

Update on oil and gas leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

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Canadian Wildlife Service

Porcupine Caribou Annual Harvest Meeting

February 11, 2026

Leasing Process 8- year History

- Mandated 2 lease sales in December 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
- 2019 – Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
- 2020 – Record of Decision, First lease sale
- January 2021(Trump) – 9 leases awarded
- January 2021 (Biden) – leases frozen
- 2022 – 2 owners give back leases
- 2022 – Chevron and Hilcorp pay Kaktovik \$10M to end leases on private land in ANWR
- 2023 US Gov’t cancels the remaining leases (all owned by AIDEA)
- 2023 Draft Supplemental EIS
- Nov 2024 Final Supplemental EIS – new alternative
- Dec 2024 Record of Decision and Notice of Lease Sale
- January 2025: No bids received

NEW

- July 2025 *One Big Beautiful Bill Act* added 4 more mandated sales – within 1,3,5, & 7 years passage
- Oct 2025 Leases given back to AIDEA
- Oct 2025 New Record of Decision: Alt B chosen
- Dec 2025 *Congressional Review Act* decision passed to prevent “substantially similar” rules from being put in place

Upcoming Actions

1. AIDEA interest in seismic – winter 2026-27??
2. Call for nominations (open now), “winter” lease sale
3. Litigation

Seismic – AIDEA - TBD

- Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority owns 7 leases and did a Request for Proposals for Seismic on their leases
- Planning only to work on their leases – not an area wide program. **No application filed yet.**
- Typically requires frozen ground and certain snow depths to avoid tundra damage
- Some research exists on expected impacts to the vegetation/landscape



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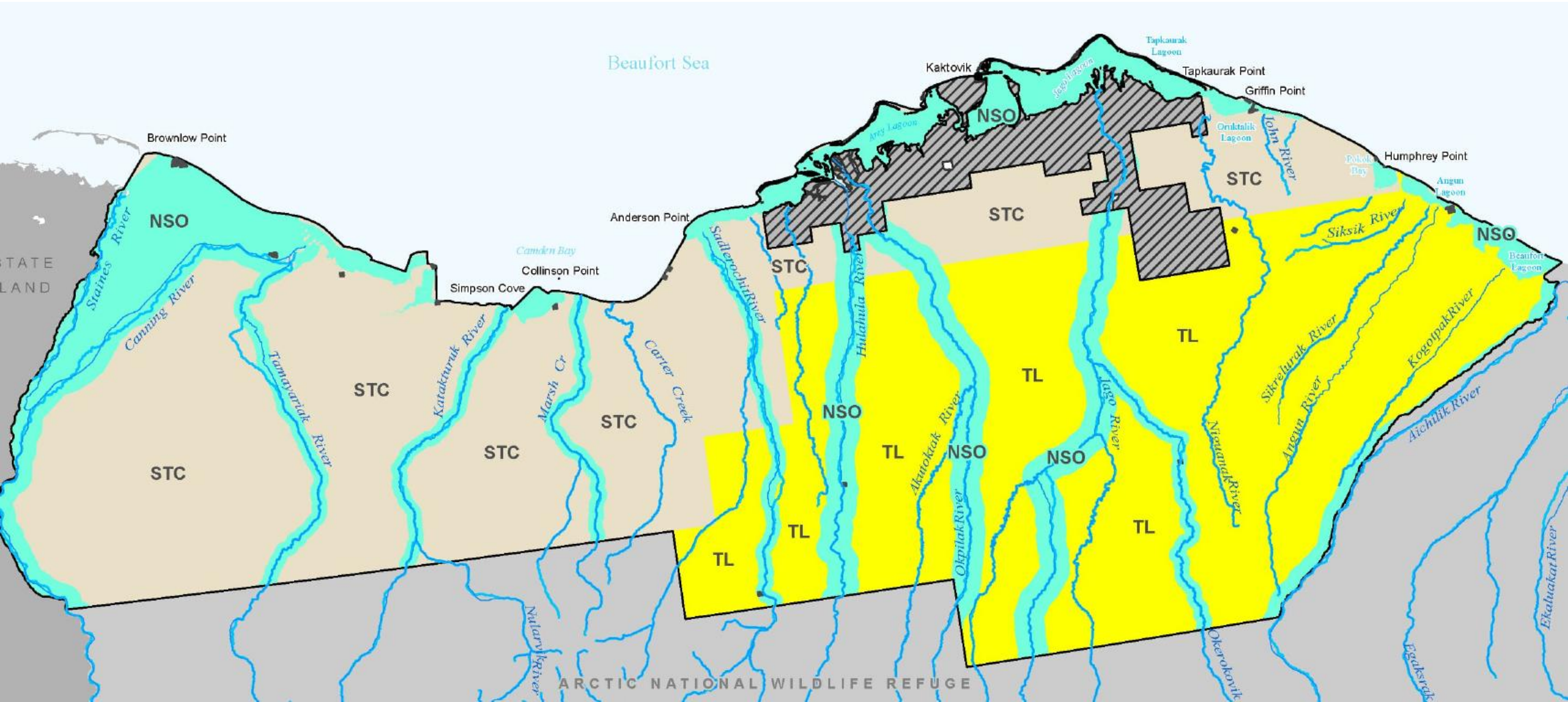
Landscape impacts of 3D-seismic surveys in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska

