

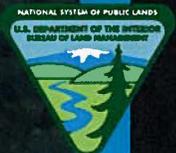
Preparation Plan for the

Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan

Prepared by the
Anchorage Field Office
Anchorage, Alaska

April 2013

Alaska



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

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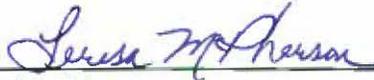
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Approved September 2008, Revised April 2013

Recommended by:

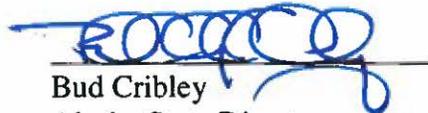

for Alan Bittner
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4-18-2013
Date


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Acronyms

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AMS	Analysis of the Management Situation Report
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BSWI	Bering Sea-Western Interior (Planning Area)
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
MFP	Management Framework Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NLCS	National Landscape Conservation System
PLO	Public Land Order
RMP	Resource Management Plan
ROD	Record of Decision
USC	United States Code

1. BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Anchorage Field Office, proposes to develop a Resource Management Plan (RMP) addressing land and resource use and development on BLM-managed public lands in the Bering Sea-Western Interior (BSWI) Planning Area¹ of Alaska.

The RMP will replace the following plans:

- Southwest Management Framework Plan (MFP), approved in 1981.
- Portions of the Central Yukon RMP Record of Decision (ROD), approved in 1986.

The RMP will require the preparation of one Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); one ROD will be signed for this planning effort.

Since the 1981 MFP, BLM directives and guidance have evolved considerably. For example, various updates or altogether new manuals and handbooks for Land Use Planning, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, Lands with Wilderness Characteristics, etc. have been released within the last ten years. Current planning policies and direction are not reflected in the MFP (furthermore, the 1981 MFP was not subject to NEPA). Absent of current policy, direction, and NEPA compliance, the MFP's utility is limited, particularly in light of emerging issues and resource demands.

Resource conditions, conflicts, and circumstances in the Planning Area have changed considerably since the Southwest MFP was developed. As demonstrated elsewhere in this Preparation Plan, climate change, the near completion of State and Native land conveyance, mineral development pressures, corridor development, subsistence needs, energy demands, and economic trends all present resource management challenges that were not previously addressed in the MFP.

Within the Planning Area, there are major projects and resource use changes on the horizon in for which BLM-Alaska has no specific management guidelines or direction. Proposed utility and transportation projects, statewide changes in the outfitter and guide permitting system, mineral development pressures on adjacent state lands, increased demand for local energy sources, and potential revocation of Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) withdrawals all constitute reasonably foreseeable changes in use and/or demands that are not currently addressed in the Southwest MFP. Furthermore, there is no land use plan-level NEPA analysis in place for these types of activities.

2. PLANNING AREA DESCRIPTION

The Planning Area encompasses approximately 62 million acres of land and includes all lands south of the Central Yukon watershed to the southern boundary of the Kuskokwim River watershed, all lands west of Denali National Park and Preserve and the divide of the Alaska Range to the Bering Sea, including Saint Lawrence, Saint Mathew, and Nunivak islands (see Appendix A).

¹ Formerly known as the Southwest Planning Area, Southwest Management Framework Plan, 1981.

Approximately 10.6 million acres of the Planning Area constitute BLM-managed public lands; of that total, approximately 2.5 million acres are managed by the BLM pending final adjudication of land claims by the State and Alaska Native Regional Corporations pursuant to the Alaska Statehood Act and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) (Table 1).

TABLE 1. LAND TENURE WITHIN BERING SEA – WESTERN INTERIOR PLANNING AREA (FEBRUARY 2012)

GENERAL LAND STATUS	Area in Acres	Percent Total
BLM Managed Lands		
BLM Unencumbered	8,141,398	13.2%
State Selected	2,248,527	3.6%
Native Selected	261,190	0.4%
BLM Managed Total	10,651,115	17.2%
Fish and Wildlife Service	19,190,856	31.0%
Military	34,423	0.1%
National Park Service	557,289	0.9%
Native Patent or IC	11,974,007	19.4%
Private	7,107	0.0%
State Patent or TA	18,226,505	29.5%
Selected - Parks & Refuges (Fed, State)	1,141,848	1.9%
TOTAL	61,783,150	100.0%

State-wide, both the State of Alaska and the ANCSA Corporations have selected substantially more land than their respective entitlements. It is therefore feasible that portions of the acreages shown as “selected” in Table 1 will remain in federal ownership permanently.

ANCSA 17(d)(1) Withdrawals

The majority of BLM-managed land in the Planning Area is encumbered by withdrawals. The two principle withdrawals affecting the Planning Area are Public Land Orders (PLO) 5180 and 5184 both dated March 9, 1972.

PLO 5180, applicable to approximately four million acres of BLM-managed lands, withdrew lands

...from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws ... and from location and entry under the mining laws (except locations for metalliferous minerals) ... and from leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25, 1920 ... and ... reserved [the lands] for study to determine the proper classification of the lands ... and to ascertain the public values in the land which need protection.

PLO 5184, applicable to approximately 1.4 million acres of BLM-managed lands, withdrew lands, “...from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws; ... from location and entry under the mining laws ... [and] from leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act of February 25,

1920;” and “... reserved [the lands] for study and review by the Secretary of the Interior for the purpose of classification”

Both orders further provide that “... the lands shall remain subject to administration by the Secretary of the Interior under applicable laws and regulations and his authority to make contracts and to grant leases, permits, rights-of-way, or easements shall not be impaired.”

One hundred twenty-five thousand four hundred forty-four acres (125,444) of the Lands Open to Appropriation and Disposition under the Public Lands are also open to mineral leasing.

3. NEED FOR A RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN²

Although the 1981 Southwest MFP provides land and resource use and development recommendations, it fails to establish the conditions under which land and resource use and development may occur throughout the entire Planning Area. The MFP is considerably outdated, is not in compliance with current planning regulations and policies, and was never analyzed under NEPA. Consequently, some of the decisions in the MFP are no longer valid or have been superseded by requirements that did not exist when the MFP was prepared. For example, the establishment of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) post-dates the MFP by nearly 20 years, yet the Planning Area contains two NLCS units, the Iditarod National Historic Trail and the Unalakleet River (a portion of which is designated as a “Wild” River).

New planning issues and opportunities, resource concerns, and use demands have emerged since the approval of the MFP including, but not limited to: new energy frontier projects such as major pipeline, utility corridor, or biofuel developments on public lands; climate change effects on tundra resources, including subsistence resources; high mineral potential and market conditions that are favorable for major extraction projects; increasing demands for transportation corridors; and, with more than 60 villages in the Planning Area, elevating constituent controversy with respect to conflicting uses.

Emerging issues, dynamic environmental factors, and changing social and economic demands drive the need for a comprehensive RMP that provides clear direction and a long-term strategy for land and resource uses on public lands in the Planning Area. The RMP will provide the basis for developing future site-specific activity plans on 10.6 million acres of public land in the Planning Area.

Although the Southwest MFP provides land and resource use and development recommendations, it does not establish the terms and conditions under which land and resource use and development may occur.

The Iditarod/George Environmental Assessment implements recommendations found in the Southwest MFP and provides for the conditions under which land and resource use and

² See Congressional Reporting Service document entitled *The Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act: Background and Summary*, dated January 14, 2005 and U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, *Section 207, Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act, A Review of D-1 Withdrawals, Report to Congress*, June 2006.

development may occur, it is limited in geographic scope.³ Further, the conditions under which land and resource use and development may occur are rudimentary, i.e. statutory and regulatory compliance, and fail to take into consideration such modern issues of environmental and social concern as invasive species, environmental justice, etc.

As a consequence, requests for new authorizations in the Planning Area result in an inefficient, repeated development of conditions of use and development that risks inconsistencies across authorizations that are similar in nature in the Planning Area.

4. PRELIMINARY PLANNING CRITERIA

Planning criteria are the constraints or ground rules that are developed to guide and direct the development of the plan and determine how the planning team approaches the development of alternatives and ultimately, selection of a Preferred Alternative. The BLM planning regulations found in 43 CFR § 1610 require preparation of planning criteria to guide the development of an RMP. Planning criteria are based on standards prescribed by applicable laws and regulations, agency guidance, results of consultation and coordination with the public, other federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes, analysis of information pertinent to the Planning Area, and professional judgment. They ensure that the RMP is tailored to the issues identified by the BLM through public participation and are designed to avoid unnecessary data collection and analysis.

The following preliminary criteria were developed internally and will be presented to the public for review during the scoping process before being adopted for the RMP/EIS. After public input and analysis, they become proposed criteria, and can be modified as the issues are addressed or new information is presented. The Anchorage Field Manager will approve the issues and criteria, along with any changes.

