

Department manages invasive species by following IPM principles. IPM is defined as a sustainable approach to managing invasive species by a combination of biological, physical, and chemical methods that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks (Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act [FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. 136r–1]). IPM is a science-based decision-making process that guides bureaus when investigating a pest situation. Following IPM principles means acting in a manner that reduces risks from both the target species and associated management activities. The IPM approach determines the most appropriate and cost-effective management solution for the specific situation. IPM reduces risks to people, resources, and the environment from pests and from the strategies used to manage them. Biological control methods include using predators, parasites, pathogens, and grazing animals. Physical methods include using manual and mechanical methods. Chemical methods include the application of pesticides. Any application of chemicals must be approved through the respective bureau's pesticide use proposal process. It must also adhere to pesticide label requirements as approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and all other applicable Federal, Tribal, Territorial, State, local, and agency regulations and bureau policies pertaining to application, handling, storage, and transportation. The pesticide use proposal systems at each bureau function to reduce risks to the public, bureau resources, and the environment from pests and pest-related management strategies. Each time a pesticide is used within the Federal boundaries that usage must be reviewed by a bureau subject matter expert. The internal review is determined by the type of pesticide, the site where its use is proposed, the target species, and many other criteria.

Actions conducted by other bureaus within the Department for invasive species management are similar to the type of actions that NPS conducts. Therefore, the impacts of the adopting bureaus' actions are anticipated to be similar to the impacts of NPS actions, which are not significant, absent the existence of extraordinary circumstances. The Department has determined that the adopting bureaus' proposed adoption of the CE as described in this notice is appropriate.

Consideration of Extraordinary Circumstances

As NPS does when applying this CE, Responsible Officials within the adopting bureaus will evaluate the proposed actions to determine whether there are any extraordinary circumstances, listed at 43 CFR 46.215, that would preclude reliance on the CE. The extraordinary circumstances include, in part, consideration of impacts on public health and safety; natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks, sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas; unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources; unique or unknown environmental risks; precedent for future decision-making; historic properties; listed species or critical habitat; low income or minority populations; access by Indian religious practitioners; and for ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites and the physical integrity of those sites; and contribution to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of invasive plants or non-native invasive species. The Department's list of extraordinary circumstances is used by all bureaus within the Department. Therefore, Responsible Officials in the adopting bureaus intending to rely on this CE will review whether the proposed action has the potential to result in significant effects, as described in the Department's extraordinary circumstances. If the Responsible Official cannot rely on a categorical exclusion to support a decision on a particular proposed action due to extraordinary circumstances, the Responsible Official will prepare an EA or EIS, consistent with 40 CFR 1501.4(b)(2) and 43 CFR 46.205(c).

Notice to the Public and Documentation of Adoption

This notice identifies to the public that seven Department bureaus are adopting the NPS's CE used for invasive species control and eradication (E.6 Restoration of noncontroversial native species into suitable habitats within their historic range and elimination of exotic species.). The CE will be available to use by the adopting bureaus that undertake or fund invasive species management—the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the

Office of Insular Affairs, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, in addition to NPS. The notice identifies the types of actions to which the bureaus within the Department will apply the CE, as well as the considerations these bureaus will use in determining whether an action is within the scope of the CE. This documentation of the approved adoption is available at <https://www.doi.gov/oepe/nepa/categorical-exclusions> and will also be made available on each adopting bureau's web page for CE adoptions. The adopting bureaus will add the adopted CE to their applicable NEPA chapters in part 516 of the DM.

Authorities

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*).

Stephen G. Tryon,

Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLM_AK_FRN_PO#4820000251

Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Alaska State Office, announces the availability of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The signature of the Acting Deputy Secretary of the Department of the Interior on the ROD constitutes the final decision of the Department, thereby completing the required National Environmental Policy Act process for implementing an oil and gas leasing program within the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

DATES: The ROD was signed on December 8, 2024.

