

Bering Sea - Western Interior Resource Management Plan



Mineral Management in the BSWI Planning Area

Mineral Management on BLM lands

In addition to BLM-managed surface lands, the BLM is responsible to manage subsurface minerals on federal split-estate lands in the planning area. The BLM manages three categories of subsurface estate:

- **Leaseable:** Fluid (Oil & Gas) and Solid (Coal, Oil Shale), Geothermal
- *Leaseable Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report: in-progress for BSWI*
- **Salable:** Mineral Materials (sand, gravel, aggregates)
- **Locatable:** Metallic and Non-metallic (industrial) minerals, some obtained through the staking of mining claims
- *Locatable and Salable Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential Report completed in 2010 (BLM Technical Rpt 60)*

The BSWI RMP area has a long history of mineral development, mostly for placer gold. In 2013 there were ten placer and two lode mines active within the planning area. Four of these are located on BLM-managed lands.

The BSWI RMP Planning Area contains:

- 57 HIGH locatable mineral potential areas under various land ownerships, including 4 HIGH locatable mineral potential areas on BLM-managed lands: 1) Nixon Fork, 2) Flat-Chicken Mtn, 3) Ophir Creek (Kilbuck Mts), and 4) Nyac (Shamrock Ck)
- 121 MEDIUM locatable mineral potential areas under various land ownerships

In addition, potential exists for deposits of copper, nickel, platinum group elements, tin, tungsten, and rare earths.

Minerals management in BSWI occurs against a backdrop of increasing demand for lands open to mineral exploration and development. Since the late 1960's, Public Land Orders have closed part of the planning area to the staking of new mining claims, limiting where exploration for mineral deposits can occur.

Mineral Development

BLM lands are often located adjacent to mining developments by other land owners. It is likely that BLM would receive applications from mine developers to construct utility, road, pipeline, or other associated corridors across BLM land to support mine development.

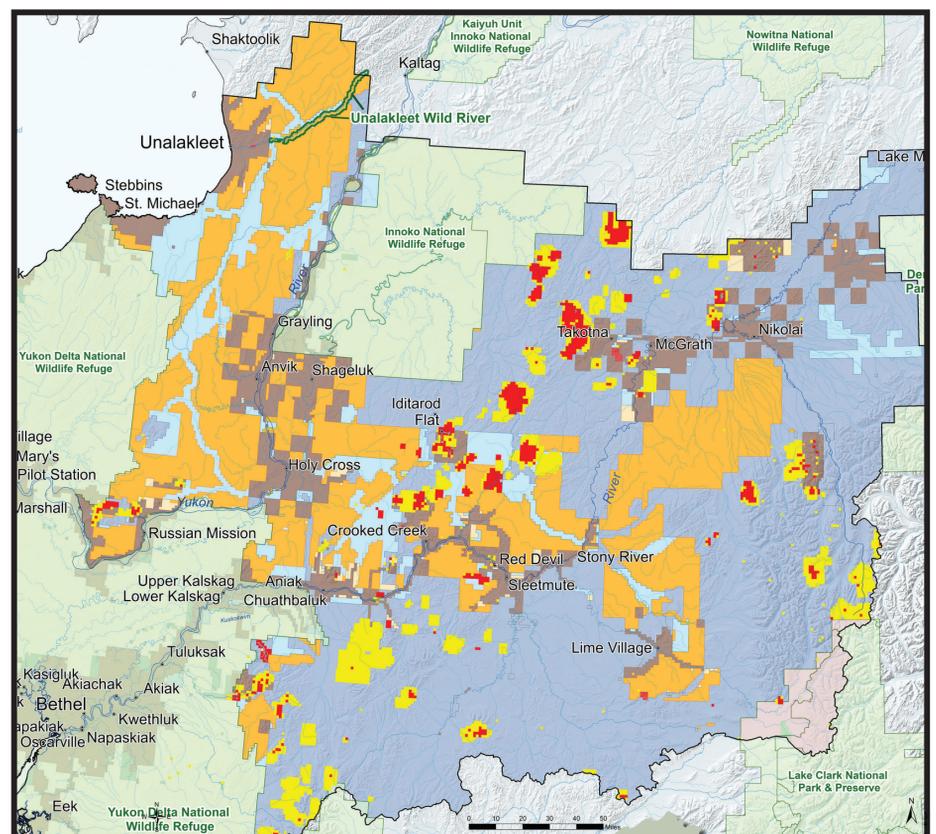


NYAC processing plant at Shamrock Creek



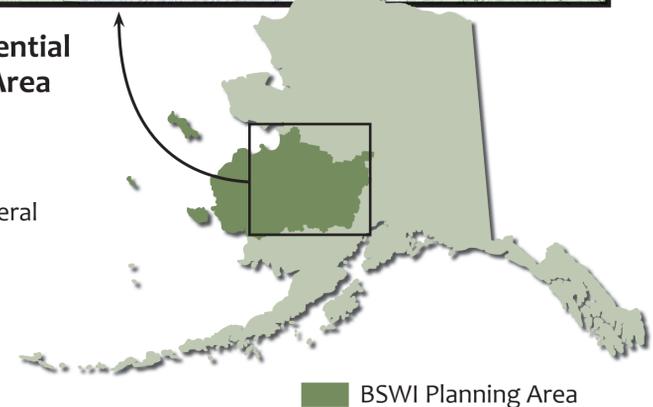
NYAC gold

Locatable Mineral Development Potential Map



Locatable Mineral Potential in the BSWI Planning Area

- High locatable mineral potential
- Medium locatable mineral potential



BSWI Planning Area

Issues to Consider

- Which BLM lands should be open to leaseable, salable, and/or locatable mineral development?
- Which BLM lands should be closed to, or have restrictions for, leaseable, salable, and/or locatable mineral development?



Nixon Fork lode gold mine site