Preparation Plan for the

Central Yukon

Resource Management Plan

Prepared by the
Bureau of Land Management
Central Yukon Field Office
Fairbanks, Alaska

September 2012

BLM

Alaska

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Fairbanks District Office
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

PREPLAN ANALYSIS FOR THE CENTRAL YUKON RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Recommended by:

Shelly Jacobson — Date 4/15/13
Central Yukon Field Manager

Steve Hartmann — Date 4-16-13
Fairbanks District Manager

Approved by:

Bud Cribley — Date 4/22/13
Alaska State Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. Introduction and Background 1
A. Planning Area 1
B. Purpose and Need 7
C. Relationship to Other Programs, Plans or Policies 8
II. Anticipated Planning Issues and Management Concerns 9
A. Management of land use and activities 9
B. Conservation of lands having special, critical, or unique features or resource values 14
C. Management of Natural Resources 17
III. Preliminary Planning Criteria 27
IV. Data Gaps and GIS Needs, Including Inventory 29
V. Participants in the Process 30
A. BLM Participants 30
B. Potential Cooperating Agencies 32
C. Government-to-Government Consultation 35
VI. Format and Process for the Plan 35
A. Format 35
B. Planning and EIS Process 36
C. Alternative Development 36
D. Internal Review of the Plan 37
VII. Plan Preparation Schedule 37
VIII. Public Participation Plan 41
A. Goals and Objectives 41
B. Opportunities for Public Input 42
C. Target Audiences 43
IX. Budget Tables 48
X. Data Matrix 53

I. Introduction and Background

The Bureau of Land Management's Central Yukon (CYFO), Arctic (AFO), and Eastern Interior (EIFO) Field Offices plan to develop a resource management plan (RMP) for the CYFO and portions of the AFO. This planning effort will involve revisions of two existing RMPs and a portion of an existing management framework plan (MFP) as well as developing a new plan for unplanned areas.

The planning effort will replace all or portions of the following plans:

1. The Utility Corridor RMP ROD, signed in 1991.
2. The Central Yukon RMP ROD, signed in 1986.
3. The Southwest MFP ROD, signed in 1981.

Up to four records of decision (one for the North Slope, one for the Dalton Highway area, one for the Fairbanks/North Star Borough area, and one for the Central Yukon area) may be signed for this planning effort.

A. Planning Area

The total acreage within the boundary of the Central Yukon Planning Area (Figure 1) is approximately 59 million acres, of which 11 million acres are unencumbered BLM-managed lands, 712,000 acres are selected by Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Native Corporations, and 4.3 million acres are selected by the State of Alaska. A total of 16 million acres of public land lies within the planning area boundary (Table 1).

The planning area will likely be divided into four or more subunits based on issues (Figures 2 – 4). Subunits will be refined after scoping and during development of the analysis of the management situation (AMS), but the following subunits are likely:

1. North Slope Subunit (including the Central Arctic WSA)
2. Haul Road Access Subunit (including the Dalton Highway Corridor and adjacent lands)
3. Fairbanks Subunit (Fairbanks North Star Borough and accessible lands)
4. Central Yukon Subunit (remote lands in the Yukon River watershed)

There are multiple BLM jurisdictions within the planning area. The planning area is primarily administered by the Central Yukon Field Office. A portion of the planning area falls within the Arctic Field Office, and a smaller portion in the Eastern Interior Field Office, all within the Fairbanks District.

The planning area overlaps portions of the Northwest Arctic Borough, the North Slope Borough, the Denali Borough, and the Fairbanks North Star Borough. However, the majority of the planning area does not fall within any borough boundary. The planning area boundary includes 24 remote villages, 15 of which have tribal entities, and three ANCSA Regional Corporation boundaries (Doyon Limited, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, and NANA, Inc.).

Other federal lands in the planning area include Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, the Koyukuk, Innoko Northern Unit, Nowitna, and Kanuti National Wildlife Refuges, and the U.S. Army Tanana Flats and Donnelly training areas.

Table 1: Land Status within the Planning Area

Land Category	**Total Acres***	**Percentage**
BLM Administered Lands		
BLM public lands	11,059,000	19
State-selected	4,300,000	7
ANCSA Native-selected	712,000	1
Total BLM	**16,071,000**	**27**
Other Lands		
State of Alaska	26,206,000	45
US Fish and Wildlife Service	7,342,000	12.5
National Park Service	48,000	<1
Military	1,468,000	2.5
ANCSA Native corporations	7,526,000	13
Other Private	38,000	<1
Total Other Lands	**42,628,000**	**73**
Total All Lands	**58,699,000**	

*rounded to nearest 1,000 acres and based on generalized land status

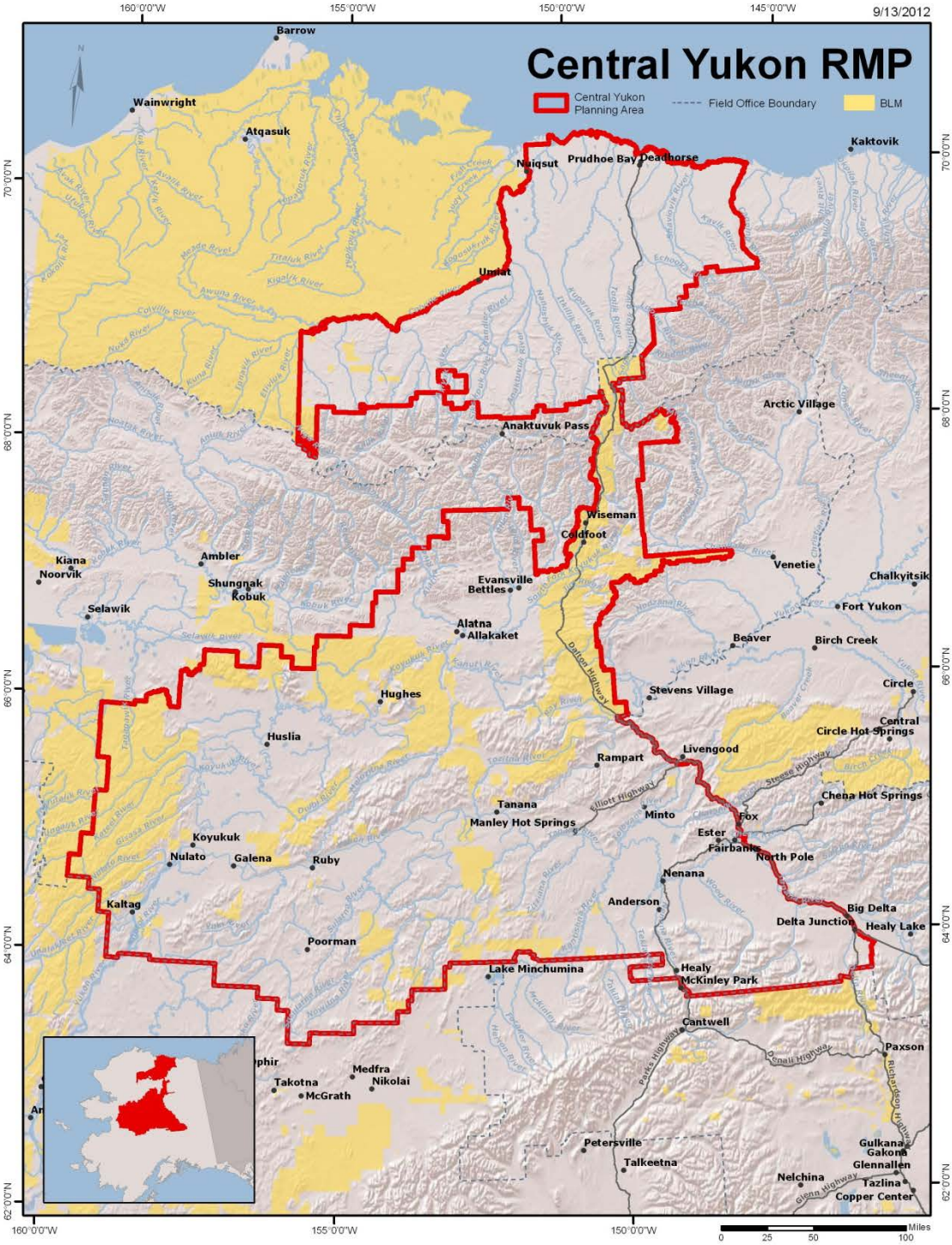

Figure 1: General Overview Map of the Central Yukon Planning Area

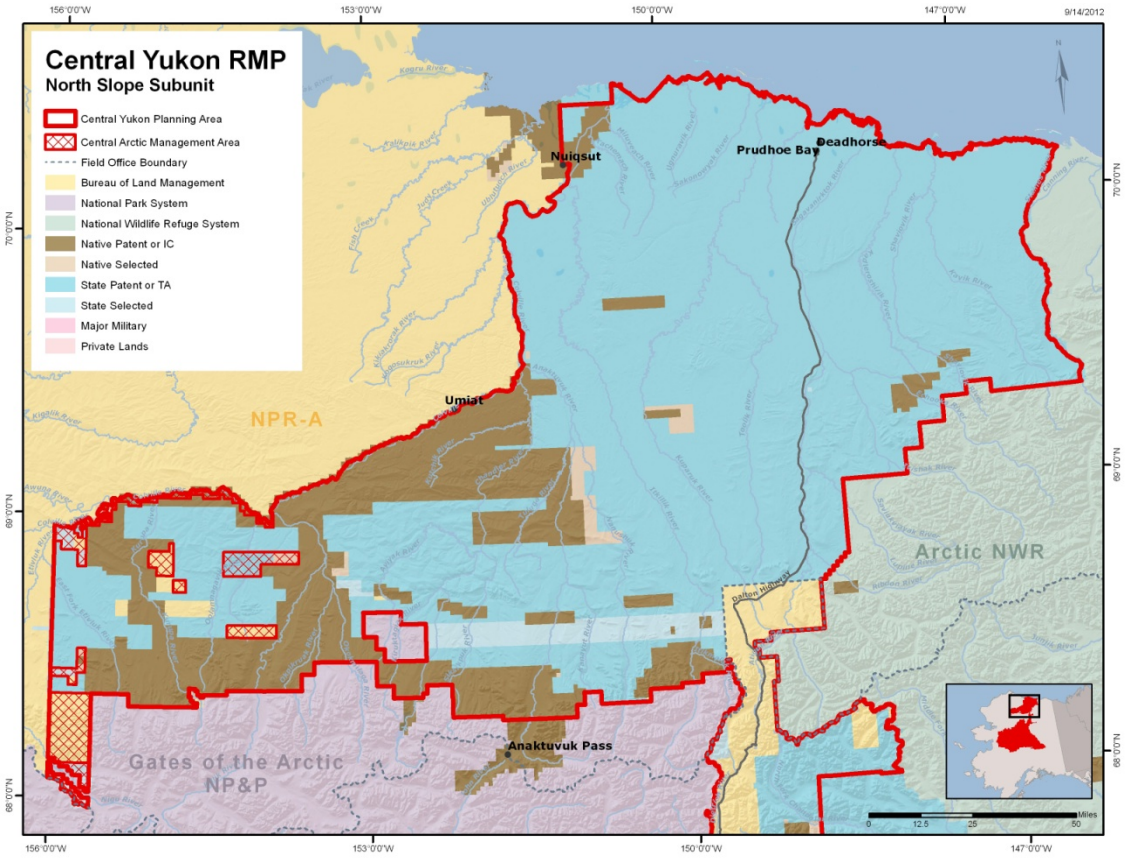

Figure 2: Land Status Map of North Slope portion of the Central Yukon RMP Planning Area.

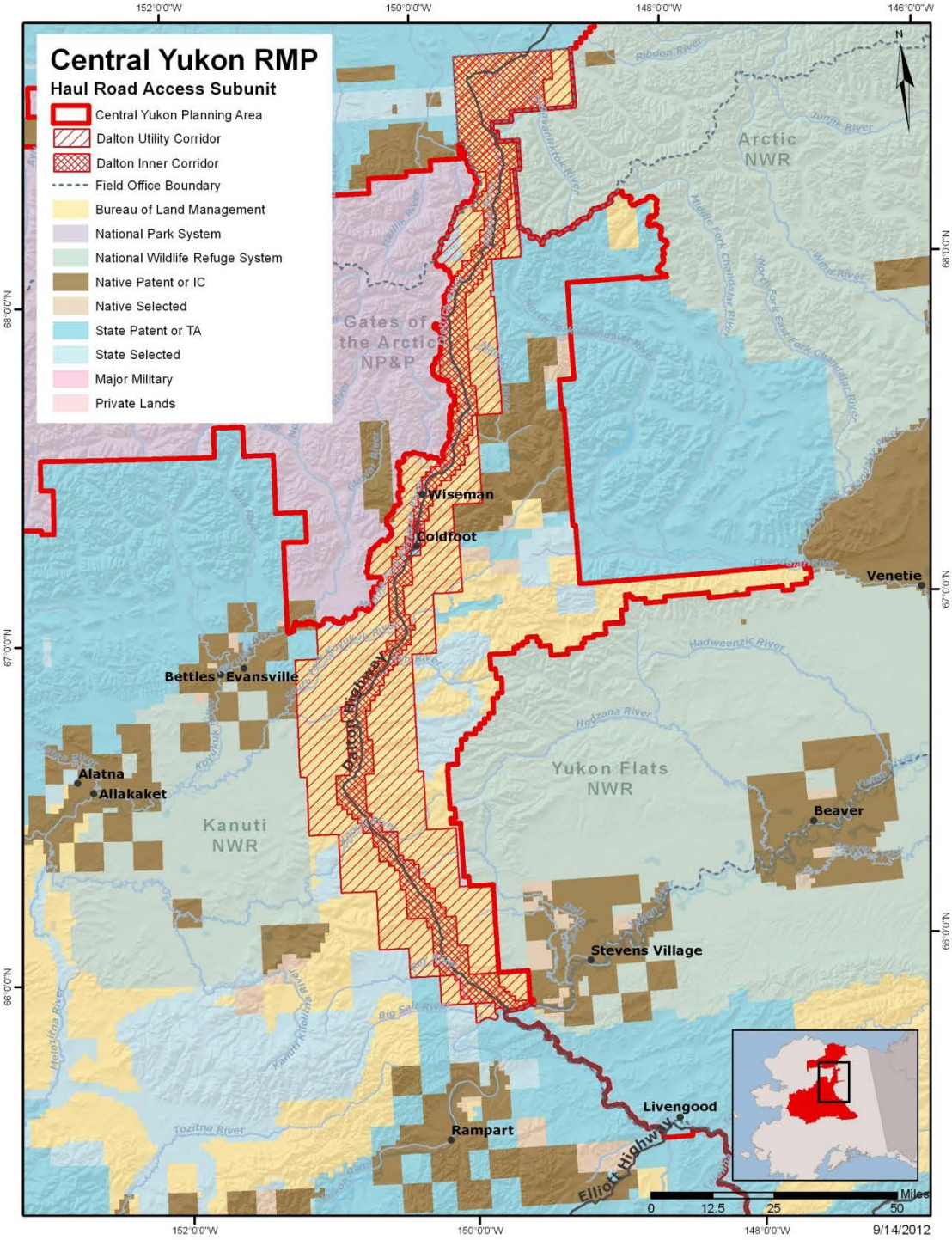

Figure 3: Land Status Map of the Dalton Highway Portion of the Central Yukon Planning Area.

