ConocoPhillips has been leading the search for energy in Alaska since the 1960’s. As Alaska’s largest oil producer, we are committed to responsibly developing Alaska’s resources, providing economic opportunity for Alaskans, operating at the highest standards of safety and environmental stewardship, and serving as good neighbors in our communities.

Accountability & Performance

Unwavering commitment to the environment
50-year history in Alaska
Alaska’s leading oil producer and explorer
Health and safety excellence
198,000 barrels of oil per day in 2020
Approximately 1,000 directly employed in Alaska
One of Alaska’s largest investors

Project Description

ConocoPhillips announced a significant new oil discovery named Willow in January 2017. Willow is in the Bear Tooth Unit in the northeast portion of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The original Willow discovery wells, Tinniaq 2 and 6, were drilled on federal leases in early 2016. Approximately $6 billion in capital will be invested for the project prior to first oil and could create more than 2,000 construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) estimates that Willow could generate more than $10 billion dollars in federal, state, and North Slope Borough revenue.

After successful exploration and appraisal seasons in the Greater Willow Area, ConocoPhillips Alaska released the resource estimate of 450 million to 800 million barrels of oil equivalent (MMBOE) in late 2019. A project the size and scale of Willow hasn’t been developed on the North Slope since Alpine in the late 90s. The investment and benefits to be realized from the Willow project are significant. Additional oil production will also help keep a key piece of U.S. infrastructure, the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), economically viable. The estimated production rate from Willow would be about a 20% increase over current TAPS throughput.

The company has proposed a new stand-alone production facility to develop the resource. Willow is estimated to produce in excess of 160,000 BOPD.

The BLM completed public scoping in September 2018 and commenced drafting the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Willow core development. The EIS was prepared under the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A) Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) completed in 2013. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published on August 23, 2019, and the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was published on August 14, 2020. BLM issued the Willow MDP Record of Decision on October 27, 2020. The process included over 145 days of public comment opportunity and included a supplement to the draft EIS that incorporated project changes made in response to comments received.
Development Concept

Location: Approximately 30 air miles from the Alpine Central Facility and approximately a 36-mile road route from Nuiqsut.

Scope: A Central Processing Facility with three drill sites and a separate camp and shops pad. Pipelines linking to existing Alpine infrastructure/corridors. Future additional development would require additional agency reviews and approvals.

Module Transportation: Heavier modules would first arrive at the Oliktok Dock, east of the Colville River, then use existing gravel roads and land-based ice roads for transporting modules to the site of the Willow Central Facility (WCF).

Seawater Source: Kuparuk Seawater Treatment Plant. A combination of existing and new pipelines would be used to transport seawater to Willow.

Key Facts

- Jobs created: Approximately 300 long-term jobs and over 2,000 construction jobs
- Cost to develop: Approximately $8 billion
- Peak production: In excess of 160,000 BOPD
- Royalty Sharing: Half of the federal royalty will be shared with the State of Alaska to address potential needs of North Slope communities
- Revenue: BLM estimates for Willow include taxes and revenue of $2.1 billion to the State of Alaska, $1.2 billion to the North Slope Borough, $7.6 billion to the Federal Government of which $2.6 billion will be made available to impacted communities through NPR-A Impact Mitigation Grants, for a total of over $10 billion in public revenue over the life of the project.