

Central Yukon Resource Management Plan

Newsletter 1 • October 2013



BLM

This is the first of several newsletters that will provide you with information on a new resource management plan (RMP) that the BLM is developing to guide future management of 16 million acres of public land in central and northern Alaska. The Central Yukon RMP is a major planning effort that will take several years to complete. During the planning process (outlined on page 3) you will have numerous opportunities to provide input. We hope you will become involved in the RMP's development so that it reflects your values and concerns about future management of the affected lands.

On June 14, 2013, we published a notice of intent in the *Federal Register* announcing the beginning of the scoping period for the Central Yukon RMP. During scoping, we are seeking public input on how the area is currently used and how it should be managed in the future. This phase of the planning process helps us understand all of the issues and management concerns that the public would like the RMP to address.

As part of scoping, we will hold public meetings in about 15 communities from late October through early December 2013. We would like to hear your ideas on how the BLM-managed lands should be managed in the future. We also need information on topics such as:



The village of Ruby is one of 24 communities located in or near the planning area.

- Which BLM lands do you use?
- How do you use the BLM lands now?
- How would you like to be able to use the BLM lands in the future?
- What types of motorized vehicles, if any, do you use to access BLM lands?
- Is there a need for more or better access to BLM lands?

The RMP will address many of the concerns you raise during scoping, and when completed, will guide the management of BLM lands for the next 20 years. We appreciate your help in this effort, and we look forward to your continued interest and participation in this project. You can keep informed of the latest developments through our website at www.blm.gov/ak.

Shelly
Shelly Jacobson
Field Manager

Alaska



Questions & Answers

What is an RMP?

A resource management plan (RMP) provides comprehensive, long-term direction concerning the use and management of resources managed by the BLM. The RMP will establish goals and objectives for management of resources and the measures needed to achieve those goals and objectives. It will identify lands that are available or closed for certain uses, such as mining or off-highway vehicle use, and it will describe any restrictions on those uses. When the BLM develops an RMP, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is also required. The EIS will analyze the environmental effects of the proposed management actions.

Which areas does the Central Yukon Planning Area include?

This RMP will provide future direction for approximately 16 million acres of BLM-administered public lands in central and northern Alaska. These lands, depicted in yellow inside the red boundary on the map at right, include the Dalton Highway Corridor and BLM-administered lands in the central Yukon River watershed.



Fall colors and the first snow on the Middle Fork Koyukuk River.

Why does the BLM need a new RMP?

