

An Ounce of Sweat

by Peter Twitchell

Today I made myself go back and remember a few good times in my life. The first one I can think of was learning how to make my time in the great outdoors fun.

As a kid seven – eight years old, I loved walking in the trees across the river. My dear mother Sarah cautioned me about doing this because grown-ups had gotten lost in the trees there. I can only imagine it is easy to do if you aren't paying attention to the landscape, and the river.

Looking back the landmass across the river makes up an island of about one – two thousand acres of land and trees, separated only by the Kuskokwim River and the Napaskiak Slough. So you can imagine my mother's concern for me.

At any given time I was within a mile from our house. I was busy running after birds that were nesting, because I always found their nests, most of them were about four feet off the ground and I would observe their little chicks in their birthday suits, eyes shut and mouths open, waiting for their next meal, sometimes they would be dozing.

I liked running through those trees, and finding a family of baby rabbits. Once I found a pretty duck with green/tan markings on its head living in a dead tree. It's turquoise eggs were about the

size of chicken eggs.

Walking in the trees always brought me great joy. It was fun discovering all these things and just the serenity of being in those Alder and Cottonwood trees. The trees stood so strong and tall.

Once I saw a wasp nest the size of a basketball hanging on a forty foot tree limb. I think I understood what it was because there were golf ball size wasp nests attached to the ceiling of my dad's warehouse, where he kept blocks of ice in a bin of sawdust measuring 24 X 12.

I also enjoyed a great deal helping mom push her ten foot wooden skiff

to the lake beside her house. I enjoyed the paddling excursions inside that sixty foot wide, oblong shaped lake filled with rain water. It was clear with some growth of single stocks of leafy bulbs growing on the bottom. There was always minnows, blackfish, half dollar sized beetles in the lake.

Mom made sure that the boat was pulled up high enough on shore so I wouldn't try to go on any boating excursion on my own. She was watchful that way. Probably a good thing too, I didn't really learn how to swim till I was thirteen years old.

I applied myself, to enjoy life at the time, and created a lot of good memories of when I was a kid, and all it took was an ounce of sweat and knowing whatever I applied myself to would be exciting.



Waten Umyuaqutaqa
("What I think about it.")



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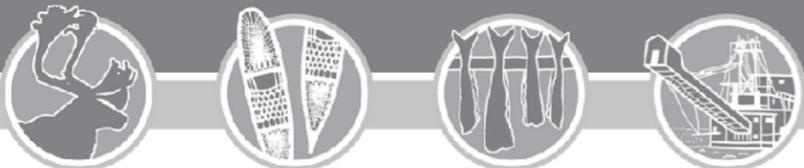
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Bering Sea - Western Interior Resource Management Plan



The **Bureau of Land Management** invites you to attend a Public Scoping Meeting for the Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan. This plan will provide future direction for 10.6 million acres of BLM-managed public land in western Alaska.

Attend a scoping meeting to learn more and share your comments and concerns. Your input will inform management of these lands for the next 15-20 years. Please participate!

Date / Time	Community / Location
Friday, Nov. 8, 11 a.m.	Lower Kalskag Town Hall
Friday, Nov. 8, 2 p.m.	Kalskag Tribal Multi-Purpose Bldg
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 1 p.m.	Crooked Creek Traditional Council
Wednesday, Nov. 20, 6 p.m.	Yup'it Piciryarait Cultural Center, Bethel
Thursday, Nov. 21, 1 p.m.	Chuathbaluk Traditional Council
Friday, Nov. 22, time TBD	Myles Gonongnan/Aaron Paneok Memorial Hall, Unalakleet
Wednesday, Dec. 4	BLM Campbell Creek Science Center, Anchorage (Elmore Road and 68 th Ave)
• 4-6 p.m. Open House	
• 6-8 p.m. Q&A, Comments	
Thursday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m.	McGrath Community Service Center
TBD	Aniak, Holy Cross, Russian Mission

Additional meetings will be announced in future public notices. Please visit www.blm.gov/ak/planning for additional ways you can participate in the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning process.



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