

Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan



Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP
BLM Anchorage Field Office

Central Yukon RMP
BLM Central Yukon Field Office

Central Yukon Resource Management Plan



Alaska



BLM



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- 1. Why we are here.**
- 2. RMP process overview.**
- 3. Review BSWI planning area.**
- 4. Review issues BLM has identified internally for BSWI.**
- 5. Review CY planning area.**
- 6. Review issues BLM has identified internally for CY.**
- 7. Learn from you.**



PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

“RMP”

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN = LAND USE PLAN

LAND USE PLAN = RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN



THE RMP PROCESS: SCOPING

- BLM will develop two RMPs
- Scoping is the 1st step in the RMP process
- During scoping, BLM to learns from you:
 - what currently works well on BLM land
 - what concerns you have about BLM land
 - What you would like to see in the future



THE RMP PROCESS: TIMELINE

Planning Phase	Planned Dates
Public Scoping (30+ days)	July 18 - January 17, 2014
Develop Alternatives	2014
Prepare DRAFT RMP/EIS	2014
Public Comment on DRAFT RMP/EIS (90+ days)	2015
Prepare Proposed RMP/Final EIS	2015 - 2016
Protest Period and Governors Consistency Review	2017
Record of Decision	2017



THE PURPOSE OF AN RMP

- BLM is required to create RMPs to guide future decisions
- To manage change AND resolve issues on BLM land
- Replace existing plans that do not manage current issues:
 - 1981 Southwest Management Framework Plan
 - 1986 Central Yukon Resource Management Plan



TYPES OF RMP DECISIONS

- 1) **Desired Future Resource Conditions**
- 2) **Actions needed to achieve desired conditions**
- 3) **Special Area Designations**
- 4) **Allowable Land Uses:**
 - **Describe how and where to manage uses and activities on the land**
 - **Where uses and activities should be excluded**



4 RMP ISSUE CATEGORIES

- 1) Management of Resources
- 2) Management of Resource Uses and Activities
- 3) Special Designations
- 4) Public Safety, Social and Economic Features



MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

- Vegetation
- Soil, Water, Air
- Fish
- Wildlife
- Wildland Fire
- Cultural
- Visual
- Wilderness Character



MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES *GUIDING QUESTIONS*

1. How would you like resources managed in the future?
2. What is your desired future condition for each resource?
3. Are there sensitive areas or special resources that are important to you that deserve special protection?



LAND & RESOURCE USES AND ACTIVITIES

– Forestry Products

- berries, bark, mushrooms, firewood, etc

– Grazing

- Reindeer

– Renewable Energy

- wind, hydropower, biomass, geothermal

– Mining



LAND & RESOURCE USES AND ACTIVITIES

– Recreation

- Commercial recreation uses
- Non-commercial recreation uses

– Lands & Realty

- Withdrawals
- Right-of-Way corridors - utility, roads, pipelines
- Communications tower sites

– Trails, Travel Management, Off-Highway Vehicles



RECREATION USES AND ACTIVITIES

Commercial Recreation

- Helicopter Skiing, Outfitter Guide Hunting, OHV Tours, Sled Dog Rides, filming

Competitive Events

- Iron Dog Snowmachine Race, Iditasport, Iditarod Sled Dog Race

Non-commercial Recreation

- Scout/Youth campouts, group hikes, group rides



LANDS & REALTY ACTIONS

BLM land critical for communication sites, utilities, transportation corridors to support development on BLM as well as adjacent State and Native lands





LANDS & REALTY ACTIONS

WITHDRAWALS

- Public Land Orders (PLO) signed by President, Secretary of the Interior, or authorized by Congress.
- RMP process is when withdrawals are **reviewed** and a **recommendation** is made.





LAND AND RESOURCE USE AND ACTIVITIES GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. How would you like land and resource uses or activities to be managed in the future?
2. Are there areas where you would like to see more or less uses or activities? Where? Why?
3. Do you know of any conflicts with these uses or activities?



SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Special Recreation Management Areas



SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Are existing ACECs still needed?
2. Any nominations for new or different ACECs?
3. Any nominations for Wild and Scenic River designation?



PUBLIC SAFETY, SOCIAL, & ECONOMICS

- Subsistence
- Abandoned Mine Sites /
Hazardous Materials
- Environmental Justice



PUBLIC SAFETY, SOCIAL, & ECONOMICS

Subsistence

Title VIII of ANILCA – requires BLM to have least adverse impact

- Access to public lands
- Available fish & wildlife resources/habitat





PUBLIC SAFETY, SOCIAL, & ECONOMIC GUIDING QUESTIONS

1. Any knowledge of abandoned mines on BLM lands?
2. Which areas on BLM land are important for subsistence use and why?
3. How can the BLM protect resources that are important to maintaining a subsistence lifestyle?
4. RMP decisions should be fair and no group of people should experience unequal share of negative environmental or economic consequences. How can the BLM minimize this for you and/or your community?