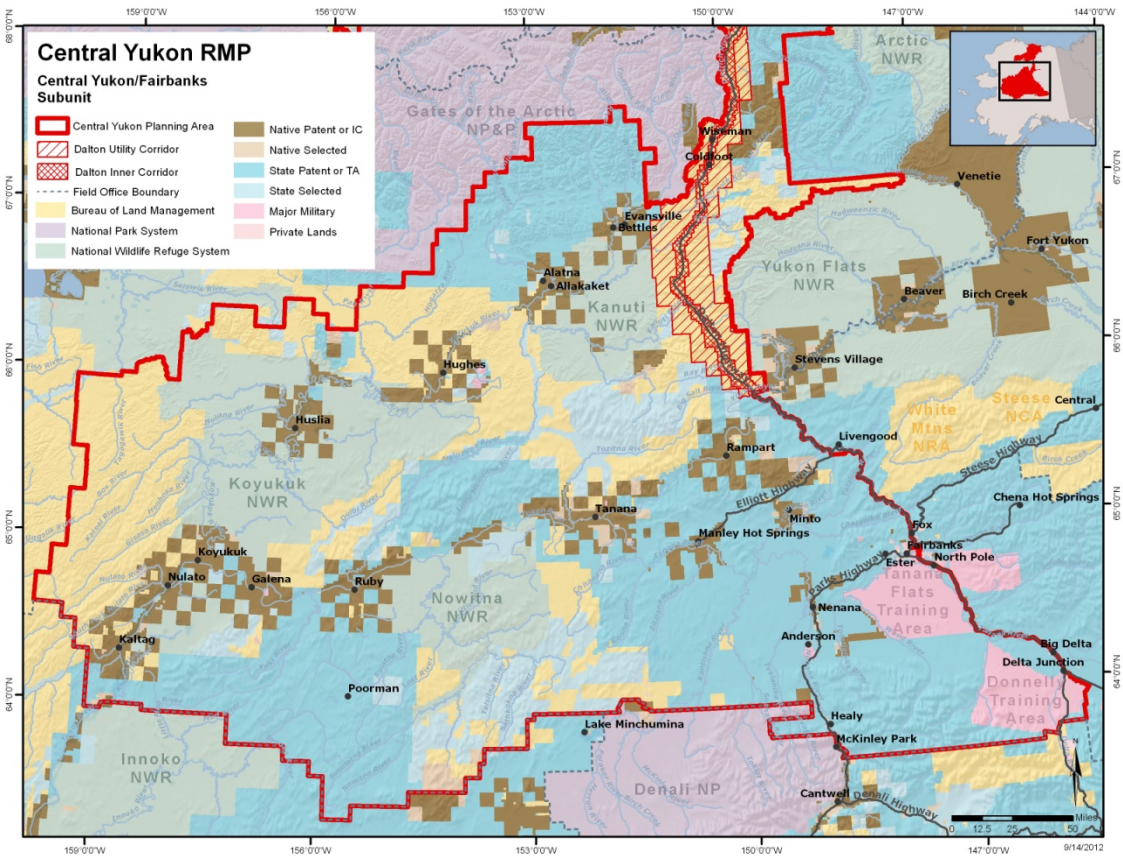

Figure 4: Land Status Map of the Central Yukon and Fairbanks Portions of the Central Yukon Planning Area.

B. Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Central Yukon RMP is to provide a comprehensive framework to guide management of public lands and interests within the planning area.

The existing Land Use plans for this area are 21 to 26 years old. The planning area includes identified routes for the proposed Alaska Stand Alone Gas Pipeline and the proposed Trans-Canada Gas Pipeline, and identified routes for multiple roads in the State of Alaska's "Roads To Resources" initiative. The existing plans were completed when gold prices were a fraction of the current price, hence development pressures related to access and mining activity has increased considerably since the completion of the existing plans. There is a higher demand for mineral materials than was present when the existing plans were completed.

A portion of the planning area is habitat for endangered species (spectacled eiders and polar bears) and other sensitive species. The planning area contains 34 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Research Natural Areas (RNAs), some of which the original designation status is unclear and many others that have experienced a change in resource status or lands status since designation. The planning area encompasses the Toolik Lake RNA and the Toolik Field Station, the longest operating global climate change research station in the Arctic. Non-native invasive plants are a major issue in the Dalton Highway corridor and spread of non-native invasive species along Roads to Resources corridors is a major concern. There is no existing inventory of wilderness characteristics on most of the public lands in the planning area, with the exception of a 1980 Non-wilderness assessment along the proposed Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System (ANGTS) route. The planning area also includes the Central Arctic Management Area (CAMA) Wilderness Study Area, the Lake Todatonten Special Area, part of the Iditarod National Historic Trail, and a large portion of the Kobuk Ridges and Valleys Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) ecoregion, and the Ray Mountains REA ecoregion.

There is also a high level of constituent controversy on a number of issues. Increased development demands and increased commercial recreation demands are generating widespread conflicts with subsistence use of resources. The planning area encompasses lands important to subsistence users from approximately 24 villages, and includes portions of the ranges of the Western Arctic, Teshekpuk Lake, and Central Arctic caribou herds, which constitute the core subsistence resource for more than 50 villages. The State of Alaska's philosophical differences with federal land management policies is a regular source of controversy as well.

C. Relationship to Other Programs, Plans or Policies

This planning process will recognize the many programs, plans, and policies that are planned or being implemented in or adjacent to the planning area by the BLM, other land managers, Tribes, and interested governments. Below is a preliminary list of other plans that will be considered during the planning process.

In Alaska, public land management is further directed by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), ANCSA, and the Alaska Statehood Act, particularly in regard to land tenure, access, and subsistence. Under the Alaska Statehood Act, the State of Alaska was allowed to select 104 million acres of federal land. Approximately twenty-six percent of BLM-managed land in the planning area is State-selected. ANCSA requires the transfer of 44 million acres of public land to Alaska Native corporations. Approximately seven percent of BLM-managed land in the planning area is Native-selected. As conveyance of State- and Native-selected lands are ongoing, implementation of planning decisions on selected lands may be delayed until final ownership is determined.

<u>BLM Plans</u>

- Eastern Interior Draft RMP
- Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP
- Fort Greely RMP
- National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity Plan
- Dalton Highway Management Area Integrated Invasive Plant Strategic Plan – 2012
- Various habitat management plans for ACECs
- Iditarod National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, USDOI, BLM - 1986

<u>Other Federal Agency Land Use Plans</u>

- Koyukuk/Northern Unit Innoko/Nowitna NWRs Comprehensive Conservation Plan – 2009
- Arctic NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan – 1988 (under revision)
- Yukon Flats NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan – 1988
- Gates of the Arctic National Park General Management Plan – 1986 (currently being amended)
- Denali National Park and Preserve General Management Plan and amendments – 1896, 1997, and 2006
- U.S. Army Garrison Alaska Integrated Natural Resource Management Plan 2007-2011 – 2007
- U.S. Army Transformation EIS 2004

<u>State of Alaska Plans</u>

- Eastern Tanana Basin Area Plan – 1991 (under revision)
- Yukon-Tanana Area Plan – 1991 (under revision)

- Wildlife Action Plan – April 2006
- Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan – 2002

Local Government Plans

- North Slope Borough Comprehensive Plan – 2005
- North Star Borough Regional Comprehensive Plan – 2005
- Denali Borough Comprehensive Plan and amendments – 2009 and 2011
- Northwest Arctic Borough Comprehensive Plan - 1993

Tribal or ANCSA Corporation Plans

- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation 2007-2012 Strategic Plan

II. Anticipated Planning Issues and Management Concerns

Planning issues can generally be stated as resource management problems and opportunities that the BLM needs to address to ensure as an agency it is fulfilling its multiple use and sustained yield resource management mission. Identified issues are subject to change throughout the planning process, as new conditions are identified and the public becomes more fully involved. Planning issues identify concerns that:

- Present unresolved questions regarding allocation of resources.
- Present major land use conflicts regarding management of a base resource or resource value.
- Can be resolved by the BLM or the BLM in collaboration with partners.

Issues for the Central Yukon RMP fall under three general topics: management of land use and activities; protection and conservation of lands having critical or unique features or resource values; and, management of natural resources in the planning area. Under these three issue topics, issues and management concerns expressed as planning questions will assist in formulating the necessary management decisions. These will be refined and other issues possibly developed during public participation.

A. Management of land use and activities

Primary uses of the planning area include recreation (including commercial guiding and transporting), tourism, transportation and utility right-of-ways, access, communication sites, mineral entry and development, and subsistence activities.

Issue A1: Recreation

Recreational uses, demands, and impacts are increasing, especially along the Dalton Highway. Common private uses for recreation include road touring, wildlife viewing, hiking, dog mushing, hunting, fishing, and float trips. Tour buses, ecotourism, and guided hunting are the most common commercial recreation uses.

Planning Questions:

- According to the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS), what recreation opportunities currently exist and what should be provided to meet public demand?
- What ROS Classes should be prescribed and what recreation outcome (experiences and benefits) management objectives should be established to meet the ROS Classes prescribed?
- Should the existing Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) be changed?
- Are there other recreation management areas to be identified other than the existing Dalton Highway SRMA that might maintain or increase recreational opportunities and or experiences?
- What are the impacts of recreation decisions on the quality of natural resources?
- How can we best manage competing recreational and subsistence uses of resources?

Issue A2: Travel Management (Including Off-Highway Vehicle Management)

Alaska Statute (AS) 19.40.210 prohibits the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) including 4-wheelers, Argos, tracked vehicles, and snowmachines within five miles of the Dalton Highway. However, this prohibition does not apply to 1) off-road vehicles necessary for oil and gas exploration, development, production, or transportation; 2) a person who holds a mining claim in the vicinity of the highway and who must use land within five miles of the highway right-of-way to gain access to the mining claim; or 3) the use of snowmachine to travel across the highway corridor from land outside the corridor to access land outside the other side of the corridor; this paragraph does not permit the use of a snowmachine for any purpose within the corridor if the use begins or ends within the corridor or within the right-of-way of the highway or if the use is for travel within the corridor that is parallel to the right-of-way of the highway. The use of snowmachines by qualified subsistence users is also permitted.

BLM's regulations at 43 CFR, Part 8340, regulate the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) on public lands. Part of BLM's regulatory scheme is the adoption of state laws and regulations governing off-highway vehicles where those laws and regulations are more restrictive than BLM's regulations. Therefore, recreational use of OHVs is permitted only in areas more than five miles from the Dalton Highway. Hunters seeking a more primitive experience, including bow hunting, appreciate the unique opportunity afforded in the restricted area along the Dalton Highway.

Under the Central Yukon RMP, use of vehicles of less than 1,500 pounds gross vehicle weight is allowed without a permit. Some parts of the planning area are unplanned and currently have no OHV designations. The RMP will designate areas that are "open", "limited" or "closed" to OHVs (43 CFR 8342.1).

Planning Questions:

- What criteria will be used to determine if an area should be designated as open, limited or closed?
- What should be the travel management areas?
- What would be the effects of increased OHV use on natural resources?
- Are there cumulative impacts to resources from OHV use?
- Are current Travel Management designations appropriate for users?

Issue A3: Mineral Management (Fluid and Locatable Minerals, Mineral Materials and Non-Energy Materials)

The land use plan is the process by which public land is reviewed to assess whether there are areas suitable for leasing or unsuitable for all or certain types of mining operations. The RMP will assess the occurrence and potential leasing of coal, oil and gas, tar sands, oil shale and geothermal resources. The planning process also allows for the development of terms, conditions, or other special considerations needed to protect resources.

The Middle Tanana oil and gas basin (Nenana basin) is within the planning area. However, the potential for economically developable oil and gas is extremely low on BLM-managed lands.

Locatable minerals (e.g., gold) are known to occur throughout the planning area. For lands that are open to the location of lode, placer, and mill claims the claimant has statutory authority under the mining laws to ingress, egress, and development of those claims. This authority means that those areas open to mineral entry for the purposes of exploration or development of locatable minerals cannot be unreasonably restricted. Abandoned placer mining operations occur within the planning area. This includes equipment and structures associated with the abandoned operations.

Some parts of the planning area are withdrawn from locatable mineral entry and location. The withdrawals will be reviewed and a determination made to retain, revoke, or modify as appropriate.

Mineral materials (sand and gravel) are found in much of the planning area. Some active pits are becoming depleted and there is an increasing need to expand existing pits and locate new sources for gravel and rock needs associated with maintenance of the Dalton Highway and the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. It is expected that future construction of a gas pipeline would require concerted exploratory work to locate additional sources of material to be developed. Portions of the planning area are closed to mineral location and/or leasing by various withdrawals.

Planning Questions:

Coal

- Are there unleased coal lands that are acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing and development? Are there unleased coal lands that are not acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing and development?
- Are there areas unsuitable for surface mining of coal under the criteria set forth in 43 CFR 3461.5?
- For acceptable lands, are there areas that are suitable for development by all mining methods or by only certain stipulated mining methods, such as surface or underground mining?
- Are there any special conditions that must be met during more detailed planning, lease sale, or post-lease activities, including measures required to protect other resource values?
- What is the estimate of the amount of coal recoverable by either surface or underground mining operations or both (43 CFR 3420.1-4(d))? Only those areas that have development potential may be identified as acceptable for further consideration for leasing.
- What areas have development potential for coal leasing according to the screening process outlined in 43 CFR 3420.1-4(e)(1–4)?
- What areas are to be withdrawn from further consideration for leasing to protect other resource values and land uses that are locally, regionally or nationally important or unique and that are not included in the unsuitability criteria discussed in 43 CFR 3461.5?

Fluid Minerals: Oil and Gas, Tar Sands, and Geothermal Resources

- What areas are open to fluid mineral leasing (subject to a variety of constraints)? What areas are closed to fluid mineral leasing? Which lands currently closed to mineral leasing should be opened?
- What leasing stipulations and conditions and best management practices will be employed?
- What are the circumstances for granting an exception, waiver, or modification to a lease stipulation?
- Should the leasing and development decisions also apply to geophysical exploration?
- Should constraints identified in the land use plan for new leases also apply to areas currently under lease?
- What are the long-term resource condition objectives for areas currently under development to guide reclamation activities prior to abandonment?

Non-energy Leasable Minerals

- Are there areas open or closed to non-energy leasing and development?
- Are there any area wide terms, conditions, or other special considerations needed to protect other resource values while exploring or developing minerals under the non-energy leasable regulations?

Locatable Minerals

- What lands currently withdrawn from mineral entry and location should be opened?
- Are there lands currently open for entry, location, and leasing that should be withdrawn to protect resource values?
- Are there any terms, conditions, or other special considerations needed to protect other resource values while conducting activities under the operation of the mining laws?
- How will long-term occupation for mining operations be managed?
- How will access to mining claims including the construction of new and use of existing roads and trails be managed?
- Are areas open to mining meeting State and Federal water quality standards? If not how should these activities be managed to meet legal requirements?

Mineral Materials

- What lands are currently open or closed to mineral material disposal?
- Where should future mineral material sites be allowed and how will they be managed?
- What terms, conditions, or other special considerations are needed to protect resource values while operating under the mineral materials regulations?
- How should existing mineral material sites be managed?

Issue A4: Lands and Realty

Land tenure adjustments (acquisitions, sales and exchanges) are the mechanisms by which BLM will refine its land base to fulfill its mission and to meet the economic and social needs of residents. Land conveyances to the State of Alaska and Native Corporations have resulted in a mixed pattern of land ownership. Numerous small scattered parcels of BLM lands are located within the Fairbanks North Star Borough and may be suitable for disposal.

A large portion of the Dalton Highway area is unavailable for selection under Public Land Order 5150, but is top-filed by the State of Alaska. The State may request that BLM consider a recommendation to lift all or part of PLO 5150 among the plan alternatives.

The Trans-Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS) Right of Way runs through the Dalton Highway corridor. Activities within and related to the TAPS right-of-way are managed by the Joint Pipeline Office (JPO). Exploratory work has begun toward development of a major gas pipeline that will run through the planning area. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is the lead agency on authorization of the gas line. These rights-of-way will be major factors in planning decisions and resource allocation within the planning area. Both JPO and FERC will be closely involved in the planning process.

Planning Questions:

- What lands should be retained, proposed for disposal or acquisition, and what should be the criteria to identify those lands?
- What existing land withdrawals should be continued, and which withdrawals should be modified or revoked? How should revoked or modified withdrawals be managed?
- What lands should be classified for Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease or sale?
- What areas and how many acres of State top-filed lands may be conveyed if all or part of PLO 5150 is lifted?
- What should be the criteria to authorize use, occupancy or development?
- What are the existing and potential right-of-way corridors?
- What are the existing and potential development areas for renewable energy projects?
- Are there any areas that should be avoided or excluded from rights-of-ways?
- What terms and conditions and best management practices should apply to right-of-way corridors or development areas?

Issue A5: Access

Access to public land is becoming more important as recreation and subsistence use increases. Section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) provided for the reservation of easements across lands being conveyed to Native regional and village corporations primarily to provide access to public lands. In many cases, easements were reserved to provide legal rather than physical access, with no ground truthing prior to the conveyance. In addition, these easements have not provided the physical access needed to reach federal land.

Planning Questions:

- Is there a need for acquisition, termination, or re-location of 17(b) or other easements for access to public lands?
- What opportunities exist for cooperation and coordination with Native Corporations in 17(b) easement management?
- What considerations are needed for management of existing and proposed rights-of-way including the Dalton Highway, Bettles Winter Road, etc.?

