



CALL FOR NEW INFORMATION

State of Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sales

2022 Beaufort Sea, North Slope, and North Slope Foothills Areawides



Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil and Gas

April 15, 2022

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Oil and Gas (DO&G), will offer all available state acreage in the Beaufort Sea, North Slope, and North Slope Foothills Areawide oil and gas lease sale areas, tentatively scheduled for the second half of 2022. DO&G requests substantial new information concerning Beaufort Sea, North Slope, and North Slope Foothills that has become available over the past year.

Based on the information received, DO&G will either issue supplements to the findings or issue decisions of no substantial new information for these lease sales (AS 38.05.035(e)(6)(F)).

The most recent Beaufort Sea Areawide final best interest finding was issued in 2019. The most recent North Slope Areawide final best interest finding was issued in 2018. The most recent North Slope Foothills Areawide final best interest finding was issued in 2021. No supplements have been issued for these areawide lease sale areas. The findings and supplements are located at:

<http://dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Services/BIFAndLeaseSale>

What Are the Alaska Oil and Gas Lease Sale Program and Best Interest Findings?

Alaska holds annual competitive oil and gas lease sales in five defined geographic areas, called "areawide lease sales". Before DO&G may hold an areawide lease sale in any of the five geographic areas, Alaska law requires a written finding that it is in the state's best interests to have a lease sale (AS 38.05.035(e)). A best interest finding is generally valid for 10 years. It describes facts and relevant laws pertaining to the proposed lease sale area and discusses the potential effects of oil and gas exploration, development and production, and transportation. It also contains mitigation measures that lessees must follow. Mitigation measures are designed to reduce or prevent potential negative effects and are included in leases. Mitigation measures may be modified through supplements.

**Deadline for receiving information:
May 16, 2022, 5:00 p.m.**

What Areas Are Included in the Oil and Gas Lease Sales?

The **Beaufort Sea** Areawide lease sale area covers about 1.7 million acres that are divided into 572 tracts ranging in gross area from 520 to 5,760 acres. These tracts are located within the North Slope Borough and mostly consist of state-owned tide and submerged lands in the Beaufort Sea between the Canadian Border and Point Barrow. The area is adjacent to the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A) and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The southern fringe of the lease sale area includes some state-owned uplands lying between NPR-A and ANWR. Communities near the lease sale area include Utqiagvik and Kaktovik.

The **North Slope** Areawide lease sale area covers about 5.1 million acres that are divided into 3,137 tracts ranging in gross area from 640 to 5,760 acres. These tracts are located entirely within the North Slope Borough between the Canning River and ANWR on the east and the Colville River and NPR-A on the west. The southern boundary of the lease sale area is the Umiat baseline. The northern fringe of the lease sale area is adjacent to the Beaufort Sea. Communities in the lease sale area include Nuiqsut, and Deadhorse.

The North Slope lease sale area contains tracts in which the state is the sole owner of the mineral estate, and tracts in which the state and the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) jointly own the mineral estate. The surface estate on these tracts may be owned by the state, a municipality, or a private entity.

The **North Slope Foothills** Areawide lease sale area covers approximately 7.6 million acres between ANWR and NPR-A, south of the Umiat baseline south to the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Anaktuvuk Pass is the closest community to the lease sale area. The sale area, which is entirely within the North Slope Borough, has been divided into 950 tracts ranging in gross area from 480 to 5,760 acres. The sale area contains acreage owned by the state, ASRC, and the federal government.

Only those tracts in which the mineral estate is free and unencumbered are included in any lease issued. Maps of the areawide lease sale areas are attached.

What is a Call for New Information?

After issuing the 10-year best interest finding, DO&G may—as a general matter—conduct areawide lease sales in that area for up to 10 years without having to issue a new best interest finding for each lease sale provided DO&G annually solicits new information. Based on information received, DO&G determines whether the information is substantial, new, and justifies a supplement to the most recent areawide best interest finding. DO&G can either issue a decision of no substantial new information, or a decision to supplement the finding at least 90 days before the lease sale. Following this process, DO&G may proceed with a lease sale for that area in that year.

What is “Substantial New” Information?

DO&G generally considers “substantial new” information to be published research, studies, or data directly relevant to the matters listed in AS 38.05.035(g) that has become publicly available over the last year.

What Substantial New Information is DO&G Requesting?

