



PRESS RELEASE

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AIDEA Fights Biden Administration for Legal Right to Responsibly Develop 2000 Acres of the Coastal Plain Out of the 19 Million Acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Anchorage, Alaska - December 23, 2024 – Today, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) challenged a decision by the Biden Administration and Secretary Haaland to prevent the development of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. (ANWR)

The decision ignores federal law (the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act), which requires Secretary Haaland to allow “leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain” from the “areas that have the highest potential for the discovery of hydrocarbons.”

Instead, Secretary Haaland’s decision imposes unreasonable and unnecessary conditions that effectively curtail the ability to produce oil and gas in ANWR. Secretary Haaland’s decision flouts federal law and fails to recognize or respect the position of the community of Kaktovik (the only community located inside ANWR). It also prevents the State of Alaska from collecting roughly \$2 billion a year in annual royalties, the North Slope Borough from realizing tens of millions in revenue, and AIDEA, as a leaseholder from receiving significant revenue. See attached [Table 3-40, Department of Interior, Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement](#). AIDEA revenues are shared provide income to Alaska through AIDEA’s dividend program, which has paid roughly \$500 million in dividends to the Alaska General Fund since AIDEA’s creation.)

“We agree with the Federal government that there are billions of barrels of oil in ANWR. We agree with the federal government that the State of Alaska, the North Slope Borough, and Kaktovik would benefit from revenue, jobs, and funding for infrastructure and schools, etc., However, AIDEA, the North Slope Borough, Kaktovik, and others strongly disagree with Secretary Haaland that the benefits from developing ANWR should be lost due to Biden Administration politics and efforts to satisfy “Green” environmental political donors and supporters.” Said Randy Ruaro, Executive Director, AIDEA.

Former Senator Ted Stevens never quit fighting for the right to produce oil and gas in ANWR, a right Congress promised Senator Stevens but later denied. AIDEA will continue the fight.

In his [December 19, 2024, opinion article](#), Charles Lampe, President of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation, stated “It’s unacceptable that the Native Iñupiat of Kaktovik are being prevented from exercising self-determination and economic sustainability on our own land. It’s also unacceptable that we are not even treated with the same deference or respect this decision hopes to provide the caribou. The Department of Interior and Secretary Haaland should be ashamed of themselves for prioritizing caribou over people, and for pitting one Indigenous group against another for political purposes.”

For information about AIDEA or any of AIDEA’s projects, please visit www.aidea.org or contact AIDEA at communications@aidea.org.

About AIDEA: The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is a public corporation of the State of Alaska. AIDEA’s purpose is to promote, develop, and advance the general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of Alaska.

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

November 2024

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

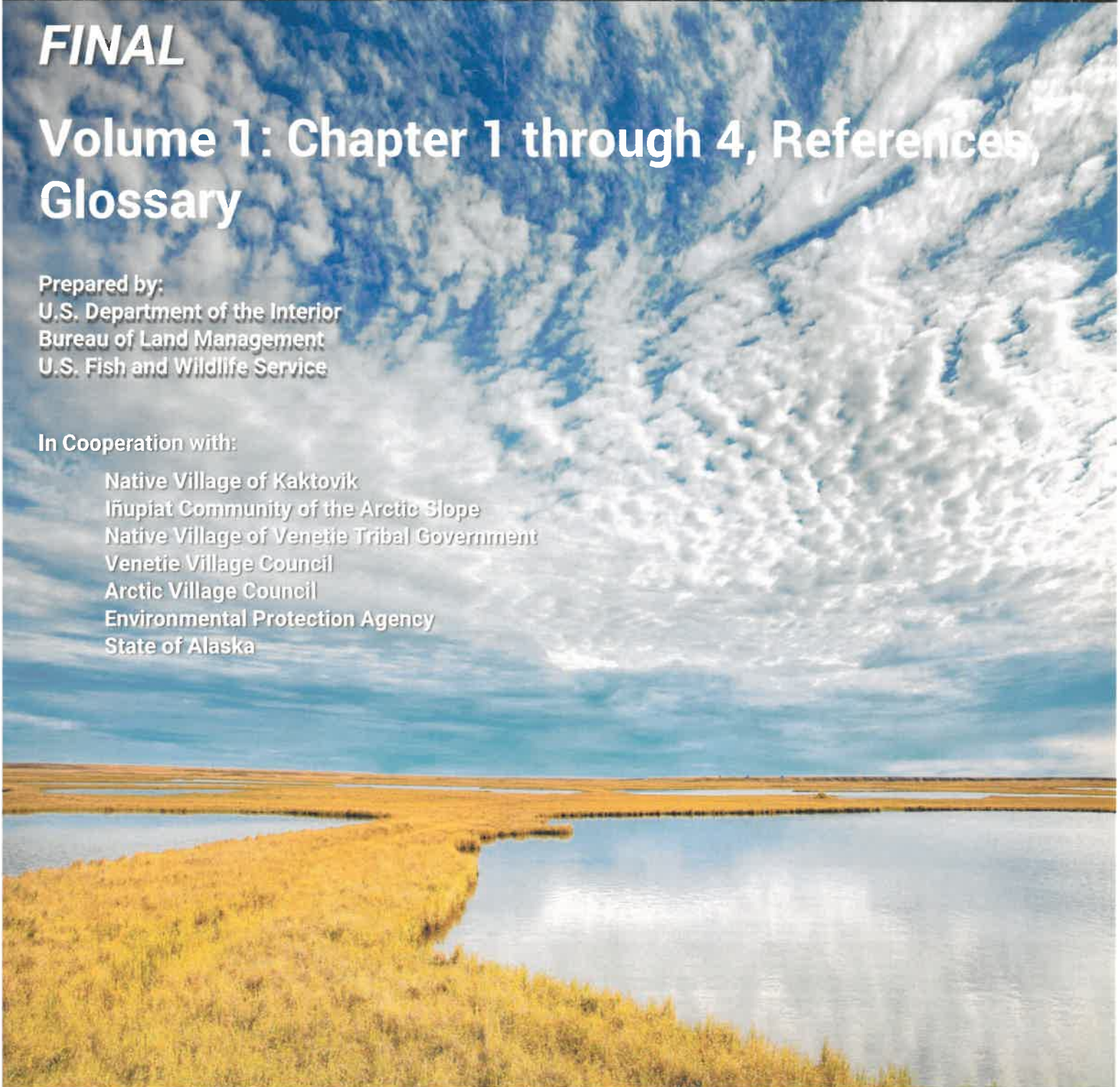
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Volume 1: Chapter 1 through 4, References, Glossary

