

Bering Sea - Western Interior Resource Management Plan



Lands and Realty in the BSWI Planning Area

Withdrawals

A withdrawal is an order signed by the President, the Secretary of the Interior, or authorized by Congress that sets aside public lands for specific public purposes like a national park or a recreation area and limits other activities, such as entry under the general land laws and the mining laws.

There are two major Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 17(d)(1) withdrawals in the Bering Sea Western Interior Planning Area that cover the majority of the lands managed by BLM. Public Land Order (PLO) 5184 closes the land to location and entry under the mining laws and the Mineral Leasing Law of 1920. PLO 5180 closes all land to entry, except for metalliferous mineral entry.

The Secretary of the Interior has the authority to modify or revoke the withdrawals.

Communication Facilities

Communication facilities are any buildings, towers, shelters, or other physical improvements that are built to house and support authorized communication uses. These communication facilities are approved for public land with a "Right of Way" (ROW) authorization.

As demand for increased connectivity increases, so will the region's need for communication facilities. There are several communication facilities in the BSWI planning area already, built by GCI as part of the TerraSW communications improvement plan.

A communication site is a parcel of land, often a mountaintop, that is used as a location for one or, sometimes multiple communication facility ROW authorizations.

A communication site prevents the spread of multiple separate communication facilities across the landscape. A designated communication site may serve to condense some facilities in one location. Additionally, some areas of land may be designated as exclusion areas for communications and other developments in order to protect sensitive visual, rare plant, and/or cultural importance often common to mountaintop locations.

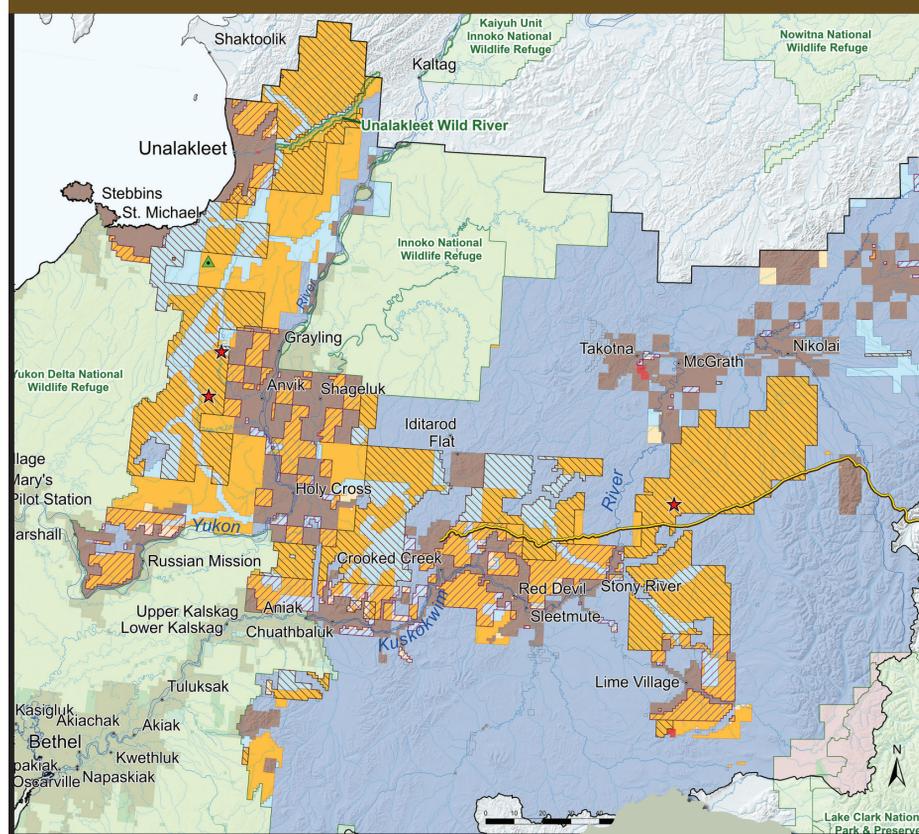
Utility Corridors

A utility corridor is a linear parcel of land that is used as the location for one or more transportation or utility rights-of-way. Corridors are created during the land-use planning process, by Secretarial Order, or by law.

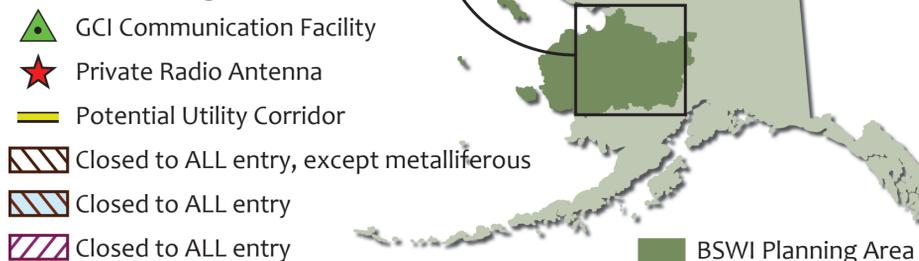
A utility corridor prevents the spread of multiple separate rights-of-way across the land and minimizes adverse impacts to the environment. The logic behind corridors is that one larger sized right-of-way would have less of an impact than ten small rights-of-way spread out all over the land.



Lands and Realty Map



Lands and Realty in BSWI Planning Area



Issues to Consider

The BLM must make a decision about the withdrawals in the BSWI area; whether to revoke, modify, extend or create new withdrawals in the area.

The BLM must also decide if utility corridors and communication sites would be a good idea in the BSWI area or, if some areas should be closed to these rights-of-way.

The public can help us by commenting and/or answering the following questions:

- What withdrawals should be revoked, modified, or extended?
- If all or some of the withdrawals are revoked, they will open up the land to entry under the mining laws. What kind of effect will this have?
- Should communication sites be designated? If so, where?
- Are utility corridors a good idea? If so, where?

These issues are meant to get you thinking about how your public lands should be managed. Feel free to come up with your own additional opportunities and concerns as well.