B. Conservation of lands having special, critical, or unique features or resource values

Issue B1: Special Designations

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) designations highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect important resources or to protect human life and safety from natural hazards. Section 202 (c)(3) of FLPMA mandates that BLM give priority to the designation and protection of ACECs in the development and revision of land use plans. ACECs must meet the relevance

and importance criteria in 43 CFR 1610.7-2(b) and must require special management to: Protect the area and prevent irreparable damage to resources or natural systems; or protect life and promote safety in areas where natural hazards exist.

Research Natural Areas (RNA) are established and maintained for the purpose of research and education because the land has one or more of the following characteristics: (1) A typical representation of a common plant or animal association; (2) an unusual plant or animal association; (3) a threatened or endangered plant or animal species; (4) a typical representation of common geologic, soil, or water features; or (5) outstanding or unusual geologic, soil, or water features (43 CFR 8223). Consistent with current policy, RNAs would be designated as a type of ACEC using the ACEC designation process (H-1601-1, Appendix C and BLM Manual 1613).

The planning area contains 34 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Research Natural Areas (RNAs), many of which the original designation status is unclear and others that have experienced a change in resource status or lands status since designation. For example, two ACECs were designated to protect peregrine falcon habitat. The peregrine falcon is no longer a federally listed species in Alaska. Several ACECs have been partially or totally conveyed to either the state or a Native corporation. Some ACECs may not be large enough or located in the most appropriate location to protect the values for which they were designated such as crucial spawning habitat. All 34 ACECs in the planning area should be reviewed.

In addition, the Dalton Highway is currently a State of Alaska Scenic Byway and a Corridor Partnership Plan has been completed to address management of the road as a Scenic Byway. The BLM may also look at the Dalton Highway as a National Scenic Byway and will use this RMP as the vehicle to do so (under the guidance of H-1601-1 Appendix C Administrative Designations).

Planning Questions:

- Are the current ACEC designations meaningful and of the proper size and location? Should they be maintained, modified, or dropped?
- Are there any other areas in the planning area that should be considered for special designations such as ACEC or RNA?

<u>Issue B2. River Management</u>

Potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system will be considered during this land use planning effort. Since all the rivers in the planning area are free-flowing, identifying rivers that are eligible pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires identifying outstandingly remarkable values. Through the public scoping process and an internal review, the presence of outstandingly

remarkable values will be identified for rivers on BLM-managed lands. Likely dozens of rivers will need to be reviewed for outstandingly remarkable values.

This RMP/EIS will decide on the suitability or non-suitability of rivers as additions to the national wild and scenic rivers system. Rivers that are found suitable may be recommended to Congress for designation. There are no rivers in the planning area currently designated in the Wild and Scenic River System.

Planning Questions:

- What rivers in the planning area are eligible pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act? Of these eligible rivers, are any suitable for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system or are they better managed without designation?
- What strategies should be developed for the protection of river values?
- What management strategies can be developed to address conflicts in management on rivers or river segments that have been determined to be navigable and therefore managed by the State of Alaska?

Issue B.3 Wilderness Study Areas

The planning area includes the Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Study Area, commonly referred to as CAMA. Section 1001 of ANILCA directs the BLM to conduct an interdisciplinary study of natural resources on the federal lands within CAMA. Section 1004(c) further states that the federal lands described in section 1001 are a wilderness study area (WSA). The findings and recommendations of this interdisciplinary study are found in the *ANILCA Section 1001 Report Findings and Recommendations* which was submitted to Congress in 1988. The ANILCA 1001 report finds that the 41,000 acre Upper Nigu River area is suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and also serves as the Wilderness Study report required by BLM's wilderness study process. Additionally, as a WSA, CAMA is part of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System.

Originally CAMA included more than 3 million acres. Title X of ANILCA directs the Secretary to conduct a wilderness study of lands within CAMA. Section 1001(f) states that "Nothing in this Title [Title X] shall be construed as impeding, delaying, or otherwise affecting the selection and conveyance of land to the State pursuant to the Alaska Statehood Act, or any other Federal law referred to in Section 102(3)(A) of this Act…". Much of the CAMA has been conveyed and approximately 250,000 acres remain under BLM management. Of this, BLM is likely to retain only 135,000 acres, including the Upper Nigu River block.

CAMA lands will continue to be managed consistent with the *Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review* and ANILCA until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendation or releases these lands from consideration for designation.

Planning Questions:

- How will BLM ensure that the wilderness values of the CAMA lands are maintained until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendation?
- How should the CAMA lands be managed if Congress releases them from wilderness consideration?

Issue B4: National Historic Trails

The Iditarod National Historic Trail (NHT) runs through the planning area. The vast majority of the trail is on state or private lands. Two miles are on PLO 843 which is withdrawn for military purposes. An additional two miles may be located on state-selected lands. BLM management of the trail segments will be further clarified and if portions of the trail are located on public lands, management of these segments will be considered consistent with BLM Manual 6280.

- Where in the planning are does the Iditarod NHT cross BLM-managed lands? Is BLM likely to retain management of these lands over the long-term?
- How does the update to the Iditarod trail wide Comprehensive Plan affect development of the RMP?
- What is the nature and purpose of the Iditarod NHT?
- What public land area will be established as the NHT Management Corridor?
- What management practices will occur to manage the Iditarod NHT so as to safeguard the nature and purpose of the trail and in manner which protects the values for which it was designated?
- What are the appropriate visual resource management classifications for the Iditarod NHT segments that cross BLM-managed lands?
- Are there any interpretive opportunities on the Iditarod NHT segments that traverse BLM-managed lands?

C. Management of Natural Resources

Issue C1: Air

The CYFO anticipates that air quality issues will be identified through the scoping process. Requirements for air under Appendix C of H-1601-1 will be met.

The CYFO will follow guidance in the Memorandum of Understanding among the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Interior, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, regarding air quality analysis and mitigation for Federal oil and gas decisions through the National Environmental Policy Act process. The MOU establishes a common process for the participating agencies to use when analyzing and addressing adverse air quality and air quality related values (AQRV) impacts related to onshore federal oil and gas activities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Planning Questions:

- What are the desired outcomes and area wide criteria or restrictions that should apply to direct or authorized emission-generating activities (including requirements under the Clean Air Act)?

Issue C2: Soil and Water

The CYFO anticipates that soil and water issues, in addition to the following preliminary issues, will be identified through the scoping process.

Planning Questions:

- Are any watersheds in the planning area in need of special protection?
- What is the desired outcome for water quality within the planning area (considering the standards or goals under the Clean Water Act)?
- How will we ensure that water quality requirements are met in waters on BLM lands?
- Are any soils in the planning area in need of special protection?
- How will we ensure riparian and aquatic resources are protected from adverse effects of proposed herbicide use for controlling invasive plants?
- What management strategies can be developed to address conflicts in management where the State of Alaska has jurisdiction below the ordinary high-water mark?
- For the stream types within the planning area, what are typical, natural width:depth ratios, sinuosity, streambank conditions, channel substrate conditions, and large woody debris characteristics?
- What measures other than filing for water rights are needed to ensure water availability for multiple use management and functioning of healthy riparian and upland systems?
- Are riparian-wetlands and their associated aquatic habitats functioning properly at levels appropriate to the watersheds potential or capability?
- What management considerations are necessary to ensure watershed health, including connection to the water table.

Issue C3: Hazardous and Solid Wastes

Solid and Hazardous waste sites exist within the planning area. The Dalton Highway area has seen continual development since the late 1960's. The construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline created numerous locations where supplies were consolidated during construction. These sites areas may be of concern regarding contamination of the environment through solid and/or hazardous waste non-compliant disposal. BLM Manual 1703, Hazard Management and Resource Restoration provide policy and guidance for compliance with applicable environmental statutes and safety.

Planning Questions:

- How will existing solid waste sites affect the management plan?
- How will existing hazardous waste sites affect the management plan?
- How will the generation of solid and hazardous waste be handled?

Issue C4: Vegetation

Vegetation provides food and cover for wildlife, plus scenic enjoyment and subsistence needs for people. Vegetation is a key ingredient in determining the health of public lands because it influences the quantity and quality of water produced from the watershed, and affects overland flows and soil movement, which can lead to erosion and loss of habitat.

Wildland fire occurs in both tundra and forest. Among many other effects, wildfire reduces lichen cover and biomass, and in tundra plant communities tends to increase graminoid and shrub components. However multi-aged lichen stands provide diversity and ecological stability. Lichen is an important element of winter forage for caribou.

Important subsistence uses of vegetation include picking berries and greens, plus firewood and house log harvest. Invasive non-native plants exist and are spreading in some parts of the planning area. Dalton Highway Management Area Integrated Invasive Plant Strategic Plan was recently completed and will be considered during planning. The large fires in recent years have exacerbated the invasive plant problem.

Planning Questions:

- What plant communities exist, in what amounts, and how are they distributed in the planning area?
- What are the desired conditions of the plant communities in the planning area?
- What is the extent of the spread of invasive non-native plants and what control methods should be employed? Which areas and species are the highest priority for management?
- What integrated vegetation management techniques could be used to rehabilitate weed infestations or control nonnative and invasive plants?
- What measures, such as early detection and rapid response, can be applied to prevent spread or introduction on nonnative and invasive species?
- Where would the subsistence, personal, and commercial harvesting of timber products (house logs, firewood, saw logs) be allowed and under what conditions?
- Where would the subsistence, commercial, and personal harvest of special forest products (mushrooms, berries, bark, etc.) be allowed and under what conditions?

Issue C5: Forestry

There is no current commercial forestry activity in the planning area, and no likelihood of any developing in the foreseeable future due to distance to market, small timber size, and marginal volumes. There is light subsistence usage of dead and down wood and special forest products. There is potential for commercial mushroom harvests during specific years after large fires, but they are not predictable and there is no way to inventory the potential crop ahead of time. Planning questions regarding where and under what conditions harvest would be allowed are included in the Vegetation section, above.

Issue C6: Special Status Species

Special Status species include plants or animal that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), proposed for listing as threatened or endangered, listed as a candidate species, listed by the State of Alaska, or designated as sensitive by the BLM-Alaska State Director. The BLM has a legal mandate to conserve threatened and endangered species, and BLM's policy is to conserve all special status species to ensure that they do not require listing under the ESA (BLM Manual 6840). Additionally, policy requires the management of BLM sensitive species and their habitats to minimize or eliminate threats affecting the status of the species or to improve the condition of the species habitat through a variety of management activities (BLM Manual 6840). Handbook 1610-1 requires identification of strategies and decisions to conserve special status species.

Three listed species, polar bear, spectacled eider, and Steller's eider occur on the north slope of Alaska. None of these species are likely to occur on BLM-managed lands within the planning area. The only designated critical habitat occurring in the planning area is for polar bear. However, there is no designated critical habitat on BLM-managed lands. The CYFO will consult the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to address listed and candidate species during the planning process.

The Yukon River Chinook salmon is a state listed stock of concern. There are 24 BLM-Alaska sensitive animal species and 50 BLM-Alaska sensitive plant species, some of which likely occur in the planning area. Distribution and population information on most of these species is limited. The State's Wildlife Action Plan and fish stocks of concern will be considered during planning.

Planning Questions:

- Where and in what numbers do Special Status Species exist within the planning area, what is the current condition of the populations, and what are the habitat needs of those species?
- What are the desired outcomes, strategies, restoration opportunities, use restrictions, and management actions needed to conserve and recover special status species?

- What information is needed to adequately assess impacts to special status plant and animal species, and botanical resources in support of permitting and monitoring activities for mineral development, recreation opportunities, etc.?
- Are there other unique botanical resources that should be considered for management actions to conserve their diversity in the planning area?
- What management actions will benefit and conserve special status plant, animal, and fish species within the planning area?
- Are there specific management plans (such as conservation strategies or recovery plans) that need to be considered and incorporated during planning?
- How can we work with partners and stakeholders to develop conservation strategies for special status species?

Issue C7: Fish and Wildlife

Fish

Both anadromous and resident species of fish inhabit the planning area. Habitat produces salmon that are harvested in downstream commercial fisheries. Subsistence and recreational fishers also place a demand on the areas fish resources within the planning area. Projected land development and increased user activities that may occur over the life of the plan have the potential to impact aquatic habitat and fisheries. The aquatic section of this plan will address these issues and develop conservation measures for key habitats and populations of fish. Guidance for managing aquatic resources is provided through Manual 6720 (Aquatic Resources Management), and within the Alaska Land Health Standards and Guidelines.

Planning Questions:

- Which fish species are a priority for the planning area based on established evaluation factors (BLM special status, density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, age) and what is the location and spatial extent of habitat use for these species in the planning area?
- What are the desired outcomes for habitat conditions required for all life stages (spawning, rearing, feeding, over-wintering) or population levels for priority fish species?
- What types of specific actions or area-wide use restrictions will contribute to attaining desired habitat conditions or population levels given current land use and anticipated increased land development and public use of the resources?
- Where does Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) exist in the planning area and what are potential impacts given anticipated increased land development and public use of the resources?
- How will riparian and aquatic resources be projected from adverse effects of placer and mineral materials mining?

Wildlife

Handbook 1601-1 requires the identification of priority wildlife species, habitats, and actions or use restrictions needed to achieve desired population and habitat

conditions. The planning area supports a wide variety of wildlife. Many of these species are important subsistence resources for residents of the area. Additionally, the planning area includes numerous ACECs and three national wildlife refuges.

Planning Questions:

- What are the priority wildlife species, in addition to special status species, for the planning area based on established evaluation factors such as density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, or age? Where are they located and what is their habitat use in the planning area?
- What are the desired outcomes for wildlife habitat in order to sustain priority wildlife species?
- What are the desired habitat conditions and/or populations for major habitat types that support a wide variety of game, non-game, and migratory bird species?
- What actions and area-wide use restrictions are needed to achieve desired wildlife populations or habitat conditions in the planning area in light of changing land use patterns and climate?

Issue C8: Subsistence

For thousands of years, Alaska Natives relied on fish, wildlife and other wild resources for food, shelter, clothing, transportation, and trade. Today, many rural Alaskans continue to live off the land and waters, depending upon wild plants, fish and animals as reliable and economic sources of food. For many Alaskans, the ability to continue these subsistence activities is also an important part of their cultural heritage. Title VIII of ANILCA was designed to ensure continued access to subsistence resources on Federal land. Preservation and availability of subsistence resources is an issue of extreme importance to residents of the planning area. Additional management concerns regarding subsistence are listed under Recreation, Wildlife and Fisheries.

Planning Questions:

- How will we protect resources that are important to maintaining a subsistence lifestyle?

Issue C9: Cultural Resources

While there are known sites in the planning area, there are vast areas where little information exists. It is important to develop management strategies for the known sites in the area and to set priorities for future inventories. Planning goals for cultural resources include identification, preservation, and protection of significant cultural resources to ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (FLPMA, Section 103 (c), 201(a) and (c); National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a); Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14(a)), and reduction of imminent threats and resolution of potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflicts with other resource

uses (FLPMA Sec. 103(c), NHPA 106, 110 (a) (2)) by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use will comply with the NHPA Section 106.

Planning Questions:

- What special cultural resource restrictions exist that may affect the location, timing, or method of development or use of other resources in the planning area?
- What site-specific use restrictions may result from cultural resources currently being actively managed?
- What are the area wide criteria for recognizing potential cultural resource conflicts?
- What measures should be taken to pro-actively manage, protect, and use cultural resources, including traditional cultural properties?
- Are data available for allocating cultural resources to the 6 use categories outlined on p. 9 of Appendix C of H-1601-1?
- What Traditional Cultural Properties exist within the planning area?

Issue C10: Paleontology

There are hundreds of known occurrences of paleontological materials from in the planning area. It is important to develop management strategies for the known sites in the area and to set priorities for futures inventories in the planning area. This RMP will provide guidance for the program consistent with H-1601-1.

Planning Questions:

- Are data available for allocating paleontological resources to the 6 use categories outlined on p. 9 of Appendix C of H-1601-1?
- What criteria or use restrictions are needed to ensure that areas containing, or that are likely to contain, vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils, are identified and evaluated prior to authorizing surface-disturbing activities?
- What criteria or use restrictions are needed to ensure management that promotes the scientific, educational, and recreational uses of fossils?
- What threats to paleontological resources exist and how can they be mitigated?