[Martha K. Reynolds](#) [✉](#) [Janet C. Jorgenson](#) [M. Torre Jorgenson](#) [Mikhail Kanevskiy](#) [Anna K. Liljedahl](#) [Matthew Nolan](#) [Matthew Sturm](#) [Donald A. Walker](#)

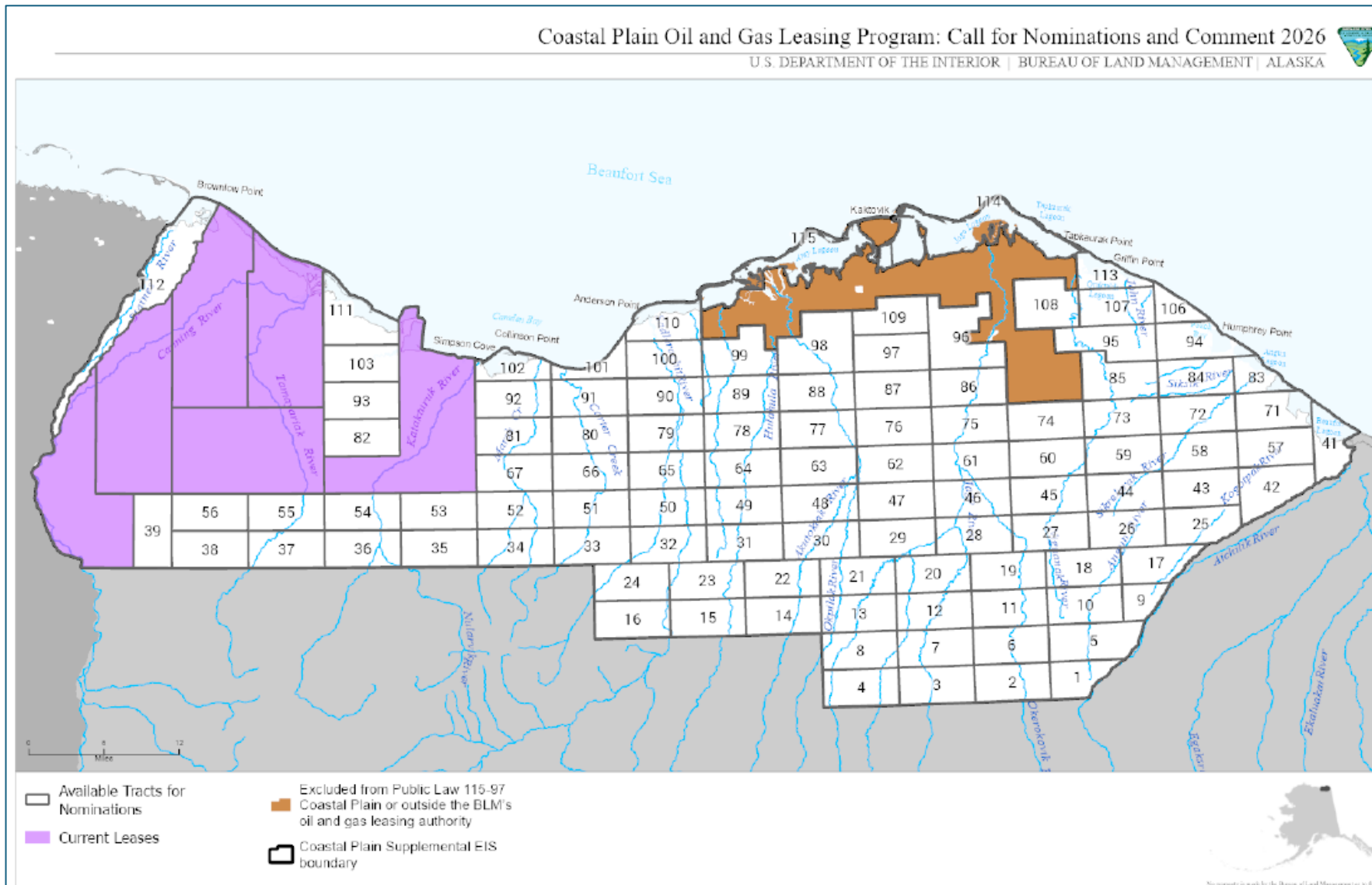
First published: 25 April 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/eap.2143> | [VIEW METRICS](#)