PUBLIC SAFETY, SOCIAL, & ECONOMIC GUIDING QUESTIONS

Economics

1. What are some of the desired economic and social conditions that your community is trying to achieve or maintain?
2. What could the BLM in its role as a land manager consider doing in the future that would help your community meet those economic and social goals?



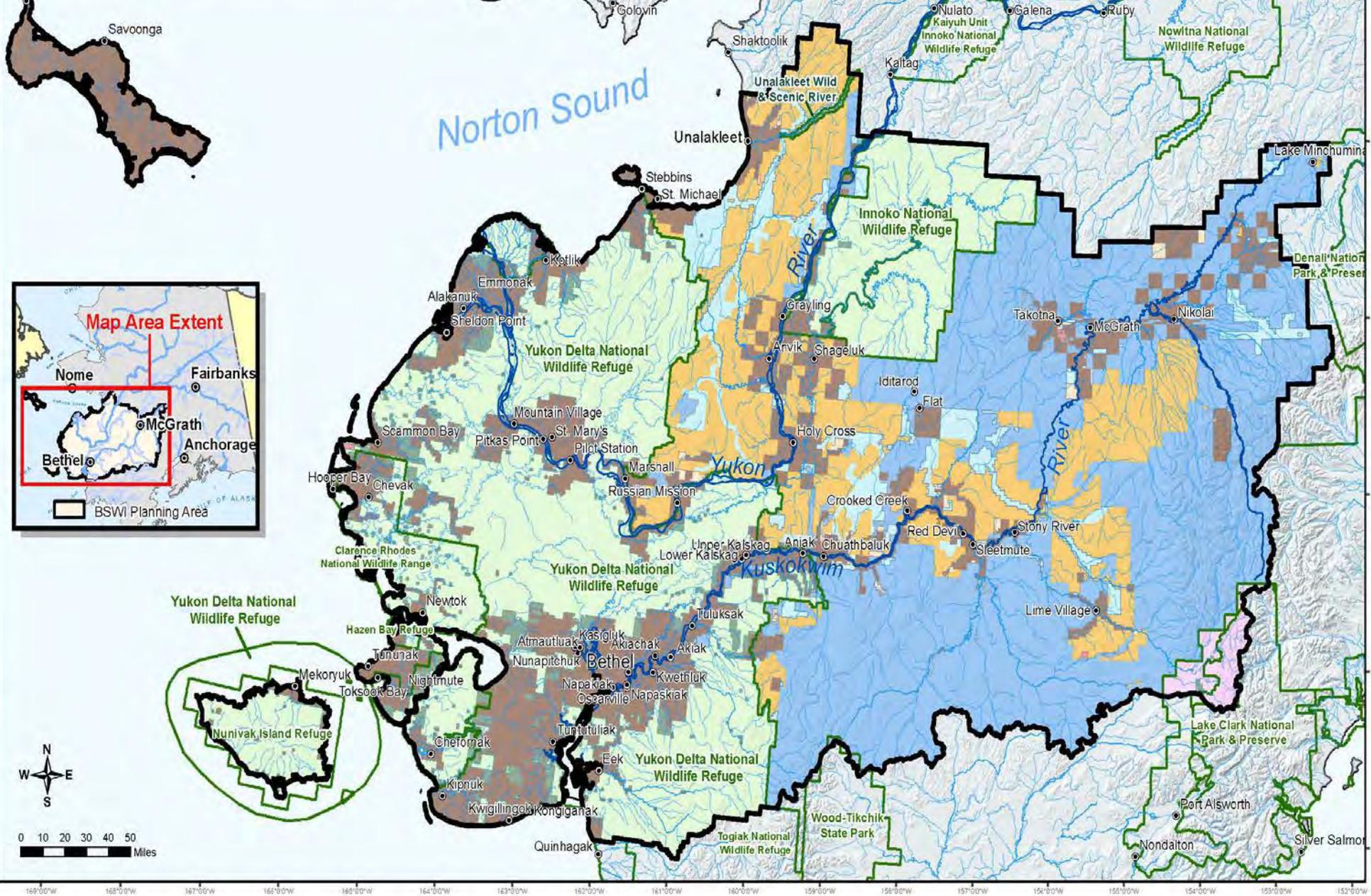
RMP PLANNING AREAS

- In order to include all BLM-managed lands in the RMP, the planning area boundaries are drawn on a large scale.
- RMP decisions *will only apply to BLM-managed public lands in the plan area.*



BSWI RMP PLANNING AREA

- 62-million-acre planning area
- 10.6m acres/17.3% BLM managed
 - 7.8m Unencumbered
 - 2.6m State selected
 - 214k Native selected
- 60 rural communities with 25,000 residents
- 67 federally recognized Tribes
- 41 Village Corporations, 6 Regional Corporations
- 26 communities in close proximity to BLM land



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification. For official land status information refer to Cadastral Survey plats, Master Title Plats and land status case-files.



