

Central Yukon Resource Management Plan Public Scoping Meeting Notes Ruby * November 19, 2013



Planning Team

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Questions and Comments during the Presentation

Land Ownership and Land Use

How come Ruby's Tribe has not expressed an interest in those lands about 13 miles south of here? Does it cost money or something? *BLM: They only have a certain number of acres that they can select. I was also wondering about the history of that. What Ruby mostly did is the selection of alternate sections (even/even, odd/odd), a checker-board pattern. Interspersed is state land or something else. It's unusual that they did not select that, and it's unusual that the state didn't top file, which says if the Native Corporation doesn't want it, we do. I'm interested if there are any books or information about that area.*

We need access to Melozi Hot Springs. The old trail goes through private property, so the State would not force someone's hand, but it would be nice if there was a way to get up to that area. There are other state access points that go up through there. We would need a decent trail, if you are not going to allow 4-wheelers, so that you could hike the 18 miles in a day. Right now, I couldn't walk up there. (One resident said he only got half-way.) I thought the trail was for herding reindeer. It's an old CAT trail, and it doesn't have an official designation. Right now you have to be able to afford to fly into there. It's hard to get in there right now.

Minerals Management

There were some geological studies conducted in the area [13 miles south of Ruby].

Fire Management

I have a question about the Melozi Hot Springs lands. You should look into using our Ruby EFF Fire Fighting Crew if you are interested in cleaning it up, before you hire someone else. *BLM: That's a good idea. We use fire crews whenever we can. I don't know about the particulars of the last crew that was used. Sometimes the crew is not available. We picked up a crew that was available in Fairbanks, and they did a lot of the hard work.* Response: Our crew only goes out only once or twice a season. So, they would likely be available. *BLM: Thanks; I appreciate you putting that on the record. I need to follow up on that because we will have more clean-up work.*

Recreation Management

We should have rest areas along the road, like at mile 13.

Along the Dalton Highway, it would be nice to have more clearly marked roadside camps. In the middle of the season, it gets pretty crowded up there.

NEPA/EIS Process

The next time BLM comes in, can you come in the morning when we are fully awake? *BLM: Well, please invite us back!* Response: We have the letter drafted.

[Individual comments between BLM staff and the public occurred after the formal presentation.]