Current (same as 2020) Lease Plan (“Alt B”)

NSO = No surface occupancy
TL = timing limitations
CSU = controlled surface use
STC = standard terms and conditions



New lease map: more and smaller blocks



Public comment period closes on March 5, 2026

Litigation update

- 2 lawsuits updated/filed/refiled in January 2026:
 - Gwich'in Steering Committee *et al.* vs Secretary of Interior (Case 3:20-cv-00204-SLG)
 - Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government *et al.* vs Secretary of Interior (Case 3:20-cv-00223-SLG)
- Both seek to vacate and set aside essentially all regulatory documents from the beginning and go back to 'square one'.
- Many counts in each case, but key ones focus on Refuge purposes, incoherent policy changes, flawed subsistence use assessment, issues with the 2000-acre rule, failure to accommodate historic property evaluation, and flawed Biological Opinions issued by USFWS (among other counts).
- Hope is for court briefings over the summer, court decision TBD.

International Porcupine Caribou Board Update

- The IPCB last met in February 2020
- The U.S. has not had a quorum (3 of 4) appointed members during the Biden administration.
- The remaining U.S. members were appointed at the end of Secretary Haaland's term, but appointment letters are not being shared until the new administration confirms its choices/direction.
- No updates from the US on membership.
- Canadian members: Craig Machtans (CWS, Canadian Co-chair), Joe Tetlichy (PCMB rep), Marc Cattet (Yukon), Brett Elkin (NWT).

