



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Welcome to the Informational Session for the Proposed NPR-A Rule



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Proposed Revisions to 43 CFR Part 2360 – Management and Protection of the NPR-A





Agenda

- Meeting Purpose & Logistics
- Welcome and Opening Remarks
- Reason for the Proposed Rule
- Rule content
 - Protection of Surface Resources
 - Current Management of Special Areas
 - Designating and Amending Special Areas
 - Management of Oil and Gas Activities in Special Areas
 - Subsistence Use and Co-stewardship Opportunities
- Next Steps
- General Questions and Answers



Meeting Purpose

- Provide Overview of the Proposed Rule for Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska
- Answer questions from the public
- **Comments will NOT be recorded at this meeting**



Meeting Logistics

Zoom Etiquette



Presentation will be recorded



Microphones are muted



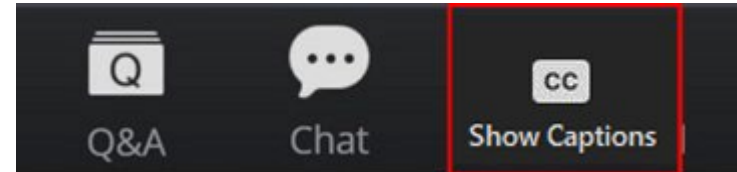
Chat will only be used for Zoom technical support



Submit questions via Q&A during the presentation

How to Turn on Closed Captioning

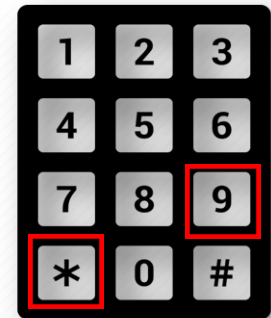
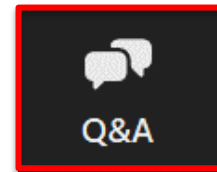
Click “CC” to turn on/off captions





How to Submit a Question

- Click the Q&A button
- A box will pop up
- Type your question
- Click send
- Question may be responded to live or in the Q&A box





How to Comment

- Comment online on the Federal eRulemaking Portal (www.regulations.gov and search for NPR-A) or this link:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/BLM-2023-0006-0001>

- Submit by mail:

U.S. Department of the Interior,
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Attention: 1004–AE95, Director (630)
1849 C St. NW, Room 5646
Washington, DC 20240

