

Bering Sea–Western Interior RMP Scoping Meeting

Grayling Issue Summary

Grayling, Alaska December 17, 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:

28 residents attended the Grayling community scoping meeting. 4 BLM representatives provided a presentation, discussion time around maps, and a sharing session.

Issues and concerns raised:

BLM Land

- There is a connection between Grayling and the “Holichuck” area up the Innoko River (Fish & Wildlife Service lands). Many from Grayling travel up the Innoko for fishing and hunting (on FWS lands).
- If there are any gravel or rock resources on BLM land, we would be very interested in it.
- BLM land right behind Grayling:
 - It is important because it is our watershed, there is Native Corp. land and BLM land is the upper watershed.
 - We go berry picking on that land.
- BLM land west of Grayling:
 - Is important for trapping, mostly east of the Yukon River.
- North & Northwest of Grayling
 - Is important for berry-picking.
 - Is important for future potential caribou hunting if the caribou ever migrate back this way (Western Arctic Caribou Herd).
- BLM land east of Grayling:
 - Is important for waterfowl hunting areas trapping.
- TRAIL Use – frequently travel trails between Grayling – Shageluk – Holichuk – Anvik.

Fish-related

- There used to be a commercial fishery for Chum Salmon roe, the last one was around 1996. No market anymore for chum salmon roe because SE Alaska has the market now. That used to give us some income/employment, but it gave a lot of jobs mostly to the people of Anvik.
- We don't really use the Chum that much, but they are very important to maintain if our other Salmon are depleted and we need it as a future resource.
- It would be better for our subsistence if there were a longer opening for fishing and a bigger net mesh size allowed.

Wildlife-related

- We wish that there was only our federal hunt in our area; no additional hunts or hunters.
- The guided hunters take our camps. Guided hunters only take large trophy animals that are important for breeding.
- We aren't that interested in getting meat from trophy hunters because they don't take good care of their meat and it usually hangs for too long.
- We would like to propose to get rid of the value of moose antlers by requiring they have to be cut in half to remove the trophy hunting that occurs here.
- We are very interested in seeing the bison reintroduction even though we would probably never be

Bering Sea–Western Interior RMP Scoping Meeting

Grayling Issue Summary

able to hunt the population, it would be important to our future generations who could hunt these animals for food.

- There has been a decline in the duck population. What effect does the pike or beaver have this decline? Could BLM propose a study to help understand the lower duck numbers?
- We trap all over Flat, Innoko River, Innoko Wildlife Refuge (FWS land), Anvik River, and all along the Yukon River.

Anvik River & Peregrine Falcon ACECs

- The river is very important to the people of Anvik.
- There are some people outside of Anvik who may do some trapping or moose hunting near the Anvik River.
- There used to be a commercial fishery for Chum Salmon roe, the last one was around 1996. No market anymore for chum salmon roe because SE Alaska has the market now. That used to give us some income/employment, but it gave a lot of jobs mostly to the people of Anvik.
- We don't see as many falcons anymore but they may come back, just like ducks – numbers go up and down. Should keep the Falcon ACEC in case they come back. They also said that the locations of the Falcon ACECs are identified correctly on the map.

Other

- We see evidence of climate change around with all the flooding and damming problems, though some of that is also related to all the beaver population and beaver dams.
- We would be interested in any logging opportunities. We get all of our logs/wood from the river and river banks, which is non-BLM land. If there is BLM land close to the river, we would be interested in logging. There are about 7 sawmills in town.
- We would be interested in Biomass production, though we likely would not get wood from BLM lands.
- Our natural resources are more important than risking the damage that may caused to the resource by mining.
- A resident expressed interest in whether a water study has ever been conducted on the streams flowing from the Flat-area toward the Innoko River?
- Potential mineral resource: Along the river is an area known locally as "Eli's Nose" which may have some mineral potential (our maps did not identify that area). It may be on Native Corporation land, but would require access across BLM lands
- Proposed AVCP road from Paimute Slough to Kalskag: the residents of Grayling are worried about the increase of guides taking game in an area that has already been stretched thin.