

leaseholder requests for authorizations for production sites and related authorizations in order to develop and produce petroleum in the NPR–A. The analysis in the EIS will inform and support the establishment of a streamlined framework, codified in regulation via a companion rulemaking process, for permitting this infrastructure when it is similar to existing infrastructure in the area, and is demonstrated by the applicant to meet a certain set of pre-defined criteria.

The Proposed Action also advances U.S. energy policy and U.S. policy for resource development in Alaska. As set forth in E.O. 14154, *Unleashing American Energy* (Jan. 20, 2025), the Department of the Interior and other agencies must “undertake all available efforts to eliminate delays within their respective permitting processes, including through, but not limited to, the use of general permitting and permit by rule.” As explained in E.O. 14153, *Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential* (Jan. 20, 2025), it is the policy of the United States to “efficiently and effectively maximize the development and production of the natural resources located on both Federal and State lands within Alaska” and “expedite the permitting and leasing of energy and natural resources projects in Alaska.”

Preliminary Proposed Action and Alternatives

The Proposed Action is a rulemaking to amend the regulations at 43 CFR part 3160 to establish a criteria-based framework for streamlined permitting of the construction and operation of qualifying production sites and associated infrastructure in the NPR–A, authorized under the NPRPA. The rulemaking will establish pre-defined criteria that, when met by an applicant, will result in streamlined permitting for qualifying production sites. The expected production, associated infrastructure and required resources to construct and operate these production sites would be consistent with the development scenarios of the hypothetical reasonably foreseeable development scenarios analyzed in the 2020 IAP EIS.

The EIS may also consider additional alternatives to ensure compliance with FLPMA, the NPRPA, and other applicable Federal law, which could include such criteria as varying numbers of production sites, evaluating production sites clustered in various areas of the NPR–A, and additional monitoring and enforcement provisions.

The BLM welcomes comments on all preliminary alternatives as well as suggestions for additional alternatives.

Summary of Expected Impacts

The EIS will evaluate potential environmental effects of the proposed rulemaking and alternatives, including the construction and operation of qualifying production sites and associated infrastructure, and the reasonably foreseeable effects on resources and issues such as: subsistence resources and uses; wildlife and habitat, including caribou, polar bear, migratory birds, and fish; surface water, wetlands, and permafrost; air quality; noise; cultural and historic resources; visual resources, and socioeconomic conditions.

Schedule for the Decision-Making Process

The BLM may provide an additional opportunity for public participation during the NEPA process in conjunction with the rulemaking. The Final EIS and Record of Decision are anticipated to accompany the final rule late in 2026 or early in 2027.

Public Scoping Process

This notice of intent initiates the scoping period. The specific date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced in advance through the project website page at <https://eplanning.blm.gov> (NEPA Number: DOI–BLM–AK–0000–2026–0012–EIS).

Nature of Decision To Be Made

The objective of this analysis is to support a rulemaking process to amend the BLM regulations at 43 CFR part 3160, which, if adopted, will promote the orderly and efficient use of Federal lands in the NPR–A for oil and gas production, subject to conditions and restrictions that mitigate adverse effects on surface resources and subsistence activities.

Additional Information

The BLM will utilize and coordinate the NEPA process to help support compliance with applicable requirements under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1536), Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3120), and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) as provided in 36 CFR 800.2(d)(3), including public involvement requirements of Section 106. The information about historic and cultural resources and threatened and endangered species within the area potentially affected by the proposed

project will assist the BLM in identifying and evaluating impacts to such resources.

The BLM will consult with Alaska Native Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations in accordance with Executive Order 13175, BLM Manual Section 1780, and other Departmental policies. Tribal concerns, including impacts on Indian trust assets and potential impacts to cultural resources, will be given due consideration. Federal, State, and local agencies, along with Alaska Native Tribes and other stakeholders that may be interested in or affected by the proposed action that the BLM is evaluating, are invited to participate in the scoping process and, if eligible, may request or be requested by the BLM to participate in the development of the environmental analysis as a cooperating agency.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6501 *et seq.*; Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*; National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*)

Kevin J. Pendergast,
State Director, Alaska.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7159; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042795; PPWOCRADN0–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Inventory Completion: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, Tulsa, OK, and Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, OK

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.
ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District (USACE), and Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (SNOMNH)

have completed an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects and have determined that there is a cultural affiliation between the human remains and associated funerary objects and Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice may occur on or after June 18, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice to Jacqueline Rodgers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa District, 2488 East 81st Street, Tulsa, OK 74137, email jacqueline.rodgers@usace.army.mil and Deanna Byrd, NAGPRA Program Coordinator, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, 2401 Chautauqua Avenue, Norman, OK 73072, email byrdie@ou.edu.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The determinations in this notice are the sole responsibility of the USACE and Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, and additional information on the determinations in this notice, including the results of consultation, can be found in its inventory or related records. The National Park Service is not responsible for the determinations in this notice.