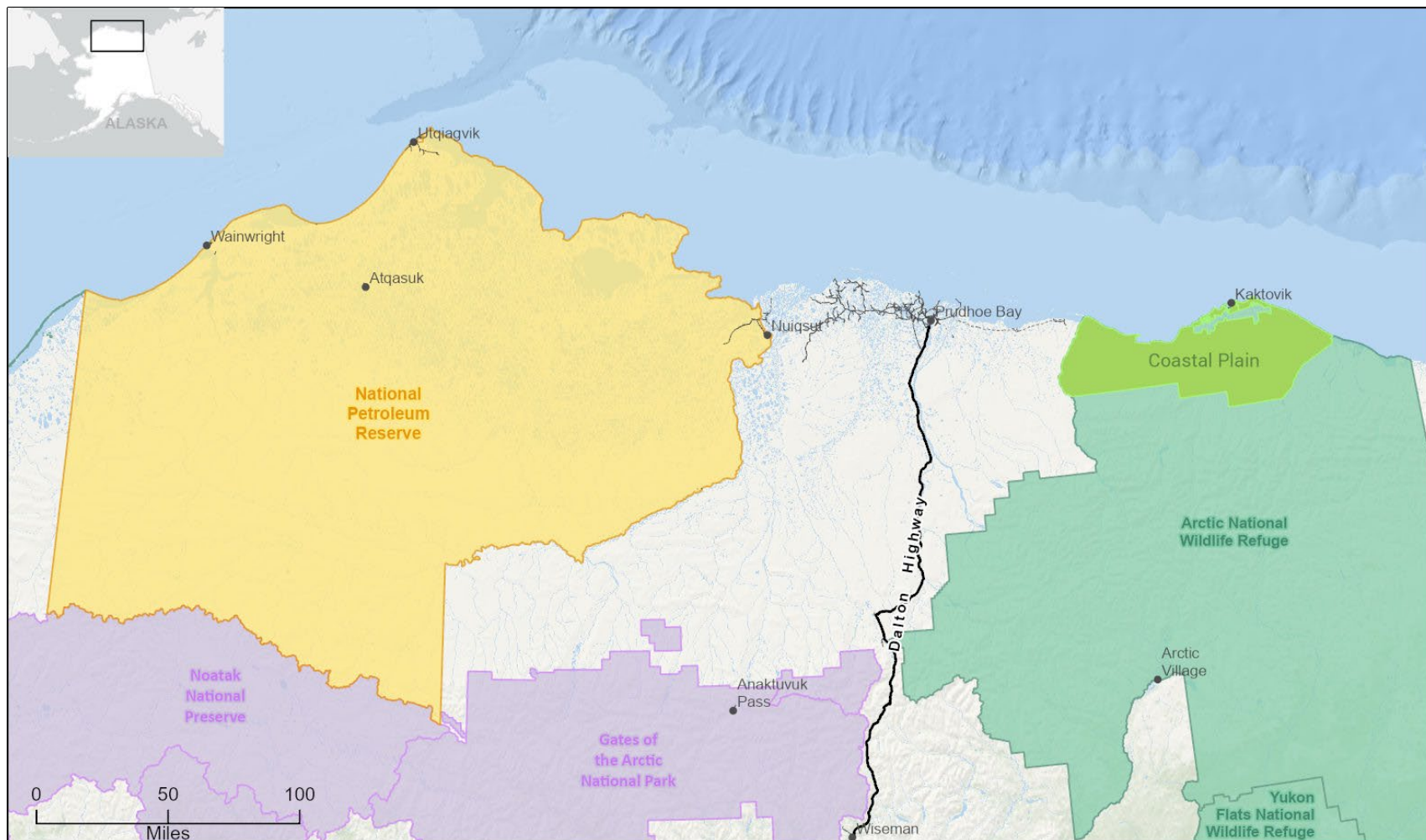
**COMMENT
DEADLINE:
NOVEMBER 17TH**



Welcome & Opening Remarks

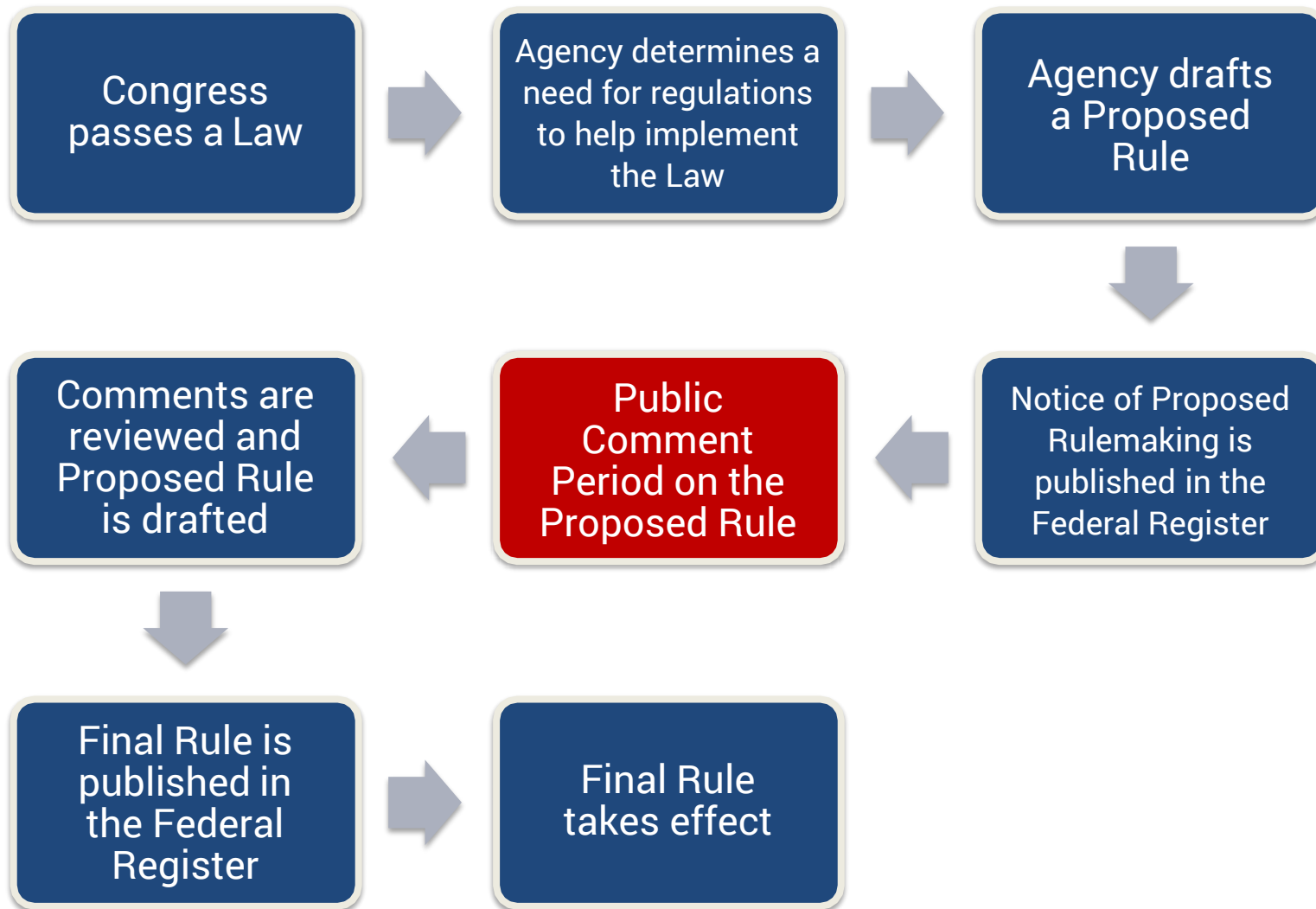


National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska





Federal Rulemaking Process





Reasons for the Proposed Rule

- Update the regulatory framework which has not been updated since 1977 despite dramatically changing conditions in the Arctic.
- Maintain management consistency by gathering standards and procedures that currently are scattered in various statutes, regulations, plans, and guidance documents into one comprehensive rule.
- Ensure BLM is meeting statutory duties under the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act (NPRPA), Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and other authorities to the best of its ability.



Goals of the Proposed Rule

- Ensure maximum protection of Special Areas, as directed by law
- Protect subsistence activities
- Ensure balance for surface resources in future oil and gas activity in the NPR-A



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Presentation of Proposed Rule Q/A to follow each section



Purpose

Incorporates statutory standards for management of surface resources and Special Areas

“The purpose of the regulations in this subpart is to provide procedures for protection and control of the environmental, fish and wildlife, and historical and scenic values of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, including mitigating the significantly adverse effects of oil and gas activities on the surface resources of the Reserve and assuring maximum protection of significant resource values in Special Areas . . .”

- See Pub. L. Nos. 94-258 (1976) and 96-514 (1980)



Protection of Surface Resources

Requires BLM to adopt conditions, restrictions, or prohibitions to mitigate reasonably foreseeable and significantly adverse effects of oil and gas activities

Requires BLM to maintain Integrated Activity Plan

- All authorizations must conform to plan and rule
- Rule governs in event of conflict