July 2013
Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan
 Department of the Interior
 Bureau of Land Management
 Anchorage Field Office
 4700 BLM Road
 Anchorage, AK 99507

Generalized Land Status (July, 2013)

Bureau of Land Management	Military
State Selected (BLM)	National Park Service
Native Selected (BLM)	Native Patent or IC
Fish and Wildlife Service	State Patent or TA

- Federal Conservation System Units & State Legislatively Designated Areas
- BSWI Planning Area Boundary
- Selected Lands within CSUs & LDAs (Not administered by the BLM)

Bering Sea-Western Interior Planning Area, Overview



BSWI RMP

2 MAJOR BSWI WITHDRAWALS – 6m acres total:

- Withdraws land from leasing (coal, oil & gas)
- Withdraws land from location and entry under the mining laws
 - BUT, 4m acres - is NOT withdrawn from metalliferous mineral entry (minerals containing gold, copper, silver, zinc) on BLM **unencumbered** land.



BSWI RMP SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

- 5 existing ACECs
- Wild & Scenic Rivers

ACEC Name	Values
<p>All of the watershed area of the North River (tributary of Unalakleet River, per the 1986 Central Yukon RMP)</p>	Salmon and Sheefish spawning and rearing habitat.
<p>All of the watershed area of the Unalakleet River (per the 1986 Central Yukon RMP)</p>	Salmon and Sheefish spawning and rearing habitat.
<p>The Anvik River and its drainages (per the 1981 Southwest MFP)</p>	Spawning habitat for the largest population of chum salmon in the Yukon River system. Large population of trophy-class grizzly/brown bears.
<p>Peregrine Falcon Nesting Habitats (per the 1981 Southwest MFP)</p>	In 1981, BLM was mandated by the Endangered Species Act to protect peregrine falcons and their habitat.
<p>Kuskokwim River Area Raptor Nesting Habitats (per the 1981 Southwest MFP)</p>	Important nesting habitat for bald eagles, golden eagles, osprey, and gyrfalcons (all raptors). In 1981, BLM was mandated by the Endangered Species Act to protect peregrine falcons and their habitat.



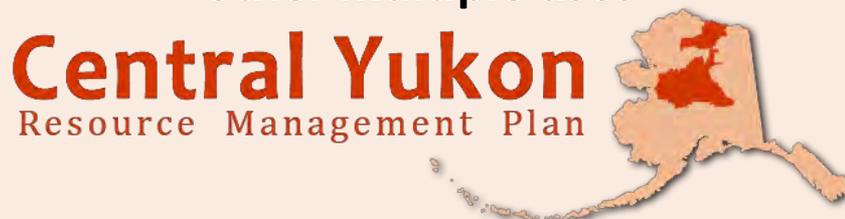
BSWI RMP SCOPING MEETINGS

Date	Location	Time
November 8	Lower Kalskag	11:00 am
November 8	Upper Kalskag	<i>Cancelled</i>
November 19	Crooked Creek	<i>Cancelled</i>
November 19	Aniak	6:00 pm
November 20	Bethel	6:00 pm
November 21	Chuathbaluk	1:00 pm
November 22	Unalakleet	7:00 pm
December 4	Anchorage	4:00-6:00p Open House 6:00-8:00p Presentation
December 12	McGrath	6:00 pm
December 17	Grayling	6:00 pm
December 18	Holy Cross	4:00 pm
December 19	Russian Mission	4:00 pm

BOTH BSWI & CY RMPs

How should BLM manage lands with Wilderness Characteristics?

- Inventory lands in the planning area for wilderness characteristics
 - Size
 - Naturalness
 - Opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation
- Decide how these lands should be managed in the RMP
 - Emphasize other uses as a priority over wilderness characteristics
 - Emphasize other uses while applying restrictions to reduce impacts on wilderness characteristics
 - Protection of wilderness characteristics as a priority over other multiple uses



BOTH BSWI & CY RMPs

Are there rivers in the planning area eligible for designation as “wild and scenic” or are they better managed without designation?

- **Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River**
- **Inventory of rivers in the planning area to see if they meet the criteria under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act**
- **Must be free-flowing and have at least one outstandingly remarkable value**



BOTH BSWI & CY RMPs

How should BLM address invasive plants?

- Establish goals and desired future conditions in order to provide management direction throughout the planning area with regard to invasive plants



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BOTH BSWI & CY RMPs

How should BLM manage use and occupancy associated with mining?



Unauthorized access



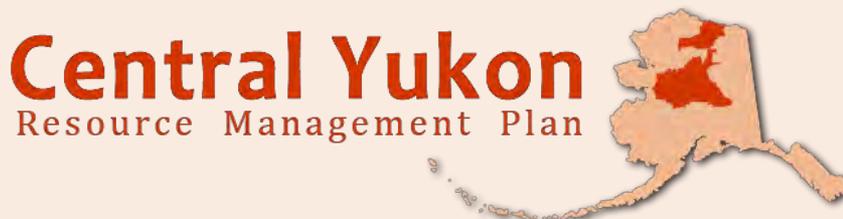
Mining claim occupancy

CENTRAL YUKON SPECIAL DESIGNNATIONS

Should BLM retain, modify or eliminate existing ACECs?