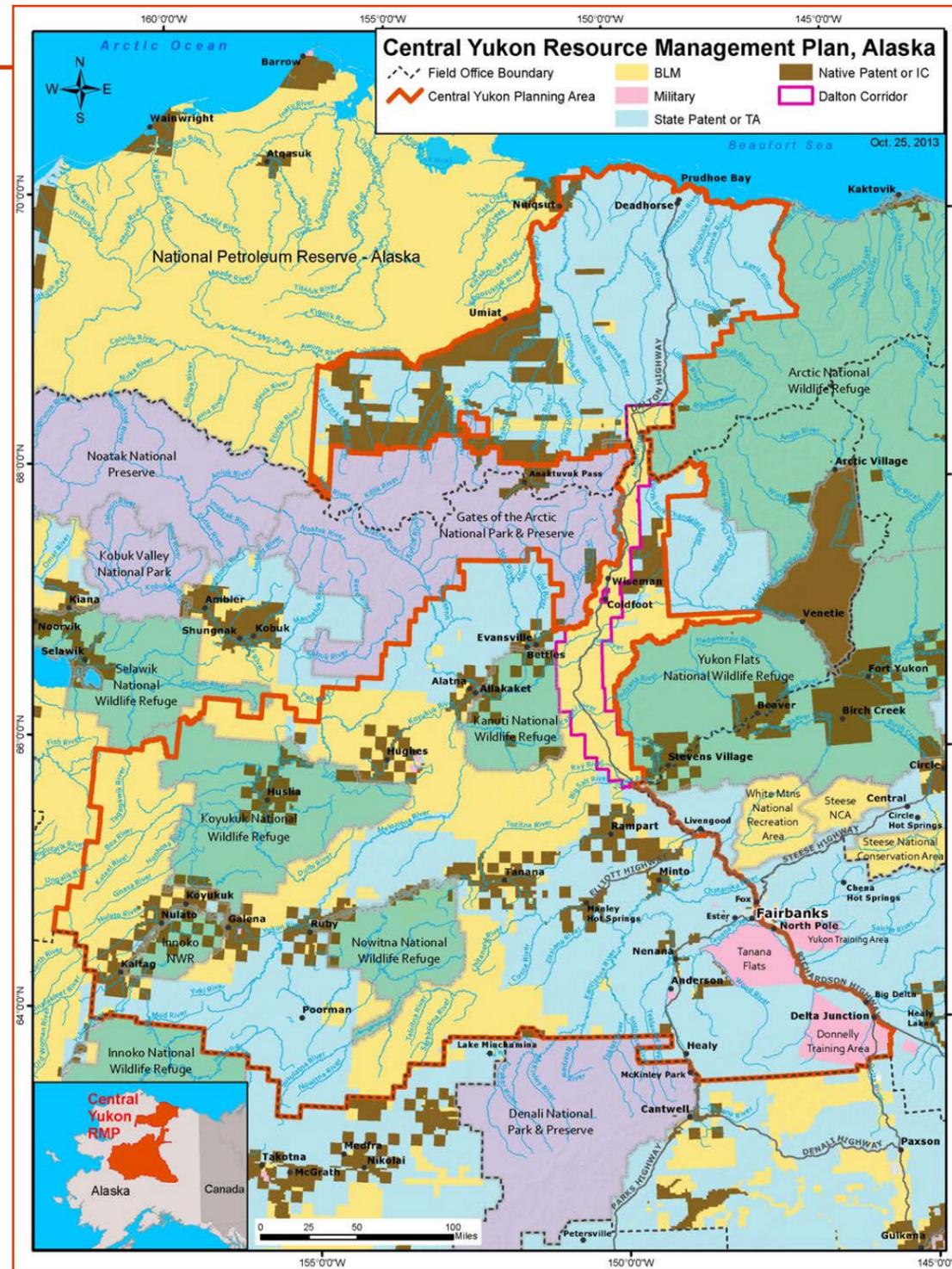
The revised RMP is needed to:

- update existing planning documents, including the Utility Corridor RMP (BLM 1991) and the Central Yukon RMP (BLM 1986)
- address current issues such as invasive species and the increased use of off-highway vehicles
- provide management direction for lands that aren't currently covered by any RMP (mostly lands west of Fairbanks)

What is scoping?

Public involvement is an important part of developing a new resource management plan. Scoping is a process where the BLM asks for input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the RMP. The formal scoping period began with the publication of the Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on June 14, 2013, and ends **January 17, 2014**. We have extended the original comment period due to the recent government shutdown.

As part of scoping the BLM has contacted tribal governments, tribal organizations, and State and Federal agencies for formal consultation. We are also holding public meetings in about 15 communities throughout the planning area. We will solicit comments at the meetings through preprinted comment forms or oral testimony. In addition, the public can submit written comments at any time during the scoping period via email, the US Postal Service, or our website. Methods of submitting comments are further outlined on page 4 of this newsletter.



How will you use our scoping comments?

Upon completion of the scoping period, we will analyze your comments

to identify relevant issues to address in the Central Yukon RMP. After we analyze the comments, we will publish a scoping report, which will be available on our website or by request from our

- Areas that are important for subsistence use.
- Sources of data about the planning area.

office. The scoping report will help us ensure that the RMP and EIS address those issues important to the people who live in the region or who may be affected by the BLM's decisions. The scoping report will not make decisions or set forth policies. Rather, it will summarize the comments received by the BLM through January 17, 2014, and identify issues to be addressed by the plan. Comments received after completion of the scoping report will be considered in the next steps of the planning process.