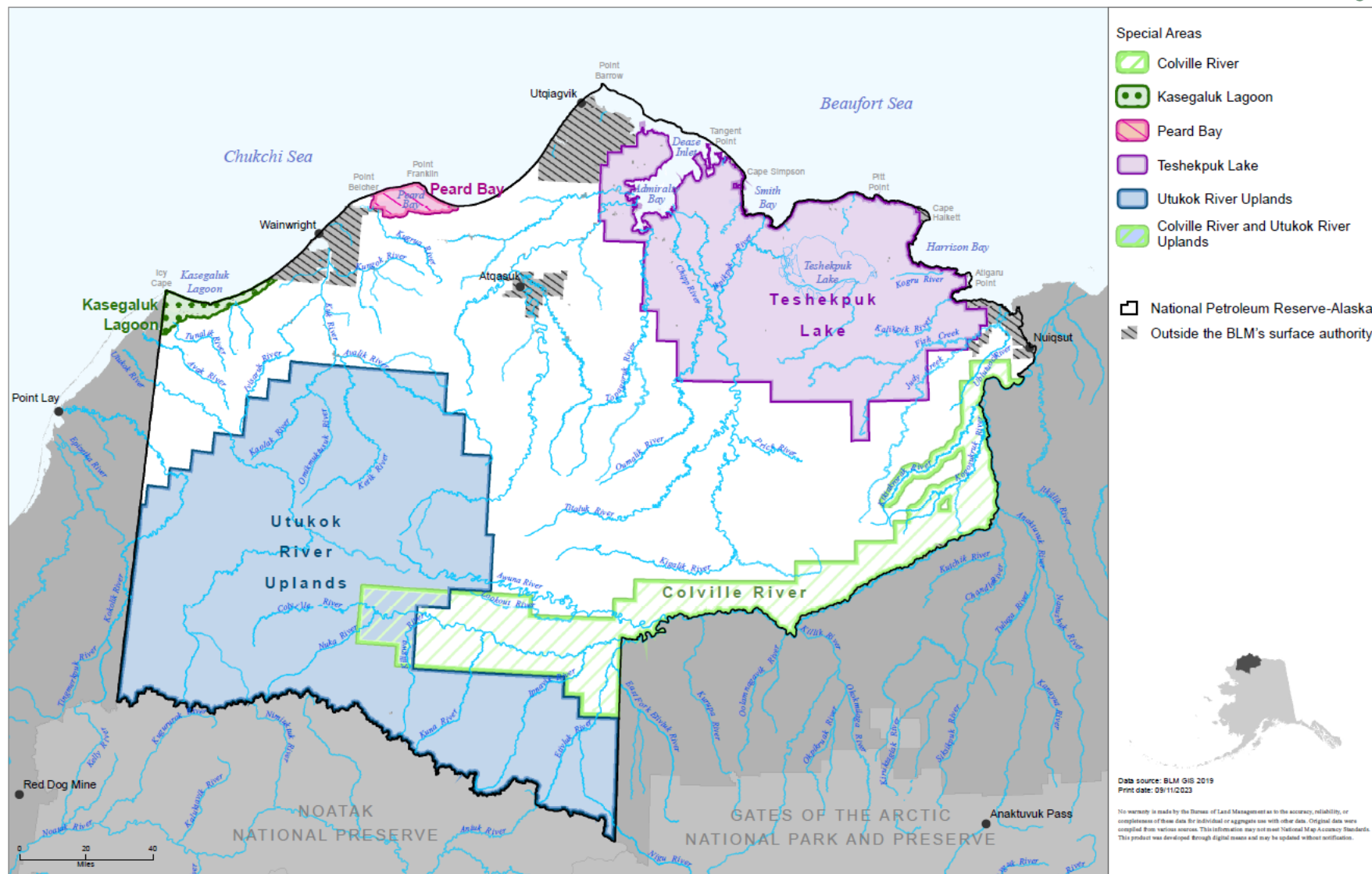
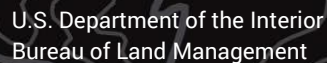
Requires BLM to consider indirect and cumulative effects and uncertainty



Existing Special Areas

Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, Peard Bay,
Teshekpuk Lake, Utukok River Uplands

Identifies significant resource values for each existing Special Area, e.g., wildlife habitat, cultural resources, recreational access, and subsistence.





