

## GREAT BEAR PETROLEUM - A QUICK HISTORY

A NORTH SLOPE EXPLORATION COMPANY

- Founded in 2010
- Focused exclusively on Alaska's North Slope
- Office and employees all in Anchorage
- Holder of 499,000 acres, Operator of 590,000 acres
- Acquired 500 square miles of 3D seismic
- Currently acquiring another 450 square miles
- Drilled 3 exploration wells



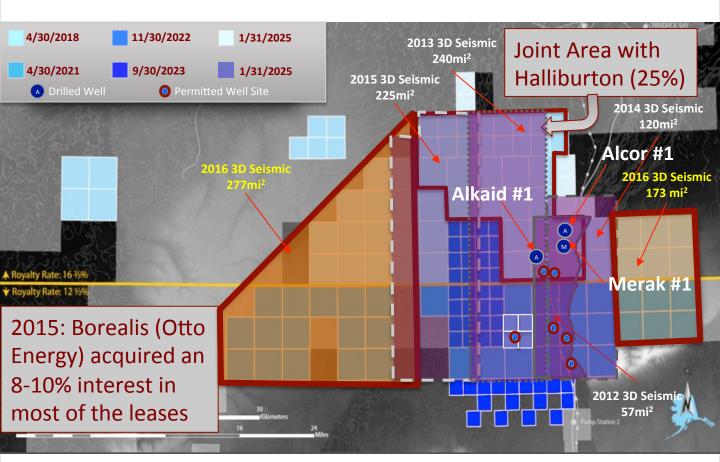
#### GREAT BEAR PETROLEUM - A QUICK HISTORY

FROM UNCONVENTIONAL TO CONVENTIONAL

- Original Target -> North Slope Shale Play (aka "source rock play", aka "unconventional play")
- Soon Faced an "Alaska Shale Play Catch-22"
  - Not economic without cost reductions
  - Costs reduction requires a critical mass of drilling activity, such as that generated by a shale play
- Re-directed focus to extensive conventional prospectivity
- Still believe a North Slope unconventional play can be economic following a conventional play build-out
- New Management Team focus on performance expanding technical capabilities



## GREAT BEAR - LEASEHOLD POSITION AND ACTIVITIES (2012-PRESENT)



#### GREAT BEAR - IMMEDIATE WORK PLAN

How We WILL REALIZE THE POTENTIAL

- 1. Complete our seismic program
- 2. Complete our prospect inventory
- 3. Execute a multi-year, multi-well exploration program
- 4. Secure cost-effective services by using the multi-well commitment

# 4 MYTHS ABOUT NORTH SLOPE EXPLORATION COMPANIES

- Exploration companies are "financed" by Alaska tax credits.
- Exploration companies don't have "skin in the game".
- Alaska could get the same level of exploration activity with lower exploration tax credits.
- Tax credit payments can be delayed with little impact to exploration companies.



### TAX CREDIT FINANCING

BUSTING THE MYTH THAT EXPLORATION COMPANIES ARE "FINANCED" BY TAX CREDITS

- North Slope exploration company investors pay for employee salaries, oil and gas lease rentals, office rental, and other business expenses.
- Some expenditures (geologic work, permitting, etc.) qualify for tax credits (up to 75% reimbursement rate, dropping to flat 35% after June 30, 2016).
- An explorer can borrow against those expected tax credits, but has to have the remaining equity funding (plus financing costs) on hand at the time of the loan.
- At no time does a North Slope explorer "make money" on tax credits.



## GREAT BEAR PROJECT SPENDING (2010 - PRESENT)

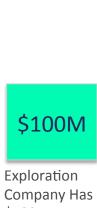
BUSTING THE MYTH THAT EXPLORATION COMPANIES DON'T HAVE "SKIN IN THE GAME"

- Total Gross Spend of Approximately \$220 Million
  - Approximately \$140M has been or will be reimbursed by State of Alaska
    - Net Operating Loss Credits (25% -> 45% -> 35%)
    - 40% Exploration Incentive Credit for Seismic
    - 30% Exploration Incentive Credit for Wells
- Great Bear Petroleum and Partners have spent approximately \$80M that will not be recovered through tax credits
  - As a result, Great Bear has been very prudent and deliberate in what activities we have conducted
- Tax Credits bought valuable exploration data State now has extensive new data about its resources on the Great Bear leases



#### HOW TAX CREDITS DICTATE EXPLORATION DRILLING VOLUME

BUSTING THE MYTH THAT LOWER TAX CREDITS COULD STILL RESULT IN SAME EXPLORATION ACTIVITY



Exploration
Company Has
\$100M In
Equity Capital
to Spend on
Exploration

35% Tax Credit Offered \$140M 5-7 Wells Company will spend approximately \$140M in exploration activities

\$260M
10-13
Wells

Company will spend approximately \$260M in exploration activities

By offering a higher tax credit, State generates more activity



## IMPACT OF TAX CREDIT PAYMENT UNCERTAINTY

BUSTING THE MYTH THAT PAYMENTS CAN BE DELAYED WITHOUT IMPACT

- <u>Delay</u> in tax credit payments will result in increasing financing costs for explorers
  - Additional interest payments & higher interest rates
- o Less money goes into the ground more goes to the banks
- <u>Uncertainty or surprises</u> in tax credit payments by the state causes financing sources to leave the market or freeze existing credit agreements
  - Makes tax credit financing far more expensive, or completely unavailable
  - Dramatically reduces the exploration activity that is bought by the tax credits



## TAX CREDITS - KEEP WHAT IS WORKING

INERTIA/MOMENTUM ARE STRONG FORCES IN THE OIL & GAS INDUSTRY

- Alaska Has Emphasized North Slope Exploration in State Oil and Gas Policy for the Past 15 Years
  - Areawide Leasing Program
  - Exploration Incentive Credit (EIC) Program
  - Net Operating Loss Credits
  - Tax Credit Certificate Payments
  - Collateralization of Tax Credit Certificates
- It Took A While, But That Effort is Now Showing Success
  - o Diversified Group of North Slope Explorers
  - Recent Discoveries
  - New Production Coming On-Line
- Elimination/Reduction of Credits Will Be Costly
- Likely to Slow Down or Stop Exploration
- Lower Likelihood of New Discoveries
- Getting Momentum Back Will Take A Long Time



## SUMMARY

- Great Bear is a highly active North Slope explorer
- Great Bear's investment to date has been substantial and well spent
- Great Bear's pace and volume of future exploration activity will be directly related to tax credit program
- Risk is reduced, and likelihood of success is increased by more exploration
- Reducing exploration risk of Alaska's North Slope resources is a good investment for the State of Alaska
- The Exploration Incentive Credit Program ("025 Credits") is a valuable catalyst for North Slope exploration activities