Should BLM designate any additional areas as ACECs or RNAs?

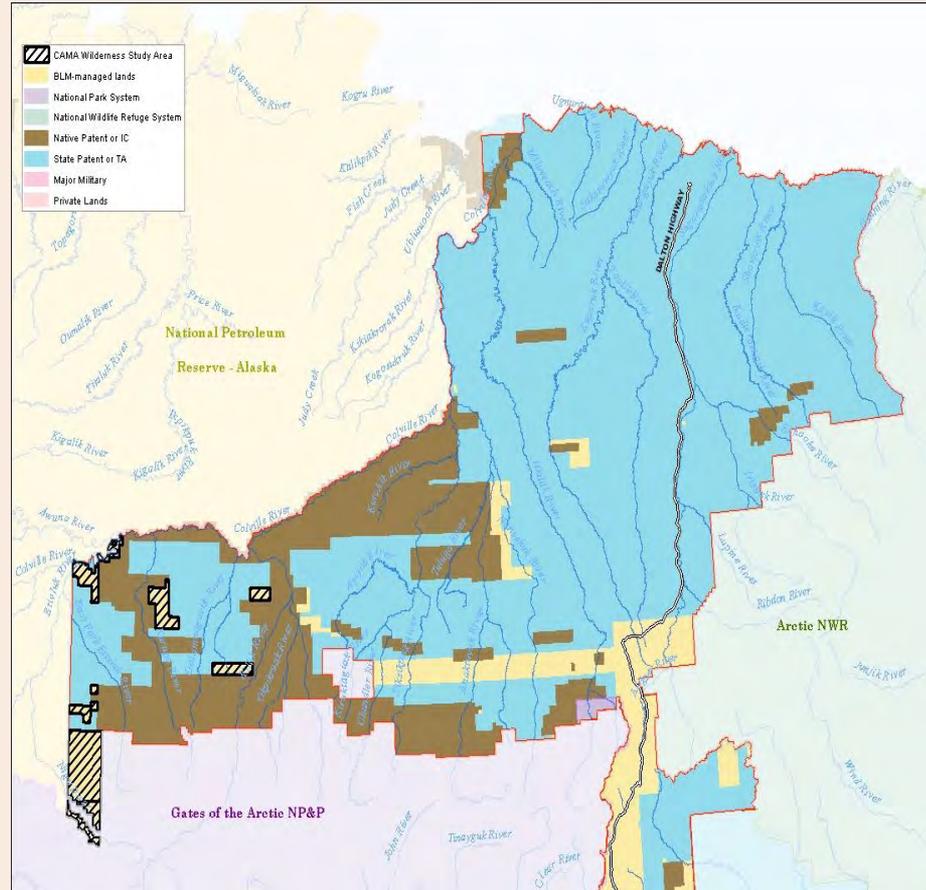
- **Federal Land Policy and Management Act directs BLM to give priority to designating areas of critical environmental concern.**
- **There are 34 ACECs/RNAs in place under the existing plans**
- **Review existing ACECs to determine if they should be retained**
- **New ACECs may be nominated by the public during scoping**



CENTRAL YUKON RMP

CENTRAL ARCTIC MANAGEMENT AREA

- Created by ANILCA
- Wilderness Study Area (WSA)
- WSA 260,000 acres
- Anticipate retaining 135,000 acres
- 41,000 acres upper Nigu River “suitable”