- Opportunities for public comment and participation in the formulation of the plan will be encouraged throughout the RMP/EIS process.
- Valid existing rights will be recognized and protected.
- Subsistence resource use is acknowledged as vital to the citizenry's mixed economy and management actions will be designed to have the least adverse impact possible upon subsistence users and subsistence resources, *see* ANILCA, Title VIII.
- In accordance with the provisions of 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(F), salmon, will be accorded recognition as an international subsistence resource pursuant to the provisions of the Pacific Salmon Treaty of 1985 and those of the Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000, Publ. L. 106-450, §16 U.S.C. 5727 et. seq., November 7, 2000.
- BLM will work cooperatively with State and Federal agencies, federally recognized tribes, and municipal governments. Agencies (including federally recognized tribal governments with jurisdiction by law or special expertise will be consulted to determine if cooperating agency status is appropriate and desired.
- Wildlife habitat management will be consistent with DOI guidance, Alaska Department of Fish and Game objectives and Federal Subsistence Board requirements and mandates.

³ There is a second Environmental Assessment which addresses the Planning Area, specifically the NYAC and Kuskokwim Valley Blocks, Figure 14, below; however, the classification decisions made under that document, dated June 1983, have not been implemented.

- The plan will conform to the Bureau's H-1601-1 Land Use Planning Handbook, *Appendix C*; Program-Specific and Resource-Specific Decision Guidance and supplemental program guidance manuals.
- The plan will be consistent with the standards and guidance set forth in Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the Surface Mine Reclamation and Enforcement Act of 1977, and other pertinent Federal laws, regulations, and policies.
- The plan will be consistent with the BLM-Alaska Land Health Standards.
- Designations for Off-Highway Vehicles for all public lands within the Planning Area will be completed according to the regulations found in 43 CFR § 8342.
- Multiple-Use classifications will be consistent with the provisions of 43 CFR § 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460 and 2470.
- 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.
- Lands addressed in the RMP will be public land and split estates managed by BLM. No decisions will be made relative to non-BLM-managed lands.
- 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.
- BLM will incorporate Environmental Justice considerations in the planning alternatives to respond to Environmental Justice issues facing minority populations, low income communities, and Tribes living near public lands and using public land resources.
- Social scientific data and methods will be integrated into the entire planning process, from preparing the pre-plan to implementation and monitoring.
- Impacts from the alternatives considered in the RMP will be analyzed in an EIS developed in accordance with regulations at 43 CFR § 1610 and 40 CFR § 1500.
- Decisions in the plan will strive to be compatible with the existing plans and policies of adjacent local, state, and federal agencies as long as the decisions are consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal law, and regulations applicable to public lands.
- 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.
- 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).

5. PLANNING ISSUES AND MANAGEMENT CONCERNS

Fully developed, management concerns and planning issues are considered in conjunction with the proposed land and resource use and development schemes developed in the planning process (alternatives), and evolve into institutional or agency best management practices for the Planning Area.

BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. As a result of this stewardship role, land and resource use and development in the Planning Area is guided by an effort to safeguard regional environmental and ecological integrity, the foundation for the subsistence ecology upon which the area's citizenry and subsistence economy depend. The standard of land, resource and environmental care within the Planning Area is the prevention of unnecessary or undue degradation⁴ as tempered by ANILCA Title VIII considerations of achieving the least impact possible on the area's citizenry and the subsistence resources upon which it depends. This standard of care will facilitate an RMP which will allow for environmentally and socially responsible land and resource use and development of BLM-managed lands in the Planning Area.

The following issue statements are preliminary and will be revised and expanded upon through scoping, public participation in the planning process, consultation, adherence to Appendix C of the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1610-1, and overall engagement in the planning process.

Issue 1: How will BLM manage uses and activities in the Planning Area?

There are three primary categories of human activity occurring in the Planning Area: subsistence use of subsistence resources, special recreation permitting, and mineral development.

A. Subsistence Resource Use

Subsistence use in the Planning Area is substantial, due to cultural traditions and economic conditions in the area. Increased development demands, increased commercial recreation demands, and climate change effects are generating widespread conflicts with subsistence use of resources. Decisions need to be made to best manage land and resource use without reducing the availability of subsistence resources or restricting subsistence user access.

Title VIII of ANILCA requires the BLM to achieve the least adverse impact possible on subsistence users and the resources upon which they depend. The BLM accomplishes this by not restricting access, reducing availability of subsistence resources or reducing the abundance harvestable subsistence resources. Further, the salmon of the Yukon River drainage are recognized by treaty as an international subsistence resource, Pacific Salmon Treaty of 1985 and the Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000.⁵

⁴ See Section 302(b) of FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. §1732(b)

⁵ Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-450, §16 U.S.C. 5727 et. seq., November 7, 2000.

1. How can BLM equitably manage or balance recreational and subsistence uses of resources?
2. How can BLM best manage land and resource use and development without restricting subsistence users' access to subsistence resources?
3. How can BLM best manage land and resource use and development without reducing the availability of subsistence resources?
4. How can BLM best manage land and resource use and development without reducing the abundance of harvestable subsistence resources?
5. How can BLM best manage land and resource use and development without adversely affecting the sustainability of the international subsistence fishery resource?

B. Special Recreation Permitting

Special recreation permits within the Planning Area facilitate sport hunting, fishing and guiding operations. Additionally, the BLM authorizes events associated with the Iditarod Race in the Planning Area, including the Iditarod Sled Dog Race itself. The BLM must develop management strategies to avoid or reduce resource conflicts between sport, recreational, and subsistence users.

1. How can BLM best avoid and or reduce conflicts between sport and recreational use of resources and subsistence use of the same resource?
2. How can BLM manage the volume and intensity of sport and recreational use of land and resources?

C. Mineral Development

BLM-managed lands will be critical to developing the communications, transportation, and utilities infrastructure needed to support mining development on State and Native lands in the Planning Area. Areas of high mineral potential exist in the eastern and central portions of the Planning Area in a mineral belt extending from northeast to southwest. The surge in the price of gold in 2012 has resulted in increased interest in expanding existing mining operations.

A substantial portion of the Planning Area remains subject to the mandate of ANCSA 17(d)(1), 43 U.S.C. §1616(d)(1), and the withdrawals which require the study and classification of the lands within the Planning Area, including ascertaining the public values in the land which need protection. With the exception of the limited land and resource use and development provisions applicable to the area currently open to appropriation and disposition under the Public Land Laws, approximately 75% of the Planning Area remains subject to the assessment requirements of the 1972 withdrawals and it is only through such assessments that the Secretary is authorized to open the lands to appropriation under the public land laws.⁶

The effect of the withdrawals is that portions of the Planning Area are closed to mineral entry and/or leasing.

⁶ 43 U.S.C. §1616(d)(1).

1. Are there energy minerals within the Planning Area that could be made available for lease?
2. What lands currently withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing should be opened?
3. Are there lands currently open to mineral entry and/or leasing that should be closed?
4. Where will mineral material site development be allowed?
5. How will development of long-term mining operations be managed?
6. How will access to mining claims be managed?
7. How will potential impacts to water quality associated with land and resource use and development be managed?
8. How will abandoned mines be managed?
9. What management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land, its resources and the environment; and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon the land, its resources and the environment?

Issue 2: How will BLM protect and conserve lands within the Planning Area that have special or unique features or resource values?

A. NLCS

Since the MFP was prepared, major policy changes have been enacted with respect to NLCS and Lands with Wilderness Characteristics. The Planning Area includes two NLCS units, including 85 miles of the Iditarod National Historic Trail and 65 miles of the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River.

A.1 WSR

Sixty-five miles of the Unalakleet River were designated a “Wild” river by the ANILCA. Federal land management agencies are directed by Congress to consider additions to the national Wild and Scenic Rivers system during land use planning. Rivers that are found suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System may be recommended to Congress for designation.

1. What river segments are eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System?
2. What river segments are suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System?
3. What are their respective outstanding remarkable values?
4. What are their respective classifications?
5. Is the land mass under current designation for the Unalakleet “Wild” River sufficient in size and scale to protect the river’s outstanding remarkable values?
6. What management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land, its resources and the environment; and

- 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon the land, its resources and the environment?

A.2 Iditarod NHT

Eighty-five miles of The Iditarod National Historic Trail traverse BLM-managed lands in the Planning Area.

1. What management practices will occur to manage the Iditarod National Historic Trail so as to safeguard the nature and purpose of the trail and in manner which protects the values for which it was designated?
2. What are the appropriate visual resource management classifications for the Iditarod National Historic Trail segments that traverse BLM-managed lands?
3. Are there any Iditarod National Historic Trail related lands within the Planning Area that should be retained?
4. Are there any Iditarod National Historic Trail related lands within the Planning Area that should be excluded or withdrawn from land or resource use and development?
5. Are there any interpretive opportunities on the Iditarod National Historic Trail segments that traverse BLM-managed lands?⁷
6. What is the nature and purpose of the Iditarod National Historic Trail?
7. What public land area will be established as the Iditarod National Historic Trail Management Corridor?
8. What allowable uses, management actions, and necessary restrictions should be established for the Iditarod National Historic Trail Management Corridor?
9. How will other BLM programs and uses be managed within the Iditarod National Historic Trail Management Corridor?
10. How does the update to the Iditarod trailwide Comprehensive Plan affect development of the RMP?

