

# Minerals Management

## Fortymile Subunit

### Eastern Interior Draft Resource Management Plan



### Existing Minerals Management

#### Fortymile Subunit Stats

- Subunit boundary encompasses 15.8 million acres.
- 2.1 million acres in this area are managed by the BLM.
- 1.7 million acres within the subunit are either State or Native selected. Of this, 785,000 are very likely to be conveyed.

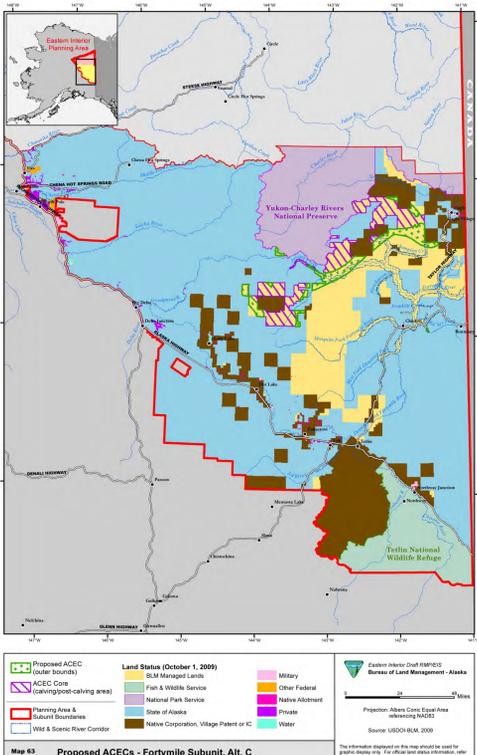
#### Current Status of Minerals Management

- Currently the entire Fortymile Subunit is withdrawn from mineral entry and mineral leasing under ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals.
- Mining is occurring on valid existing claims that predate the withdrawals.
- Gravel material sites are authorized to provide for construction and maintenance of roads and highways.

### Comparison of Alternatives- Minerals Management

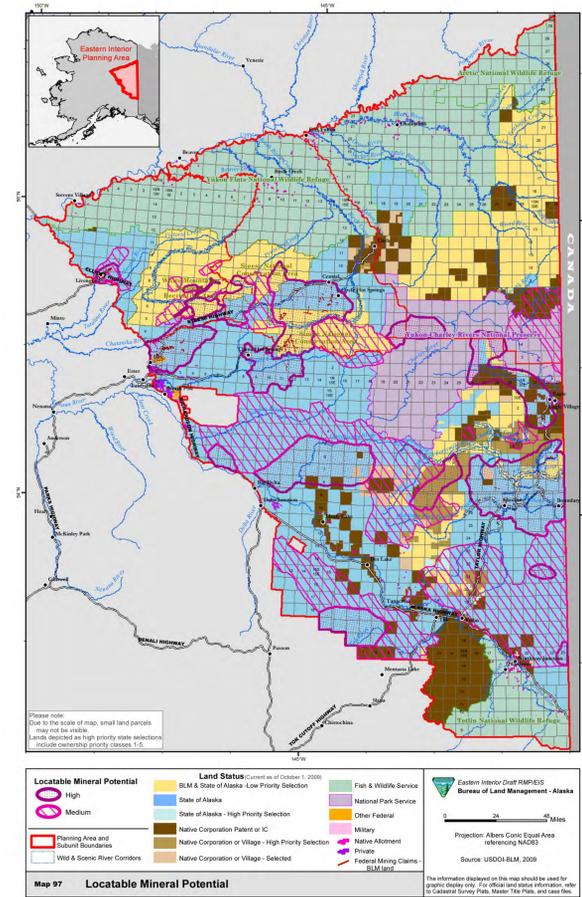
Program or Resource	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Fluid Leasable Minerals (e.g. oil and gas)	2,000 acres open with no surface occupancy; 974,000 acres open with standard stipulations; 1,102,000 acres closed (Map 26).	157,000 acres open with minor constraints; 1,311,000 acres open with standard stipulations; 608,000 acres closed (Map 27).	507,000 acres open with minor constraints; 1,114,000 acres open with standard stipulations; 158,000 acres closed (Map 29).
Solid Leasable Minerals (e.g. phosphate and sodium)	976,000 acres open; 1,102,000 acres closed (Map 26).	1,468,000 acres open; 610,000 acres closed (Map 27).	1,918,000 acres open; 160,000 acres closed (Map 29).
Locatable Minerals (e.g. gold)	976,000 acres open to locatable minerals; 1,100,000 acres closed (Map 26).	1,468,000 acres open; 608,000 acres closed (Map 28).	1,920,000 acres open; 156,000 acres closed (Map 30).
Salable Minerals (e.g. gravel)	1,830,000 acres open to salable minerals; 246,000 acres closed.	1,931,000 acres open to salable minerals; 145,000 acres closed.	

### Summary of the Preferred Alternative (C) - Areas of Critical Environmental Concern and Required Operating Procedures



- 547,000 acres designated as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).
- Purpose of ACECs is to protect critical caribou and Dall sheep habitat, including mineral licks.
- 360,000 acres of the ACECs closed to all mineral development activities.
- Remaining area open to various forms of mineral development subject to minor restraints and Required Operating Procedures (ROPs).
- Example ROP specific to ACECs: Reclamation and revegetation of disturbed areas will be required to meet performance standards set in site specific reclamation plans, such as a required plant cover (percent) within a certain number of years before a performance bond is released.

### Locatable Mineral Potential



### Summary of the Preferred Alternative (C) - Locatable Minerals

#### GOALS:

Maintain or enhance opportunities for mineral exploration and development, while maintaining other resource values.

Approximately 29% (608,000 acres) of the subunit in the following areas would be closed to locatable mineral entry:

- The Fortymile Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Corridor (all segments)
- The Fortymile Special Recreation Management Area (same as the WSR corridor)
- Core caribou habitat within the Fortymile ACEC (central part of the ACEC only)
- Within one mile of identified ungulate mineral licks
- Zone 3 disposal lands
- BLM's Chicken and Eagle administrative sites, Fort Egbert Historic Site, and the Eagle Recreational Withdrawal.

All remaining lands in the Fortymile Subunit, approximately 71% (1,468,000 acres), would be open to locatable mineral entry.

Information on ROP's can be found on pages 45-56 of the Fortymile Subunit Summary or pages 857-871 in Volume 3, Appendix A of the draft plan.

### Process for Opening Areas to Mineral Entry

1. At the state level, the BLM recommends areas to open or closed to mineral entry in a resource management plan.
2. At the Washington level, the BLM completes a formal process in which it makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior regarding modifications to existing land withdrawals.
3. The Secretary reviews and lifts the withdrawals. Lands would then be open to mineral entry.