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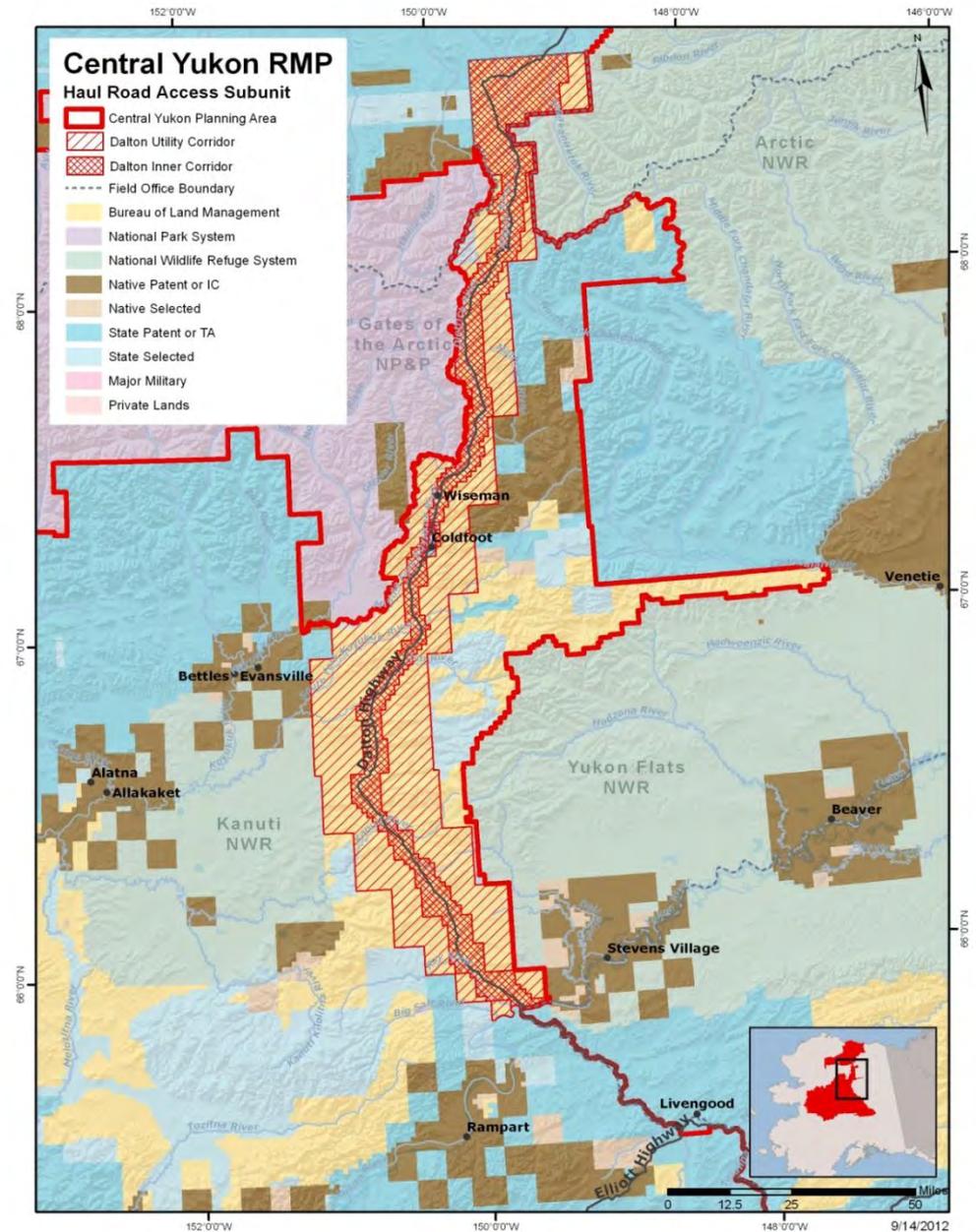


CENTRAL YUKON RMP

Shared Use in the Dalton Highway Corridor

- Trans-Alaska Pipeline
- Primary purpose is a utility corridor
- Public land order 5150
- Utility Corridor RMP (1991)
- Development Nodes

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How to manage egress from the Dalton Highway Corridor