ADDRESSES: The ROD is available online at the BLM National Environmental Policy Act Register at <https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/>

project/2015144/510. Printed copies of the ROD will also be available for public inspection upon publication of this notice at the following locations:

BLM Alaska Public Information Center, James M. Fitzgerald Federal Building, 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99513, telephone: (907) 271-5960.

Alaska Resources Library & Information Services, 3211 Providence Drive, Suite 111, Anchorage, AK 99508, telephone: (907) 272-7547.

Printed copies can be provided upon request by contacting the BLM Alaska Public Information Center listed above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: At the BLM: Serena Sweet, Branch Chief of Planning and Project Management; telephone: 907-271-4345; email: ssweet@blm.gov, or Stephanie Kuhns, Acting District Manager, Arctic District; telephone: 907-474-2310; email: skuhns@blm.gov.

At the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS): Bobbie Jo Skibo, Strategic Conservation and Coastal Plain Coordinator; telephone: 907-441-1539; email: bobbiejo_skibo@fws.gov.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services for contacting Ms. Sweet. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 20001 of Public Law 115-97 (<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-115publ97/pdf/PLAW-115publ97.pdf>) requires the Secretary of the Interior, 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 area within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The BLM was directed to manage the oil and gas leasing program on the Coastal Plain in a manner similar to lease sales under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (including regulations). Section 20001 also requires the BLM to offer two lease sales by December 22, 2021 and 2024, respectively, and for each sale to offer at least 400,000 acres containing those areas that have the highest potential for discovery of hydrocarbons.

The ROD approves a program to carry out this statutory directive. By determining where and under what terms and conditions leasing will occur, the ROD takes into account the

requirements of Public Law 115-97 and other applicable law. To inform this Decision, the BLM and United States Fish and Wildlife Service, as joint lead agencies, prepared the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program SEIS (Leasing SEIS). The ROD supersedes the original Coastal Plain leasing program ROD, issued in August 2020.

The ROD adopts Alternative D2 from the November 2024 Leasing SEIS to govern BLM's further administration of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The ROD determines which lands to make available for leasing under the Coastal Plain program and the terms and conditions (*i.e.*, lease stipulations and required operating procedures) to be applied to leases and authorizations for specific oil and gas activities.

(Authority: 40 CFR 1501.9(c)(5)(ii))

Steven Cohn,

State Director, Alaska.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLM_MT_FRN_MO4540000223]

Notice of Public Meeting of the Western Montana Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as follows.

DATES: The RAC will meet virtually on January 14, 2025, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mountain Time. The meeting will be open to the public. Attendees must register with the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice at least 7 business days prior to the meeting date.

ADDRESSES: The final agenda and virtual participation instructions will be confirmed for the public via BLM online announcement, social media, on the RAC's web page at <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/montana-dakotas/western-montana-rac>, and through personal contact at least two weeks prior to the meeting.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chelsea Lair, BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office, 106 N Parkmont, Butte, MT 59701; telephone: (406) 876-0994; email: clair@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

Please make requests in advance for sign language interpreter services, language translation services, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodations. We ask that you contact the person listed above at least 14 business days prior to the meeting to give the Department of the Interior sufficient time to process your request. All reasonable accommodation requests are managed on a case-by-case basis.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The RAC provides recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior concerning the planning and management of the public land resources located within the BLM's Western Montana District. Agenda topics will include a discussion about the Tribal Partnership and Reserved Treaty Rights Program, updates from field managers, a public comment period at 3:30 p.m., and other resource management issues the RAC may raise. While the meeting is scheduled to conclude at 4 p.m., it may end earlier or later depending on the needs of RAC members. Therefore, members of the public interested in a specific agenda item or discussion should schedule their arrival accordingly.

Written comments to the RAC can be emailed in advance to the individual listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. Depending on the number of persons wishing to speak and the time available, the amount of time for oral comments may be limited. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in written comments, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Detailed minutes for RAC meetings are maintained in the BLM Western Montana District Office. Minutes will also be posted to the RAC's web page at: