteria in 43 CFR 3137.82 and the plan contains a provision for allocation of production, royalties shall be paid on the production allocated to this lease. However, annual rentals shall continue to be due at the rate specified for those lands not within a participating area.

Failure to pay annual rent, within 30 days after receipt of a Notice of Delinquency shall cause this lease to terminate. Rentals may be waived, reduced, or suspended by the Secretary upon a sufficient showing by lessee.

Sec. 2. Royalties – Royalties shall be paid to the proper office of lessor. Royalties shall be computed in accordance with regulations on production removed or sold. The royalty rate is 16.67 percent.

Lessor reserves the right to specify whether royalty is to be paid in value or in kind, and the right to establish reasonable minimum values on products after giving lessee notice and an opportunity to be heard. When paid in value, royalties shall be due and payable on the last day of the month following the month in which production occurred. When paid in kind, production shall be delivered, unless otherwise agreed to by lessor, in merchantable condition on the premises where produced without cost to lessor. Lessee shall not be required to hold such production in storage beyond the last day of the month following the month in which production occurred, nor shall lessee be held liable for loss or destruction of royalty oil or other products in storage from causes beyond the reasonable control of the lessee.

An interest charge shall be assessed on the late royalty payments or underpayments in accordance with the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (FOGRMA) (30 U.S.C. 1701). Lessee shall be liable for royalty payments on oil and gas loss or wasted from a lease site when such loss or waste is due to negligence on the part of the operator, or due to the failure to comply with any rules, regulations, orders, or citations issued under FOGRMA or the leasing authority.

Sec. 3. Bonds – A bond shall be filed and maintained for lease operations as required under regulations.

Sec. 4. Diligence, rate of development, unitization, and drainage – Lessee must exercise reasonable diligence in developing and producing, and must prevent unnecessary damage to, loss of, or waste of leased resources. Lessor reserves the right to specify rates of development and production in the public interest and to require lessee to subscribe to a cooperative or unit plan, within 30 days of notice, if deemed necessary for proper development and operation of area, field, or pool embracing these leased lands. Lessee shall drill and produce wells necessary to protect leased lands from drainage or pay compensatory royalty for drainage in amount determined by lessor.

Sec. 5. Documents, evidence, and inspection – Lessee shall file with the proper office of lessor, not later than 30 days after effective date thereof, any contract or evidence of other arrangement for sale or disposal of production. At such times and in such form as lessor may prescribe, lessee shall furnish detailed statements showing amounts and quality of all products removed and sold, proceeds therefrom, and amount used for production purposes or unavoidably lost. Lessee may be required to provide plats and schematic diagrams showing development work and improvements, and reports with respect to parties in interest, expenditures, and depreciation costs. In the form prescribed by lessor, lessee shall keep a daily drilling record, a log, information on well surveys and tests, and a record of subsurface investigations and furnish copies to lessor when required. Lessee shall keep open at all reasonable times for inspection by any authorized officer of lessor, the leased premises and all wells, improvements, machinery, and fixtures thereon, and all books, accounts, maps, and records relative to operations, surveys, or investigations on or in the leased lands. Lessee shall maintain copies of all contracts, sales agreements, accounting records, and documentation such as billings, invoices, or similar documentation that support costs claimed as manufacturing, preparation, and/or transportation costs. All such records shall be maintained in lessee's accounting office for future audit by lessor. Lessee shall maintain required records for 6 years after they are generated or, if an audit or investigation is underway, until released of the obligation to maintain such records by lessor.

During existence of this lease, information obtained under this section shall be closed to inspection by the public in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552)

Sec. 6. Conduct of operations – Lessee shall conduct operations in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the land, air, and water, to cultural, biological, visual, and other resources, and to other land uses or users. To the extent consistent with the lease rights granted, lessee shall take reasonable measures deemed necessary by lessor to accomplish the intent of this section. Such measures may include, but are not limited to, modification to siting or design of facilities, timing of operations, and specification of interim and final reclamation measures. Lessor

reserves the right to continue existing uses and to authorize future uses upon or in the leased lands, including the approval of easements or rights-of-way. Such uses shall be conditioned so as to prevent unnecessary or unreasonable interference with the rights of lessee.