Current Management of Special Areas

Various layers of leasing protection and infrastructure availability.

In all Special Areas, infrastructure prohibitions do not apply to:

- Subsistence structures
- Single-season exploratory wells and infrastructure
- Activities at existing gravel pads

1. Teshekpuk Lake – 3,650,000 acres

- 86% (~3,139,000 acres) closed to leasing
- New infrastructure permitted, except around Lake

2. Utukok River Uplands – 7,060,000 acres

- 91% (~6,415,000 acres) closed to leasing
- New infrastructure prohibited, except strip along the northern boundary



Current Management of Special Areas

3. Colville River – 2,440,000 acres

- Open to leasing
- New infrastructure permitted except along river (only “essential” roads and pipeline crossings)

4. Kasegaluk Lagoon – 97,000 acres

- Closed to leasing
- New infrastructure prohibited, except “essential” pipeline crossings (including for offshore development)

5. Peard Bay – 107,000 acres

- Closed to leasing
- New infrastructure prohibited, except “essential” pipeline crossings (including for offshore development)



Special Area Designation and Amendment Process

- Requires BLM every 5 years to evaluate new or existing Special Areas, additional values, and additional maximum protection measures
- Allows BLM to remove Special Area designation only when “the significant ... values that supported the designation are no longer present”
 - Except for lands in the Teshekpuk Lake and Utukok River Uplands Special Areas, which may only be removed by statute.