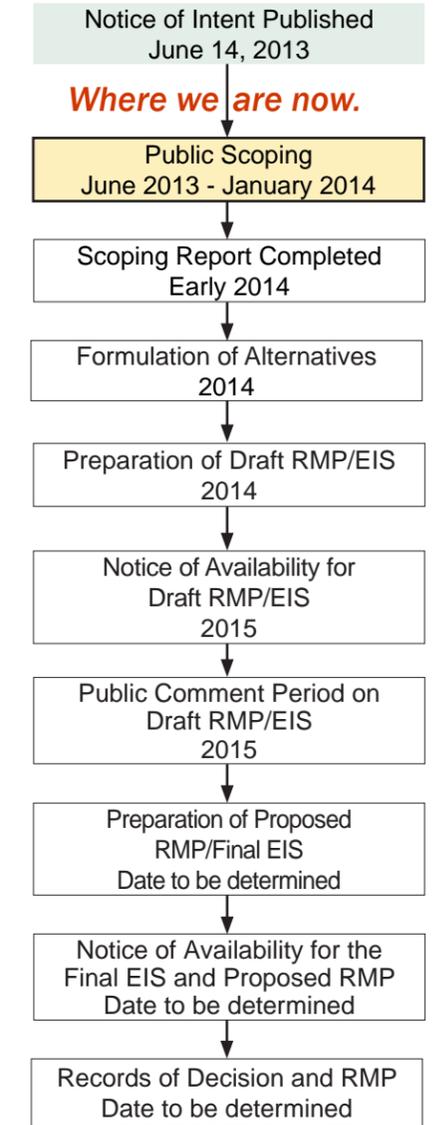
What types of comments are useful?

Specific comments are best. Your comments should provide relevant information about:

- Important resources in the planning area, including where they are located, how you use them (or would like to use them), and protections that might be required
- Current management that is working well and should be continued
- Options for improving BLM's management of public lands.

Planning Timeline

This timeline shows the entire planning process. Green boxes indicate already completed steps.



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Stay Involved

How Can I Provide Scoping Comments?

The BLM has extended the scoping period until Jan. 17, 2014. Comments must be received by this date to be included in the Scoping Report. You may submit written comments using any of the following four methods:

- 1** In person at a public meeting. Some of these are listed in the table below. We will announce additional meeting dates, times, and specific locations through advertisements, email notification, mailings, and on the Central Yukon website at www.blm.gov/ak.
- 2** By mail to the BLM Central Yukon Field Office, Attention: Central Yukon RMP, Bureau of Land Management, 1150 University Ave., Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
- 3** By email to CentralYukon@blm.gov
 Online by accessing the interactive document called "Issues and Planning Criteria for the Central Yukon RMP," available on the Documents and Reports page of the Central Yukon RMP website at www.blm.gov/ak. The virtual document includes a link to a video tutorial on how to submit comments.

Updated Nov. 4, 2013

Community	Date	Time/Location
Fairbanks	Mon. Oct 28	4-7 p.m. open house, 7 p.m. presentation, Morris Thompson Vis Center
Wiseman	Thurs. Oct. 31	2 p.m., Community Center
Nenana	Mon. Nov. 4	6 p.m., Civic Center
Nulato	Tues. Nov. 5	3 p.m., Adult Recreation Center
Venetie	Thurs. Nov. 7	3 p.m., Community Center
Lake Minchumina	Mon. Nov. 18	2 p.m., Library
Ruby	Tues. Nov. 19	6 p.m., location to be determined
Anaktuvuk Pass	Wed. Nov. 20	5 p.m., location to be determined
Stevens Village	Thurs. Nov. 21	To be determined
Anchorage	Wed. Dec. 4	4-6 p.m. open house, 7 p.m. presentation, Campbell Tract Sci Center
Tanana	Wed. Dec. 11	5 p.m., location to be determined

