

John Crowther
Commissioner-designee

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Department of
Natural Resources

Anchorage, Alaska

STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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DNR Promotes Two Leaders to Acting Roles

(Anchorage, AK) – This week, the Department announced the promotion of two experienced DNR employees into senior leadership roles. Current-Director Derek Nottingham will be serving in an acting capacity as DNR Deputy Commissioner pending confirmation of the Commissioner-designee, and Current-Deputy Director Haley Paine will be elevated to Acting Director of the Division of Oil & Gas pending confirmation of the Commissioner-designee, both effective immediately.

“Having worked with Derek and Haley closely for years at the Department, I’m thankful for their willingness to step into these roles and confident they will continue to excel at serving Alaskans and leading DNR employees,” **said DNR Commissioner-designee John Crowther.** “They bring tenacity and vision to their work guiding Alaska’s natural resource policy.”

Acting Deputy Commissioner Nottingham will support the DNR Commissioner in leading 1,200 full-time and seasonal staff in the Department’s mission. He will oversee the Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys, Division of Oil & Gas, Office of Project Management & Permitting, and the Trust Land Office of the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority.

Nottingham served as the Director of the Division of Oil & Gas for the last four years. He was born and raised in Louisiana, where he earned a B.S. and M.S. in Petroleum Engineering Louisiana State University. Starting as a petroleum engineer with Texaco in New Orleans in the late 1990s, he eventually made it to Alaska in 2006 as a reservoir engineer for Chevron. Nottingham went on to work at BP Alaska for 12 years as a reservoir engineer and team leader in the Prudhoe Bay field. He secured an M.B.A. from Boise State in 2022.

“Public service, to me, is the privilege of helping Alaska thrive as a state,” **said Acting DNR Deputy Commissioner Nottingham.** “Alaska has been my home for two decades, and every role I’ve held here has deepened my commitment to stewarding our resources responsibly.”

Paine has been a part of the DNR team for more than 10 years, most recently as Deputy Director of the Division of Oil & Gas. She first joined the division in 2015 as a Natural Resource Specialist in the Leasing section, working her way up to the deputy role in January 2021.

Prior to her Service to the State of Alaska, Paine held research positions and fellowships with the Alaska Center for Energy & Power and the Idaho National Laboratory. Paine has a Master's Degree in Natural Resource Management & Geography from UAF and a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Regulations & Permitting from UAA, with a B.A. in Politics from the University of California Santa Cruz. An avid skier and outdoor enthusiast, Paine moved to Alaska in 2008.

“The Division of Oil & Gas is comprised of talented, highly intelligent individuals that care deeply about our mission to maximize the benefits of the state's hydrocarbon resources for all Alaskans,” said **Division of Oil & Gas Acting Director Paine**. “It has been a pleasure to work with this team over the last decade as we have navigated changes and new opportunity within our industry. I am humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lead this group into what is shaping up to be a renaissance for North Slope production, with a continued dedication to Southcentral energy solutions.”



Acting Deputy Commissioner Nottingham



Acting Director Haley Paine

The Department of Natural Resources' mission is to develop, conserve, and maximize the use of Alaska's natural resources consistent with the public interest.

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