

# Bering Sea–Western Interior RMP Scoping Meeting

## Russian Mission Issue Summary

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### **Russian Mission, Alaska December 19, 2013**

These Issue summaries are created by the BLM after each community meeting. These documents summarize what was shared and are provided to each community for verification or revisions before being considered final.

#### **Attendance:**

12 residents attended the Russian Mission community scoping meeting. 5 BLM representatives provided a presentation, discussion time around maps, and a sharing session.

#### **Issues and concerns raised:**

*“There are 12 of us here at this meeting and what we share with you may not represent how everyone in our community feels.”*

#### ***BLM Land***

- BLM lands west of Russian Mission (RM)
  - Use the lands for: berry picking; wood cutting; trapping marten and beaver; hunting moose, bear, wolf; travel the trail to Marshall in the winter.
- Not supportive of mining on BLM lands close to RM as the toxicity can disorient the fish and the runoff from mining lands would reach the Yukon River.

#### ***Fish-related***

- We use Mountain Creek for Pike fishing.
- We fish Pike Lake.
- Concern was expressed about beaver dams preventing fish from spawning.

#### ***Wildlife-related***

- Get some of our moose over in Paimute Slough, Unit 21e
- Trapping
  - Up Stuyahok Creek, up Mountain Creek, west of RM.
- Caribou
  - We go way north across BLM land to Needle Mountain (on FWS land) for caribou.
  - There were caribou at Whitefish Lake as recently as 4 years ago.
  - We mostly go north.
- We see Supercubs land in town with big moose racks tied to the plane and no meat to pass to the village. Those Supercubs go back and land on BLM lands behind RM.
- Moose
  - We go near Pike Lake
  - We go up the Anvik River
  - Up Mountain Creek
- Residents asked how BLM monitors BLM land for illegal activities that occur by outfitter guides.
- It is hard to know where State/Native/Federal land boundaries are when you are hunting.

#### ***ACEC-related***

- Peregrine Falcon ACEC
  - There are many raptors and eagles in the area of RM.
  - There are falcons right in front of the village.
  - There are raptors and eagles where the red dot is on the map for the Peregrine Falcon ACEC.
  - The Audubon Society brings people out here every couple of years and they photograph the cliffs and birds, they don't come to our village and visit. It is important to protect those

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areas so that those birders would still continue to come and visit.

### **Trails**

- We travel over to Pike Lake (Pike L. on BLM land)
- We travel down to Aniak (cross BLM land)
- Travel to Kako Mine (no land on BLM)
- Travel the trail from RM to Marshall in the wintertime.
- There is a historic mining route that went from Marshall to Kako Mine. The trail is overgrown. Don't know if Marshall might still use that historic trail. (don't know if it is a 17b easement or not? Unsure whether there is interest in the trail or restoring the trail) Some expressed interest in trail restoration for use as road or ATV trail.
- Kako Mine owners have a ROW from mine down to the landing on the river (over Native Corp. lands).
- 17b easements across Native Corp. lands are important for access to State lands and BLM lands.
- Trail overland from RM – to Paimute Slough (FWS land); we get moose over there (unit 21E).
- Old CAT trail up to Stuyahok Mine that goes from the landing on the river, across some Native Corporation land, FWS land, then over BLM and BLM state-selected lands to the mine site.
  - There are gas tanks on the landing near the river with no containment and they are leaking (likely on Native Corp or FWS lands).

### **Mountain Creek Area**

- Located up the Yukon River from RM, past Kako Creek and past Stuyahok Creek. Mountain Creek is the next drainage upriver from Stuyahok Creek and it joins the Yukon on Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) land, then the rest of it is on BLM unencumbered and state-selected BLM (not labelled on the map).
- We go there for: Pike fishing; duck and geese hunting; moose hunting; youth cultural camps in September; and for trapping.
- The Mountain Creek area is important for us and our children culturally.
- We have problems with the sunken barge there. The barge was delivering materials back in the 1920's to Stuyahok and it sunk (up Mountain Creek). It is a safety hazard. Boaters hit the sunken barge in lower water and ruin their boats.
- This area is important at the end of spring for waterfowl hunting
- The people of Holy Cross also use this area

### **Other**

- There is a possible timber harvest area upriver, but not on BLM land