

## **An Overview of Exploration Activities in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska; 2000-2010**

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The National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) is the largest management unit in BLM's inventory. Recent leasing and exploration began in 2000 and there have been six lease sales in the Reserve through 2010. About 4.6 million acres have been leased with bid revenues of about \$255 million. Exploration results from 29 additional industry wells on federal tracts are mixed. Some wells have been prolific with DST's yielding up to 2400 bcpd and up to 26 MMcfd from the upper Jurassic. Two Exploration Units have been formed. Also there are additional oil and gas shows in both the Beaufortian and Brookian sections.

Exploration drilling by five operators has tested the resource potential of several Geologic Plays across the Reserve. The volumes and distribution of gas discoveries has resulted in an updated assessment of undiscovered resources in NPR-A. Leases on about 1.6 million leased acres have been relinquished or expired at the end of their 10 year terms. The lease activities reflect evolving exploration strategies for the NPR-A. Prevailing interpretations suggest that gas appears to be the major undeveloped resource in the Reserve.