Willow

ConocoPhillips has been leading the search for energy in Alaska since 1952. 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
- 218,000 barrels of oil per day in 2019
- More than 1,100 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. The $4 billion to $6 billion in invested capital for the project could create more than 2,000 construction jobs and 300 permanent jobs and put more flow into the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. 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.

The company has 100 percent interest in approximately 1.2 million acres of exploration and development lands in the area, including the Willow Discovery.

The BLM completed public scoping in late September 2018 and commenced drafting the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Willow. The EIS was conducted under the existing Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) completed in 2013, which sets out requirements for development in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The Willow Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Willow Master Development Plan (MDP) was published on Aug. 23, 2019.


The company has proposed a new stand-alone production facility to develop the resource in the Greater Willow Area. Willow is estimated to produce in excess of 100,000 BOPD, with the processing capacity to produce up to 200,000 BOPD. Currently, first oil is planned for 2026.
Development Concept

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

Willow Scope: A Central Processing Facility with up to five drill sites, separate camp and shops pad. Pipelines linking to existing Alpine infrastructure/corridors.

Module Transportation: the Ocean Point Crossing is now the preferred sealift module delivery option. 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. New pipeline would be required from Kuparuk to Willow along existing and proposed corridors.

Key Facts

- **Jobs created**: Potential for hundreds of direct jobs, thousands of construction jobs.
- **Cost to develop**: Approximately $2 billion-$3 billion.
- **Cumulative drilling capital over multiple years**: Additional $2 billion to $3 billion.
- **Peak production**: In excess of 100,000 BOPD (gross).
- **First oil**: Estimated 2026.
- **Royalty Sharing**: Half of the federal royalty will be shared with the state of Alaska to be used to address potential needs of North Slope communities.
- **Revenue**: BLM estimates for Willow include taxes and revenue of $1.7 billion to the state of Alaska, $1.9 billion to the North Slope Borough, $4.4 billion to the Federal Government, and an additional $2.5 billion 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.