Issue C11: Visual Resources

BLM policy requires that a Visual Resource Inventory be conducted covering all BLM-managed lands to serve as a baseline of existing conditions and Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes be designated for all public lands in the RMP Record of Decision. VRM Classes establish the objectives by which the VRI values will be managed and that future development will be required to meet under the implementation of the RMP. The VRI (Scenic Quality, Sensitivity and Distance Zones) values are taken into consideration along with the other resource

values and resource allocations when designating VRM Classes. Also visual design considerations are required for all surface-disturbing projects occurring on public lands regardless of the size or potential visual impact of a project.

Many visitors are attracted to the visual qualities of the planning area. VRM is a tool to help minimize the visual impacts associated with development activities without undue degradation of the visual values. It is also important to understand that the VRM Contrast Rating Process, which is part of the VRM system, is a tool for evaluating proposed development's conformance to the RMP VRM Class objectives. The Visual Contrast Rating process also serves as a design tool to assist management in the minimization of potential visual impacts associated with proposed development.

Planning Questions:

- Is there a Visual Resource Inventory that covers the entire planning area? If so, then is it current and is all the background information (field inventory forms, mapping, GIS data) available for the three inventory factors – Scenic Quality, Sensitivity, and Distance Zones.
- Given other resource uses, what VRM management classes should be applied in the planning area that will establish land use allocation compatibility while protecting the visual resource values?
- Are any of the Visual values of a scarce nature?
- How will VRM Alternatives be developed and impacts on the visual values quantified?
- How will the updated VRI be maintained and kept current under RMP implementation?

Issue C12: Wildland Fire Management

Wildland fire commonly occurs throughout the planning area. It provides one of the most significant mechanisms for changes in the landscape. Without fire, large areas of the landscape will become dominated by black or white spruce and old areas of lichens will lose their value as a food source for some animals. This plan will determine which areas would benefit from fire and which areas or resources may need protection from wildland fire in accordance with H-1601-1, Appendix C, the Fire Planning Handbook (H-9211-1) and IM-2003-001. This plan will also examine the need for fuels manipulation to meet management objectives.

Land Fire data, including fire regime condition class is available for the planning area.

Planning Questions:

- What allowable uses and management actions would achieve the desired landscape-level fire management goals and objectives?
- What are the desired fire regime and condition class (FRCC)?

- What fire management objectives will support the goals and objectives for vegetation, wildlife, and other resources?
- What areas are suitable and what areas are unsuitable for wildland fire use?
- What types of fuels management or vegetation treatments would be implemented and where (mechanical, biological, chemical, or prescribed fire)?
- Where are restrictions on fire management practices needed to protect natural or cultural resource values?
- What landscape-scale fire management priorities will guide more site-specific priorities at the fire management plan level?

Issue C13: Interpretation and Environmental Education

In spite of improvements to the road surface, traveling the 414-mile Dalton Highway involves serious risks and challenges, as does accessing the roadless parts of the planning area. There is a continuing need to inform and educate visitors about these risks as well as resource protection and regulations. Identifying and explaining key natural and cultural resources of the planning area is essential to public understanding of their special values and thus appreciation and stewardship of public lands.

Future interpretive programming will also need to address developing issues such as global warming, increased oil and gas development, conflicts between user groups, changes in technology for delivering interpretive and educational messages (e.g. via digital and electronic devices), and increasing visitation by families with children. Interpretation efforts will need to incorporate newer Bureau directives such as Benefits-Based Management and the Take It Outside initiative.

Planning Questions:
- What interpretive and environmental education goals should be identified?
- What significant resources or areas should be available for interpretation or environmental education?

Issue C14: Social Science and Environmental Justice Considerations

Executive Order (EO) 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations," requires that each federal agency consider environmental justice to be part of its mission. Its intent is to promote fair treatment of people of all races, so no person or group of people bears a disproportionate share of the negative effects from the country's domestic and foreign programs. Specific to this planning process, the EO and BLM policy require the BLM is to identify and address as appropriate all actions that cause disproportionately high and adverse impacts to Indian Tribes, and minority and low-income populations.

There are 24 remote villages and 15 federally recognized Tribes in the planning area. Potential environmental justice issues include protection of subsistence resources, protection of and access to historic hunting, fishing, and trapping areas and impacts of land use on subsistence users.

Planning Questions:

- What are economic, demographic, and social conditions and trends in the planning area?
- What changes in economic, demographic, and social conditions and trends are expected to result from planning decisions?
- If recreation activities and associated facilities change (quantity, character, etc.), what will be the economic benefit or cost?
- If BLM changes the OHV designation, what will be the economic effect in terms of facilities necessary to support public use?
- What are the economic results if land is transferred to the state, and development occurs?
- What are the environmental justice populations in the planning area and will there be any disproportionally high and adverse effects to these populations?

Issue C14: Wilderness Characteristics

It is BLM policy to evaluate lands with wilderness characteristics through the land use planning process and when such lands are present, examine options for managing these lands and determine the most appropriate land use allocations for them (BLM Manual 6320).

To date, CYFO has completed wilderness characteristic inventories on approximately 8.8 million acres. There is also a 1980 Non-wilderness assessment along the proposed Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System (ANGTS) route which determined that 1,474,000 acres does not meet the wilderness characteristics and size criteria because of land status and various human made improvements that affect these criteria. Given the remote and primarily pristine nature of the planning area and the acreage involved, it is likely that more than 90% of the BLM-managed lands will be classified as lands with wilderness characteristics. In Alaska, provisions in ANILCA affect how lands with wilderness characteristics would be maintained. The State of Alaska is generally not supportive of managing lands for wilderness characteristics and this will likely be a controversial issue in the RMP.

Planning Questions:

- Which lands have wilderness characteristics?
- Which areas should be managed to protect or preserve wilderness characteristics and what decisions are necessary to accomplish this?
- For authorized activities, what conditions of use are necessary to avoid or minimize impacts to wilderness characteristics?

Issue C15: Climate Change

Climate change and its effects on the lands and resources are of great concern to many Alaskans. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recently concluded that "warming of the climate system is unequivocal". Computer model predictions indicate that increases in temperature are likely to be accentuated at higher latitudes. Northern latitudes (above 24° north) have exhibited temperature increases of nearly 2.1 degrees F. since 1900.

- How will the Eastern Interior RMP address the impacts of climate change and the development of land management strategies that reduce impacts, incorporate appropriate monitoring, and allow for adaptive management to respond to changes over time?

III. Preliminary Planning Criteria

The BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.4-2) require identification of planning criteria to guide the development of the RMP. Planning criteria provide the constraints used by the planning team as it develops the plan's alternatives and ultimately selects the preferred alternative. They also ensure that the RMP is tailored to the identified issues and that unnecessary data collection and analysis are avoided.

Planning criteria are based on the applicable laws and regulations, agency guidance, the results of public participation, as well as consultation and coordination with a wide variety of participating agencies and entities. They are also based on the analysis of pertinent information and the professional judgment of the planning team.

The following preliminary planning criteria were developed internally and will be reviewed by the public during scoping; they will be included in the Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register*. Planning criteria may be amended, supplemented, or changed during the planning process. After public comment analysis, the planning criteria will be approved by the BLM and will be included in the Draft RMP/EIS.

1. The primary purpose of the lands withdrawn by PLO 5150 is the transportation of energy resources; therefore, actions or activities with potential adverse impacts to existing and future energy transportation systems will be avoided.
2. Opportunities for public participation will be encouraged throughout the planning process.
3. Valid existing rights will be recognized and protected.
4. Subsistence uses will be considered and adverse impacts minimized in accordance with Section 810 of ANILCA.
5. The BLM will work cooperatively with the state and federal agencies, Native corporations, Tribes, and municipal governments.
6. Plans and policies of adjacent conservation system units, land owners, and local governments will be considered, and RMP decisions will be consistent to the degree reasonably practical.

7. Wildlife habitat management will be consistent with DOI guidance, Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) objectives, and the Federal Subsistence Board requirements and mandates.
8. The RMP will conform to the Bureau's H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix C, Program-Specific and Resource-Specific Decision Guidance and all applicable BLM manuals and handbooks.
9. The plan will be consistent with the standards and guidance set forth in FLPMA, NEPA, CEQ, NHPA, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, ANILCA, and other Federal laws, regulations, and policies as required.
10. The plan will be consistent with BLM-Alaska Land Health Standards.
11. Designations for Off-Highway Vehicles for all BLM-managed lands within the planning area will be completed according to the regulations found in 43 CFR 8342.
12. Within the Utility Corridor development nodes, areas designated for future development, will be assessed regarding their location, size, boundaries, and appropriate uses, their long-range development, state or federal management, and effects on adjacent and nearby lands.
13. Public access needs will be addressed.
14. Current and potentially new special management areas, such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and Research Natural Areas (RNAs) will be considered using the criteria found in 43 CFR 1610.7-2.
15. Review and classification of waterways as eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System will follow the guidance found in BLM's 8351 Manual.
16. BLM will incorporate Environmental Justice (EJ) considerations in land use planning alternatives to adequately respond to EJ issues facing minority populations, low income communities, and Tribes living near public lands and using public land resources.
17. The analysis will employ guidance provided in H-1601-1, Appendix D, Social Science Considerations in Land Use Planning Decisions.
18. All BLM-managed lands in the planning area, including selected lands, will be assessed for wilderness characteristics using criteria established by BLM Manual 6310. The RMP will examine options for managing lands with wilderness characteristics and determine the most appropriate land use allocations for these lands. Considering wilderness characteristics in the land use planning process may result in several outcomes, including, but not limited to: (1) emphasizing other multiple uses as a priority over protecting wilderness characteristics; (2) emphasizing other multiple uses while applying management restrictions (conditions of use, mitigation measures) to reduce impacts to wilderness characteristics; (3) the protection of wilderness characteristics as a priority over other uses.
19. New recommendations to Congress for Wilderness designation will not be considered in this plan (Memorandum from the Secretary to Director of BLM, June 1, 2011).

20. The Central Arctic Management Area WSA will be managed consistent with the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands under Wilderness Review (citation) and ANILCA until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendation.

IV. Data Gaps and GIS Needs, Including Inventory

The ID Team has preliminarily identified data and GIS products required to address the resource use and issues and to develop and analyze the impacts of the plan alternatives. The Data Matrix in Section X summarizes these data needs and provides a cost estimate for collecting, analyzing and digitizing the required data. Available data from the state, other federal agencies, and other legitimate sources of data will be compiled and utilized.

Compilation of data and the formulation of the Analysis of the Management Situation will constitute a major workload in 2013-2014. In preparation for this, surface and subsurface land status will be reviewed and may be corrected by a team composed of CYFO, AFO, and State Office staff. Management of the GIS data will be time consuming and complex, and may require the dedication of additional staff.

Much of the existing data needs to be updated, compiled, and digitized to be of value in the planning process. The information is used in the development of the alternatives and mapping for the land use plan. GIS themes provide the building blocks used to qualify resources, create maps, and manipulate maps during the development of the alternatives.

In addition to existing information, new data such as a visual resource and wilderness characteristics inventories will be needed within the planning area to ensure adequate baseline information on the resources. The Field Office expects to compile the majority of this information from existing sources and through GIS analysis. A few months of field work may be required and will be completed during the summers of 2013-2014. New data will be in a GIS compliant format.

Rapid ecological assessments (REA) have to primary goals: 1) to provide landscape-level information needed in developing habitat conservation strategies on public lands; and 2) to inform land use planning, environmental analysis, and decision making for interconnected public land uses and values. There are three REAs that overlap with the planning area. The Seward Peninsula-Nulato Hills-Kobuk (SNK) REA is completed. The Yukon River Lowlands-Kuskokwim Mountains-Lime Hills REA has just started. The Kobuk Ridges and Valleys-Ray Mountains (KR) REA is planned for the future. The Field Office has requested that funding for the KR REA be provided this year so that the data will be available for use in the RMP. As it becomes available, data from these REAs will be used to help develop the RMP.

V. Participants in the Process

A. BLM Participants

The Central Yukon Field Office will use primarily in-house staff for working on the RMP. Assistance will be needed from the Alaska State Office (AKSO) to cover scarce skills. Some scarce skills such as socio-economic analysis and writer-editor may be contracted. Other items such as scheduling and organizing scoping meetings may also be contracted out.

Management Team: This team is responsible for oversight of controversies and issues that surround this planning effort and may affect other ongoing planning efforts or have statewide implications. This team will also ensure that appropriate budgets are provided to complete the plan over the expected five year duration of this project. The CYFO Field Manager will be the representative for the field offices, but will coordinate as needed with the AFO and EIFO Field Managers.

State Director – Bud Cribely
Fairbanks District Manager – Steve Hartmann
Central Yukon Field Office Manager – Shelly Jacobson
State Planning and Environmental Coordinator – Serena Sweet

Core Team: The Core Team will provide overall direction, quality control, and inter/intra-agency coordination. This team will ensure appropriate logistical support and pursue opportunities for increasing planning efficiencies through coordination of contracting, hiring, travel, training, etc. This team will review text and all other documents composed by the Interdisciplinary Team and assist in preparation of the document. This group will be responsible for the daily tasks associated with the planning process.

RMP Team Lead – Jeanie Cole
Resources Supervisor – Tim Hammond
Lands and Recreation Supervisor – Gary Foreman

Interdisciplinary Team: The Interdisciplinary (ID) Team is represented by staff professionals across a wide variety of resource management fields. This team is directed by the Core Team and has primary responsibilities in the collection of data and analysis of data or directing inventory needs, authoring sections of the RMP/EIS and supporting documents, developing alternatives, analyzing impacts, responding to comments, resolving protests, and providing program specific expertise as needed.

Table 2. Interdisciplinary Team Members and Roles

Individual or Unit	Responsibilities
AKSO: Rob Brumbaugh, John Hoppe, Rob Ellefson	Leasable minerals, mineral potential reports, reasonably foreseeable development scenarios
Darrel VandeWeg	Locatable minerals, salable minerals
Peggy Thigpen, Michael Gibson, and Vic Wallace	Lands and Realty, including 17(b) easements and withdrawal review
To be determined	Wildlife and Subsistence
Bob Karlen and Carl Kretsinger	Fish and Essential Fish Habitat
Jen McMillan	Vegetation, Non-Native, Invasive Species, Special Status Species and Section 7 Consultation
Jen McMillan, Tim Hammond	Forest and Woodland Products, Forest Health
Jen McMillan and Skip Theisen	Wildland Fire Ecology and Management
Bill Hedman	Cultural and Paleontological resources and Section 106, traditional cultural properties, national historic trails
Kelly Egger	Recreation and Visitor Services
AKSO, Randy Goodwin	Travel Management
Cal Westcott	Visual Resource Management
Dave Parker, Dave Esse, and Ben Kennedy	Air Resources (including climate change), Soil Resources, Water Resources
Resource specialists pertinent to ACEC values	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas
Lisa Shon Jodwalis, Shelly Jacobson, Donna Wixon	Wild and Scenic Rivers, Wilderness Characteristics and Wilderness Study Areas
Stacy Fritz	Environmental Justice and Socio-Cultural Systems
Contractor	Economic Analysis; Economic Workshop
Mark Faughn	GIS analysis and mapping;
Roger Sayre	Coordination with Arctic Field Office
Rebecca Hile	Hazmat and Abandoned Mine Lands
Karen Deatherage	Interpretation and Environmental Education

Support Team:
Administrative Assistant – Unassigned
Public Affairs – Craig McCaa (FDO) and Alaska Office of Communications
Writer-Editor – Alaska Office of Communications or contract through the NOC
Printing and GPO Contracts – Alaska Office of Communications

Other Consultation:
Government-to-Government Consultation: Field Office Manager
Consultation with Native Corporations: Field Office Manager/Team Lead

B. Potential Cooperating Agencies

The CEQ regulations that implement NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) allow federal agencies to invite state, local, and tribal governments, as well as other federal agencies to serve as CAs in the preparation of environmental impact statements. Additionally under FLPMA, the BLM has a responsibility to coordinate with other units of government in order to maximize consistency with plans and policies of other government entities, to the extent practical, whether or not a CA relationship has been established. The BLM amended its planning regulations in 2005 to ensure that it engages its government partners consistently and effectively through the CA relationship when land use plans are prepared or revised.

