

Bering Sea - Western Interior Resource Management Plan



PLANNING CRITERIA

WHAT ARE THEY?

Planning criteria help set the limits or, sideboards on what the RMP will address. They are based on standards from 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.

BLM WOULD LIKE YOUR HELP

The BLM would like public input on the following draft planning criteria as well additional proposed criteria during Scoping.

20 PRELIMINARY DRAFT PLANNING CRITERIA

1. Opportunities for public comment and participation in the formulation of the plan will be encouraged throughout the RMP/EIS process.
2. Valid existing rights will be recognized and protected.
3. 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.
4. 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, Pub. L. 106-450, §16 U.S.C. 5727 et. seq., November 7, 2000.
5. 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.
6. Wildlife habitat management will be consistent with DOI guidance, Alaska Department of Fish and Game objectives and Federal Subsistence Board requirements and mandates.
7. 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.
8. 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.

9. The plan will be consistent with the BLM-Alaska Land Health Standards.
10. 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.
11. Multiple-use classifications will be consistent with the provisions of 43 CFR § 2400, 2410, 2420, 2430, 2440, 2450, 2460 and 2470.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. Social scientific data and methods will be integrated into the entire planning process, from preparing the pre-plan to implementation and monitoring.
17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. 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).

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