

# Minerals Management

## Black River Subunit

### Eastern Interior Draft Resource Management Plan



### Existing Minerals Management

#### Upper Black River Subunit Stats

- Subunit boundary encompasses 7.8 million acres.
- 2.4 million acres in this area are managed by the BLM.
- Approximately 716,000 acres within the subunit have been selected by the State and 102,000 acres are Native-selected.

#### Current Status of Minerals Management

- There is no existing land use plan for the Upper Black River Subunit.
- The entire subunit is currently withdrawn from mineral location and mineral leasing pursuant to ANCSA 17(d)(1).
- There are no existing federal mining claims or mineral leases.

### Comparison of Alternatives - Minerals Management

Program	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Fluid Leasable Minerals (e.g., oil and gas)	Entire subunit closed through withdrawal.	2,361,000 acres (entire subunit) closed.	104,000 acres open with minor constraints; 1,636,000 acres open with standard stipulations; 621,000 acres (Salmon Fork ACEC) closed.	2,361,000 acres open with standard stipulations; 0 acres closed.
Solid Leasable Minerals (e.g., phosphate and sodium)	Entire subunit closed through withdrawal.	2,361,000 acres (entire subunit) closed.	1,740,000 acres open; 621,000 acres (Salmon Fork ACEC) closed.	2,361,000 acres open; 0 acres closed.
Locatable Minerals (e.g., gold mining claims)	Entire subunit closed through withdrawal.	2,361,000 acres (entire subunit) closed.	2,361,000 acres open; 0 acres closed.	
Salable Minerals (e.g., sand and gravel)	2,361,000 acres open	1,740,000 acres open; 621,000 acres (Salmon Fork ACEC) closed.	2,361,000 acres open; 0 acres closed.	

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

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

All BLM-managed lands within the Upper Black River Subunit (2,361,000 acres) would be open to locatable mineral entry (Map 39).

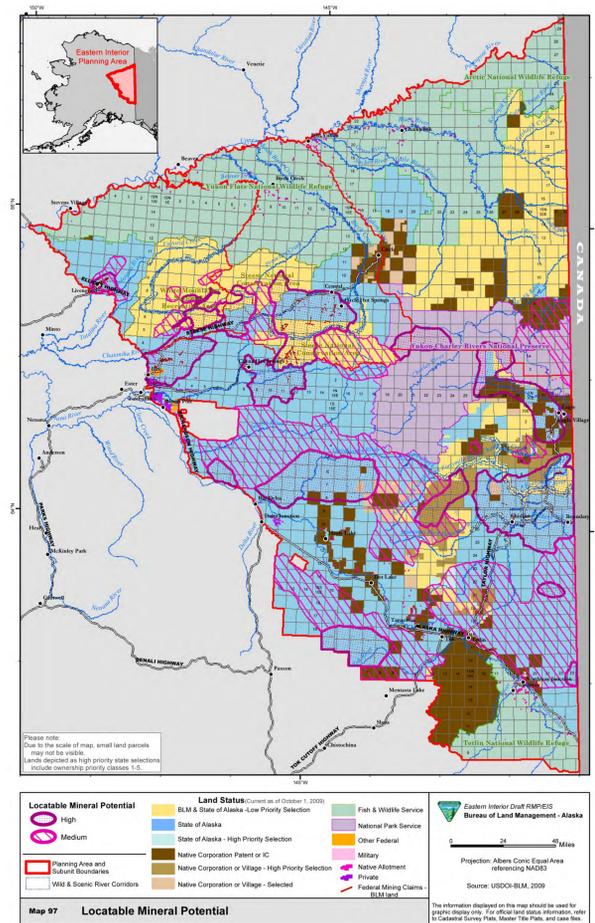


### Process for Opening Areas to Mineral Entry

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.

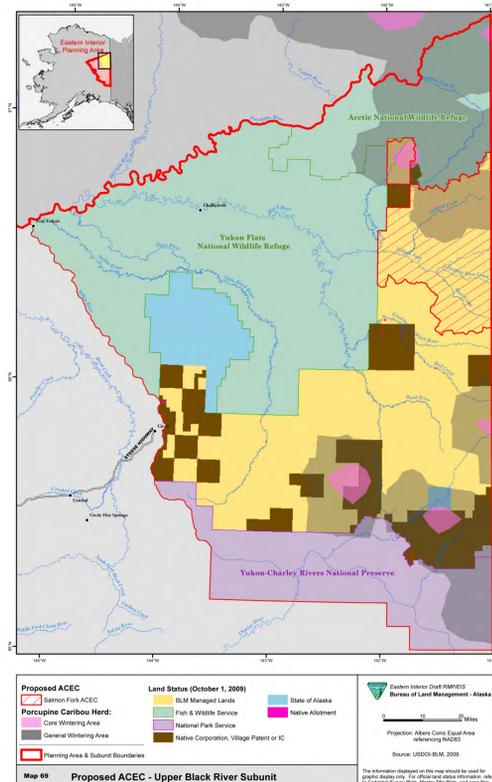


### Locatable Mineral Potential



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

- 621,000 acres within the Salmon Fork watershed designated as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).
- To protect winter habitat for caribou, water quality and habitat for nesting bald eagles and fish, areas with unique limestone geology, and rare plant communities.
- Establish 13 Riparian Conservation Areas.
- The ACEC open to mineral entry subject to providing baseline data pursuant to 43 CFR 3809.401 (c)(1) and implementation of applicable Required Operating Procedures (ROPs).
- Example ROP specific to ACECs: Baseline hydrological data will be required prior to surface-disturbing activities with the potential to affect stream channel integrity.



More information on ROPs can be found on pages 21-33 in the Upper Black River Subunit Summary or pages 857-871 in Volume 3, Appendix A of the draft plan.