CEQ regulations, apart from the provisions for tribes, recognize two criteria for CA status: *jurisdiction by law* and *special expertise*. CEQ regulations specify that a Tribe is eligible for CA status when the effects of the action are on a reservation. In contrast, BLM regulations apply the same criteria of *jurisdiction by law* and *special expertise* to Tribes, as well as local and state governments, and other federal agencies.

Jurisdiction by law offers a very specific basis for CA status: Authority by a federal, state, Tribal, or local government entity to approve, deny, or finance all or part of a proposal.

Special expertise means statutory responsibility, agency mission, or related program experience (40 CFR 1508.26). Special expertise provides a broader window for CA status, emphasizing the "relevant capabilities or knowledge" that a federal, state, local, or Tribal government entity has with respect to reasonable alternatives or any significant environmental, social, or economic impacts associated with a proposed action. There are two key considerations in determining whether an agency or government possesses special expertise relative to an RMP or EIS. The expertise must be relevant to the decisions to be made, and it must be demonstrated, generally through an appropriate program focus and staff capabilities.

Both BLM planning regulations and DOI NEPA regulations require managers to invite eligible agencies and governments to become CAs on RMPs and EISs. Managers are expected to make a reasonable effort to identify federal, state, local, and Tribal entities possessing jurisdiction by law or special expertise concerning an RMP or EIS. Once these entities are identified, managers must extend invitations to eligible agencies and governments (43 CFR 1610.3-1 and 43 CFR 46.225(b)).

The following table identifies potential CAs for the Central Yukon RMP and a preliminary assessment of their role based on jurisdiction by law or special expertise. Informal discussions with potential CAs should begin at this time, followed by formal invitations for CA status as appropriate.

Table 3. Potential Cooperating Agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes

Potential Cooperating Agency	**Role**
State of Alaska	Jurisdiction by law (delegated authority under Clean Water Act or Clean Air Act) and special expertise through relevant statutory responsibility (hunting and fishing regulations, management of wildlife, water rights, etc.)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Region	Jurisdiction by law regarding federally listed species; Special expertise through relevant statutory responsibility (federal subsistence regulations, migratory birds, Golden and Bald Eagle acts); special expertise fish populations.
National Park Service	No authority in law. Possible special expertise.
Department of the Army	Jurisdiction by law for Tanana Flats Training area.
Boroughs (within or near the planning area)	
North Slope Borough	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses
Fairbanks North Star Borough	No authority in law. Possible special expertise.
Denali Borough	No authority in law. Possible special expertise.
Northwest Arctic Borough	No authority in law. No known special expertise applicable to planning area. Borough has very minimal overlap with the planning area and no BLM lands in the overlap area.
Federally Recognized Tribes (within or near the planning area)	
Alatna Village	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Allakaket Village	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Evansville Village (aka Bettles Field)	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Galena Village (aka Louden Village)	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Hughes Village	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Huslia Village	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Village of Kaltag	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.

Potential Cooperating Agency	Role
Koyukuk Native Village	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Native Village of Minto	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Manley Hot Springs Village	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Nenana Native Association	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Nulato Village	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Rampart Village	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Native Village of Minto	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Native Village of Ruby	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Native Village of Tanana	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Village of Anaktuvuk Pass	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Native Village of Stevens Village	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Village of Venetie	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Native Village of Unalakleet	No authority in law. Possible special expertise in subsistence resources/uses or traditional cultural properties.
Cities and Communities (in or near the planning area)	
City of Allakeket (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Anderson (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Bettles (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Hughes (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Husila (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.

Potential Cooperating Agency	Role
City of Kaltag (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Koyukuk (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Nenana (Home Rule City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Nulato (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Ruby (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Tanana (1st Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
Fairbanks (Home Rule City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
North Pole (Home Rule City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Unalakleet (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.
City of Anaktuvuk Pass (2nd Class City)	No authority in law or special expertise.

C. Government-to-Government Consultation

The Field Office will initiate government-to-government consultation with the federally recognized tribes within or near the planning area listed in Table 3. In addition, the ANCSA corporations will be invited to consult under the Secretarial policy issued August 10, 2012. Consultation will be initiated early in the planning process.

- Doyon, Limited
- NANA, Inc.
- Arctic Slope
- Numerous Village corporations (village corporations for all of the communities that are federally recognized tribes listed in Table 3)

VI. Format and Process for the Plan

A. Format

The outline for the RMP follows BLM H-1601-1, Land Use Planning Handbook. All legal and policy requirements will be met in the plan and in the process regarding public notices, required elements, and distribution of draft and final documents. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality guidelines (CEQ) will be met. The draft and final EIS will be published with the draft and proposed versions of the RMP.

Public comments will be analyzed after closure of the public comment period for the draft RMP/EIS. All comments will be considered and substantive comments will be addressed before the proposed RMP and final EIS are published.

A Central Yukon RMP website will be developed and maintained. The draft RMP/EIS will be available for online commenting through an interactive document. Comments will also be accepted through other traditional means including at public meetings and in writing.

B. Planning and EIS Process

The planning process will be guided by the planning regulations as set forth in 43 CFR 1600 and the H-1610-1 Land Use Planning Handbook. The regulations and manual provide the procedural guidance for implementing Sections 201 and 202 of FLPMA. The RMP will describe the current management situation, establish the basic goals and objectives for desired conditions and identify the measures needed to achieve these goals and objectives.

Completion of the Draft EIS will follow the basic process requirements specified by the CEQ for the preparation of EISs. Supplementary guidance provided by the Land Use Planning Handbook 1601-1 will be followed.

The CYFO will develop the RMP/EIS using steps:

- Pre-planning preparations
- Pre-scoping preparations and organizing RMP teams.
- Identify issues and data gaps, conduct scoping, complete scoping report and AMS report
- Formulate alternatives, do impact analysis, identify mitigation measures, monitoring and evaluation requirements
- Prepare and release Draft RMP/EIS
- Conduct public review and comment on the Draft RMP/EIS
- Analyze public comment and prepare the Proposed RMP/Final EIS
- Release the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and initiate the protest period and Governor's consistency review
- Respond to protests
- Complete and release the Records of Decisions and Approved RMP

C. Alternative Development

A range of alternatives, including a no-action alternative, will be developed to respond to issues. Each alternative will provide different solutions to the issues and concerns. The objective in alternative formulation will be to develop realistic, practical solutions. Some alternatives may be considered but eliminated from detailed study within the RMP/EIS.

Facilitated public meetings may be held in communities to discuss alternatives and ensure that individual and community issues are properly understood and adequately addressed. If public participation is poor at any of the public meetings during the scoping phase, a formal meeting may not be held at that location during this phase but alternative methods such as community open houses or personal contacts could be made to those who participated. A variety of methods and tools such as letters and the internet will provide background information on issues and alternatives. A full range of public notification tools and techniques

may be employed as appropriate to help the public stay aware of and engaged in the planning process.

D. Internal Review of the Plan

Internal BLM reviewers of the various stages of the plan and associated environmental impact statement will include CYFO, AFO, EIFO, Alaska State Office, and Washington Office.

Team members and internal reviewers will use ePlanning. Input will also be provided through e-mail, verbally, on flip charts, and through notes taken at meetings. The Field Office will request written submission in a specific format, but will accept input in other formats as needed.

VII. Plan Preparation Schedule

The RMP schedule will be affected by a continuing resolution, potentially delaying the start until late March or early April 2013. In the event that funding is not available by early January 2013 scoping will be delayed likely into fall of 2013. Many of the communities in the planning area have subsistence based economies. Traditional subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering activities occur June through September. The most meaningful time for public meetings is in the winter before seasonal subsistence activities begin or in the fall after subsistence activities conclude. Several work items including approval of the Notice of Intent and issuing a contract for coordination of scoping meetings need to occur before scoping begins

Table 4 shows the anticipated schedule if funding is available in time to begin scoping in January or February 2013.

Table 4: Schedule if funding is available to conduct scoping meetings in winter 2013

Projected Plan Schedule – Scenario 1		
Planning Phase	**Actions**	**Dates**
Pre-Planning	Draft Pre-Plan to Washington Office (WO)	9/28/2012
	Approved Pre-Plan	Oct. – Dec. 2012
Land conveyance	Identify priority lands for conveyance e.g., CAMA and Fairbanks subunit lands	Oct. 2012
Initiate government-to-government consultation and invite potential cooperating agencies	Invite potential cooperating agencies	Jan. 2013
	Initiate government-to-government consultation with tribes	Jan. 2013
Formally initiate planning process and scoping	Begin contracting efforts (after approval of preplan)	Oct. – Nov. 2012
	Develop and maintain mailing list	October 2012 – Sept. 2017

Projected Plan Schedule – Scenario 1		
Planning Phase	**Actions**	**Dates**
	Complete MOUs with cooperating agencies/Tribal governments	Jan. – March 2013
	Issue Notice of Availability	Jan. 2013
	Distribute newsletter announcing scoping	Jan. 2013
	Hold scoping meetings	Feb. – April 2013
Complete Scoping Report (DO)	Compile, review, and summarize public comments in Scoping Report	May – Aug. 2013
	Make final scoping report available to the public on website, CD, and printed format	Sept. 2013
Inventory and Data Compilation/ Collection	GIS database – review and clean up	2013-2014
	Identify data gaps; determine data critical to decision-making	Oct. – Dec. 2012
	Gather and analyze data from other sources	Oct 2012-Sept 2014
	Collect new data critical to planning decisions	2013-2014 field season
Coordination and Consultation	Section 7, Section 106, Essential Fish Habitat, Government-to-Government, Alaska Native Corporations, federal, state, and local governments and agencies	January 2013 – Sept. 2017
Analysis of the Management Situation	Write Analysis of the Management Situation	April 2013 – May 2014
Issue resolution and alternative development	Based on information received from scoping, cooperators, Tribes, and ID team formulate management alternatives to address issues.	June 2014 – Dec. 2014
Prepare and Distribute Draft RMP/EIS (DP)	Write Draft RMP/EIS Review by Collaborates/Internal BLM Revise Draft RMP/EIS AKSO Review Preliminary Draft WO Review Preliminary Draft NOA briefing/review/approval Prepare Draft RMP/EIS for printing Release Draft RMP/EIS	Jan. 2015 – Sept. 2015
Public Comment Period	Hold public meetings and Section 810 Hearings	Oct. – Dec. 2015
Analyze Public Comments	Review, categorize, and write response to public comments	Jan. – March 2016
Prepare and Distribute Proposed RMP/Final EIS (DQ)	Prepare Proposed RMP/Final EIS Review by Collaborators/Internal BLM/AKSO Review preliminary PRMP/FEIS by WO NOA briefing/review/approval Prepare PRMP/FEIS for printing	April – Sept. 2016
Protest Period and	Issue NOA and release PRMP/FEIS	July – Sept. 2016

Projected Plan Schedule – Scenario 1		
Planning Phase	**Actions**	**Dates**
Governor's Consistency Review	Protest and Consistency Review	Oct. – Nov. 2016
	Resolve protests	Nov. 2016 – March 2017
	Resolve any issues from Governor's consistency review	Dec. 2016 – March 2017
Prepare and Finalize RODs	Incorporate changes from protest resolution and Governor's consistency review Prepare RODs for printing	Jan. – June 2017
Publish NOA and distribute RODs (up to four DR)	Issue NOA and distribute Record(s) of Decision	July – Sept. 2017

Table 5 shows the anticipated schedule if funding is not available until April 2013, which would delay scoping until the fall of 2013.

Table 5. Schedule if funding is delayed and scoping is delayed until fall 2013

Projected Plan Schedule – Scenario 2 – delayed funding		
Planning Phase	**Actions**	**Dates**
Pre-Planning	Draft Pre-Plan to Washington Office (WO)	9/28/2012
	Approved Pre-Plan	Oct. – Dec. 2012
Land conveyance	Identify priority lands for conveyance e.g., CAMA and Fairbanks subunit lands	Oct. 2012
Initiate government-to-government consultation and invite potential cooperating agencies	Invite potential cooperating agencies	January 2013
	Initiate government-to-government consultation with tribes	January 2013
Formally initiate planning process and scoping	Begin contracting efforts (after approval of budget)	January – June 2013
	Develop and maintain mailing list	October 2012 – Sept. 2017
	Complete MOUs with cooperating agencies/Tribal governments	April - July 2013
	Issue Notice of Availability	Aug. - Sept. 2013
	Distribute newsletter announcing scoping	Aug. - Sept. 2013
	Hold scoping meetings	Oct. - Dec. 2014
Complete Scoping Report (DO)	Compile, review, and summarize public comments in Scoping Report	Jan. – Feb. 2014
	Make final scoping report available to the public on website, CD, and printed format	March 2014
Inventory and Data Compilation/ Collection	GIS database – review and clean up	2013-2015
	Identify data gaps; determine data critical to decision-making	Oct. 2012 – Jan. 2013
	Gather and analyze data from other sources	Oct 2012-Sept 2014
	Collect new data critical to planning decisions	2013-2014 field season
Coordination and Consultation	Section 7, Section 106, Essential Fish Habitat, Government-to-Government, Alaska Native Corporations, federal, state, and local governments and agencies	April 2013 – Sept. 2017
Analysis of the Management Situation	Write Analysis of the Management Situation	April 2013 – Sept. 2014
Issue resolution and alternative development	Based on information received from scoping, cooperators, Tribes, and ID	Oct. 2014 – April 2015

Projected Plan Schedule – Scenario 2 – delayed funding		
Planning Phase	**Actions**	**Dates**
	team formulate management alternatives to address issues.	
Prepare and Distribute Draft RMP/EIS (DP)	Write Draft RMP/EIS Review by Collaborates/Internal BLM Revise Draft RMP/EIS AKSO Review Preliminary Draft WO Review Preliminary Draft NOA briefing/review/approval Prepare Draft RMP/EIS for printing Release Draft RMP/EIS	Jan. 2015 – Sept. 2015
Public Comment Period	Hold public meetings and Section 810 Hearings	Oct. – Dec. 2015
Analyze Public Comments	Review, categorize, and write response to public comments	Jan. – March 2016
Prepare and Distribute Proposed RMP/Final EIS (DQ)	Prepare Proposed RMP/Final EIS Review by Collaborators/Internal BLM/AKSO Review preliminary PRMP/FEIS by WO NOA briefing/review/approval Prepare PRMP/FEIS for printing	April – Sept. 2016
Protest Period and Governor's Consistency Review	Issue NOA and release PRMP/FEIS	July – Sept. 2016
	Protest and Consistency Review	Oct. – Nov. 2016
	Resolve protests	Nov. 2016 – March 2017
	Resolve any issues from Governor's consistency review	Dec. 2016 – March 2017
Prepare and Finalize RODs	Incorporate changes from protest resolution and Governor's consistency review Prepare RODs for printing	Jan. – June 2017
Publish NOA and distribute RODs (up to four DR)	Issue NOA and distribute Record(s) of Decision	July – Sept. 2017

VIII. Public Participation Plan

This is a draft communication and public participation plan for the Central Yukon RMP. It outlines the major public participation goals and objectives to be achieved before and during the planning process. It is meant to be a dynamic document subject to constant revision as conditions and situations warrant.

A. Goals and Objectives

Goals:

1. Develop a well-informed, knowledgeable and involved public willing and eager to participate with the BLM to craft a well-balanced, comprehensive, and useful land use plan.

2. Identify opportunities for the public and the BLM to build mutual trust and understanding.

3. Encourage two-way dialog and creation of learning opportunities while actively seeking public involvement throughout the planning process.

4. Build opportunities for the development of lasting cooperative and collaborative relationships.

Objectives:

1. Identify communities of place as well as communities of interest in the planning process (stakeholders).

2. Provide convenient, meaningful, and timely opportunities for interested stakeholders to learn about and understand the land use planning process, their opportunities and obligations as planning participants, and their role in the decision- making process.

3. Identify, utilize, and develop public involvement techniques and methods that meet and adapt to the needs of various audiences throughout the planning process.

4. Identify, utilize, and develop technologies and methods (including social media) to provide stakeholders with convenient and timely access to information.

5. Obtain relevant planning data and information from stakeholders pertinent to the planning effort.

6. Identify and outreach to environmental justice communities and Tribes.

B. Opportunities for Public Input

There will be several opportunities for public input and participation during the major stages of the planning process. Formal input will be accepted during the public scoping period, during public comment periods, and at public meetings/ANILCA 810 hearings. Informal public input, provided in written, verbal, and online form, will be welcomed anytime in the process.