Abstract of Information Available

Human remains representing, at least, 66 individuals have been identified. The 44,112 associated funerary objects are 18 ash samples, two axes, 3,644 pieces of baked clay, one bone bead, one bone hair pin, one bone pendant, 735 ceramic sherds, 175 charcoal samples, one crinoid bead, 328 lots of faunal remains, one glass shard, 100 groundstones, 92 fragments of hematite, 37,994 flaked lithics, one mud dobber nest, 188 fragments of nutshell, 238 lithic points, one polished stone, three quartz crystals, 10 seed samples, four shaped ceramics, 241 lots of shell, 57 soil samples, 140 turtle shell fragments, 26 worked bone, and one worked shell in addition to eight lots of groundstone, 33 lots of ceramics, 46 lots of lithics, four lots of unworked faunal, 13 lots of worked faunal, two lots of quartz crystal, two lots of beads, and one lot of ash. The human remains and funerary objects described above were removed from the Wann site 34LF27, a black midden/burial mound representative of the Fourche Maline Phase of the Woodland archaeological period located in LeFlore County, Oklahoma. The site

was first excavated in 1940 by the WPA and supervised by Phil Newkumet with the University of Oklahoma. After USACE acquired the property, collections were made on the southern half of the site to supplement the WPA investigations during 1974–1975 and 1977–1978 archaeological surveys and data recoveries at Wister Lake.

Collections made after USACE acquired the property in the 1960s are under the control of USACE, collections made prior to USACE acquiring the property are under control of Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. In order to make all ancestors and associated funerary objects recovered from this site available for repatriation concurrently, this notice is being submitted cooperatively by the USACE and Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

Cultural Affiliation

Based on the information available and the results of consultation, cultural affiliation is clearly identified by the information available about the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice.

Determinations

The USACE and Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History have determined that:

- The human remains described in this notice represent the physical remains of 66 individuals of Native American ancestry.
- The 44,112 objects described in this notice are reasonably believed to have been placed intentionally with or near individual human remains at the time of death or later as part of the death rite or ceremony.
- There is a connection between the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice and the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma and the Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco, & Tawakonie), Oklahoma.

Requests for Repatriation

Written requests for repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects in this notice must be sent to the authorized representatives identified in this notice under **ADDRESSES**. Requests for repatriation may be submitted by:

1. Any one or more of the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.
2. Any lineal descendant, Indian Tribe, or Native Hawaiian organization not identified in this notice who shows, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the requestor is a lineal descendant or

an Indian Tribe or Native Hawaiian organization with cultural affiliation.

Repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects described in this notice to a requestor may occur on or after June 18, 2026. If competing requests for repatriation are received, the USACE and Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History must determine the most appropriate requestor prior to repatriation. Requests for joint repatriation of the human remains and associated funerary objects are considered a single request and not competing requests. The USACE and Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History are responsible for sending a copy of this notice to the Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations identified in this notice.

Authority: Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, 25 U.S.C. 3003, and the implementing regulations, 43 CFR 10.10.

Dated: May 12, 2026.

Melanie O'Brien,

Manager, National NAGPRA Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

[N7169; NPS–WASO–NAGPRA–NPS0042807; PPWOCRADNO–PCU00RP14.R50000]

Notice of Intended Repatriation: Ball State University, Muncie, IN

AGENCY: National Park Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), the Ball State University intends to repatriate certain cultural items that meet the definition of objects of cultural patrimony and that have a cultural affiliation with the Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations in this notice.

DATES: Repatriation of the cultural items in this notice may occur on or after June 18, 2026.

ADDRESSES: Send additional, written requests for repatriation of the cultural items in this notice to Chyan Gilaspy, Ball State University, Applied Anthropology Laboratories, 2000 W Riverside Avenue, Muncie, IN 47306, email NAGPRA@bsu.edu.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published as part of the National Park Service's administrative responsibilities under NAGPRA. The