DO&G requests substantial new information on any of the following matters listed in AS 38.05.035(g) for the Beaufort Sea, North Slope, and North Slope Foothills areawide, including:

- property descriptions and locations;
- petroleum potential of the sale area, in general terms;
- fish and wildlife species and their habitats in the area;
- current and projected uses in the area, including uses and value of fish and wildlife;
- governmental powers to regulate the exploration, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas or of gas only;
- lease stipulations and mitigation measures¹, including any measures to prevent and mitigate releases of oil and hazardous substances, to be included in the leases, and a discussion of the protections offered by these measures;
- method or methods most likely to be used to transport oil or gas from the lease sale area, and the advantages, disadvantages, and relative risks of each;
- reasonably foreseeable cumulative effects of exploration, development, production, and transportation for oil and gas or for gas only on the sale area, including effects on subsistence uses, fish and wildlife habitat and populations and their uses, and historic and cultural resources;
- reasonably foreseeable fiscal effects of the lease sale and the subsequent activity on the state and affected municipalities and communities,

¹ DO&G generally considers “lease stipulations and mitigation measures” as conditions or limitations imposed on the lessee to ensure a resource is disposed of in a manner that mitigates the

including the explicit and implicit subsidies associated with the lease sale, if any;

- reasonably foreseeable effects of exploration, development, production, and transportation involving oil and gas or gas only on municipalities and communities within or adjacent to the lease sale area; and
- bidding method or methods adopted by the commissioner under AS 38.05.180.

How Do I Submit Substantial New Information to DO&G?

Send substantial new information to:

By mail: Best Interest Findings
Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources
Division of Oil and Gas
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3560