Prior to disturbing the surface of the leased lands, lessee shall contact lessor to be apprised of procedures to be followed and modifications or reclamation measures that may be necessary. Areas to be disturbed may require inventories or special studies to determine the extent of impacts to other resources. Lessee may be required to complete minor inventories or short-term special studies under guidelines provided by lessor. If, in the conduct of operations, threatened or endangered species, objects of historic or scientific interest, or substantial unanticipated environmental effects are observed, lessee shall immediately contact lessor. Lessee shall cease any operations that would result in the destruction of such species or objects.

Sec. 7. Extraction of helium – Lessor reserves the option of extracting or having extracted helium from gas production in a manner specified and by means provided by lessor at no expense or loss to lessee or owner of the gas. Lessee shall include in any contract of sale of gas the provision of this section.

Sec. 8. Damages to property – Lessee shall pay lessor for damage to lessor's improvements and shall save and hold lessor harmless from all claims for damage or harm to persons or property as a result of lease operations.

Sec. 9. Protection of diverse interests and equal opportunity – Lessee shall pay when due, all taxes legally assessed and levied under laws of the State or the United States; accord all employees complete freedom of purchase; pay all wages at least twice each month in lawful money of the United States, maintain a safe working environment in accordance with standard industry practices; and take measures necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

Lessor reserves the right to ensure that production is sold at reasonable prices and to prevent monopoly. If lessee operates a pipeline, or owns controlling interest in a pipeline or a company operating a pipeline, which may be operated accessible to oil derived from these leased lands, lessee shall comply with section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

Lessee shall comply with Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and regulations and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant thereto. Neither lessee nor lessee's subcontractors shall maintain segregated facilities. During the performance of this lease, the lessee must comply fully with paragraphs (1) through (8) of 41 CFR 60-1.4(a) with respect to employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, and must incorporate the requirements set forth in those paragraphs in every subcontract or purchase order, as provided by that regulation.

Sec. 10. Transfer of lease interests and relinquishment of lease – As required by regulations, lessee shall file with lessor any assignment or other transfer of an interest in this lease. Lessee may relinquish this lease or any legal subdivision by filing in the proper office, a written relinquishment, which shall be effective as of the date of filing, subject to the continued obligation of the lessee and surety to pay all accrued rentals and royalties.

Sec. 11. Delivery of premises – At such time as all or portions of this lease are returned to lessor, lessee shall place affected wells in condition for suspension or abandonment, reclaim the land as specified by lessor, and within a reasonable period of time, remove equipment and improvements not deemed necessary by lessor for preservation of producible wells.

Sec. 12. Proceedings in case of default – If lessee fails to comply with any provisions of this lease, and the noncompliance continues for 30 days after written notice thereof, this lease shall be subject to cancellation unless or until the leasehold contains;

- (a) a well capable of production of oil and gas in paying quantities or
- (b) meets criteria under 43 CFR 3135.1-5 or

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- (a) contains a well capable of production of unitized substances in paying quantities or
- (b) meets the criteria under 43 CFR 3137.70 and 43 CFR 3137.82.

This provision shall not be construed to prevent the exercise by lessor of any other legal and equitable remedy, including waiver of the default. As such, remedy or waiver shall prevent later cancellation of the same default occurring at any other time. Lessee shall be subject to applicable provisions and penalties of FOGRMA (30 U.S.C. 1701).

Sec. 13. Heirs and successors-in-interest – Each obligation of this lease shall extend to and be binding upon and every benefit hereof shall inure to: the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, beneficiaries, or assignees of the respective parties hereto.

Sec. 145. Coastal Plain leases and associated lease rights, other development rights, and access rights are granted pursuant to the authority contained in Section 20001 of PL 115-97; ; and are subject to the lease stipulations established by the ROD for the ANWR Coastal Plain Leasing Environmental Impact Statement (Leasing EIS) in effect at the time this lease is issued or renewed, the required operating procedures established by the ROD for the ANWR Coastal Plain Leasing EIS in effect at the time lease operations are approved, and compliance with the Section 106 National Historic Preservation Act Programmatic Agreement for the Coastal Plain leasing program in effect at the time lease operations are approved.

INSTRUCTIONS

A. General

1. The front of this form is to be completed only by parties filing for a noncompetitive lease. The BLM will complete front of the form for all other types of leases.
2. Entries must be typed or printed plainly in ink. Offeror must sign Item 4 in ink.
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1. This information is being collected pursuant to the law.
2. This information will be used to create and maintain a record of oil and gas lease activity.
3. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit.

EFFECT OF NOT PROVIDING INFORMATION - If you do not provide all the information, the offer may be rejected. See regulations at 43 CFR Part 3130.