

Bering Sea–Western Interior RMP Scoping Meeting

Holy Cross Issue Summary

Holy Cross, Alaska December 18, 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:

17 residents attended the Holy Cross community scoping meeting. 6 BLM representatives provided a presentation, discussion time around maps, and a sharing session.

Issues and concerns raised:

BLM Land

- We access BLM lands using “Owl slough” (across the river from HC)
- Owl Slough provides access to land farther away from the Yukon for moose hunting.
- The “Old Mail Trail” to Flat is VERY important to us. It has historic significance, we have used this trail for generations. It is how we get around. We don’t want anything to happen to this important trail. We use this trail to get to McGrath if other routes are cut off. We use the trail for trapping. (possible ACEC consideration...)
- The proposed AVCP road would not cross BLM land, but attendees felt confusion over the purpose of the road, like they were not well informed and were frustrated that since the road might be on state land, villages had no say in the process.
- There was confusion over allowable subsistence cabins and Outfitter-Guide cabins on BLM lands.
- The BLM received questions about how BLM manages and makes decisions on state-selected lands and the BLM explained that any proposed actions on BLM state-selected lands were also reviewed by the state for concurrence.
- The residents are supportive of cell towers on BLM land because they enhance public safety.

Fish-related

- Ice fishing and Pike fishing lakes important to us:
 - Reindeer Lake (across the Yukon River; mostly Native Corp. land) on the trail to Shageluk.
 - Layman Lake on the trail to Shageluk.
 - Alberts Lake located near Layman’s Lake.
 - Pike Lake (on BLM land, due north of Aniak, east/southeast of HC)
 - Stanchen Lake unsure of location
- Indicated that some of these lakes dry out in the winter, more research needed to confirm this.

ACEC-related

- There is a peregrine nesting site on the beach across the river at Holy Cross. Peregrine numbers fluctuate, like duck and geese. They do well on their own.

Wildlife-related

- Maintain the federal subsistence hunt for moose.
- We do a lot of hunting off the Innoko River for moose and ducks, mostly on Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) lands, not BLM land.
- Concerned about the closure of the Innoko National Wildlife Refuge office. Will the BLM still do animal surveys with the FWS in the future? Will there be enough refuge law enforcement if McGrath offices close?
- Historically, people from the Kuskokwim area have traditionally only hunted as far as Pike Lake area. More recently, they have expanded as far as Paimute Slough and closer to us competing for

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resources with us.

- People from the Bethel area have more employment opportunity and a better economy due to the size of Bethel, therefore; people from that area have more money to afford better equipment to reach lands much farther away. They compete for our resources here and we don't have the same opportunities to afford the type of equipment they have to travel as far. We can't get as far on the land or rivers as those folks, yet they come very far and compete for our resources. People used to respect hunting boundaries of other villages and it's not that way today.
- We would like to suggest to the Office of Subsistence Management an 8-moose DRAW-style hunt where people draw for 8 tags – versus the current 8-moose LIMIT-style hunt that is currently available. We don't believe everyone reports their kill and that more than 8 moose are taken. If it were a draw hunt, there would only be 8 tags for 8 moose and this would decrease the incidence of non-reported kills and too many moose being taken.
- Trapping
 - East of HC, we use the old mail trail to Flat and we go up the Innoko River.
 - We trap toward the Iditarod trail (southern route).
 - West of HC, we make a big, clockwise circle – follow the Yukon River to the South and East (along BLM lands), then up the Stuyahok River (BLM lands), and following BLM lands make a big circle up and around back to Holy Cross.