

**Office of Project Management and Permitting
Federal Plan Review and Coordination
Informational Summary
March 12, 2020**

Summary:

The State of Alaska FY21 Governor's Operating Budget includes 595.0 in General Funds for federal plan review and coordination by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Office of Project Management and Permitting (OPMP).¹

Background:

One of OPMP's three core services is to "review proposed federal actions; facilitate federal and state coordination and consultation; coordinate an efficient and reliable multi-agency review process; and prepare consolidated state comments."²

Federal actions, such as environmental reviews, permits, management plans, regulations, and policies, have statewide implications for natural resource development, including mineral and oil and gas leasing, exploration, and production, and the establishment of utility and/or transportation corridors on federally managed lands. Federal plans also influence access to adjacent State and privately-owned lands, as well as State land entitlements.

OPMP will use the General Funds to coordinate state agency reviews of proposed federal actions, ensuring the State has the resources necessary to engage with federal partners now and in the future to defend State interests and maximize opportunities for responsible natural resource development and economic growth.

Although OPMP cannot predict future federal actions, this workload is ever-present and has increased in recent years (Fig.1).

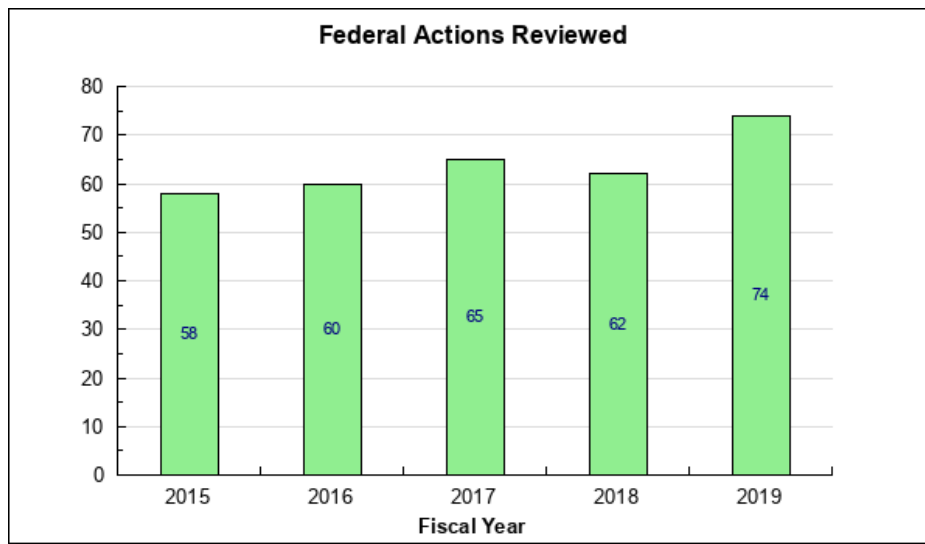


Fig. 1. Federal Actions Reviewed by OPMP FY2015-2019

¹ Component Budget Summary available at https://omb.alaska.gov/ombfiles/21_budget/DNR/Proposed/4_comp2733.pdf

² Performance Details available at <https://omb.alaska.gov/html/performance/details.html?p=174>

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Large Project Coordinators:

OPMP's Large Project Coordinators predominately coordinate state permitting processes for large, complex natural resource development projects in Alaska. This work is funded through third-party receipts. Coordination activities related to federal actions are not billable to third parties, and therefore, must be funded using General Funds.

OPMP has used available General Funds, in part, from staff vacancies to fund coordinated reviews of federal actions for the past several years. However, OPMP filled two Large Project Coordinator vacancies in FY19 and has recently completed recruiting for two additional Large Project Coordinator vacancies. One full time permanent Large Project Coordinator position remains vacant.

Increment Details:

- Personal Services
 - OPMP estimates 380.0 in personal services based on two full time permanent Large Project Coordinator positions. Starting in FY21, OPMP proposes to budget one Large Project Coordinator position using 100% General Funds derived from this increment, while the remaining portion of the personal services would be allocated among the other Large Project Coordinator positions. The requested increment, if approved, would provide OPMP with two full time equivalent positions to more effectively deliver our core service related to coordinated reviews of federal actions.
- Travel
 - OPMP estimates 100.0 for travel associated with coordinated reviews of federal actions. This funding would ensure staff participate in public meetings facilitated by the lead federal agency. Such meetings are typically held during the scoping and draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) phases of the federal review process. Additional subsistence hearings may also be held, pursuant to Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).
 - A significant portion of the estimated 100.0 for travel would be made available to other state agencies through Reimbursable Service Agreements (RSAs). Attendance by state staffs at public and cooperating agency meetings allows for more effective engagements with the public, the lead federal agency, and other cooperating agencies. State-related questions and comments are often raised at such meetings, and OPMP Large Project Coordinators are uniquely capable of speaking broadly on state issues and the State's role in the federal review process, while participation by state subject matter experts is important for providing accurate technical information to federal decisionmakers.
- Services
 - OPMP estimates 115.0 in services, which would be made available to other state agencies, such as the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Fish and Game (ADF&G), and Natural Resources (outside of OPMP), through RSAs for personal service expenses. Those RSAs would ensure other state agencies have adequate financial resources to engage more fully in the coordinated review of proposed federal actions affecting State interests and natural resources.

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Federal Actions:

OPMP engaged in the following federal actions in FY20:

- Planning and Environmental Reviews
 - National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPR-A) Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Willow Project EIS
 - Coastal Plain EIS (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) 1002 Area planning document)
 - Ambler Road Project EIS and National Park Service Environmental and Economic Analysis
 - Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan (RMP) and EIS
 - Central Yukon RMP and EIS
 - Ring of Fire/Haines Block Amendment EIS
 - Chugach National Forest Plan EIS
 - Sterling Highway Milepost 45-60 Project (Re-route) EIS
 - Chugach/Portage Curve Multi-modal Pathway Environmental Assessment
 - Kensington Mine EIS
 - Pebble Mine EIS
 - Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve Backcountry Wilderness Plan
- Rulemaking and Litigation
 - Alaska Roadless Rule
 - Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) implementing regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - National Park Service Revised Wildlife Rule and litigation
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Revised Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Rule and litigation
 - USFWS Wildlife Rule (Rescinded under the Congressional Review Act)
 - Petition for Rulemaking and other implementation issues regarding the Supreme Court ruling on *Sturgeon v. Frost*
 - Migratory Bird Treaty Act regulations
 - National Park Service Superintendent Compendia
- Permitting and Studies
 - USFW proposed polar bear seismic methodology in ANWR
 - Incidental Take Regulation (ITR) permits on the North Slope