B. ACEC

Although the Southwest MFP made recommendations for Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designations, to date, none of the ACEC recommendations have been implemented. Nominations for special designations will be reviewed during the planning effort.

1. Which lands contain resources, values, systems, including domestic water supply watersheds, or processes or hazards eligible for designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern within the meaning of 43 CFR §1610.7-2?
2. Where land and resource use and development occurs, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of land and resource values warranting ACEC designation; and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon the land, its resources and the environment?

⁷ 2008 marks the centennial year for the Iditarod National Historic Trail, see: <http://iditarod100.org/>

Issue 3: How will BLM manage land and resource use in the Planning Area?

The Planning Area is comprised of subarctic ecosystems. Permafrost is a predominant feature of the subarctic. The active layer of permafrost is the foundation for the boreal forest and tundra found in the subarctic. The boreal forest functions as a global carbon sink, and oxygen and fresh water generator.

A. Air and Atmospheric Values

1. Where land or resource use and development will necessarily result in degradation of the resource, what management practices are necessary and appropriate:
 - 1) to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the resource or
 - 2) meet the air quality standards of the Clean Air Act?
2. Where land or resource use and development will necessarily result in greenhouse gas emissions, what management practices are necessary and appropriate:
 - 1) to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of atmospheric values and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon atmospheric values?

B. Soil and Water

Access to fresh water, as opposed to Clean Water within the meaning of the Clean Water Act, is an issue of growing environmental concern throughout the world. Forty percent of the nation's fresh water resource is found in Alaska.

1. Where land or resource use and development will necessarily result in risk of permafrost degradation, what management practices are necessary and appropriate:
 - 1) to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of permafrost and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon permafrost?
2. Where land or resource use and development will necessarily result in risk of erosion, what management practices are necessary and appropriate:
 - 1) to prevent unnecessary or undue erosion and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible to soils?
3. Where land or resource use and development will necessarily result in degradation of water, what management practices are necessary and appropriate:
 - 1) to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of water quality or
 - 2) meet water quality standards under the Clean Water Act?

C. Vegetation

1. What is the desired condition of vegetation in the Planning Area?
2. How will BLM detect and prevent the introduction of invasive non-native species in the Planning Area and respond to invasions of invasive non-native species?
3. How will BLM manage current non-native species infestations in the Planning Area?

D. Special Status Species

Special Status species include plants or animals that are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, 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 State Director. 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 Endangered Species Act.

1. What management actions will benefit or conserve special status species within the Planning Area?
2. What management actions will benefit or conserve special status species' habitat and or designated critical habitat within the Planning Area?
3. Where land or resource use and development will necessarily occur within the immediate vicinity of special status species, what management practices, including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consultation, are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) avoid jeopardizing the resource;
 - 2) avoid adversely modifying the resource's habitat; and
 - 3) prevent the listing of the resource under the Endangered Species Act of 1973?

E. Fish and Wildlife

The salmon of the Yukon drainage are recognized as an international subsistence resource under the Pacific Salmon Treaty of 1985 and the Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000.⁸ Chum salmon may comprise half of all the Pacific salmon biomass and explains the importance of this food resource for residents of the Yukon River drainage, whose take of chum salmon accounts for 70% of the Yukon River salmon harvested in subsistence fisheries. The Anvik River, a tributary of the Yukon River, is the largest producer of summer chum salmon in the Yukon River drainage (Bergstrom et al. 1999).⁹ Area wildlife, i.e. moose, caribou, Dall sheep, etc., are equally important to subsistence, commercial and recreational users.

1. What are the desired wildlife habitat conditions?
2. How will BLM maintain sufficient wildlife habitat and allow for a sustainable yield of wildlife resources for subsistence, commercial and recreational use?
3. Where land or resource use and development will necessarily occur within wildlife habitat, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of wildlife habitat; and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible to wildlife habitat?
4. What are the desired fish habitat conditions?
5. How will BLM maintain aquatic habitat and allow for a sustainable yield of fish resources for subsistence, commercial and recreational use?
6. Where land or resource use and development will necessarily affect aquatic habitat, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:

⁸ Yukon River Salmon Act of 2000, Pub. L. 106-450, §16 U.S.C. 5727 et. seq., November 7, 2000.

⁹ See also 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(F) of NEPA.

- 1) to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of aquatic habitat; and
- 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible to aquatic habitat?

F. Cultural Resources

1. What are the cultural use allocations and desired outcomes? See Table C-1 in Appendix C of BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1.
2. What areas should be prioritized as high/low/medium for future inventory?
3. Where land and resource use and development occurs, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of cultural resources and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon cultural resources?

G. Paleontology

1. What are the paleontological use allocations and desired outcomes? See Table C-1 in Appendix C of BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook, H-1601-1.
2. What areas should be prioritized as high/low/medium for future inventory?
3. Where land and resource use and development occurs, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of paleontological resources and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon paleontological resources?

H. Traditional Cultural Properties

The term "Traditional Cultural Property" is used by the National Register of Historic Places to identify a property "that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register because of its association with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that (a) are rooted in that community's history, and (b) are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community." In order for a Traditional Cultural Property to be found eligible for the National Register, it must meet the existing criteria for eligibility as a building, site, structure, object, or district.

1. What areas should be prioritized as high/low/medium for future inventory?
2. Where land and resource use and development occurs, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of Traditional Cultural Property resources and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon Traditional Cultural Property resources?

I. Visual Resources

1. What are the appropriate visual resource management classes within the Planning Area?

2. Where land and resource use and development occurs, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of visual resources and
 - 2) meet visual resource management objectives?
3. How will the impacts to the visual resource inventory values (Scenic Quality, Sensitivity and Distance Zones), be assessed and individually quantified;
4. How will scarce visual values be determined and managed for protection;
5. How will the impact on the human appreciation/ use/ experience of the scenic resource be accounted for within the impact analysis of visual resources?

J. Wildland Fire Management

1. How should BLM manage wildland fire in the Planning Area?
2. What resources would benefit from wildland fire?
3. What resources need protection from wildland fire?
4. Should fuels management be used to meet vegetation, wildlife, or other management objectives? Where? What methods should be used?
5. Do any hazardous fuel conditions exist? If so, where and how should they be addressed?

K. Lands with 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).

L. Forestry

1. What is the desired condition of the resource?
2. What management regime(s) may be employed to enhance the value of the resource?
3. Are the Forest and Woodland Products found on BLM-managed lands of sufficient commercial value to warrant the development of a commercial Forestry and Woodland Product program?
4. Are there forest resources that could be utilized as alternate energy resources, i.e. biomass, etc.?
5. What management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land, its resources and the environment; and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon the land, its resources and the environment?

M. Livestock Grazing

The Secretary of Interior is authorized to regulate the grazing of reindeer on Federal Public Lands in Alaska, 25 U.S.C. §500m, and does so in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR, § 4300. Reindeer are an appropriate substitute and domesticated species for caribou in the subarctic environment. There is local interest in reindeer grazing allotments.

1. Which lands will provide suitable habitat for reindeer grazing allotment allocation?
2. Are there other appropriate substitute and domesticated species suitable for grazing allotment allocations in the subarctic environment?
3. Which lands would provide suitable habitat for those species?
4. What management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land, its resources and the environment; and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon the land, its resources and the environment?

N. Recreation and Visitor Service

The Planning Area is remote. There are a number of hunting and fishing lodges within the area but there are no roads in or out of the area. Tourism in the area is limited. There are, however, two dozen special recreation permitting operations in the area focused on guided hunting and fishing. Recreational use of the area has not been quantified.

1. What are the recreational opportunities within the Planning Area?
2. Are there areas within the Planning Area which warrant Special or Extensive Recreation Management Area designation?
3. Where areas warrant Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) designation:
 - 1) what are the appropriate Recreation Management Zones (RMZ);
 - 2) what are the SRMA/RMZ objectives;
 - 3) what recreation setting character conditions are required to produce recreation opportunities;
 - 4) what are the visitor health and safety, resource protection and user conflicts;
 - 5) will special recreation permits be issued and for what activities and locations?
4. Where areas warrant Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) designation:
 - 1) what are the ERMA objectives;
 - 2) what uses are non-compatible and will they be constrained or restricted;
 - 3) what recreation setting character conditions are required to produce recreation opportunities;
 - 4) what are the visitor health and safety, resource protection and user conflicts;
 - 5) will special recreation permits be issued and for what activities and locations?
5. What opportunities exist for public information: interpretation, stewardship, visitor awareness, safety?
6. What activities should be allowed/prohibited in shelter cabins (i.e. trapping, guiding, subsistence, etc.)?
7. Should user limits be established within the Planning Area?

O. Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management

The Planning Area includes identified routes for major proposed pipeline and transportation corridors. Future development related to transportation, communications, mineral extraction, and energy projects in support of rural communities and state-wide energy development and

transmission needs is reasonably foreseeable in the Planning Area. Due to the land status pattern in the Planning Area, BLM-managed lands will be critical to the success of these projects.

