

# Trump administration downsizes NPR-A lease sale after little interest last year

By Elizabeth Harball, Alaska's Energy Desk - Anchorage - November 8, 2018

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The Trump administration is offering substantially less land for oil leasing in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, or NPR-A, than it did last year.



At its annual oil and gas lease sale, the Bureau of Land Management **will offer 254 tracts** for bid — that's close to three million acres of the federally managed Reserve, which is west of Prudhoe Bay.

Last year, the Trump administration put 900 tracts up for bid, adding up to over 10 million acres. That was the most land ever offered to oil and gas companies in the Reserve. But last year's sale attracted little interest — oil companies **only bid on seven tracts**.

Still, NPR-A is seeing a surge of oil development, led by ConocoPhillips. The company is pursuing several large projects in the northeastern part of the Reserve.

**Environmental groups have sued** the federal government challenging two previous oil lease sales in NPR-A.

In a statement today, the Center for Biological Diversity said "climate change is already underway in Alaska and this lease-sale will only make it worse."

This year's NPR-A oil lease sale will be held on December 12.

*From Politico Pro:*

## **Interior schedules Alaska oil and gas lease sale**

By Ben Lefebvre

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The Interior Department will auction oil and gas leases on acreage in National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska next month, according to a government filing.

Interior's Bureau of Land Management said it will put 2.85 million acres of land in the NPRA up for auction on Dec. 12, according to the [filing](#) to be published in the Federal Register Friday.

The auction is the Trump administration's latest effort to promote oil and gas drilling in Alaska, a move critics said would endanger the environment in the remote area.

"The Trump administration wants to industrialize this pristine home to millions of caribou, migratory birds and other wildlife," Miyoko Sakashita, oceans program director with the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement. "The Northern Alaska frontier is one of the biggest stretches of untrammeled wilderness left in the world."

**WHAT'S NEXT:** Bids on the acreage will be due Dec. 10.