



March 4, 2026

**Director's Preliminary Determination of State Lands Subject to Oil and Gas Exploration
Licensing in the Yukon Flats Area**

The State of Alaska offers oil and gas exploration licenses through its exploration licensing program. The intent of the oil and gas exploration licensing program (AS 38.05.131–134) is to encourage exploration in areas far from existing infrastructure, with unknown hydrocarbon potential, and where there is a higher investment risk to the operator. Licensees must provide any data collected under an exploration license to the state (11 AAC 82.981). The exploration licensing program does not apply to certain lands in the North Slope and Cook Inlet regions as specified by AS 38.05.131(b).

Under AS 38.05.131(c), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commissioner shall make preliminary written determinations of the state land that may be subject to the provisions of exploration licensing. Preliminary determinations shall be given public notice using the methods described in AS 38.05.945(b).

The Alaska constitution directs the state “to encourage ... the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest” (Alaska Constitution, art. III §§1, 2). The people of Alaska have an interest in developing the state’s oil and gas resources and maximizing the economic and physical recovery of those resources (AS 38.05.180(a)).

The Director of the Division of Oil and Gas (DO&G), under delegation of authority from the DNR commissioner, is making a preliminary written determination that all state-owned acreage in the Yukon Flats Area Exploration License Determination Area (Yukon Flats Determination Area) will be available for oil and gas exploration licensing subject to the provisions of AS 38.05.132. Only state-owned oil and gas mineral estates within the Yukon Flats Determination Area that are free and unencumbered may be available for exploration licensing. For example, federally or privately-owned mineral estates would not be available.

The Yukon Flats determination area consists of state lands as described in Attachment A. See Yukon Flats determination area map on page 3 of this preliminary determination.

The land within the Yukon Flats determination area has unknown oil and gas potential and there is limited access to existing oil and gas infrastructure in much of the region. Although oil and gas exploration has occurred in the past, technological advancements may facilitate more effective and efficient exploration. Further, the state would benefit from geological and geophysical data that may result from potential exploration. Additionally, this preliminary determination comports with constitutional direction to encourage the development of the state’s resources, and with the legislature’s direction that it is in the state’s interest to develop the state’s oil and gas resources.

This preliminary determination is being given public notice in accordance with AS 38.05.945(b). Under AS 38.05.131(c), after completion of the comment period, DO&G will evaluate the comments received. After evaluation of the comments received, the commissioner shall issue a final written determination of the state land that may be subject to exploration licensing in the Yukon Flats determination area under AS 38.005.132.

Alaska Statute 38.05.133 then requires the Director to issue separate public notice and written findings to determine whether the State's best interest will be served by issuing subsequent exploration license(s) within the Yukon Flats area. If such an exploration license proposal is found to be in the best interest of the state, licensees and exploration activities will be subject to all pertinent federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

The Director has preliminarily determined that state land in this Yukon Flats determination area will be subject to exploration licensing under AS 38.05.132.

This preliminary determination is not a sale, lease, license, or other disposal of interest in land, nor is it a best interest finding. DO&G is not constrained by this preliminary determination, nor is DO&G prevented from making a future finding that a specific exploration license proposal within the Yukon Flats determination area is not in the state's best interest.

Members of the public are invited to comment on any part of this preliminary determination. DO&G shall evaluate comments received on this preliminary determination before issuing a final written determination. In commenting, please be as specific as possible.

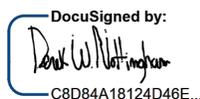
Comments must be received by 5 p.m. on April 6, 2026, in order to be considered and must be sent to:

By mail: Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Division of Oil & Gas
Leasing Section
550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1100
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3560