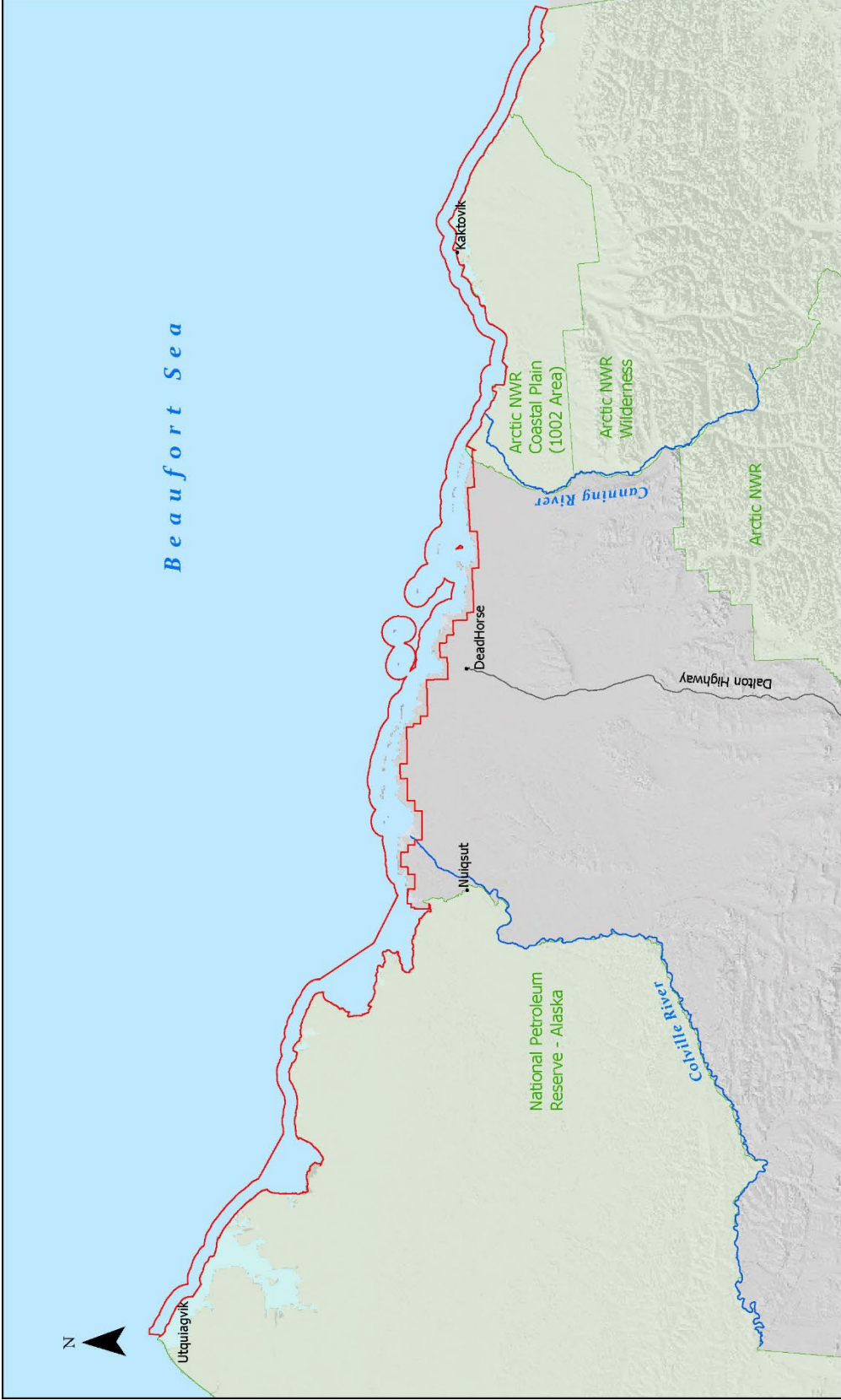
By e-mail: dog.bif@alaska.gov

Substantial new information must be received by 5:00 pm on May 16, 2022 to be considered. Submit information only pertaining to the Beaufort Sea, North Slope, or North Slope Foothills areawide lease sale areas. When providing information, please be as specific as possible. For example, if the information is from a published study, please provide a copy of the study or a complete reference citation so DO&G staff can obtain a copy for consideration.

The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you are a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation to participate in this process, please contact the DO&G at 907-269-8800 no later than May 1, 2022 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

A person is eligible to file a request for reconsideration of the commissioner’s decision and file any subsequent appeal to the Superior Court only if the person has meaningfully participated in this process by submitting written comment during the period for receipt of new information and is affected by the final written finding (AS 38.05.035(i)).

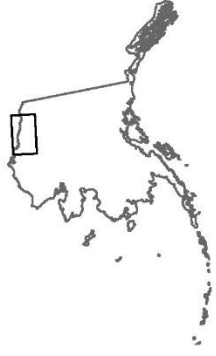
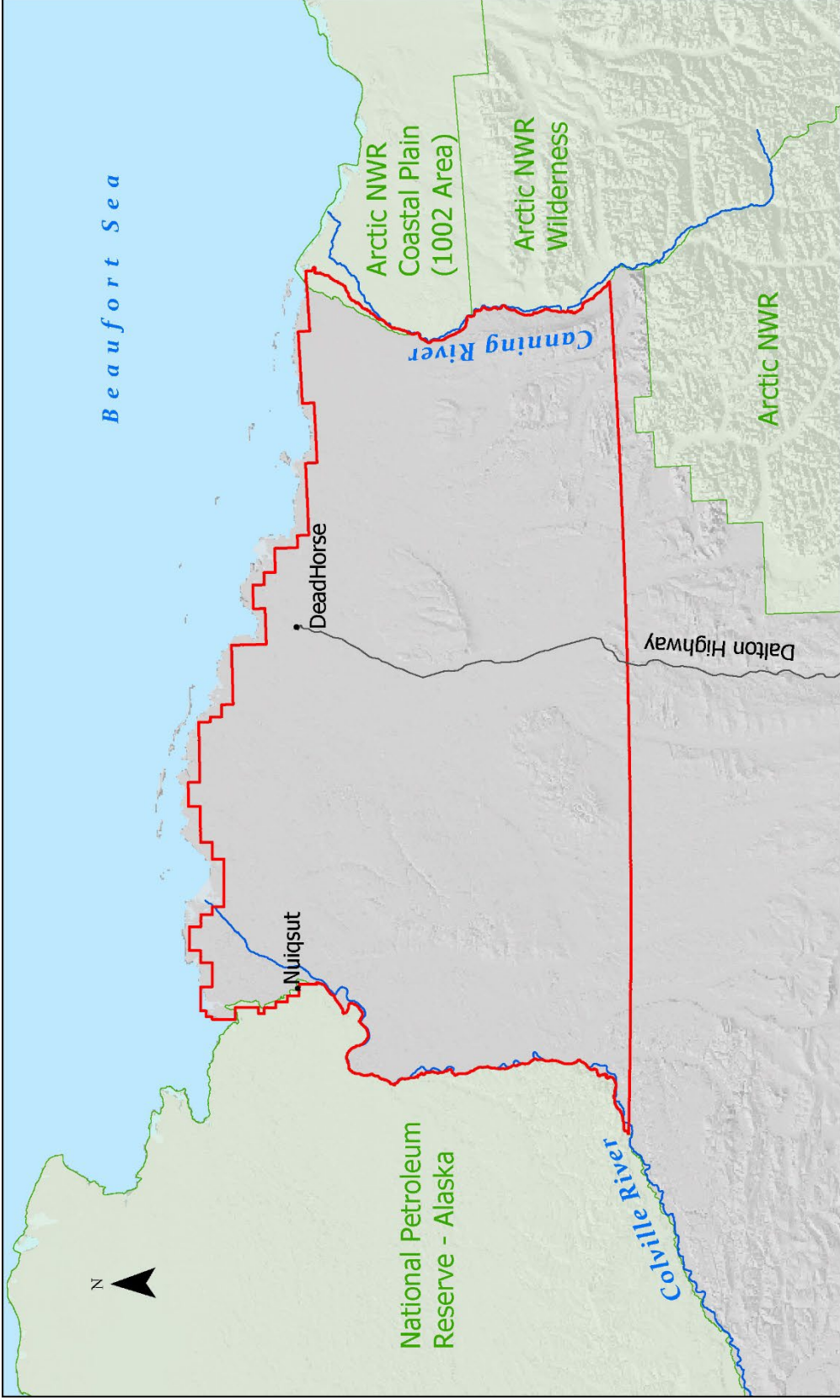
potential adverse social and environmental effects of specific lease-related activities.