Information regarding the preparation and content of the plan, as well as announcements of public comment meetings to identify planning issues, will be provided to the public through a variety of means. These could include *Federal*

Register notices, letters, postcards and newsletters, news releases, public service announcements, newspaper ads, posted flyers, email messages, social media, and website information. Communication techniques and methods will be adapted to meet the needs of rural and Bush communities. The BLM will try to provide translators for public meetings, if needed.

C. Target Audiences

The target audience includes residents in or near the planning area, elected officials, and those individuals and organizations who could be affected by land use decisions made by the BLM. These will include Tribes, Native corporations, other tribal entities, State, federal and local units of government, state and federal advisory committees, environmental and resource use organizations, and individuals.

The news media are also a key audience that can assist in widely publicizing the planning effort and opportunities for public involvement. Key news media for this planning effort include:

- *Anchorage Daily News*, *Fairbanks Daily News Miner, Arctic Sounder, Nome Nugget*, and *Ester Republic*
- Alaska Public Radio Network (statewide)
- Local area news is provided by the following stations, which may be delivered to rural areas by translators: News/Talk: KFAR (660 AM), Country: KIAK (102.5 FM), Mixed: KWLF (98.1 FM), Rock: KKED (104.7 FM), PBS: KUAC (89.9 FM): KZPA-AM (Fort Yukon): KBRW (91.9 FM, Barrow); KIYU (Galena).
- Television stations received in the area generally originate in Fairbanks/North Pole and include ABC, NBC, CBS, PBS, and Fox networks. Local area news is provided by the following stations, which may be delivered to rural areas by translators: ABC: KATN (Ch. 2), CBS/Fox: KFXF (Ch. 7), Independent: KJNP (Ch. 4), NBC: KTVF (Ch. 11), PBS: KUAC (Ch. 9)

Other media sources providing news coverage and opinion include a number of internet-based web logs, podcasts, chatrooms, and local cb radio. Satellite-delivered television, radio, and internet provide local, regional, and national media exposure.

An extensive list of stakeholders and a master contact/mailing list will be compiled and maintained throughout the planning process.

Communities

Communities within the planning area include: Anderson, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Coldfoot, Evansville, Fox, Ester, Galena, Healy, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Manley Hot Springs, McKinley Park, Minto, Nenana, Nulato, Rampart, Ruby, Tanana, and Wiseman.

Communities partially within or near the planning area include: Anaktuvuk Pass, Arctic Village, Fairbanks, Lake Minchumina, North Pole, Nuiqsut, Stevens Village, Unalakleet, Venetie, Fort Yukon, and Fairbanks. Other communities may be identified and included during the planning process.

Federally Recognized Tribal Governments and other Tribal entities
Federally recognized tribes have a special, unique legal and political relationship with the government of the United States as defined by the U.S. Constitution, treaties, statutes, court decisions, and executive orders. These definitive authorities also serve as the basis for the federal government's obligation to acknowledge the status of federally recognized tribes in Alaska. As such, it is the policy of the BLM to formally consult with federally recognized tribes in Alaska prior to taking action or undertaking activities that will have a substantial, direct effect on the tribes, their assets, rights, services, or programs.

Government-to-Government consultation will occur with affected federally recognized Tribal governments during the planning process, in order to identify and consider their concerns with regard to all BLM resource management programs. This consultation will facilitate input from Alaska Natives and Tribes in the proximity of the planning area. These groups may provide additional data on traditional cultural properties and subsistence uses in the planning area. Their input is needed to ensure consistency with tribal plans and across jurisdictional boundaries. Federally recognized tribal governments within and near the planning are listed in Table 3.

Other tribal or Alaska Native entities that will be included and will facilitate input into the planning process by Alaska Natives and subsistence users include: Federal subsistence resource advisory councils, the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, ANCSA Regional Native Corporations, ANCSA Village Native Corporations, and Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council.

National, State and local elected officials
National, State and local elected officials need to be kept informed of the ongoing planning process to ensure consistency with other plans. Opportunities for input will be provided during the scoping period, at public meetings, during the public comment period, and during the Governor's consistency review. The list of officials will be updated as needed to reflect changes due to elections and voting districts.

Alaska Congressional Delegation:

- Senator Mark Begich
- Senator Lisa Murkowski
- Representative Don Young

State of Alaska:

- Governor Sean Parnell

- Legislators for Senate Districts A, B, C, and T
- Legislators for House Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 39, and 40

Interest Groups
Special interest groups may provide additional data and will represent many of the users of BLM lands. Opportunities for input from these groups include scoping, at public meetings, and during the public comment period. BLM ID team members may make presentations to these groups upon request. ID team members may coordinate directly with these groups during development of the plan. An extensive list of interest groups will be compiled. Examples include:

- Alaska Miners Association
- Alaska Outdoor Council, Alaska State Snowmobile Association
- Alaska Truckers Association, Teamsters
- Nature Conservancy, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Alaska Wilderness League
- Subsistence Users
- Sportsmen and conservation groups under DOI MOU (an extensive national list)
- University of Alaska Toolik Research Station
- Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

Federal and state government agencies
Federal and state government agencies will provide additional data needed for planning. Their input will be needed to ensure coordination across land management boundaries and consistency with other plans. They will have opportunities to provide input during the scoping period, during development of the alternatives, at public meetings, and during the public comment period. ID team members will coordinate directly with their counterparts at these agencies during development of the Plan. Examples include:

- Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
- Alaska Department of Natural Resource, Division of Lands
- Alaska Department of Fish & Game
- Alaska State Historic Preservation Office
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks Field Office
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management
- Joint Pipeline Office
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Military

Adjacent Land Owners/Managers
Adjacent land owners/managers will be informed of the ongoing planning process to ensure coordination across land management boundaries and consistency with

other plans. Opportunities for input will be provided during the scoping period, at public meetings, and during the public comment period. Examples include:

- ANCSA Village Corporations
- North Slope, Fairbanks North Star, Northwest Arctic, and Denali boroughs
- Arctic Slope, NANA, and Doyon, Limited regional corporations
- State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resource, Division of Lands
- State of Alaska, Mental Health Trust
- National Park Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Military

Advisory Councils and Committees

There are various state and federal advisory councils potentially concerned with future management in the planning area. Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (RACs) include representation from villages across the region and will provide a forum for input from local residents and Alaska Natives, particularly regarding subsistence use. State advisory committees (ACs) are advisory to the State Boards of Fisheries and Game. ACs includes representation from villages across the region and will provide input on matters related to management of fish and wildlife resources and subsistence. The BLM-Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will provide a broad spectrum of input from various interests. The Citizen's Advisory Commission on Federal Areas is a state advisory board responsible for identifying and reducing potential negative impacts on Alaska and its citizens from federal actions. Opportunities for input from these groups will be provided during the scoping period, at advisory board meetings, and during the public comment period. Management team, Core team, and ID team members may make presentations to these groups at their request. A preliminary list of councils and committees includes:

- Western Interior, Eastern Interior, and North Slope RACs
- Fairbanks, Koyukuk River, Middle Yukon River, Minto/Nenana, Ruby, and Tanana/Rampart/Manley ACs
- BLM RAC
- Citizen's Advisory Council on Federal Areas

Others

Interested businesses and consultants will provide input to the plan for commercial users and industry. They may provide additional data for planning purposes. Opportunities for input will be provided during the scoping period, at public meetings, and during the public comment period. Core and ID Team members may coordinate directly with these businesses during development of the plan. Examples include:

- Alyeska, BP Exploration, and ConocoPhillips
- Commercial guides, outfitters, and transporters

- Recreation and Tourism Industry
- Holland America, Northern Alaska Tours, and Princess Tours

Individuals

Individuals living in or near the planning area will have opportunities for input during public meetings, through the online commenting feature of the website, and through the mail. Local radio stations will be used to notify the public of meetings and possibly to broadcast public meetings to the surrounding area. Local residents may be targeted by direct mailings to all PO box-holders in the area. Non-locals can also provide input through the online commenting feature of the website, by mail, or by e-mail. Social media is another outlet that will be used to reach the general public.

IX. Budget Tables

Work month costs are based on an average work month cost of approximately $10,000. Based on the tables below, the total 1610 expenditures for the RMP will be $3.3 million.

Projected Costs 1610 FY 2013-Central Yukon RMP				
Planning Component	**Actions**	**Projected Costs**	**Work Month Estimates**	**Comments**
BLM labor	Scoping; scoping report; data gap analysis; collection and analysis of data			In house
Travel	Government-to-government consultation, briefings, training.			BLM
NOI published				
Scoping and Scoping Report	Set up, advertise, record and transcribe meetings, summarize comments.			Contract
	Scoping Report			BLM labor
Data collection/analysis	Collect baseline Economic data, EPS[1]			Contract
	Recreation Benefits Based Management Study CYFO – fieldwork summer 2013			Contract/Agreement with UAF
	Mineral Potential Report			Contract (in house if short of funding)
	ARLIS Literature Search and EndNote software			Contract/Agreement with ARLIS
	Air photos			BLM
	ACEC suitability project			BLM
Public outreach	Direct mailings, advertising, newsletters			BLM/Contract
Total Ops				
Additional VRM	From State Office			
Total Labor				
Total				
Workload Measures	**Scoping Report – 1 DO**			

[1] Economic Contract estimated at $115,000 total

Projected Costs 1610 FY 2014- Central Yukon RMP				
Planning Component	**Actions**	**Projected Costs**	**Work Month Estimates**	**Comments**
BLM labor	Analysis of the Management Situation; Formulate Alternatives; Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenarios	[redacted]	[redacted]	In house
Travel	Government-to-government consultation, briefings, training, meetings, Scoping meetings	[redacted]		BLM
Economic Analysis Contract	Economic strategies workshop; economic portion of AMS	[redacted]		Contract
Impact analysis - assumptions	Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario	[redacted]		Contract
Data collection	Climate Modeling	[redacted]		Contract/Agreement
	Wilderness characteristics	[redacted]		BLM
Printing	Print AMS	[redacted]		Contract - GPO
Public outreach	Direct mailings, advertising, newsletters	[redacted]		BLM/Contract
Supplies and Materials		[redacted]		
Other		[redacted]		
Total Ops		[redacted]		
Total Labor		[redacted]		
Total		[redacted]		
Workload Measures	**none**			

Projected Costs 1610 FY 2015- Central Yukon RMP				
Planning Component	**Actions**	**Projected Costs**	**Work Month Estimates**	**Comments**
BLM labor	Prepare Draft RMP/EIS; Print and distribute Draft RMP/EIS; Public Comment Period; Public Meetings and hearings	[redacted]	[redacted]	In house
Travel	Government-to-government consultation, public meetings, briefings, cooperator meetings	[redacted]		BLM
Publish NOA		[redacted]		
Economic Analysis Contract	DRMP/EIS	[redacted]		Contract
Public Meetings	Set up public meetings; record and transcribe comments; provide comment summary.	[redacted]		Contract
Printing	Print and distribute Draft RMP/EIS	[redacted]		Contract - GPO
Public outreach	Direct mailings, advertising, newsletters	[redacted]		BLM/Contract
Materials and supplies	Supplies for public meetings	[redacted]		
[redacted] other	Collection/cleanup of data	[redacted]		
Total Ops		[redacted]		
Total Labor		[redacted]		
Total		[redacted]		
Workload Measures	**Draft RMP/EIS -1 DP**			

Projected Costs 1610 FY 2016- Central Yukon RMP				
Planning Component	**Actions**	**Projected Costs**	**Work Month Estimates**	**Comments**
BLM labor	Comment analysis and response: Prepare and Publish Proposed RMP/FEIS; Initiate Governor's Consistency Review and Public Protest	[redacted]	[redacted]	In house
Travel	Government-to-government consultation, briefings, training, etc.	[redacted]		BLM
Economic Analysis Contract	PRMP/FEIS and comment response	[redacted]		Contract
Publish NOA	Proposed RMP/Final EIS	[redacted]		
Printing	Print and distribute Proposed RMP/Final EIS	[redacted]		Contract - GPO
Public outreach	Direct mailings, advertising, newsletters	[redacted]		BLM/Contract
Materials and supplies		[redacted]		
Revisions to Proposed RMP	Reasonably Foreseeable development scenario update/changes, etc.	[redacted]		BLM/Contract
Total Ops		[redacted]		
Total Labor		[redacted]		
Total		[redacted]		
Workload Measures				

Projected Costs 1610 FY 2017- Central Yukon RMP				
Planning Component	**Actions**	**Projected Costs**	**Work Month Estimates**	**Comments**
BLM labor	Resolve protests; Prepare and Publish Approved RMP and RODs	[redacted]	[redacted]	In house
Travel	Government-to-government consultation, briefings, meetings, etc.	[redacted]		BLM
Economic Analysis Contract	Respond to protests if any are on economic issues	[redacted]		Contract
Publish NOA	Approved RMP and RODs	[redacted]		
Printing	Print and distribute Approved RMP/RODs	[redacted]		Contract - GPO
Public outreach	Direct mailings, advertising, newsletters	[redacted]		BLM/Contract
Materials and supplies		[redacted]		
Total Ops		[redacted]		
Total Labor		[redacted]		
Total		[redacted]		
Workload Measures				

X. Data Matrix

Planning Issues or Questions	Needed Data Set(s)	Is Data Set Available? (Yes/No/Partially)	Is Data in Digital Format? (Yes/No/ Unsure)	Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?	Estimated Cost? ($1,000)	* FGDC Metadata Available? (Yes/No)	Name or Source of Data (Level of Standard: State, National)
Issue 1.A: Recreation and visitor services							
Rec 1: According to ROS, what recreation opportunities currently exist and what should be provided to meet public demand?	EBM/BBM Survey CAMA rec. information	Yes–Dalton Hwy Partially-CAMA from Utility Corridor Plan 1991	No	Data compilation by GIS staff.	Project base		BLM National- Manual 8300
Rec 2: What ROS Classes should be prescribed and what recreation outcome (experiences and benefits) management objectives should be established to meet the ROS Classes prescribed?	ROS Classes EBM/BBM Survey (update Dalton Survey, new survey for Central Yukon)	ROS Yes- Dalton Hwy Partially-CAMA from Utility Corridor Plan 1991	Yes-parts are Unsure on others	Data compilation/recreation by GIS staff.	Project base 1220 $30K		BLM National- Manual 8300 H-1601-1 Appendix C
Rec 3: Should the existing Dalton Highway SRMA be changed? Are there other areas that should be identified as recreation management areas to maintain or increase recreational opportunities and or experiences?	Visitor Use Numbers/Study EBM/BBM Survey Existing Management Units	Partial-RMiS Dalton Hwy.-Yes	No No	Data compilation by GIS staff.	Project base See Rec 2		
Rec 4: What opportunities exist for interpretation and education?	Inventory of existing interpretive facilities, publications and programs for each area.	Available but not organized into a single document	No	Assemble info into a single document and distribute to ORPs for review. Assessment need to increase, decrease or status quo the existing level of interpretation.	Project base	N/A	N/A
Rec 5. What are the impacts of recreation decisions on the quality of natural resources?	Habitat distribution maps, for caribou, moose, sheep, and raptors (from WLD 1 and 2), with layers of known recreation use. Visitor Use Numbers	Partially Partial-RMiS	Unsure No	See WLD 1 &2; Recreation use	May be a cost to get data from ABR, Inc.	No	BLM-AK, ADF&G, ABR Inc. Gas and oil company surveys.
Rec 6. How can we best manage competing	All available data on	Partially	Unsure	Review existing	ARLIS	No	BLM-AK, ADF&G,