By email: dog.bif@alaska.gov

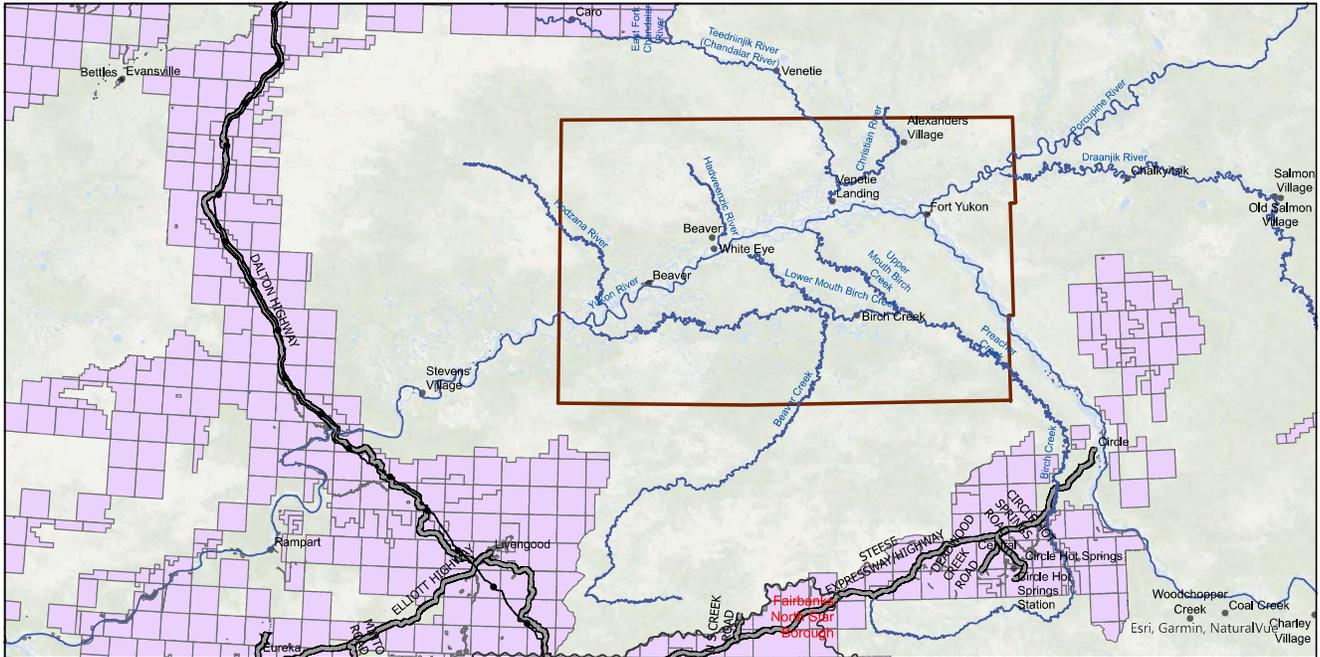
Following evaluation of comments on this preliminary determination, the Director will determine the state land in the Yukon Flats determination area that will be subject to exploration licensing under AS 38.05.132 and will issue a final written determination as required by AS 38.05.131(c).

A person is eligible to file an appeal of the final determination and any subsequent appeal of the same to the Superior Court only if the person has meaningfully participated in this process by submitting written comments during the public comment period.

DocuSigned by:

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Derek W. Nottingham
Director, Division of Oil and Gas

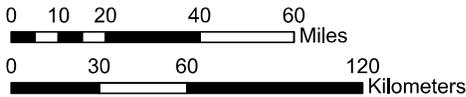
Yukon Flats Area Exploration License Determination Area Map



- Exploration Area
- Boroughs
- State Lands
- Trans-Alaska Pipeline System
- Roads
- Towns and Villages
- Rivers and Streams



State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS
Yukon Flats Exploration Area Map
May 14, 2025



This map was created, edited, and published by the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Division of Oil & Gas (DOG).

The information displayed is for graphic illustration only. Discrepancies in boundaries, pipeline alignment, and infrastructure are the result of merging multiple data sets from a number of different sources.

To see current maps and data, please visit: www.dog.dnr.alaska.gov/Information/MapsAndGIS.

Attachment A: Yukon Flats Area Exploration License Determination Area Legal Description

All state-owned, unencumbered mineral estate located within the Yukon Flats area, more precisely located within the following area:

Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska

Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 1 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 1 W.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 2 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 2 W.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 3 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 4 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 5 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 6 E.,

Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 7 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 8 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 9 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 10 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 11 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 12 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 13 E.,
Tps. 14 thru 23 N., R. 14 E..