The Planning Area is remote and virtually roadless. Commercial and domestic travel in and out of the Planning Area is accomplished by air or by watercraft on the Yukon or Kuskokwim rivers. Personal transportation within the Planning Area and inter-community travel is facilitated by the use of off-highway vehicles (snowmobiles, boats, all-terrain vehicles, etc.) used as primary modes of transportation, as opposed to recreational or luxury use. BLM-managed lands are interlaced with numerous summer and winter trails. Subsistence use of off-highway vehicles and the use of off-highway vehicles by the area's citizenry for intra and inter-village travel are excepted from open, closed or limited designations but subject to prevention of unnecessary or undue degradation of BLM-managed lands, resources and the environment and the avoidance of or attainment of the least impact possible upon BLM-managed lands, resources and the environment. Further, travel routes over BLM-managed lands remain subject to the emergency closure provisions of 43 CFR § 8341.2.

The parameters of new road development are beyond the scope of the proposed RMP and will be addressed in project specific environmental documents.

1. What is the existing condition of trails on BLM-managed lands?
2. Which areas within the Planning Area should be designated as open, closed or limited to non-subsistence off-highway vehicle use?
3. What adverse impacts is non-subsistence off-highway vehicle use causing to resources such as soil, water, and vegetation?
4. What are the effects of non-subsistence off-highway vehicle use on animal distribution, habitat quality, and availability of refuge areas?
5. What management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land, its resources and the environment; and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon the land, its resources and the environment?

P. Lands and Realty

All lands within the Planning Area are subject to the emergency withdrawal provisions of FLPMA Section 204(e), 43 U.S.C. §1714(e). Approximately 75% of the lands within the Planning Area are subject to the provisions of ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals.

1. Which lands within the Planning Area, now subject to ANCSA Section (d)(1) withdrawals, no longer warrant the protection afforded them under the pertinent Public Land Orders implementing ANCSA Section (d)(1)?
2. Which lands within the Planning Area warrant withdrawal from operation of the public land laws including entry under the mining laws and leasing under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920?
3. Which lands are currently subject to Power Site withdrawals under the Federal Power Act?

4. Are there other BLM-managed lands suitable for power site withdrawal in the Planning Area?
5. What are the appropriate Multiple-Use classifications of BLM-managed lands in the Planning Area? See 43 CFR Parts 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460 and 2470.
6. Where and under what circumstances should authorizations for use, occupancy, and development (such as major leases and land use permits) be granted? See 43 CFR 2740, 2912, 2911, and 2920, respectively.
7. Which lands are suitable development areas for renewable energy development (e.g., wind and solar), communication sites, and other uses?
8. Which lands are appropriate right-of-way avoidance or exclusion areas?
9. Where land and resource use and development occurs, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land, its resources and the environment; and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon the land, its resources and the environment?

Q. Coal

1. Which lands within the Planning Area should be opened for coal exploration?
2. Which lands are unsuitable for all or certain types of surface mining within the meaning of 43 CFR § 1610.7-1?
3. Where land and resource use and development occurs, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land, its resources and the environment; and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon the land, its resources and the environment?

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

1. Which areas within the Planning Area should be opened to leasing, subject to existing laws, regulations, and formal orders; and the terms and conditions of the standard lease form?
2. Which areas within the Planning Area should be open to leasing, subject to moderate constraints such as seasonal and controlled surface use restrictions?
3. Which areas within the Planning Area should be 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?
4. What areas are closed to leasing?
5. What are the resource condition objectives that have been established and specific lease stipulations and general/typical conditions of approval and best management practices that will be employed to accomplish these objectives in areas open to leasing?
6. What are the circumstances for granting an exception, waiver, or modification for each lease stipulation?
7. Do leasing and development decisions also apply to geophysical exploration?

8. Do constraints identified in this plan for new leases also apply to areas currently under lease?
9. What are the long-term resource condition objectives for areas currently under development to guide reclamation activities prior to abandonment?

S. Minerals: Land Status

1. Which areas within the Planning Area should be closed to entry under the federal mining laws?
2. Where land and resource use and development occurs, what management practices are necessary and appropriate to:
 - 1) prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land, its resources and the environment; and
 - 2) avoid adverse impacts to or attain the least adverse impact possible upon the land, its resources and the environment?

T. Social and Economic Conditions (including environmental justice and other considerations)

There are approximately 60 rural communities within the Planning Area with approximately 25,000 residents. The Planning Area has a mixed economy dominated by subsistence use of natural resources. The society in the Planning Area is fairly characterized as a hunter-gatherer society in transition. Amongst some academics in the fields of sociology and cultural anthropology, the society(s) within the Planning Area is regarded as the “Fourth World.”

One of the means of creating jobs and economic development opportunities in rural Alaska is access to affordable electricity as well as the development of transportation infrastructure. I believe that improving transportation infrastructure in rural Alaska is a critical corner stone to promoting economic development opportunities in rural Alaska. It will result in improved access; lower the cost of living where it is really needed; increases export opportunities, enhances mineral, oil and natural gas exploration and will help to stimulate economic activities in rural Alaska.¹⁰

1. What are economic, demographic, and social conditions and trends in the planning area?
2. What changes in economic, demographic, and social conditions and trends are expected to result from planning decisions?
3. If recreation activities and associated facilities change (quantity, character, etc.), what will be the economic benefit or cost?
4. What management schemes (i.e., grazing allotment allocations; the availability of renewable energy resources, etc.) can BLM employ to enhance the economic resiliency and sustainability of the area’s mixed economy?

¹⁰ Testimony of Trefon Angasan, Co-Chair Board of Directors, Alaska Federation of Natives, U.S. Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works, Hearing on Transportation Needs of Rural Alaska, April 14, 2003: http://epw.senate.gov/108th/Angasan_041403.htm

5. How will management of BLM lands affect the economic resiliency and sustainability of the local mixed economy?
6. What are the economic results if land is transferred to the state, and development occurs?
7. What are the environmental justice populations in the planning area and will there be any disproportionately high and adverse effects to these populations?

U. Renewable Energy

The majority of villages in the Planning Area are currently dependent on petroleum products as their primary energy/heat source. However, as the cost of fuel increases (currently, \$6-10 per gallon, depending on weather and access), many communities will pursue converting heating sources from petroleum to biofuels. Portions of the Planning Area could support biomass utilization, wind power development, or other renewable energy developments. The BSWI RMP offers an opportunity to proactively plan for these anticipated uses.

V. Hazardous Materials and Sites

Abandoned Mine Land (AML) clean-up is an issue of national priority. The BLM is working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to investigate the extent of contamination and possible cleanup methods on abandoned mine lands in the Planning Area.

W. 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.

1. How will the BSWI 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?

6. DATA NEEDS

Anchorage Field Office staff have identified research, 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 Appendix B summarizes these data needs and identifies costs and means for collecting, analyzing and digitizing the required data. In some cases, resource information available in Anchorage District Office will be used in formulating resource objectives and management actions. It is expected that data from the State, other Federal agencies and other credible sources will be compiled and utilized.

Compilation of data and the formulation of the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) is substantially complete as of FY 2012. As part of this effort, surface and subsurface land status has been reviewed and corrected by a team composed of Anchorage Field Office and State Office staff. BLM only has the capability to map GIS data to the nearest section (one square mile). Correction of the GIS layers will continue to be time consuming, 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 will be needed to ensure adequate baseline information on resources. BLM expects to compile the majority of this information from existing sources. New data will be in GIS compliant format.

7. PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

General

The format and outline of the plan will come from BLM planning and management guidance and manuals (43 CFR § 1600, BLM Land Use Planning Handbook - H-1601-1). Specifically, the format of the draft and final RMP/EIS and the Record of Decision will follow the format prescribed in Appendix F-4 and F-5 of the Land Use Planning Handbook.

All legal and policy requirements will be met in the RMP, the public notice and participation process, required elements, and distribution of draft and final documents. The requirements of the NEPA and the CEQ regulations and guidelines will be met through completion and publication of the plan. The Draft and Final EIS will be published with the Draft and Proposed versions of the RMP.

A Notice of Intent (NOI) that meets both the CEQ regulations and the planning regulations will be published in the Federal Register. This will coincide with the beginning of the 30 day public scoping period. The NOI will identify preliminary issues and planning criteria.

Public comments will be analyzed after a 90-day review period for the Draft RMP and EIS. The Anchorage Field Office will consider all comments prior to publishing the Proposed RMP, Final EIS, and ROD. The land use plan will be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans of local and state governments, other Federal agencies, and ANCSA Native Corporations to the maximum extent practical, provided the resulting plan is consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of FLPMA and other Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands, 43 CFR §1610.3-2 (a).

Before the Anchorage Field Office approves the proposed RMP, the Governor of Alaska will have 60 days to identify inconsistencies between the proposed plan and State plans and programs, and to provide written comments. The BLM and the State may mutually agree upon a shorter review period. If the Governor does not respond within this period, it is assumed that the

proposed resource management plan decisions are consistent. If the Governor recommends changes in the proposed plan that were not raised during the public participation process, the State Director will provide the public an opportunity to comment on the recommendations, 43 CFR §1610.3-2 (e). The public comment period will be offered for 30 days. If the State Director does not accept the Governor's recommendations, the Governor will have 30 days to appeal in writing to the BLM Director, 43 CFR §1610.3-2(e).