Umiat Road

Gold Creek/Big Lake Mining Access

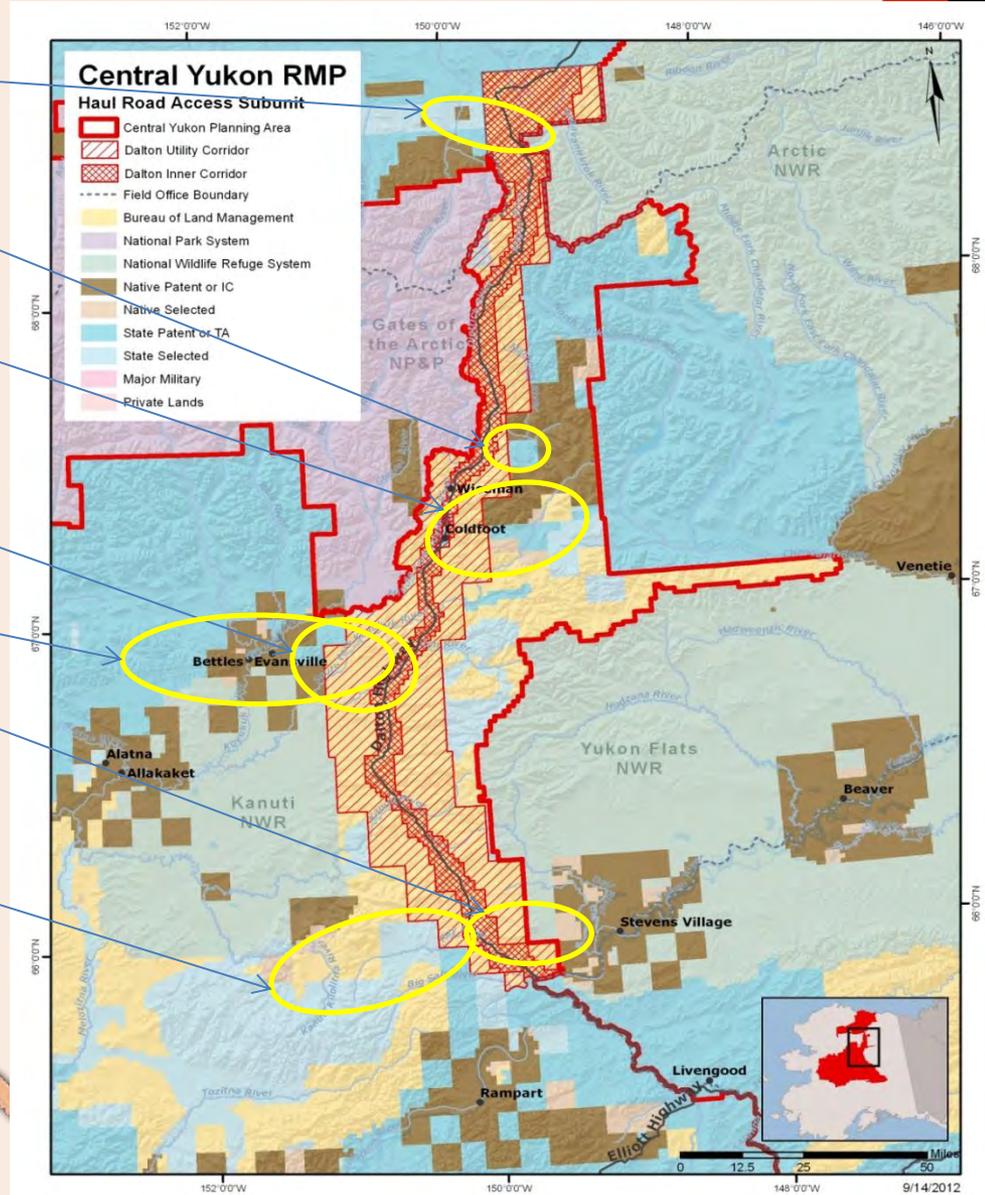
Coldfoot to Chandalar winter trail

Bettles winter road

Road to Ambler

Stevens Village winter road

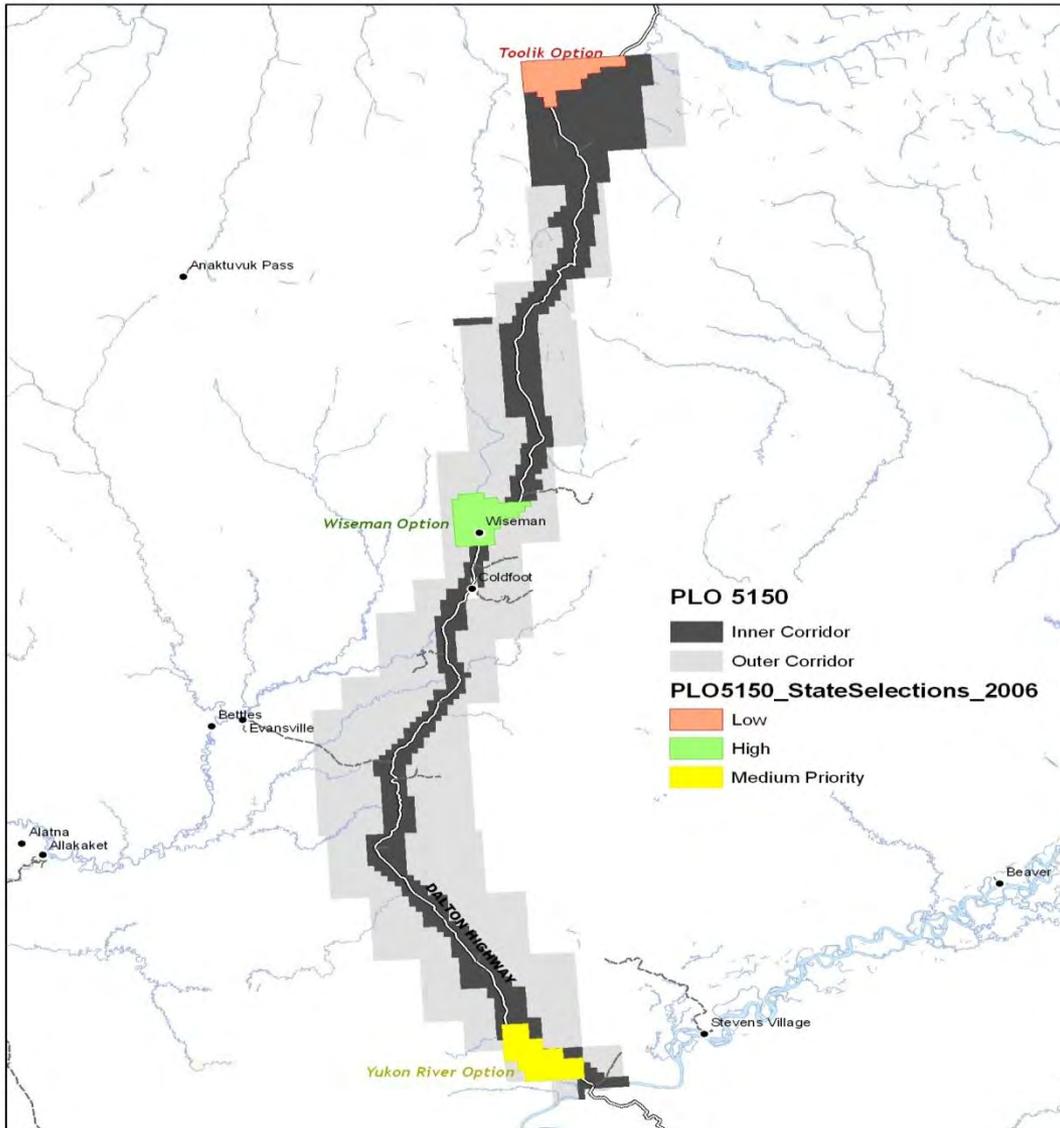
Ray River/Big Salt/Ray Mountains access



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Should BLM allow the state to select parts of the utility corridor?