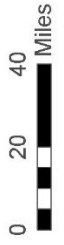
Beaufort Sea Areawide



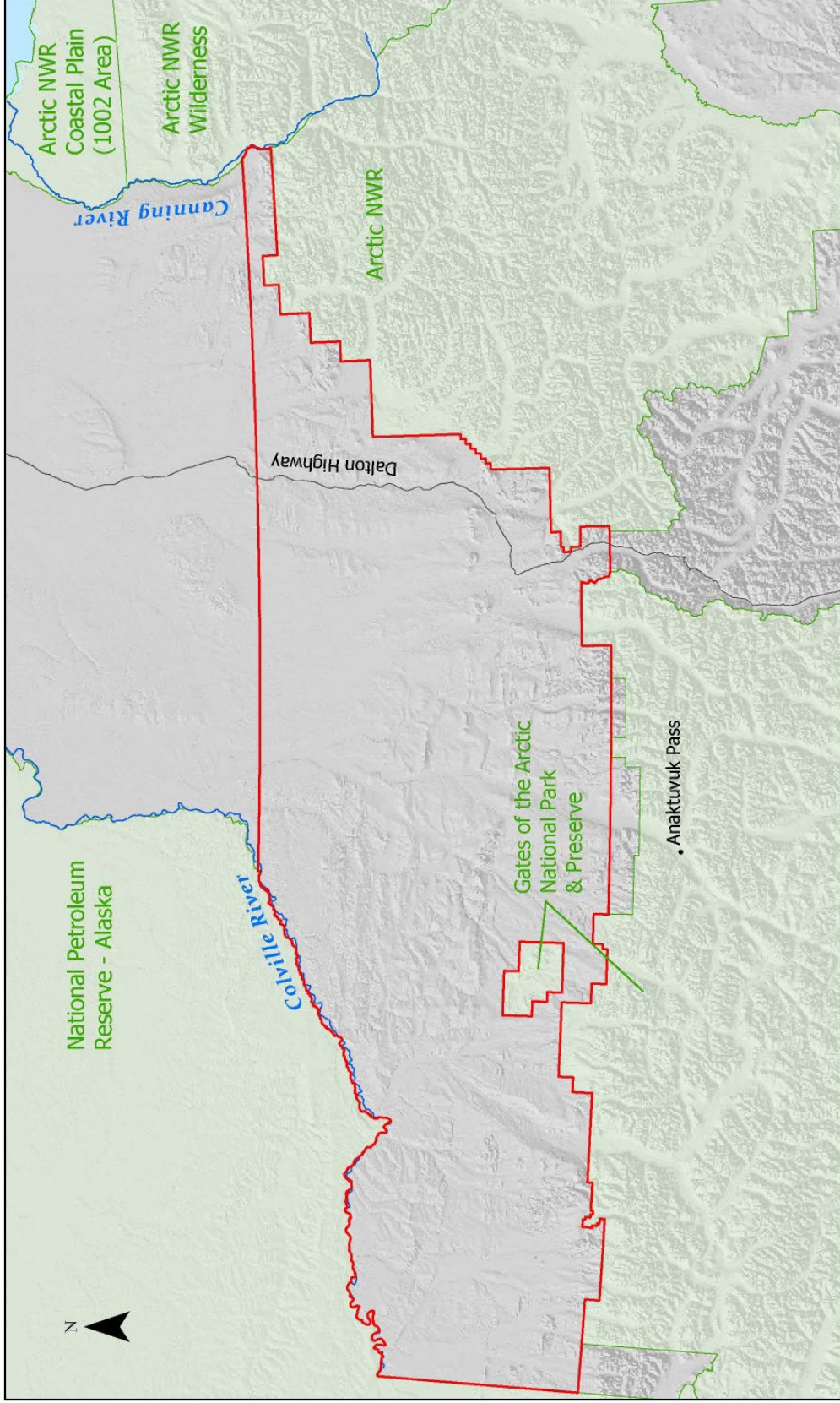
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North Slope Areawide



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North Slope Foothills Area-wide