Scoping

An NOI will be published in the Federal Register. Media articles and website information regarding the preparation and content of the plan, as well as a schedule of upcoming scoping meetings, will be published. The Anchorage Field Office will also send e-mail or letters to governments, organizations, authorized users, and individuals on our mailing lists. Organizations and governments will include Tribes, ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations, The ADF&G, environmental groups, and other interest groups and organizations.

Informal public open house scoping meetings will be organized and facilitated by the project manager to gather public input on the issues, on management concerns, and on the planning criteria and process. The Anchorage Field Office will also request written and electronic comments on issues and the scope of the plan, and will provide a minimum 30-day comment period.

The Anchorage Field Office will develop a scoping report, which will consolidate public input. The report will also include issues and management concerns introduced by the public.

The project manager and Anchorage Field Office staff will analyze concerns, issues, and recommended alternatives, and from this analysis, will develop a range of alternatives. Alternatives will be responsive to management and public concerns and issues.

Alternative Formulation

A range of alternatives, including a No Action alternative, will be developed to respond to management and public concerns and issues identified in the planning process. Each alternative will provide different solutions to the identified issues and concerns. The Anchorage Field Office will work closely with the public, cooperating agencies, other agencies and the Alaska Native Community to identify reasonable options to address the issues. The objective in alternative formulation will be to develop realistic, implementable solutions, in which each alternative represents a complete plan. The EIS will note any alternative identified and eliminated from detailed study and will briefly discuss the reasons for its elimination.

The Field Manager will select the Preferred Alternative from among the alternatives considered, or will develop a different alternative as the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative will be analyzed and the analysis documented. The Preferred Alternative will be that which in the managers' judgment best addresses the concerns, issues and management requirements of the Planning Area.

Following development of alternatives, the Anchorage Field Office anticipates using formal and informal forums to provide information about the alternatives, and to collect additional

information concerning potential impacts. Forums could include the Anchorage Field Office web site, newsletters, and media articles.

Internal Review

Internal review will be accomplished through briefings and a review of documents. Eight (8) weeks will be permitted for BLM review of the draft RMP/EIS, and four (4) weeks will be provided for review of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The BLM review will include the Anchorage Field Office, the Alaska State Office, and Washington Office.

Comments on the Draft RMP/EIS

The Anchorage Field Office will notify the public, Cooperating Agencies, other agencies, Regional Advisory Councils, Local Advisory Committees and partners of the availability of the Draft RMP/EIS, including an ANILCA Section 810 analysis, for review and comment. The Anchorage Field Office will also publish the Draft RMP/EIS on the Anchorage Field Office web site. A 90-day comment period will be provided. Notification will be through a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, local and regional media, and e-mail or letters to organizations and individuals on the Field Office's mailing lists. The Anchorage Field Office will hold public meetings during the 90-day public comment period to gather comments on the draft RMP/EIS.

The project manager will collect and organize comments. Similar comments may be grouped. The Anchorage Field Office will assess and consider all comments, and will respond to comments by one of the following methods:

- Modifying alternatives.
- Developing and evaluating new alternatives.
- Supplementing, improving, or modifying analysis.
- Making factual corrections.
- Fully explaining why comments do not warrant further response.

Submission of Information

The interdisciplinary team is responsible for providing accurate technical information, data, draft narratives, impact analyses, and other information in time to meet deadlines. Information will be entered into E-planning.

Publish the Final EIS/Proposed RMP

The Anchorage Field Office will publish a Notice of Availability of the Final EIS/Proposed RMP in the Federal Register. The Anchorage Field Office will also notify those on the mailing list as well as all those who participated in the planning process, Cooperating Agencies, other agencies, and partners of the availability of the Final EIS/Proposed RMP. The availability of the plan will be advertised in local/regional media. A 30-day protest period will be provided. The Anchorage Field Office will also initiate the Governor's 60-day consistency review. Any responses indicating inconsistency from the Governor will be resolved.

Publish the Record of Decision/Approved Plan

The Anchorage Field Office will notify the public through news articles, e-mail, mail, publication in Village and ANCSA Corporation newsletters, local radio announcements, and the Anchorage Field Office web site of the availability of the Record of Decision/Approved Plan.

8. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, CONSULTATION, AND COORDINATION

Public Outreach

The public participation process is an integral part of the BLM planning process and is needed to receive meaningful public involvement throughout the planning process. This includes utilizing the Anchorage Field Office's web page, which will provide information and solicit comments from users and the interested public. However, internet and web-based notice and communication schemes may prove inadequate and inappropriate as internet access in the Planning Area can be very limited.

Further, both the Yupi'k and Athabascan cultures rely heavily on oral traditions requiring inter personal communications. Other communication schemes, local radio, publication in Village/Corporate newsletters, public meetings, etc., will be necessary to provide the public with meaningful opportunities to participate in the planning process. Given the remote character of the Planning Area, travel to Planning Area communities is anticipated. Travel in the Planning Area is limited to air or river transport as there is no infrastructure to accommodate surface transportation. Travel to and within the Planning Area is a relatively expensive undertaking as is reflected in the proposed budget.

The objectives of public participation for this planning effort are to:

- Ensure a collaborative planning effort.
- Inform the public of the BLM's resource management planning activities.
- Solicit diverse community participation.
- Provide the public with an understanding of BLM mandated authorities and programs.
- Ensure that public needs and concerns are understood by BLM.
- Broaden the information base upon which planning decisions are made.
- Communicate to the public the reasons for decisions and the benefits to be derived through the chosen course of action.
- Sustain public participation throughout the planning effort.
- Further develop partnerships to positively affect resource management.

The Anchorage Field Office has developed positive working relationships with many of the communities in the Planning Area. The Anchorage Field Office will advance the relationships and its knowledge of the communities by completing a "Community Assessment" of each community (or small groups of similar communities) that chooses to participate. The Community Assessment will enable Anchorage Field Office staff to gather information from communities about their vision for the landscape and the benefits they seek from public lands; to set the stage for strategic planning options; and to foster collaborative relationships in which information is continually shared and updated throughout the RMP planning process.

Throughout the Planning Area, the timeframes for public involvement activities are constrained by subsistence practices and weather for much of the year. The villages in the Planning Area are

dependent on subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering for personal survival. The optimal window for public scoping meetings, alternatives workshops, and/or public comment meetings is mid-January through April when subsistence activities are minimal and the terrain and/or waterways are frozen enough to allow for surface travel (i.e., snowmachine or dog sled) between villages.

Although not ideal because of the “break-up” season (i.e., thawing of the tundra and waterways), May and early-June are not unreasonable for conducting public outreach activities. However, in addition to break-up considerations, many families and villages are actively preparing for summer fishing seasons during this time. Similarly, October through early December are not unreasonable, but do present access challenges similar to the spring months. The tundra may not be frozen enough during this time to allow for reliable surface travel between villages. Additionally, many families are engaged in late-season hunting activities during these months.

Late-June through September, are not feasible for public involvement activities because the summer months comprise the bulk of primary subsistence activities, including fishing and early hunting seasons. December presents numerous conflicts with holidays, including Russian Orthodox religious holidays celebrated in many of the villages.

Cooperating Agencies¹¹

The Anchorage Field Office has developed a preliminary list of potential cooperating agencies and will invite these entities to join the planning process (Appendix C). The Anchorage Field Office will mail invitation letters to qualifying local, state, federal, and tribal entities in the fall of the first fiscal year in which the project is funded. A Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by BLM and each interested and qualified entity during the summer of the first fiscal year in which the project is funded. Memorandums of Understanding and the relationships will be maintained throughout the RMP and EIS development. A complete listing of potential cooperating agencies will be developed while this project proposal is pending. However, it is readily apparent that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the managing agency for the Yukon Delta Refuge and the Innoko Refuge, should be solicited as should all federally recognized tribal governments within the Planning Area as well as the State of Alaska’s Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Office of Subsistence Management. See Appendix C for a preliminary listing.

Formal Consultations

Section 7, Endangered Species Act Consultation

The Anchorage Field Office will complete Section 7 consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Anchorage Field Office staff will begin work on Section 7 consultation early in the planning process.

Tribal Consultation¹²

¹¹ <http://ceq.hss.doe.gov/nepa/regs/cooperating/cooperatingagenciesmemorandum.html>

¹² See Executive Orders 13084 dated April 14, 1998 and 13175, dated November 6, 2000 and BLM Manual H-8160-1.

Federally recognized tribes have a 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 authorities serve as the basis for the federal government's obligation to acknowledge the status of federally recognized Tribes in Alaska.

