

Federal Arctic Policy, Management, and Research

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The Federal Players

Major Departments/Agencies:

- Department of the Interior

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) – *Arctic Refuge, Endangered Species, Marine Mammals*

National Park Service (NPS) – *Arctic national parklands; historic and cultural resources*

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – *NPR-A, other Arctic land management*

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) – *Arctic Ocean OCS leasing and exploration*

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) – *Arctic Ocean exploration and development*

U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) – *Natural resource assessment, natural hazards, marine mammals*

Federal Players, continued...

- Department of Commerce
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** – *Ocean mapping, etc.*
 - National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS)** – *Marine mammals*
 - National Weather Bureau**
- Department of Homeland Security
 - U. S. Coast Guard**
- Department of Defense
 - U. S. Corps of Engineers (Corps)**
- Department of Transportation
 - Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)**

Federal Players, continued...

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of State
- White House
 - U. S. Arctic Research Commission (ARC)**
 - Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)**

Key Federal Interagency Coordinating Entities

- White House National Security Staff (NSS)/Interagency Policy Committee
 - Security needs
 - Protect Arctic environment
 - Sustainable resource management and economic development
 - Strengthen cooperation between Arctic nations
 - Involve indigenous communities in decisions
 - Enhance scientific monitoring and research
- Arctic Policy Group
 - Led by State Department; coordinates non-security international Arctic issues at staff level

Key Federal Entities, continued...

- National Ocean Council
 - Established by EO in 2010 to implement National Ocean Policy which includes priority on changing conditions in Arctic
- U. S. Global Change Research Program
 - Established by Congress in 1990; coordinates national research program on global change including the Arctic
- Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC)
 - Established by Congress in 1984 to develop national research plan
 - Located in White House and includes 12 federal agencies; sets priorities for Arctic research, facilitates Arctic research cooperation between federal, state, and local governments as well as other nations
 - Arctic Research Plan for 2013 – 2017 released February 2013

International Organizations – The Arctic Council

- U. S. involvement in international 8-member Arctic nations group led by State Department, many federal participants
- 2013-2015 Chair—Canada 2015-2017 Chair—U.S.
- “Permanent Participants” of indigenous groups include Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, the Gwich’in Council International, and the Inuit Circumpolar Council
- Works through 6 standing work groups with broad international agency representation

The Arctic Council, continued...

- Recent work stemming from Secretary Clinton and Secretary Salazar participation in recent Nuuk, Greenland Council meeting includes:
 - Ecosystem-based management (EBM)
 - Search and Rescue agreement (2011)
 - Arctic Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response Agreement (soon to be signed)

Key Federal Alaska Arctic Entities

- Alaska Climate Change Executive Roundtable
 - AK DOI agencies, NOAA, other federal and non-federal members
 - Coordinates monitoring and hazards assessments, data integration among federal and non-federal agencies
- North Slope Science Initiative (NSSI)
 - AK DOI agencies (BLM lead), NMFS, DOE, state and local officials
 - Facilitates scientific information sharing and data needs pertaining to North Slope

Key Federal Alaska Arctic Entities, continued...

- Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs)
 - Coordinated by USFWS; broad interagency and non-federal membership
 - Several initiated in Alaska, notably the Arctic LCC
 - Help define shared conservation goals and science and technical expertise
- Alaska Climate Science Center
 - UA, FWS, NPS, NOAA, USFS
 - Provides scientific information, tools, and techniques
 - Land, wildlife, and culture resource
 - Managers to anticipate, monitor, and adapt to climate change

Federal Land and Water Managers

- Bureau of Land Management
National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska; New Integrated Management Plan
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge—Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan out, Final expected in next several months;
- National Park Service
Gates of the Arctic National Park, Krusenstern National Monument, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Monument; various new and older General Management Plans

Federal Land and Water Managers, continued

- Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
Chukchi and Beaufort Sea leasing and exploration activities
- Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement
Chukchi and Beaufort Sea drilling permit compliance and inspections

Interagency Working Group

Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska

- Established by Presidential Executive Order in 2011
- Multi-departmental membership at Deputy Secretary level
- Headed by DOI Deputy Secretary David Hayes
- Charged with facilitating more orderly, efficient, and informed approach to federal review of renewable and conventional energy project permits in Alaska
- Regular meetings in DC and in Alaska with AK agencies to coordinate permitting on key Alaska energy projects with emphasis on North Slope/Arctic Ocean OCS

Integrated Arctic Management Plan (IAM)

- DOI charged by White House to develop initial framework for making integrated Arctic management decisions
- Goal is to promote ecological, cultural, and economic sustainability by bringing federal agency efforts into greater strategic alignment and with the efforts of other key decision-makers and stakeholders
- Tied into Interagency Working Group work
- WH directive for data sharing system by ARC which has initiated a web portal with links to Arctic information
- IAM printed and to be sent in near future to White House for review and hopefully release soon
- Many AK state, local, and private people contacted and consulted in report development

National Security Staff – National Strategy for the Arctic Region

- Administration is developing a national strategy for the Arctic Region that will establish priorities for the next 10-15 years
- In recognition of growing importance and vulnerability of the region and expanding range of activities underway
- Will build on work done under existing Arctic Region Policy (NSPD-66), and on-going federal, state, local and tribal government and scientific community work
- Will include national and regional security, responsible stewardship, and strengthened international cooperation in the region

National Strategy, continued...

“The diverse efforts [by federal, state, and other entities] are both necessary and potentially confusing. The national strategy for the Arctic will provide a framework in which those efforts can be clearly articulated and linked to common strategic priorities.”

Questions?