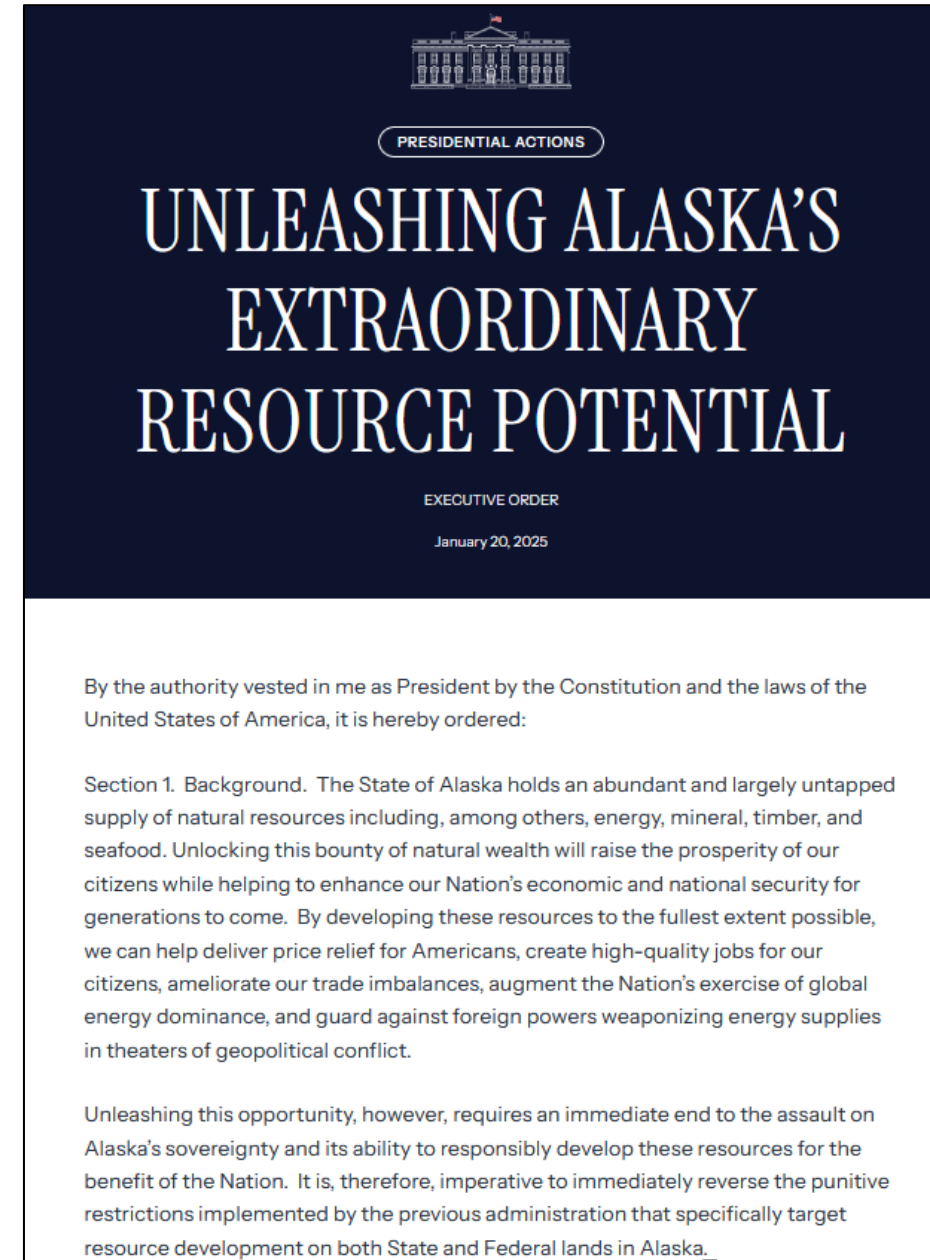
Annex

Orders, Laws, and revoked 2024 lease plan

Executive Order (President)

- Main point: This order does not do anything on its own... it directs Secretaries to “*exercise all lawful authority and discretion available to them and take all necessary steps to...*” do a long list of things.
- For the Arctic Refuge, the list of things to do are all aimed at opening up the whole area for leasing with as few restrictions as possible.

[Link to Executive Order](#)



The image shows the cover of an Executive Order. At the top, there is a small illustration of the White House. Below it, the text "PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS" is written in a small, white, sans-serif font. The main title, "UNLEASHING ALASKA'S EXTRAORDINARY RESOURCE POTENTIAL", is written in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, the words "EXECUTIVE ORDER" and the date "January 20, 2025" are written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The background of the cover is dark blue. The text of the order is visible in a white box at the bottom of the image.

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, it is hereby ordered:

Section 1. Background. The State of Alaska holds an abundant and largely untapped supply of natural resources including, among others, energy, mineral, timber, and seafood. Unlocking this bounty of natural wealth will raise the prosperity of our citizens while helping to enhance our Nation's economic and national security for generations to come. By developing these resources to the fullest extent possible, we can help deliver price relief for Americans, create high-quality jobs for our citizens, ameliorate our trade imbalances, augment the Nation's exercise of global energy dominance, and guard against foreign powers weaponizing energy supplies in theaters of geopolitical conflict.

Unleashing this opportunity, however, requires an immediate end to the assault on Alaska's sovereignty and its ability to responsibly develop these resources for the benefit of the Nation. It is, therefore, imperative to immediately reverse the punitive restrictions implemented by the previous administration that specifically target resource development on both State and Federal lands in Alaska.

Secretarial Order

- Main point: Asks for a plan by February 18th on how to implement the President's Executive Order.
- This plan isn't automatically public – unknown when we will see it or know content.

[Link to Secretary Order 3422](#)



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

ORDER NO. 3422

Subject: Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential

Sec. 1. **Purpose.** This Order implements provisions of President Trump's January 20, 2025, Executive Order (EO) 14153, titled "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential," which directs the Secretary of the Interior to exercise all lawful authority and discretion available and take all necessary steps to unleash the State of Alaska's abundant and largely untapped supply of natural resources.