Planning Issues or Questions	Needed Data Set(s)	Is Data Set Available? (Yes/No/Partially)	Is Data in Digital Format? (Yes/No/ Unsure)	Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?	Estimated Cost? ($1,000)	* FGDC Metadata Available? (Yes/No)	Name or Source of Data (Level of Standard: State, National)
recreational and subsistence uses of resources?	subsistence use and recreational hunting and fishing.			ADF&G subsistence reports & data (harvest and harvest survey records). May require some digitizing.	literature search: 1610 $30K		FWS-OSM, ARLIS
	Visitor Use Numbers EBM/BBM Survey	Partially-RMiS Yes - Dalton	No No		See Rec 2		
Issue A.2: Travel Management (including motorized and non-motorized)							
OHV 1 What criteria will be used to determine if OHV use should be allowed? What travel management areas (polygons) should be delineated (includes all types of travel even non-motorized)?	Complete transportation inventory	Partially	No	Data compilation by GIS staff.	Project base 1220 - $20K	No	BLM -National Trails Data Standard Dalton RAMP
OHV 2: What would be the effects of increased OHV use on natural resources?	Visitor Use Numbers; maps of areas prone to OHV damage (e.g., permafrost areas and wetlands)	Partially-RMiS Partially – GIS permafrost layer	No Yes		Project base	No	BLM -National Trails Data Standard Dalton RAMP
	See WLD 1 and REC 5						
OHV 3: Are there cumulative impacts to resources from OHV use?	Condition survey of existing trails.	Partially	Yes	Attribute existing data Possibly collect new data.	Project base	No	BLM -National Trails Data Standard Dalton RAMP
OHV 4: Are current Travel Management designations appropriate for users?	Conduct focus group meetings to help BLM evaluate if the current designation of "Limited" is achieving the desired goals or objectives as identified in the current	Partially	Yes	Attribute existing data	Project base	No	BLM -National Trails Data Standard Dalton RAMP
Issue A3: Mineral and Energy Resources							
How should locatable, leasable, and salable minerals be managed?	Federal mining claims, mineral leasing locations, mineral material sites, oil and gas basins, coal fields	Partially	Yes and No	Up-to-date air photographs of the project area; helicopter flights	1330 - $25K 1990 - $25K 1610 - $15K	Unsure	Will create new data
Coal ***Issue A-3***							

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
Coal 1: Are there unleased coal lands that are acceptable for consideration for coal leasing and development? Are there unleased coal lands that are not acceptable for consideration for coal leasing and development?	Federal Coal Leases, geologic potential report	Unsure	Unsure	Review records	Project base	Unsure	MTP
Coal 2: Are there areas unsuitable for surface mining of coal under the criteria set forth in 43 CFR 3461.5?	Geologic potential report	Unsure	Unsure	Review records	Project base	Unsure	MTP
Coal 3: For acceptable lands, are there areas that are suitable for development by all mining methods or by only certain stipulated mining methods, such as surface or underground mining?	Geologic reports	Unsure	Unsure	Review reports	Project base	Unsure	State and national geologic reports
Coal 4: Are there any special conditions that must be met during more detailed planning, lease sale, or post-lease activities, including measures required to protect other resource values?	Review stipulations of coal leases	Unsure	Unsure	review records	Project Base	Unsure	federal coal lease files
Coal 5: What is the estimate of the amount of coal recoverable by either surface or underground mining operations or both (43 CFR 3420.1-4(d)) Utility Corridor? Only those areas that have development potential may be identified as acceptable for further consideration for leasing.	Review geologic reports of coal in area	Unsure	Unsure	review records	Project Base	Unsure	State and national geologic reports
Coal 6: What areas have development potential for coal leasing according to the screening process outlined in 43 CFR 3420.1-4(e)(1–4)?	Review geologic reports and 43 CFR 3420.1-4(e)(1-4)	Unsure	Unsure	review reports and CFR	Project Base	Unsure	state and national geologic reports, CFR's
Coal 7: What areas are to be withdrawn from further consideration for leasing to protect other resource values and land uses that are locally, regionally or nationally important or unique and that are not included in the unsuitability criteria discussed in 43 CFR 3461.5?	Review geologic reports and 43 CFR 3461.5	Unsure	Unsure	review reports and CFR	Project base	Unsure	state and national geologic reports, CFR's

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
Fluid Minerals: Oil and Gas, Tar Sands, and Geothermal Resources *Issue A-3*							
FM 1: What areas are open to leasing, subject to existing laws, regulations, and formal orders; and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form?	Review records and MTP's	Unsure	Unsure	review records and MTP's	Project base	No	MTP's and case files
FM 2: What areas are open to leasing, subject to moderate constraints such as seasonal and controlled surface use restrictions? (Areas where it has been determined that moderately restrictive lease stipulations may be required to mitigate impacts to other land uses or resource values.)	Review MTP's	Unsure	Unsure	review records and MTP's	Project base	No	MTP's
FM 3: What areas are open to leasing, subject to major constraints such as no-surface-occupancy stipulations on an area more than 40 acres in size or more than 0.25 mile in width. (Areas where it has been determined that highly restrictive lease stipulations are required to mitigate impacts. This category also includes areas where overlapping moderate constraints would severely limit development of fluid mineral resources.)	Review case files for stipulations	Unsure	Unsure	review case files and records	Project base	No	Case files
FM 4: What areas are closed to leasing? (Areas where other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected with even the most restrictive lease stipulations; appropriate protection can be ensured only by closing the lands to leasing.) Identify whether such closures are discretionary or nondiscretionary; and if discretionary, the rationale.	Review MTP's, and reasons for closures	Yes	Yes	Review land status maps and MTP's	Project base	Yes	Federal reports
FM 5: What resource condition objectives have been established and specific lease stipulations and general/typical conditions of approval and best management practices that	Review the case files for any fluid mineral leases in the project area	Unsure	Unsure	Review files	Project base	Unsure	Federal Lease Records

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
will be employed to accomplish these objectives in areas open to leasing?							
FM 6: For each lease stipulation, the circumstances for granting an exception, waiver, or modification. Identify the general documentation requirements and any public notification associated with granting exceptions, waivers, or modifications.	Review the lease stipulations	Unsure	Unsure	Review files	Project base	Unsure	Federal Lease Records
FM 7: Should the leasing and development decisions also apply to geophysical exploration?	Review the CFR's for fluid mineral leasing	Unsure	Unsure	Review CFR	Project Base	Unsure	CFR's
FM 8: Should constraints identified in the land use plan for new leases also apply to areas currently under lease?	Review the CFR's for fluid mineral leasing	Unsure	Unsure	Review CFR	Project Base	Unsure	CFR's
FM 9: What are the long-term resource condition objectives for areas currently under development to guide reclamation activities prior to abandonment?	Current land use plan, Review the CFR's for fluid mineral leasing	Unsure	Unsure	Review documentation	Project Base	Unsure	Land use plan and CFR's
Non-energy Leasable Minerals ***Issue A-3***							
NEL 1: Are there areas open or closed to non-energy leasing and development?	Review current land use status map and MTP's	Yes	Yes	Review maps	Project base	Yes	Land status maps and MTP's
NEL 2: Any area wide terms, conditions, or other special considerations needed to protect other resource values while exploring or developing minerals under the non-energy leasable regulations.	Review current land use plan and special use areas	Unsure	Unsure	Review files and reports	Project base	Unsure	Current land use plan
Locatable Minerals							
Loc. Min.1: What lands currently withdrawn from mineral entry, location, and leasing should be opened?	Current mineral withdrawals (PLOs)	Yes	Partially	Review of PLOs creating current withdrawals, data creation from PLO description	Project base	No	
Loc. Min.2: Are there lands currently open for entry, location, and leasing that should	Same Loc. Min. 1, known mineral licks	Yes	No	Data automation	Project Base	No	

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
be withdrawn to protect resource values?							
Loc. Min. 3: Are there any terms, conditions, or other special considerations needed to protect other resource values while conducting activities under the operation of the mining laws.	Stipulations for the mining along the Dalton Highway and rest of planning area.	Yes	Yes	Copy stipulations from the current permits	Project base	No	Current approvals for 3809 approvals
Min 5: How will long-term occupation for mining operations in the area be managed?	Federal mining claims with associated occupancy	No	No	Create sets of current mine sites that have associated occupancy	Project Base (GIS)	Unsure	
Min 6: How will access to mining claims including the construction of new and use of existing roads and trails be managed?	Federal mining claims	No	No	Create data showing mining sites and their access routes	Project Base (GIS)	Unsure	
Min 7: Are areas open to mining meeting State and Federal water quality standards? If not how should these activities be managed to meet legal requirements?	NHD, HUCS, Federal mining claims, mineral leasing locations, mineral material sites, oil and gas basins, coal fields	Unsure	Unsure	Place locatable mining claims, mineral material locations, mineral leasing sites in a data set compared to streams	Project Base	Unsure	
Mineral Materials ***Issue A-3***							
Min. Mat. 1: What lands are currently open or closed to mineral material disposal?	Current plans	Yes	No	Realty review of PLOs creating current withdrawals, data creation from PLO description	Project base	No	MTP
Min. Mat. 2: Any terms, conditions, or other special considerations needed to protect resource values while operating under the mineral materials regulations.	Stipulations for the permits along the Dalton	Yes	Yes	Get stipulations from the current permits	Project base	No	Current permits and gravel sale stipulations
Min 3: Where should future mineral material sites be allowed and how will they be managed?	A map showing all current and past mineral material sites; and showing proposals for gravel dependent projects.	Partially	Unsure	Obtain older data sets from federal, state and private sources, and create sets of current mineral material sites	Project Base	Unsure	BLM AK, Alaska DGGS, Alyeska, and other pipeline contractors

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
Min 4: How should existing mineral material sites be managed?	A map showing all current and past mineral material sites	Partially	Unsure	Create sets of current mineral material sites	Project Base	Unsure	BLM AK, Alaska DGGS, Alyeska
Non-energy Leasable Minerals ***Issue A-3***							
NEL 1: Are there areas open or closed to non-energy leasing and development?	Review current land use status map and MTP's	Yes	Yes	Review maps	Project base	Yes	Land status maps and MTP's
NEL 2: Any area wide terms, conditions, or other special considerations needed to protect other resource values while exploring or developing minerals under the non-energy leasable regulations.	Review current land use plan and special use areas	Unsure	Unsure	Review files and reports	Project base	Unsure	Current land use plan
Lands and Realty ***Issue A-4***							
RL 1 : What lands should be retained, proposed for disposal or acquisition, and what should be the criteria to identify those lands?	Current plan, detailed land status	Yes	Yes	Quality check and Maintain GIS	Project base	Yes	BLM-AK
RL 2: What existing land withdrawals should be continued, and which withdrawals should be modified or revoked? How should lands under revoked or modified withdrawals be managed?	Current plan, detailed land status	Yes	Yes	Quality check and Maintain GIS	Project base	Yes	BLM-AK
RL 3: What lands should be classified for Recreation and Public Purposes Act lease or sale?	Public input	Partially	No	Request public input	Project base	No	BLM-AK
RL 4: What areas and how many acres of State top-filed lands may be conveyed if all or part of PLO 5150 is lifted?	Detailed Land Status PLO 5150 land overlay Top filings	Yes	Yes	Quality check and Maintain GIS Digitize PLO5150 lands.	Project base	No	FGDC, ALIS
RL 5: What should be the criteria to authorize use, occupancy or development?	Public input	Partially	No	Request public input	Project base	No	BLM-AK
RL 6: What are the existing and potential right-of-way corridors?	Detailed land status	Yes	Yes	Quality check and Maintain GIS	Project base	Yes	BLM-AK
RL7: What are the existing and potential	Industry input	No	No	Request industry input	Project base	No	BLM-AK

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
development areas for renewable energy projects?							
RL 8: What areas should be avoided or excluded from rights-of-ways?	Public input	No	No	Request public input	Project base	No	BLM-AK
RL 9: What terms and conditions and best management practices should apply to right-of-way corridors or development areas?	Current plan, public input	No	No	Request public input	Project base	No	BLM-AK
Access ***Issue A-5***							
Acc.1: Is there a need for acquisition, termination, or re-location of 17(b) and other easements for access to public lands?	Current 17(b) easements	Yes	Yes	None, unless found errors need to be corrected	Project base	Yes	BLM-AK
Acc.2: What opportunities exist for cooperation and coordination with Native Corporations in 17(b) easement management?	Same as Acc. 1						
Acc 3: What considerations are needed for management of existing /proposed ROWs?	Same as Acc. 1						
Special Designations ***Issue B-, B-2, B-3, and B4***							
SD 1: Should the current designations be maintained or should they be dropped or modified? Are there any other areas that should be considered for special designations such as ACEC or RNA?	ACEC/RNA Review Update current data sets with any new information. Recreation, wildlife, fisheries, cultural resources, and botanical info..	Partially Yes for CAMA WSA	Unsure	Review existing documents on RNAs (Toolik FS), add new data. May require some digitizing. Site Visits. Input from specialists. literature search	Project base. 1610 - $15K 1110 - $15K 1120 - $15K	No	BLM-AK, UAF H-1601-1 appendix C – Special Designations BLM Utility Corridor RMP 1991 State of Alaska Corridor Partnership Plan for the Dalton Highway-
SD 3: What rivers in the planning area are eligible pursuant to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act? Of eligible rivers, are any suitable for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system or are they better managed without designation?	List of outstandingly remarkable values and the rivers they apply to.	Partially	No	Generate ¼ sec. data from existing data if needed. Literature search, public meetings. Input from staff specialists on ORVs possible field work	1220 - $30K 1040 - $5K 1220 - $5K	No	BLM - Manual 8351 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 H-1601-1 appendix C Special designations – Administrative Designations

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
SD 4: What strategies should be developed for the protection of river values?	Same as SD. 3						
SD 5: What management strategies can be developed to address conflicts in management where the State of Alaska has jurisdiction below the ordinary high-water mark?	Same as SD. 3						
SD 6: How should the CAMA lands be managed if Congress releases them from wilderness consideration?	Land status; conveyance priorities; fish and wildlife distribution, mineral potential	Yes	Yes	Review existing data sets for CAMA lands	Project base		BLM-AK
SD 7: Where in the planning are does the Iditarod NHT cross BLM-managed lands? Is BLM likely to retain management of these lands over the long-term? If so, how should they be managed?	Detailed land status for trail segments; withdrawal review; state-selection priorities; master title plats; Comprehensive Trail Management Plan	Yes	Partially; unsure of trail management plan	Develop detailed land status from the existing generalized land status. Review PLO 843. Review Comprehensive Trail Management Plan.	Project base		
Air *Issue C-1*							
Air 1: What are the desired outcomes and area wide criteria or restrictions that apply to direct or authorized emission-generating activities (including requirements under the Clean Air Act)?	Available air quality data.	Partially	Unsure	Compile existing data	Project base	Unsure	
	Inventory of activities that may be adversely affecting air quality.	Partially	Unsure	Compile existing data	Project base	Unsure	BLM-AK
	Land status			See Lands and Realty			
Soil and Water *Issue C-2*							
SW 1: Are any watersheds in the planning area in need of special protection?	National Hydrological database (NHD)	Yes	Yes	None-statewide coverage to level 4	Project base	Yes	USGS-National Hydrography Dataset
	Watershed boundaries dataset (WSB)	Yes	Yes	None-under development.	Project base	Yes	USGS-WSB
	AML inventory	Partially	Partially	Compile existing data	Project base	Unsure	BLM-AK
SW 2: What is the desired outcome for water quality within the planning area (including Clean Water Act standards or	Available water quality data.	Partially	Unsure	Compile existing data.	Project base	Unsure	
	Inventory activities that	Partially	Unsure	Compile existing data	Project base	Unsure	BLM-AK

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
goals)?	may be degrading water quality.						
	Land status	Partially	Yes	See Lands and Realty			
SW 3: How will we ensure that water quality requirements are met in waters on BLM lands?	Same as SW.2						
SW 4: Are any soils in the planning area in need of special protection?	Existing soil surveys.	Partially	Unsure	Compile existing soil inventory data.	none	No	NRCS
SW 5: How will we ensure riparian and aquatic resources are protected from adverse effects of proposed herbicide use for controlling invasive plants?	Inventory riparian proper functioning condition/ aquatic health of Utility Corridor streams.	Partially	Unsure	Compile existing data. BLM inventory riparian and aquatic resources-FY2010	Project base	Unsure	Federal and State Agencies; Alyeska Pipeline Company; BLM-AK
SW 6: What management strategies can be developed to address conflicts in management where the State of Alaska has jurisdiction below the ordinary high-water mark?	(Existing conflicts: camps, ATV use); Subsistence use areas ROW and RS2477	Partially	No	Compile existing data, Literature review, obtain input from local subsistence users	Project base	Unsure	BLM Handbook 8351
	Mining claim location and administrative status Navigability determinations	Yes	Yes/No	Compile existing data	Project base	Unsure	BLM-AK
SW 7: For streams within the planning area, what are the typical, natural width:depth ratios, streambank conditions, channel substrate conditions, and large woody debris characteristics?	Site capability characteristics	Partially	Unsure	Overlay land use on existing site capability data to determine data gaps; establish interim site capability standards in areas lacking specific data	Project base	Unsure	
SW 8: What measures other than filing for water rights are needed to ensure water availability for multiple use management and functioning, healthy riparian and upland systems?	Stream discharge data	Partially	Unsure	Systematic gauging of priority streams	Project base	Unsure	
SW 9: Are riparian-wetlands and their associated aquatic habitats functioning properly at levels appropriate to the watersheds potential or capability?	Riparian proper function condition (PFC) status	Partially	Unsure	Construct overlay of riparian-wetland PFC status within areas of past or current	Project base	Unsure	