Prepared by:
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

In Cooperation with:

Native Village of Kaktovik
Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government
Venetie Village Council
Arctic Village Council
Environmental Protection Agency
State of Alaska



transportation, logistics, and other oil field services.¹⁷ Some of the contracts for construction and operations and maintenance of the facilities are expected to be awarded to Alaska-owned and operated companies, including the North Slope regional and village ANCSA corporations. These payments to local businesses would in turn generate additional economic activity in the state, resulting in indirect economic effects in the form of additional business sales, employment, and labor income. Likewise, potential local spending by workers as well as government spending of revenues would also generate multiplier effects statewide.

Resource development in the program area could spur additional development in adjacent areas, including on Native-owned land. This in turn could generate revenue for landholders and businesses in the various sectors noted above. This includes the ASRC and KIC, which are engaged in the oil and gas services sector, and it would further increase job opportunities for residents.

Finally, businesses that provide services to visitors or recreationists in the area could be adversely impacted. As noted in *Section 3.4.6 Recreation*, the main recreation activities that draw people into the region include wildlife viewing, camping, backpacking, hiking, photographing, hunting, fishing, and boating. Polar bear viewing and ski touring are also popular. These recreation opportunities could be displaced by oil exploration, development, and production activities. For example, oil and gas activities in proximity to priority recreation areas could change the recreation setting by introducing visual and auditory changes to the landscape and minimizing the recreation experience by visitors.

Government Revenues

Future petroleum development in the program area is expected to generate revenues to the NSB government, the State, and the federal government from royalties, income taxes, production taxes, and property taxes. The projected annual average and total government revenues by type of revenue are presented in **Table 3-40**. The total represents the estimated revenues through 2050. Property taxes would start accruing during the development or construction phase, while royalties and other taxes would be generated during the production phase.

Table 3-40
Projected Government Revenues based on the Hypothetical Unconstrained Post-Leasing Activities

| Government Revenues (in Millions of Dollars, 2022) | Annual Average | Total |
|---|-------------------|----------|
| North Slope Borough Property Taxes | \$49 | \$1,119 |
| State of Alaska Royalties | \$782 | \$15,648 |
| State of Alaska Taxes | \$1,220 | \$24,425 |
| Federal Royalties | \$782 | \$15,648 |
| Federal Taxes | \$673 | \$13,459 |

Source: Estimates based on assumptions listed in the section- *Impacts Common to All Action Alternatives*.

¹⁷The amount of direct in-state industry spending is based on purchase coefficients contained in the Alaska IMPLAN model. These in-state purchase coefficients reflect the availability of locally produced products in the State and are calculated from the trade model for the State in IMPLAN. The extraction of natural gas and crude petroleum sector, drilling oil and gas wells sector, and support activities for oil and gas operations sector require or demand different goods and services from other sectors of the economy. All have varying percentages of in-state purchases, with the highest percentages in the services sector and the least in the manufacturing sectors. There is not one specific in-state purchase percentage applied to the total direct oil and gas industry spending; rather, the purchase coefficients in the model vary by the type of goods and services purchased.