In accordance with Executive Order 13175, *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*, and the President's memorandum of April 29, 1994, *Government-to-Government Relations with Native American Tribal Governments*, the Anchorage Field Office will initiate Government-to-Government consultation with Federally Recognized Tribes in the Planning Area. Such consultation will be in compliance with the Department of Interior's Alaska Policy on Government-to-Government Relations with Alaska Native Tribes, dated January 18, 2001.

Tribal consultation is also an integral part of compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. The NHPA defines "Indian Tribe" as an Indian Tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including a native village, regional corporation or village corporation, as those terms are defined in Section 3 of the ANCSA, which is recognized as eligible for special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians," 16 U.S.C. §470w. Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 800.2(c)(2)(ii)(A) states that

...the agency official shall ensure that consultation in the Section 106 process provides the Indian Tribe ... a reasonable opportunity to identify its concerns about historic properties, including those of traditional religious and cultural importance, articulate its views on the undertaking's effects on such properties, and participate in the resolution of adverse effects.

The Anchorage Field Office will initiate consultation with ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations and Federally Recognized Tribes in the Planning Area by letter alerting them to Anchorage Field Office's development of the proposed plan. The Anchorage Field Office may include organizations lacking the Government-to-Government relationship in consultation activities as long as doing so is not at odds with existing Federal statutes or other legislation. The Anchorage Field Office may include multi-tribal organizations, non-Federally recognized Tribal groups, governing bodies of Alaska Native Groups, and other Alaska Native groups, that might be negatively affected if their representatives were to be excluded from the consultation process. Letters will be followed up by phone calls and meetings, particularly if there is no response to the initial attempt at contact. The Anchorage Field Office will confer with Alaska Native groups, ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations, and Federally Recognized Tribes; encourage their participation in the planning process, identify their concerns, and develop mutually agreeable solutions to concerns and issues of import to the Native Community in the Planning Area.

9. PLAN PREPARATION SCHEDULE

The schedule accommodates field work restrictions endemic to working in the subarctic. Field work is limited to the months of late April through mid-October. Research, analysis and writing are intended to occur in the off season between November and March. Public scoping,

collaboration and consultation with interior and Native Alaskan interest groups are intended to occur outside of subsistence harvest periods (see Section 8, for discussion of the public participation constraints). The limitations of the subarctic environment and the social practices of the citizenry therefore dictate a five (5) year planning schedule, at minimum.

Due to the foreseeable Continuing Resolution and uncertainty of funding, the plan start schedule assumes a start date of no earlier than April 1, 2013 and has postponed scoping until the Fall of 2013 (Appendix D). Due to local subsistence practices and weather-related village access constraints, this scoping timeframe would be best with a late October start, when villages and communities are more available to participate in outreach activities. (Refer to Section 8 for more discussion on public involvement constraints in rural Alaska.)

10. RMP TEAM

Project Team

Project Manager	RMP Team Lead Jorjena Daly
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The project manager has primary responsibility for directing the planning effort, preparation of the RMP and EIS documentation: ensuring schedules are adhered to; managing daily operations of plan preparation; setting priorities for completing the plan; coordinating staff involvement in the planning process; serving as the point person in the public participation process; informing the Anchorage Field Office Management Team and the State Office planning staff of progress; resolving scheduling conflicts; and developing draft and final products.

Anchorage District/Field Office Management Team

District Manger	Karen Kelleher
Field Manager	Alan Bittner
Lands Group Manager	Dave Mushovic
Resources Group Manager	Douglas Ballou
District Planning and Environmental Coordinator	Molly Cobbs

The Anchorage District and Field Office Management Team sets Interdisciplinary Team priorities in relation to other workloads; provides overall management and direction to the Interdisciplinary Team; makes Interdisciplinary Team members available for completion of all phases of the RMP; participates in all reviews; ensures the final product is responsive to issues and is able to be implemented; ensures that management of lands and resources along agency administrative boundaries is arrived at in a collaborative manner to assure consistency; assists in developing issues and concerns; obtains appropriate budgets for the duration of the project; keeps the State Director informed of progress; recommends solutions to keep the process on schedule; approves the Preparation Plan; and recommends draft and final products to the State Director.

State Directorate

Alaska State Director	Bud Cribley
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The State Director approves the Preparation Plan, Draft RMP and EIS, Proposed RMP and EIS, signs the Record of Decision; provides state office staff support, coordination and review; assists in protests and appeals; provides scarce skilled specialists for the Interdisciplinary Team as needed (e.g. Economics, Air and Atmospheric Values, etc.).

Core Team

The Core Team consists of the Anchorage District Office Manager, Anchorage Field Office Management Team, and the Project Manager. The Core Team will meet periodically to review the progress on the plan and upcoming events and actions. The Core Team will also meet to resolve issues as needed.

Interdisciplinary Team

Project Manager	Jorjena Daly
Admin Assist; Records Admin, etc.	Sarah Hall
Air and Atmospheric Values	... <i>To be determined</i>
Anthropology/ Cultural/Paleontological	Jenny Blanchard
Climate Change	Aliza Segal
E - Planning	... <i>To be determined</i>
Economics, Environmental Justice, Sociology	... <i>To be determined</i>
Fish / Riparian and Wetlands	Merlyn Schelske
Forests and Woodlands / Renewable Energy	Ben Seifert
Geology / Locatable Minerals / Salable Minerals	Joe Kurtak
Locatable Minerals / Salable Minerals	James Whitlock
GIS	Paxton McClurg
Grazing / Vegetative Communities	Laurie Thorpe
Hazardous Materials	Larry Beck
Lands and Realty/ Renewables	Jenny Anderson
Lands with Wilderness Characteristics/ Wild and Scenic Rivers/ Recreation Resources/ Visual Resources	Jeff Kowalczyk
Leasable Minerals (includes fluid minerals, coal, geothermal)	James Whitlock / Z. Lyons
National Trails / Transportation and Travel Management	Kevin Keeler
Public Affairs/Web Support	Theresa McPherson
Special Status Species/ Wildlife Resources	Bruce Seppi
Subsistence Resources	Merben Cebrian
Water Resources-Hydrology / Soils	Mike Sondegaard
Wildland Fire	Eric Miller, AFS

Interdisciplinary Team members attend meetings as determined by the project manager. At times, depending on the topic, only a portion of the Interdisciplinary Team will meet. The project manager will invite specific members of the Interdisciplinary Team to attend specific meetings. Interdisciplinary Team members are responsible for consulting with the project manager and their supervisor in advance of deadlines concerning any questions, anticipated delays, and any anticipated needs or shortfalls. Members will also meet with the public and industry to acquire information.

Interdisciplinary Team members will supply technical data, draft narratives, impact analyses, and other information in time to meet deadlines; work with cooperating agency representatives; provide information for maps at the appropriate scale and standards for publication and for use during the analysis; and review portions of the Draft RMP/EIS that pertain to their area of responsibility.

During the course of the planning effort, Interdisciplinary Team members will work in an interdisciplinary manner, consult with other professionals as needed or required, and make full use of other Field Office, State Office and cooperating agency expertise assigned to the planning effort.

Individuals working on this RMP/EIS are accountable for completing their specific tasks on time. Management and supervisors will be kept informed of the Interdisciplinary Team's progress. The project manager will keep Interdisciplinary Team members and reviewers aware of the schedule and elapsed time. Being accountable for a job carries a responsibility for each individual involved to meet deadlines and to submit the best product possible. Any situations that could result in a delay will be resolved immediately by collaboration between the project manager, management, and the individuals involved. The objective will be to evaluate the circumstances, ensure all involved are aware of the impacts, and take actions to get back on schedule.

Individual specialists are responsible for working with State Data Stewards to ensure that data layers for their resource meet required data standards. A list of the State Data Stewards is available on the Alaska BLM intranet website.