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
				development to identify data gaps; inventory areas lacking information			
Hazardous Materials *Issue C-3*							
HM 1: How would existing solid waste sites affect the management plan? HM 2: How would existing hazardous waste sites affect the management plan?	Location of known sites Location of potential sites	Partially	Yes-parts Unsure on others	Review existing data on known sites	Project base 1620 – $40K		BLM Manual 1703, 1703-1, 2101-4 H-1601-1 Appendix F.
HM 3: How will the generation of solid and hazardous waste be handled?	Same as HM 1						
Vegetation *Issue C-4*							
Veg.1: What are the desired conditions of the plant communities in the planning area?	Old/existing forest inventories Existing rare plant inventories Land cover maps Fire history maps Existing forest health inventories	Partially	Partially	Literature search and report compilation GIS staff work for data prep Spatiotemporal analysis of fire history	Project base	Partially	BLM-AK/DU, FWS, NPS, AFS
Veg.2: What is the extent of the spread of invasive non-native plants and what control methods should be employed?	River bar surveys	Yes	Partially	Gather data sets and create GIS layers	Project base	No	BLM-AK, AKNHP, AKEPIC
	Research control methods Highway survey	Partially Yes/partially	Partially	Literature search of all control methods, including mechanical, manual, biological, cultural and chemical.	ARLIS contract $25K 1610	No	ARLIS (expand scope of lit search to include IPM). CNPIM, ARS
	Inventory/survey of high-risk disturbed areas Include side roads (e.g., Bettles winter road)	Partially	Partially	Field survey of mining claims and other disturbances	1020 $25K	Partially	AKNHP, AKEPIC, BLM-AK
Veg.3: What integrated vegetation management techniques could be used to rehabilitate weed infestations or control noxious and invasive weeds.	Data on effectiveness of veg. treatments practices within the planning area Data on effectiveness of weed control measures	Partially	Partially	Literature search	ARLIS contract $25K 1610	No	ARLIS (expand scope of lit search to include BMP). CNPIM

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
Veg.4: Where would the subsistence, personal, and commercial harvesting of timber products (house logs, firewood, sawlogs) be allowed and under what conditions?	Existing forest inventory; fire history maps; forest health inventories; land cover maps; subsistence use areas; subsistence demand statistics RFD scenario; information on clearing for pipeline construction; locations of sensitive areas	Partially	Unsure	Literature search GIS staff work for data prep and analysis RFD development	Project base	Partially	BLM-AK/DU, FIA, USFS pubs.,
Veg.5: Where would the subsistence, commercial, and personal harvest of special forest products (mushrooms, berries, bark, etc.) be allowed and under what conditions?	Fire history maps Land cover maps Subsistence use areas Subsistence demand statistics Locations of sensitive areas	Partially	Unsure	Literature search GIS staff work for data prep and analysis RFD development	Project base	Partially	BLM-AK/DU, FIA, USFS pubs.
Forestry *Issue C-5* Addressed in vegetation; see narrative.							
Special Status Species *Issue C-6*							
SSS 1 What are the desired outcomes, strategies, restoration opportunities, use restrictions, and management actions to conserve and recover special status species?	Locations of ecologically important areas or scarce, limited habitats; Habitat requirements for SSS; SSS list	Yes	Partially	Compile existing data; literature search	Project Base	Partially	BLM, FWS, ADF&G, NPS
SSS 2: What information will be needed to adequately assess SS plant species and botanical resources in support of permitting and monitoring activities for mineral development, recreation opportunities, etc.?	Floristic inventory of the planning areas; compiling existing data.	Partially	Unsure	Review, compile, digitize and analyze existing data from on and adjacent to planning areas	Project Base	No	BLM, NPS, University of Alaska-Fairbanks
SSS 3: What management actions will benefit special status plant species within the planning area?	See SSS1	Partially	Unsure	See SSS1	SSS1	No	BLM, NPS, University of Alaska-Fairbanks
SSS 4: What management actions are needed to conserve special status animal species within the planning area?	Distribution and abundance of special status animals.	Partially	Unsure	Compile existing data.	Included in WLD 1	No	BLM, NPS, University of Alaska-Fairbanks

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
SSS 5: What management actions can benefit sensitive fish species within the planning area?	Existing Fish Streams	Partially	Partially	Compile existing data (Anadromous Water Catalog, fisheries staff inventories)		Yes	ADF&G, BLM
Fish and Wildlife *Issue C-7*							
FW 1: Which fish species are a priority for the planning area based on established evaluation factors (BLM special status, density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, age), and what is the location and spatial extent of habitat use for these species in the planning area?	Habitat use areas for key species State of Alaska - Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes and Alaska Freshwater Fish Inventory Data on subsistence and recreational fish use/harvest	Partially	Partially	Initiate Inventory and compile existing data, digitize existing data	1120 $11K	Yes	ADF&G
FW 2: What are the desired outcomes for habitat conditions required for all life stages (spawning, rearing, feeding, over-wintering) or population levels for priority fish species?	Habitat use areas. Site capability characteristics (e.g. width:depth ratios, streambank conditions, channel substrate conditions, and large woody debris characteristics) Stream dishcharge data Riparian-wetland PFC status	Partially	No	Initiate Inventory and compile relevant existing information. Review: BLM Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards, relevant federal or state strategic plans, literature for species of interest. Develop interim site capability standards for areas lacking specific data; Inventory priority areas lacking data.	See FISH 1 for inventory. Base funds for digital work.	No	BLM, ADF&G, FWS
FW 3: What types of specific actions or area-wide use restrictions will contribute to attaining desired habitat conditions or population levels given current land use and anticipated increased land development and	GIS- Key habitat use areas layered with land use and expected land use. Subsistence and recreation harvest and use data. Land	Partially	Yes	Compile existing and FISH 2 inventory data. Create digital data sets; GIS staff or contract.	Project Base	No	BLM, ADF&G, FWS

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
public use of the resources?	use data. Best Management Practices. Site capability characteristics Streamflow data Water quality data Riparian PFC status			Develop interim site capability standards for areas lacking specific data; Inventory priority areas lacking data.			
FW 4: Where does Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) exist in the planning area and what are potential impacts given anticipated increased land development and public use of the resources?	State of Alaska - Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes (salmon only)	Partially	Yes	Compile existing information. Analyze overlap of habitat, land use areas, and projected land use areas.	Project Base	No	BLM, ADF&G
FW 5: What are the priority wildlife species, in addition to special status species, for the planning area based on established evaluation factors such as density, diversity, size, public interest, remnant character, or age? Where are they located and what is their habitat use in the planning area?	ADF&G and Office of Subsistence Management harvest reports. A ADF&G PR management reports. Wildlife survey results, telemetry data, community harvest data. Seasonal range maps. Historic nest sites. Collect information from Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plans.	Partially	Unsure	Literature search and report compilation GIS staff work for data prep Spatiotemporal analysis of survey results and vegetation types	Project base	No	National: BLM, FWS, NPS State: ADF&G
FW 6: What are the desired outcomes for wildlife habitat in order to sustain priority wildlife species?	ADF&G and Office of Subsistence Management harvest reports, ADF&G management reports of survey-inventory activities, community harvest data. Historic nest site data.	Partially	Unsure	Literature search and report compilation GIS staff work for data prep Spatiotemporal analysis of survey results and vegetation types	Project base	No	National: BLM, FWS, NPS State: ADF&G
FW 7: What are the desired habitat conditions and/or populations for major habitat types that support a wide variety of game, non-game, and migratory bird species?	ADF&G and Office of Subsistence Management harvest reports, ADF&G management reports of survey-inventory activities, community harvest data.	Partially	Unsure	Literature search report compilation GIS staff work for data prep Spatiotemporal analysis of survey	Project base 1150 - $20K 1110 - $25K for survey	No	National: BLM, FWS, NPS State: ADF&G

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
	Historic nest site data.			results and vegetation types	work.		
FW 8: What actions and area-wide use restrictions are needed to achieve desired wildlife populations or habitat conditions in the planning area in light of changing land use patterns and climate?	Radio telemetry data on seasonal habitat areas for subsistence species. Create seasonal range maps with existing data for subsistence and other wildlife species. Survey/inventory data for other wildlife species. ADF&G Uniform Coding Unit harvest information. Cross validate with land cover classification data.	Partially	Unsure	Literature search and report compilation GIS staff work for data prep Spatiotemporal analysis of survey results and vegetation types. GIS contractor or wildlife graduate student to analyze existing data.	Project base 1110 - $50K GIS analysis of existing radio-telemetry data.	No	National: BLM, FWS, NPS State: ADF&G
Subsistence ***Issue C-8***							
SUB 1: How will we protect resources that are important to maintaining a subsistence lifestyle?	Subsistence harvest and use data. Wildlife and fish data. Guide use areas. Earth cover mapping and important wildlife use areas.	Partially	Unsure	Compile available data and digitize. GIS staff needed.	Project base	Unsure	BLM, ADF&G, FWS, NPS, DU, UAF, State of AK.
Cultural Resources ***Issue C-9***							
Cult 1: What special cultural resource restrictions exist that may affect the location, timing, or method of development or use of other resources in the planning area.	AHRS database/Locations of known sites Locations of previous inventories predictive GIS modeling and inventory of previously unexamined areas	Partially	Unknown	Need to review records and locate unpublished reports. contract the modeling exercise	1050 - $45K	No	AHRS TAPS database
-	AHRS database TAPS surveys Previous mitigation documents/reports Locations previously	Partially	Unknown	Literature review followed by pedestrian survey needed to assess the nature and significance of	Project base	No	BLM-AK AHRS, TAPS

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
	inventoried			important locations			
	AHRS database TAPS "green zone" maps Mining claim locations	No	No		Project base	No	Tribes
Cult 4: What measures should be taken to pro-actively manage, protect, and use cultural resources, including traditional cultural properties?	AHRS database	Yes & No	Yes & No	None, &	Project base	No	BLM-AK,
Cult 5: Are data available for allocating cultural resources to the 6 use categories outlined on p. 9 of Appendix C of H-1601-1?	AHRS database Use categories	Yes	Yes	None	Project base	No	AHRS
	Locations and nature of TCPs, especially along Yukon River	Partial	No	Yes. Consult with tribes.	Project base	No	
Paleontology *Issue C-10*							
Paleo 1: Are data available for allocating paleontological resources to the 6 use categories outlined on p. 9 of Appendix C of H-1601-1?	Locations of known occurrences Use categories	Yes	No	Compile existing data, enter locations into database	Project base	unknown	BLM-AK
Paleo 2: What criteria or use restrictions are needed to ensure that areas containing, or that are likely to contain, vertebrate or noteworthy occurrences of invertebrate or plant fossils, are identified and evaluated prior to authorizing surface-disturbing activities?	Locations of known occurrences	Yes	No	Enter locations into database	Project base	unknown	BLM-AK
Paleo 3: What criteria or use restrictions are needed to ensure management that promotes the scientific, educational, and recreational uses of fossils?	Same as Paleo. 2	Yes	No	Enter locations into database	Project base	unknown	BLM-AK
	Locations of known occurrences Development scenarios Mining claim locations	Yes	No	Enter locations into database	Project base	unknown	BLM-AK

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
Visual Resources ***Issue C-11***							
					No additional cost – use annual WSA flights	unknown	BLM Manual 8400
VRM 2: Is there a current Visual Resource Inventory?	Visual Resource Inventory Classes	Partially – Utility Corridor	No	need a new comprehensive VRI Conduct VRI in house with support from the NOC	$30,000	unknown	BLM Handbook H-8410-1 Visual Resource Inventory Visual Resource Inventory Implementation Guidelines
Wildland Fire Management ***Issue C-12***							
	Land Status, management options, fire perimeters, stand age data, earth cover, fuels, villages/towns, allotments, permitted structures, physical features	Partially	Unsure		Project base	Yes/No	BLM, DNR, DU, TCC
	Fuels data set Vegetation data FRCC data Earth cover, important wildlife habitat, SSS occurrence data, AFS map atlas.	Partially	Partially			Yes	BLM-AFS

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
	Earth cover, important wildlife habitat, SSS occurrence data, AIFMP Analyze proportion of ranges burned and project future available winter range.	Partially	Unsure	Fire effects on caribou, moose, and sheep habitat. Use earth cover, caribou range, fire perimeters, and fire severity maps. Analyze range available under differing scenarios of fire frequency.	Project base		
	Veg/fuel data, wildlife habitat, SSS occurrence data. See FIRE 1.	Partially	Unsure	See Veg 1, WLD 1 and FIRE 2	Project base		
	Fuels data set Vegetation data (FRCC not completed)	Partially	Yes	None	See Fire 2	Yes	BLM-AFS
	See FIRE 1 and 2. Fire effects on wildlife habitat; General locations and susceptibility to fire of cultural resources (AHRS database).	Partially	Unsure			Unsure	BLM, DNR, DU, UAF, ARLIS, AHRS
FIRE 7: What landscape-scale fire management priorities will guide more site-specific priorities at the fire management plan level?	AIFMP, FRCC, Landfire	Partially (FRCC not completed)	Unsure	See Fire 2	See Fire 2	Yes	BLM-AFS
Interpretation and Environmental Education *Issue C-13*							
IEE 1: What Interpretive and environmental education goals should be identified?	Inventory of existing interpretive facilities, publications and programs for each area, Interpretive Plan for the Dalton Highway Recreation			1) A few hours to assemble info into a single word document and distribute to ORPs for review. 2) Assessment on	Project base		N/A

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
	Management Area (1994), Visitor Center Annual Reports, Dalton Recreation Area Management Plan.			whether there is a need to increase, decrease or status quo the existing level of interpretation.			
IEE 2: What significant resources or areas should be made available for interpretation or environmental education?	Identify areas, sites and significant resources in the planning area.	Yes – Dalton Highway No/partial - remainder	Unsure, maybe some	same	Project base	N/A	N/A
Social Science Considerations ***Issue C-14***							
	Economic statistics and population data.	Yes	Unsure	Economics workshop in Fairbanks	1610 $50K Project Base		SI, ADL, BOC
	Economic statistics and population data.	Partially	Unsure		1610 - $50K		SI, ADL, BOC Headwaters Economics ADL-AK Dept. of Labor BOC-Census Bureau
SSC 3: If recreation activities and associated facilities change (quantity, character, etc.), what will be the economic benefit or cost?	Same as SSC 1 and SSC 2						
SSC 4: If BLM changes the OHV designation, what will be the economic effect in terms of facilities necessary to support public use?	Same as SSC 1 and SSC 2						
SSC 5: What are the economic results if land is transferred to the state, and development occurs?	Same as SSC 1 and SSC 2						
SSC 6: What are the environmental justice populations in the planning area and will there be any disproportionally high and adverse effects to these populations?	Same as SSC 1 and SSC 2						
Wilderness Characteristics ***Issue C-15***							

Planning Issues or Questions	**Needed Data Set(s)**	**Is Data Set Available?** (Yes/No/Partially)	**Is Data in Digital Format?** (Yes/No/ Unsure)	**Work Needed to Obtain New Data or Prepare Existing Data?**	**Estimated Cost? ($1,000)**	*** FGDC Metadata Available?** (Yes/No)	**Name or Source of Data** (Level of Standard: State, National)
WC 1: Which lands have wilderness characteristics?	Inventory rest of CYFO: 8,500,000 acres done + Nonwilderness Assessment	Partially. Completed inventories and maps in CYFO public folders	Partially	Continue inventory, compile and digitize existing data. Identify and map all trails, roads, cabins, developed sites. Create consistent mapping protocol. Photo- and/or field surveys for large areas that have little data on WC. Training and travel	Project base 1610-$15K 1220 - $5K	Unsure	
WC 2: Which areas should be managed to protect or preserve wilderness characteristics and what decisions are necessary to accomplish this?	Same as WC 1						
WC 3: For authorized activities, what conditions of use are necessary to avoid or minimize impacts to wilderness characteristics?	Same as WC 1						