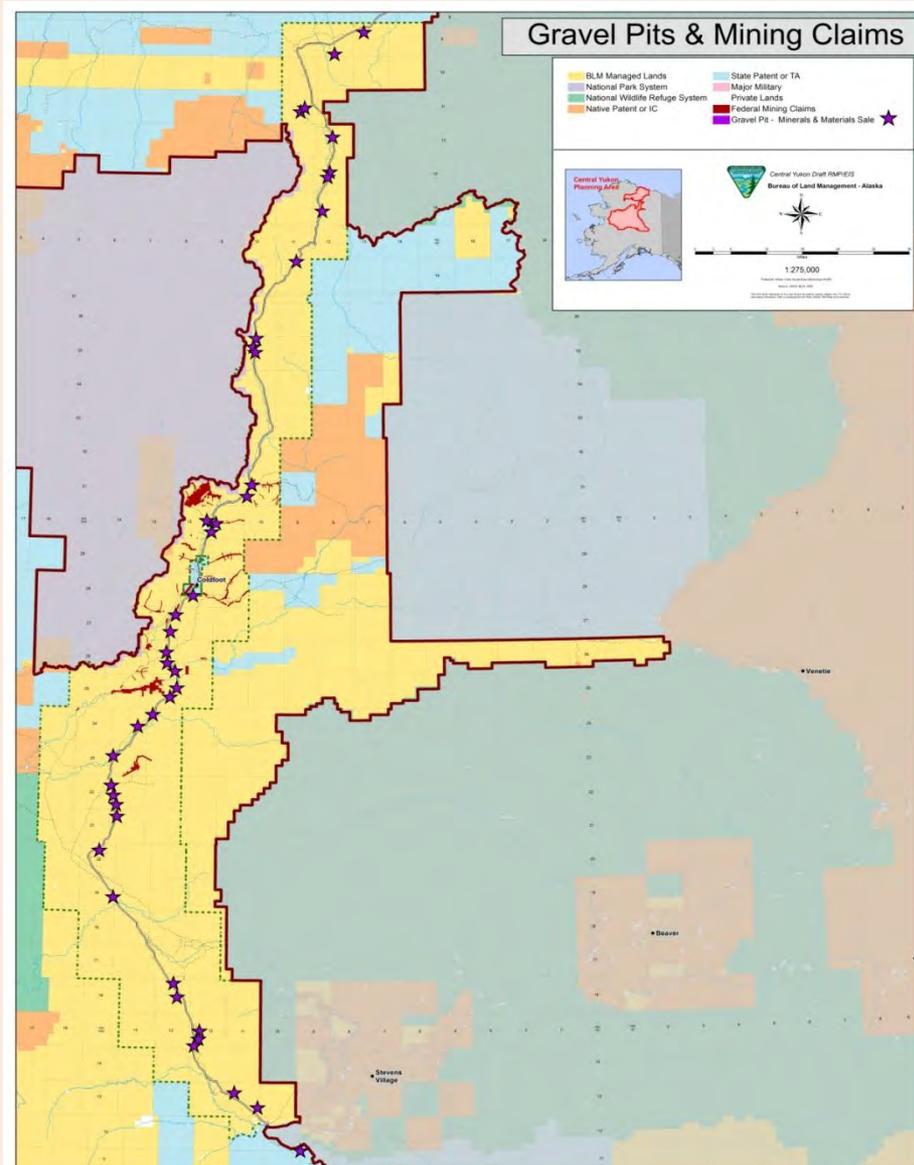
Large portion of Dalton Highway area unavailable for state selection under Public Land Order (PLO) 5150

State requested modification of PLO 5150 to allow for conveyance of some areas.

Alternative or alternatives in the Draft RMP consider modifications to PLO 5150



Which areas should remain open or closed to sand and gravel mining?