Sec. 2. **Authorities.** This Order is issued under the authority of section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended. Other authorities include, but are not limited to, EO 14153.

Sec. 3. **Background.** President Trump declared that unlocking Alaska's massive bounty of natural wealth (Alaska is larger than our smallest 22 States combined) will raise the prosperity of our citizens and help our Nation's economic and national security for generations to come by, among other policies:

- fully availing itself of Alaska's vast lands and resources for the benefit of the Nation and the American citizens who call Alaska home;
- efficiently and effectively maximizing the development and production of the natural resources located on both Federal and State lands within Alaska;
- expediting the permitting and leasing of energy and natural resource projects in Alaska (including specifically for the rights of way and easement for roads that enable this

OBBB Act text

SEC. 50104. ALASKA OIL AND GAS LEASING.

16 USC 3143 note.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COASTAL PLAIN.—The term “Coastal Plain” has the meaning given the term in section 20001(a) of Public Law 115–97 (16 U.S.C. 3143 note).

(2) OIL AND GAS PROGRAM.—The term “oil and gas program” means the oil and gas program established under section 20001(b)(2) of Public Law 115–97 (16 U.S.C. 3143 note).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) LEASE SALES REQUIRED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (3), in addition to the lease sales required under section 20001(c)(1)(A) of Public Law 115–97 (16 U.S.C. 3143 note), the Secretary shall conduct not fewer than 4 lease sales area-wide under the oil and gas program by not later than 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act. Deadline.

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—In conducting lease sales under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall offer the same terms and conditions as contained in the record of decision described in the notice of availability of the Bureau of Land Management entitled “Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska” (85 Fed. Reg. 51754 (August 21, 2020)).

(3) SALE ACREAGES; SCHEDULE.—

(A) ACREAGES.—In conducting the lease sales required under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall offer for lease under the oil and gas program—

139 STAT. 143

(i) not fewer than 400,000 acres area-wide in each lease sale; and

(ii) those areas that have the highest potential for the discovery of hydrocarbons.

(B) SCHEDULE.—The Secretary shall offer—

(i) the initial lease sale under paragraph (1) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act;

(ii) a second lease sale under paragraph (1) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act;

(iii) a third lease sale under paragraph (1) not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act; and

(iv) a fourth lease sale under paragraph (1) not later than 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

(4) RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—Section 20001(c)(2) of Public Law 115–97 (16 U.S.C. 3143 note) shall apply to leases awarded under this subsection.

Deadlines.

Applicability.

(5) SURFACE DEVELOPMENT.—Section 20001(c)(3) of Public Law 115–97 (16 U.S.C. 3143 note) shall apply to leases awarded under this subsection.

Applicability.

(c) RECEIPTS.—Notwithstanding section 35 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 191) and section 20001(b)(5) of Public Law 115–97 (16 U.S.C. 3143 note), of the amount of adjusted bonus, rental, and royalty receipts derived from the oil and gas program and operations on the Coastal Plain pursuant to this section— Time periods.

(1)(A) for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2033, 50 percent shall be paid to the State of Alaska; and (B) for fiscal year 2034 and each fiscal year thereafter, 70 percent shall be paid to the State of Alaska; and

(2) the balance shall be deposited into the Treasury as miscellaneous receipts.

Congressional Review Act

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H.J.Res.131 - Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision".

119th Congress (2025-2026) | [Get alerts](#)

LAW Hide Overview

Sponsor: [Rep. Begich, Nicholas J. \[R-AK-At Large\]](#) (Introduced 10/10/2025)

Committees: House - Natural Resources

Committee Meetings: [11/17/25 3:00PM](#)

Latest Action: [12/11/2025 Became Public Law No: 119-52. \(All Actions\)](#)

Roll Call Votes: There have been [2 roll call votes](#)

Tracker: [Introduced](#) > [Passed House](#) > [Passed Senate](#) > [To President](#) > [Became Law](#)

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Subject — Policy Area:

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2024 ROD Lease Plan ("D2") - revoked

NSO = No surface occupancy
TL = timing limitations
CSU = controlled surface use
STC = standard terms and conditions