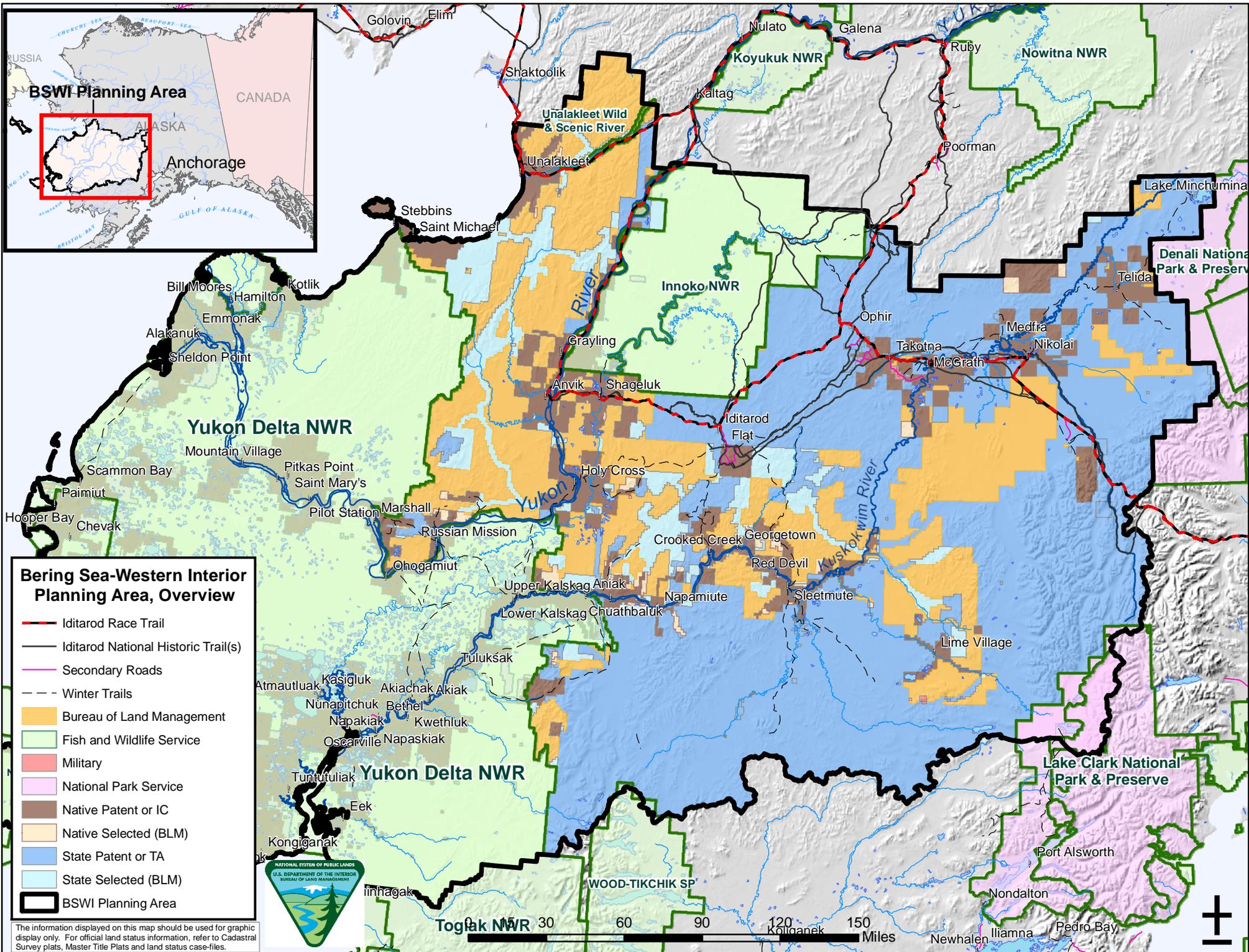
11. BUDGET

This RMP was funded in FY08, however, in FY10 the funding was redirected to the National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska Integrated Activity Plan based on Departmental priority and guidance. During the time that the RMP was funded, the Anchorage Field Office prepared: the 2008 RMP Preparation Plan, made substantial progress on the AMS report, and developed preliminary Planning Criteria. Additionally, the Federal Register notice packet was prepared and is ready for routing and publication.

A new Plan start in FY13 for the RMP is critical to maximize the efforts and funding put forward to date. Delaying this planning effort further will result in replication of effort, (i.e., Preparation Plan, AMS, and NOI with current information) and wasted funding.

In the summer 2012, [REDACTED] was identified in the PTA for the RMP FY 13; this is approximately [REDACTED] less than the original request. The out-year budget totals and the schedule have been updated to reflect redistribution tasks and the FY13 budget shortfall to subsequent planning years (Appendix E).

Appendix A – Map of Bering Sea-Western Interior Planning Area



Bering Sea-Western Interior Planning Area, Overview

- Iditarod Race Trail
- Iditarod National Historic Trail(s)
- Secondary Roads
- - - Winter Trails
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish and Wildlife Service
- Military
- National Park Service
- Native Patent or IC
- Native Selected (BLM)
- State Patent or TA
- State Selected (BLM)
- BSWI Planning Area

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey plats, Master Title Plats and land status case-files.



Appendix B – Prep Plan Data Needs

Planning Area.	Required Data Set(s) <i>Known, Unknown, Not Applicable or To Be determined</i>	Is Data Set Available? <i>Yes/No/Partially/Unknown</i>	Is data in digital format? <i>Yes/No/Unknown</i>	Required work to obtain new data or prepare existing data.	Est. Cost (\$1,000)	Are FGDC Metadata available? <i>Yes/No/Unk</i>	Name or source of data. <i>(Level of Standard State/National/Unknown)</i>
Subsistence resource use	Statutory, regulatory and policy guidance.	Yes	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	USC, CFR & BLM. USFWS-OSM, AK-ADF&G/Nat, St.
	Subsistence use report	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	\$15 K (ops)	Unk	BLM (ALIS)/Nat Consultation with US FWS –OSM & Federal Subsistence Board
	BLM land and resource use and development data base (ALIS)	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project Base	Yes	
Special recreational permitting	Statutory, regulatory and policy guidance.	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	USC, CFR & BLM. USFWS-OSM, AK-ADF&G/Nat, St.
	Subsistence use report	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project Base	Unk	BLM (ALIS)/Nat Consultation with US FWS –OSM, AK_ADF&G & Federal Subsistence Board
	BLM land and resource use and development data base (ALIS)	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project Base	Yes	
Mineral Development leasables locatables salables	Statutory, regulatory and policy guidance	Yes	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	USC, CFR & BLM
	D-Is and associated PLOs; Land Status	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project base	Yes	BLM, USGS/Nat, Nat
	leasable mineral potential report & RFD	Partially	Partially	Data validation	Project Base	Yes	BLM (ALIS)/Nat
	Abandoned mine data	No	No	Research and analysis	Project Base	No	To be developed
Special designations National Landscape Conservation System Iditarod NHT Wild and Scenic Rivers Unalakleet Wild River Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	Statutory, regulatory and policy guidance.	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
	Land Status	Partially	Partially	Research and analysis		Unk	To be developed.
	BLM land and resource use and development data base (ALIS)	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project Base VRI budget	Yes	BLM (ALIS)/Nat
	VRM Inventory	No	No	Field Work		No	
	Statutory, regulatory and policy guidance.	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
	Land Status	Partially	Partially	Research and analysis	Project Base	Unk	
	BLM land and resource use and development data base (ALIS)	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project Base	Yes	
Identification of domestic water supply watersheds	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project Base	Unk		
Statutory, regulatory and policy guidance.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Field Work Research and Analysis	Project Base	Unk	

Planning Area.	Required Data Set(s) <i>Known, Unknown, Not Applicable or To Be determined</i>	Is Data Set Available? <i>Yes/No/Partially/Unknown</i>	Is data in digital format? <i>Yes/No/Unknown</i>	Required work to obtain new data or prepare existing data.	Est. Cost <i>(\$1,000)</i>	Are FGDC Metadata available? <i>Yes/No/Unk</i>	Name or source of data. <i>(Level of Standard State/National/Unknown)</i>
Air and atmospheric values	Air Quality statistics for the planning area	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	AK-DEC-Division of Air Quality/Unk NOAA Arctic Council Arctic Climate Impact Statement
	Map of designated Class 1 airsheds	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
	Statutory, regulatory and policy guidance.	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
	Alaska Land Health Standards	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
	Environmental climate data	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
	Environmental Climate Change data	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
Soil and Water	Soil characteristics	Partially	Partially	Assemble data	Project base	Unk	Ducks Unlimited, USFS, USGS, USDA-NRCS, AK-DNR,AK-DEC, Division of Water/Unk
	Permafrost characteristics	Partially	Partially	Assemble data	Project base	Unk	
	Water quality characteristics	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
	Map of domestic water supply watersheds	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
	Water Quality characteristics by planning block; identification of domestic water supply watersheds	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
Vegetation	Land cover data	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project base	Yes	Ducks Unlimited, USFS, USGS, USDA-NRCS, AK-DNR/Unk
Special Status Species	Identification of special status species	Yes	Unk	Field work	\$10K (ops)	Unk	US FWS, AK-ADF&G/Unk,St
	State of Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog	Yes	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
Fish and Wildlife	Wildlife distribution	Unk	Unk	Field Work	\$25K (ops)	Unk	US FWS, AK-ADF&G/Unk,St
	State of Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog	Yes	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
Cultural Resources	Cultural resource distribution in planning area	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	AHRS,SHPO/Unk Tribal consultation
	Don Lindsey Class 1 report	Yes	Unk		\$20K (ops)		
Traditional Cultural Properties	Alaska Paleontological data base	Yes	Unk				
Visual Resources	Visual resource inventory	No	No	Field work & report	\$35K (ops)	Unk	BLM-AFO
Wildland fire Management	Land cover data	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project base	Yes	Ducks Unlimited, USFS, USGS, USDA-NRCS, AK-DNR/Unk BLM-AFS/unk BLM (ALIS)/Nat
	Wildland fire trends	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
	Land status	Partially	Partially	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	
Lands With Wilderness Characteristics	Land acreage and land developments (roads) available in GIS	Partially	Partially	Collect and assemble data	Project base	Yes	BLM GIS data layers with acreage
Forestry	Land cover data	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project base	Yes	Ducks Unlimited, USFS, USGS, USDA-NRCS, AK-DNR/Unk BLM (ALIS)/Nat
	Land status	Partially	Partially	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	