Increasing need to expand pits and locate new sources for mineral materials on the Dalton

Future construction of a gas pipeline would require additional sources

Some pits becoming depleted

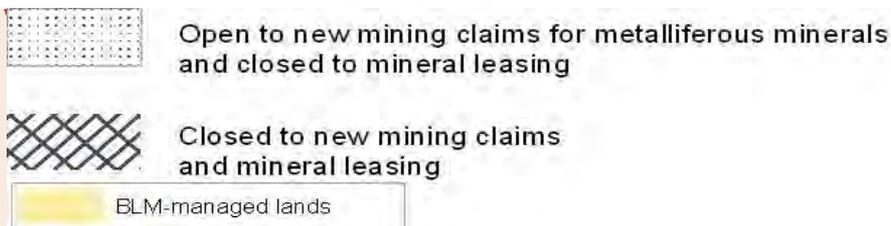
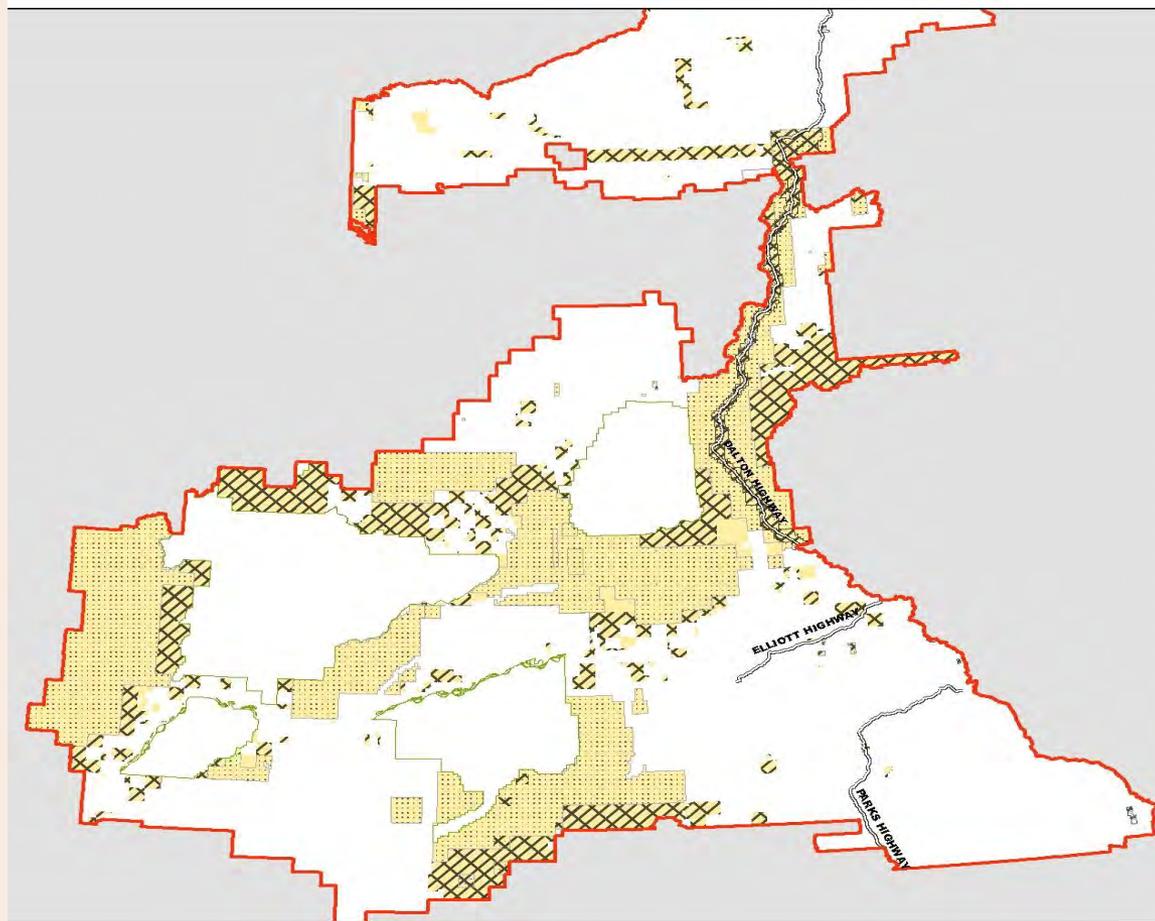
Proliferation of gravel pits

Major vector for spread of Invasive plants

Should the Toolik Lake RNA be retained or modified?



Which withdrawals should be retained, modified or revoked?



- Early 1970's
- All closed to oil and gas leasing
- Some closed to mining claims
- Will review during planning
- The plan can only recommend changes to withdrawals

Public Scoping Meetings: Central Yukon Resource Management Plan

Alaska BLM Central Yukon Field Office

October 31	Wiseman
November 4	Nenana
November 5	Nulato
November 7	Venetie
November 18	Lake Minchumina
November 19	Ruby
November 20	Anaktuvuk Pass
Cancelled	Stevens Village
December 4	Anchorage
December 9	Fairbanks
December 10	Koyukuk
December 13	Galena
December 11	Tanana
December 12	Evansville/Bettles
December 16	Hughes School
December 17	Allakaket



Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan



www.blm.gov/ak/planning

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