Indigenous rights disregarded in latest ANWR decision

By Charles Lampe

Updated: 1 day agoPublished: 1 day ago



The Kaktovik Lagoon and the Brooks Range mountains of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are seen in the distance, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2024, in Kaktovik. (AP Photo/Lindsey Wasson, File)

To say the Iñupiat of Kaktovik are appalled by the 2024 [Record of Decision](#), or ROD, for [Oil and Gas Leasing in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge](#) would be an understatement. The outcome was put into motion when President Biden issued Executive Order 13990 on Jan. 20, 2021. It cited “alleged legal deficiencies” relating to the original Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program and 2020 Record of Decision under the Trump administration as justification for the re-do. This was a premonition of the political nightmare that my community of Kaktovik is going through right now. Despite our strong and clearly communicated desire to realize the potential of our homelands as promised by Congress, the U.S. Department of Interior is essentially wiping us off the map by preventing us from managing our own land and resources.

It was apparent to us back in 2021 that this administration had a predetermined outcome for the leasing program when they used the word “alleged” in the executive order. They were, and have remained, purposely non-specific about the legal deficiencies in the 2020 ROD in order to set the stage for an entirely different decision altogether. Interior Department Secretary Deb Haaland and her staff have been aligned against our small village of 300 people throughout this process. In fact, her Solicitor, Robert Anderson, is a former Native American Rights Fund, aka NARF, attorney and it was NARF who worked to manipulate this outcome – partnering with the Gwich’in tribe more than 100 miles away to remove our Indigenous rights and economic freedoms under the notion that our lands are “sacred” to caribou. This is a gross mistreatment of our people and pits one Indigenous group against another. We are struggling to understand how an organization that is supposed to stand for Indigenous sovereignty can reconcile such a disrespectful act.

The Iñupiat of Kaktovik, the Kaktovikmiut, are the original and only occupants of the coastal plain lands, going back thousands of years. We observe changes to the land and animals and pass that knowledge down through the generations – it’s our Iñupiaq culture. This administration and others before it call it Indigenous, “Traditional, Ecological Knowledge,” and it’s being used against us. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering a proposal by the Gwich’in to invoke Executive Order 13007 designating our homelands as a “sacred site” based on this phrase developed in the 1980s. This dangerous decision has the potential to unravel the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, or ANCSA, by allowing cultural trespass on land boundaries settled more 50 years ago. The 2024 ROD’s Preferred D2 Alternative is an overlapping effort by Secretary Haaland to accomplish the goal of setting lands aside for the benefit of the Gwich’in at the expense of the Kaktovikmiut. It’s an overreach that would set a precedent with the potential to affect every Alaska Native tribe, city, regional and village corporation.

Here is the hypocrisy. Public records show that the Gwich’in, who reside in the Venetie Reserve outside of ANWR, leased all of their 1.8 million acres, including the caribou wintering grounds around Arctic Village, to an oil company in 1980. In 1984, Native Village of Venetie, one of the signatories to Executive Order 13007, solicited proposals for oil and gas exploration on their lands. These efforts were known by our people and yet we did not try to oppose them as it’s not our Native homelands. In fact, we were hopeful that they would be successful. However, after commercial amounts of oil weren’t found on Gwich’in land, they decided to oppose our exploration efforts. The irony is astonishing and offensive.

There has been renewed interest in oil and gas on Gwich’in lands in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. In 2021, Hilcorp Alaska drilled 13 shallow wells in the Birch Creek area on village corporation and Doyon Ltd. lands as a precursor to a more extensive exploration program commencing in 2025. The Yukon Flats refuge represents Alaska’s largest boreal wetlands, which implicates potential impacts to migratory waterfowl; birds that migrate to the coastal plain that we rely on for our

sustenance. Yet we applaud Doyon and Birch Creek because we know that exploration is conducted with little impact. We also trust in Doyon, Birch Creek and Hilcorp to conduct their operations with the highest environmental standards to protect the resources in the refuge.

It's unacceptable that the Native Iñupiat of Kaktovik are being prevented from exercising self-determination and economic sustainability on our own land. It's also unacceptable that we are not even treated with the same deference or respect this decision hopes to provide the caribou. The Department of Interior and Secretary Haaland should be ashamed of themselves for prioritizing caribou over people, and for pitting one Indigenous group against another for political purposes.

Charles Lampehas served as president of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corp. for three years. He is Iñupiaq and was born and raised in Kaktovik, where he continues to live and practice an active subsistence lifestyle with his family.