Planning Area.	Required Data Set(s) <i>Known, Unknown, Not Applicable or To Be determined</i>	Is Data Set Available? <i>Yes/No/Partially/Unknown</i>	Is data in digital format? <i>Yes/No/Unknown</i>	Required work to obtain new data or prepare existing data.	Est. Cost <i>(\$1,000)</i>	Are FGDC Metadata available? <i>Yes/No/Unk</i>	Name or source of data. <i>(Level of Standard State/National/Unknown)</i>
Livestock Grazing	Land cover data Land status	Yes Partially	Yes Partially	Research and analysis Research and analysis	Project base Project base	Yes Unk	Ducks Unlimited, USFS, USGS, USDA-NRCS, AK-DNR/Unk BLM (ALIS)/Nat <i>See BLM-AFO Reindeer allotment programmatic environmental assessment, AK-010-08-EA001 and BLM-AFO EA-010-08-EA-012</i>
Recreation and Visitor Services	BLM land and resource use and development data base (ALIS)	Unk	Unk	Data validation, research and analysis	Project base	Unk	BLM (ALIS)/Nat
Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management	Trail maps	Partially	Unk	Data validation, research and analysis Field work	Project base \$10K (ops)	Unk	USGS/Nat
Lands and Realty	Land Status BLM land and resource use and development data base (ALIS)	Partially Partially	Partially Partially	Data validation, research and analysis	Project base Project Base	Unk Yes	BLM (ALIS)/Nat
Coal	Statutory, regulatory and policy guidance D-1s and associated PLOs; Land Status leasable mineral potential report & RFD	Yes Yes Yes Partially	Unk Yes Yes Partially	Research and analysis Research and analysis Data validation Research and analysis	Project base Project base Project Base Project Base	Unk Yes Yes No	USC, CFR & BLM BLM, USGS/Nat, Nat BLM (ALIS)/Nat To be developed
Fluid Minerals: Oil and Gas, Tar Sands, and Geothermal Resources	D-1s and associated PLOs; Land Status leasable mineral potential report & RFD	Yes Yes Partially	Yes Yes Partially	Research and analysis Data validation Research and analysis	Project base Project Base Project Base	Yes Yes No	BLM, USGS/Nat, Nat BLM (ALIS)/Nat To be developed
Minerals: Land Status	D-1s and associated PLOs; Land Status locatable mineral potential report & RFD	Yes Yes Partially	Yes Yes Partially	Research and analysis Data validation Research and analysis	Project base Project Base Project Base	Yes Yes No	BLM, USGS/Nat, Nat BLM (ALIS)/Nat To be developed
Social and Economic Conditions	Demographics, income data, revenues	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project base	Unk	AK-Division of Labor and Workforce Development, Bureau of Census
Renewable Energy	Unk	Unk	Unk	Research and analysis	Project Base	Unk	Unk
Hazardous Materials	Known	Yes	Yes	Research and analysis	Project Base	Unk	State records
Climate Change	TBD	Partially	Partially	Research and analysis	Project Base	Unk	National USFWS Landscape Conservation Cooperative Data National BLM Regional Ecosystem Assessments

Appendix C – Preliminary List of Potential Cooperating Agencies

Federal Agencies

United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Yukon Delta Wildlife Refuge
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Innoko Wildlife Refuge
United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management

State Agencies

State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Federally Recognized Tribes within the Bering Sea-Western Interior Planning Area

Norton Sound

Native Village of Unalakleet
Stebbins Community Association
Native Village of Saint Michael

Kuskokwim Drainage (upriver to downriver)

Upper Kuskokwim

Telida Village
Nikolai Native Village
McGrath Native Village
Takotna Village
Lime Village

Middle Kuskokwim

Village of Stony River
Village of Sleetmute
Village of Red Devil
Native Village of Georgetown
Village of Crooked Creek
Native Village of Napaimute
Native Village of Chuathbaluk
Village of Aniak
Village of Kalskag
Village of Lower Kalskag

Lower Kuskokwim

Tuluksak Native Community
Akiak Native Community
Akiachak Native Community
Organized Village of Kwethluk
Orutsararmuit Native Village (Bethel)
Oscarville Traditional Village
Native Village of Napaskiak
Native Village of Napakiak
Kasigluk Traditional Elders Council
Native Village of Nunapitchuk

Village of Atmautluak
Native Village of Tuntutuliak
Native Village of Eek

Yukon River Drainage (upriver to downriver)

Organized Village of Grayling
Anvik Village
Shageluk Native Village
Holy Cross Village
Iqurmit Traditional Council (Russian Mission)
Village of Ohogamiut
Native Village of Marshall
Pilot Station Traditional Village
Algaaciq Native Village (Saint Marys)
Native Village of Pitka's Point
Yupiit of Andreafski
Asa'carsarmiut Tribe (Mountain Village)

Yukon Delta

Village of Kotlik
Native Village of Hamilton
Chuloonawick Native Village
Village of Bill Moores Slough
Emmonak Village
Village of Alakanuk
Native Village of Sheldon's Point

Bering Sea Coastal Villages (North to South)

Native Village of Scammon Bay
Native Village of Paimiut
Native Village of Hooper Bay
Chevak Native Village
Newtok Village
Native Village of Tununak
Nunakauyarmiut Tribe (Toksook Bay)
Umkumiute Native Village
Native Village of Nightmute
Native Village of Mekoryuk
Village of Chefornak
Native Village of Kipnuk
Native Village of Kongiganak
Native Village of Kwinhagak

Gambell Island

Native Village of Gambell
Native Village of Savoonga

Appendix D - RMP Schedule

SCHEDULE - April 1, 2013 Start / Fall FY14 Scoping

	FY12					FY13					FY14					FY15					FY16					FY17																						
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J		
PHASE I																																																
1. PREPARATION PLANNING																																																
Revise Preparation Plan																																																
Prepare FRN/NOI Packet																																																
Submit/Route FRN Packet through SO/WO																																																
2. CONSULT/COORD., LOGISTICS, CH. 1																																																
Initiate Tribal + USFWS consultations																																																
Solicit Coop. Agencies, Develop MOUs																																																
Prepare internal draft RMP / EIS Chapter 1																																																
3. DATA COLLECTION																																																
Assemble Existing Data																																																
Identify Data Shortfalls																																																
Collect Shortfall Data; Possibly 2 seasons																																																
4. ANALYSIS OF MANAGEMENT SITUATION																																																
Finalize AMS Report; w/ SO/WO Review																																																
PHASE II																																																
5. PUBLIC SCOPING																																																
Publish NOI																																																
Public Scoping Meetings																																																
Scoping Report; w/ SO/WO Review																																																
6. FORMULATE/FINALIZE ALTERNATIVES																																																
Alternatives Development																																																
Alternatives Workshops - Public																																																
Economic Strategies Workshops (required)																																																
Alternatives Refinement/Prepare Ch. 2																																																
Prepare Chapter 2; inc. SO/WO Review																																																
7. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT																																																
Draft / Prepare Chapter 3																																																
8. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES																																																
Draft / Prepare Chapter 4																																																
SO / WO Review, Chs. 3 & 4																																																
PHASE III																																																
9. COMPLETE PDEIS/DRMP																																																
Inc. SO/WO Comments + Compile PDEIS/DRMP																																																
SO/WO Review of PDRMP/PDEIS																																																
State Director Briefing and Approval																																																
Submit NOA for Dept. approval																																																
Brief WO																																																
Respond to WO/Dept. Comments																																																
PHASE IV																																																
10. PUBLISH DEIS/DRMP																																																
DRMP/DEIS at Printer																																																
DRMP/DEIS filed w/ EPA and NOA Published																																																
120-day Public Comment Period																																																
Public Meetings + ANILCA 810 Hearings																																																
Analyze Public Comments																																																
PHASE V																																																
11. FINAL RMP																																																
Compile/Assemble FEIS/RMP																																																
Revise FRMP/FEIS; Comment Response																																																
Formal Consultation w/ FWS/NOAA																																																
AKSO Review of PRMP/FEIS																																																
State Director Briefing and Approval																																																
Submit NOA of RMP/FEIS for Dept. approval																																																
PRMP/FEIS at Printer																																																
PRMP/FEIS filed with EPA																																																
30-day Protest Period																																																
60-day Governor's Office Review																																																
Respond to Protests																																																
RMP Approved, State Director Signs ROD																																																
RMP Available to Public																																																
Implementation Plan																																																
12. MONITORING AND EVALUATION																																																

KEY

Black bars show extent of overall task duration
Blue bars show extent of subtask duration
Red bar indicates public involvement activity occurring during critical subsistence season (i.e., major conflict for public involvement)
Yellow bar indicates public involvement activity occurring in non-optimal timeframe (i.e., potential for conflicts with subsistence activities)
Green bar indicates public involvement activity occurring in optimal timeframe (i.e., minimal potential for conflicts with subsistence activities)

Appendix E – RMP Budget