We are taking a 5-minute break

**Please submit questions related to
Protection of Surface Resources and
Designation of Special Areas**



Protection of Surface Resources and Identification of Special Areas

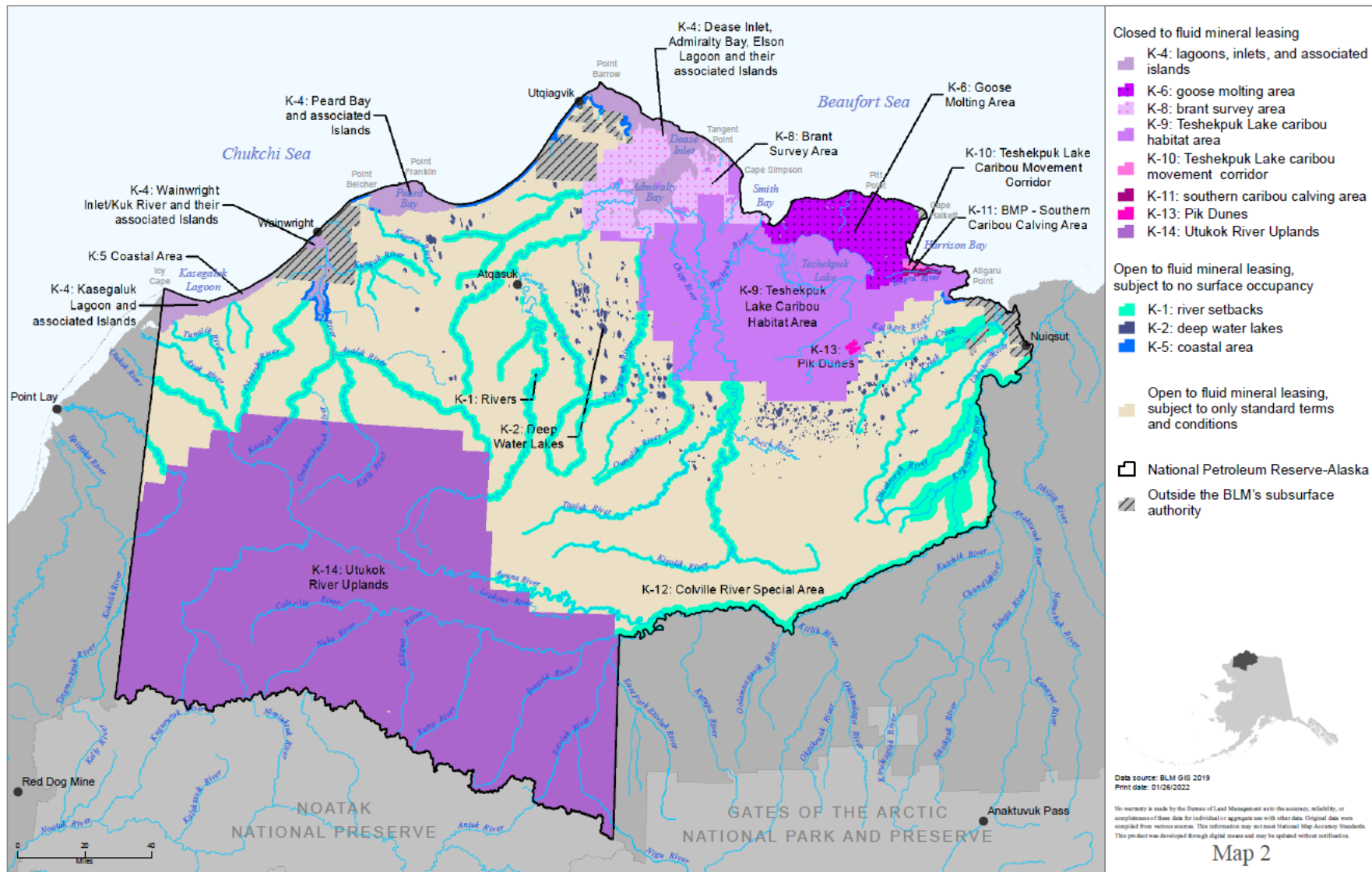
Question and Answer

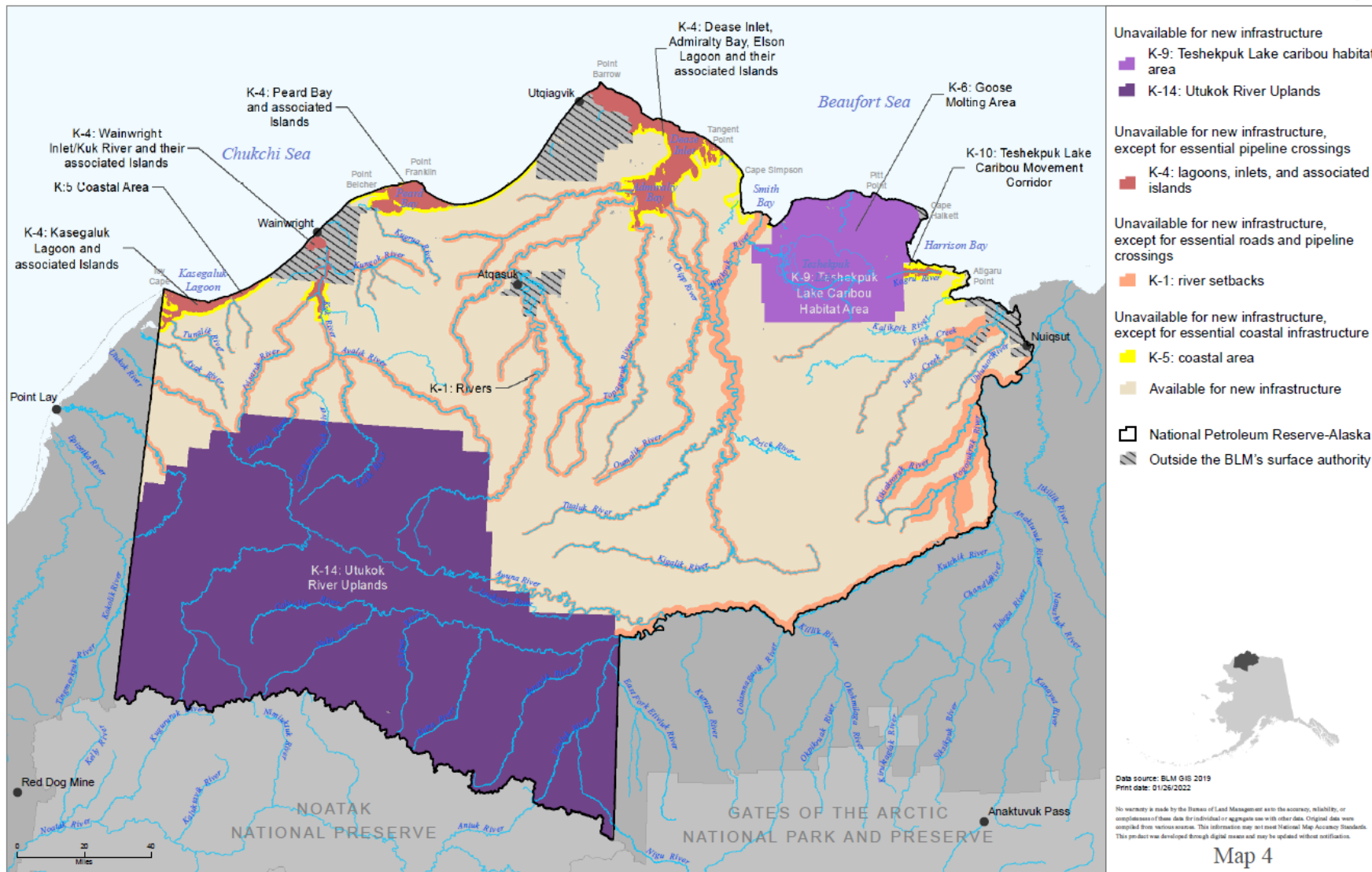




Management of Oil and Gas Activities in Special Areas

- Requires BLM to “adopt maximum protection measures for each significant [resource] value” in Special Areas
- Requires leasing and infrastructure to conform to maps 2 and 4 from the land use plan (IAP)
- Presumption against leasing and infrastructure on lands allocated as available “unless there is specific information ... clearly demonstrating that oil and gas activities can be conducted with no or minimal adverse effects on the significant values” except for:
 - Valid Existing Rights
 - Infrastructure for local communities and subsistence
 - Drainage (no surface occupancy leases)
- If BLM cannot avoid adverse effects, prepare a Statement of Adverse Effect, with specific documentation requirements.







Request for Input: Management of Oil and Gas Activities in Special Areas

We are seeking feedback on the proposal to codify existing protections and restrictions from the 2022 IAP ROD:

Incorporating maps 2 and 4 into the final rule to efficiently include the land use allocations, restrictions, and stipulations from the 2022 IAP ROD and avoid reprinting lengthy text.

- ***Would this approach accomplish the goal?***
- ***Do the maps convey sufficient information?***
- ***Are there additional definitions that should be included in the rule?***
- ***Is there a better way to accomplish our goal?***



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We are taking a 5-minute break

**Please submit questions related to
Management of Oil and Gas Activities in Special Areas**



Management of Oil and Gas Activities in Special Areas

Question and Answer





Management of Subsistence Uses in Special Areas

- Requires BLM to manage Special Areas to protect and support fish and wildlife and habitats for subsistence use
- Requires BLM to provide access for subsistence purposes “to the extent consistent with assuring maximum protection”



Co-stewardship Opportunities

- Encourages co-stewardship for Special Areas, including co-management, collaborative and cooperative management, and Tribally-led stewardship



We are taking a 5-minute break

**Please submit questions related to
Subsistence Uses and Co-stewardship Opportunities**



Subsistence Use in Special Areas & Co-stewardship Opportunities

Question and Answer





Next Steps

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!!

- 60-day public comment period was extended and now ends November 17, 2023.
- Additional information is posted on BLM NPR-A rule project website:
www.blm.gov/about/laws-and-regulations/NPR-A-Rule



How to Comment

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General Question & Answer Session





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Thank you for your interest!