

New clinic in Chevak funded

Denali Commission

Funding for the new Chevak Health Clinic has been announced by the Denali Commission and Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation. Construction is expected to begin this summer for the 3,200 square foot healthcare facility. The new Chevak Health Clinic will serve Chevak's 970 residents. The ability to fund the Chevak Health Clinic at this time was made possible from cost savings on previously constructed YKHC clinics.

"The current Chevak Clinic is old and problems arise during the winter months that make it unsanitary for it to be serving the staff and clients. The new clinic will better serve the needs of the community with modern equipment and higher skilled professionals" said Joseph Slats, Chevak tribal administrator.

Tessa Axelson, senior program manager

at the Denali Commission shared that, "YKHC has a lengthy history of maximizing cost share funding and completing clinic projects under budget. Chevak is another example of their dedication to ensuring communities in their region have access to updated clinic facilities."

YKHC cost management systems include continued use of a prototype design which requires only code upgrade and site adaptation fees for each new clinic constructed. The prototype design also increases construction efficiency, decreasing construction time and construction waste. YKHC has been successful in completing previous clinics on time and well within budget at roughly \$700 per square foot. Additionally, the majority of the work is accomplished utilizing YKHC Construction Department's locally developed work force.

Gene Peltola, President CEO of YKHC added that, "Our long-term partnership with the Denali Commission – building more than 30 village health clinics and subregional clinics – exemplifies our mission of 'Working Together to Achieve Excellent Health.' And with funding becoming more scarce, the fact that the money we've saved over the years can now help fund one more clinic is evidence of our success in bringing quality health care closer to home for the people of our region."

Historically, many funding partners have contributed to the construction of YKHC clinics including the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development – Indian Community Development Block Grant program, the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, the Indian Health Service - Tribal Equipment fund, and the Denali

Commission.

Dennis M. Jones, city administrator, City of Chevak said, "This is a day that has been a long time coming. The leaders of Chevak, Alaska would like to thank all those that have worked on getting a new clinic for the community of Chevak. Thank you Denali Commission for granting our desire to see a building that will benefit the whole community, and even visitors to our community. Every entity in Chevak worked to ensure that this would come to fruition"

Introduced by Congress in 1998, the Denali Commission is an independent federal agency designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska. With the creation of the Denali Commission, Congress acknowledged the need for increased inter-agency cooperation and focus on Alaska's remote communities.

BLM to prepare Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan

Bureau of Land Management

The Bureau of Land Management will prepare a Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning area of Alaska. The Planning Area is in western Alaska and encompasses approximately 62 million acres of land, including 10.6 million acres managed by the BLM. The planning area includes all lands south of the Central Yukon watershed to the southern boundary of the Kuskokwim River watershed, and all lands west of Denali National Park and Preserve to the Bering Sea, including Saint Lawrence, Saint Matthew and Nunivak islands.

The lands are currently managed under the 1981 Southwest Planning Area Management Framework Plan and portions of the 1986 Central Yukon RMP Record of Decision. The RMP will replace the existing 1981 plan and portions of the 1986 plan and make land use decisions for any previously unplanned public lands within the planning area.

A 150-day public scoping period for BLM-administered public lands in the planning area began July 18. The purpose

of the public scoping process is to determine relevant issues that will influence the scope of the environmental analysis, including alternatives, and guide the planning process. The BLM invites the public to provide comments on issues and planning criteria.

The public is invited to provide information about the resources of the planning area and the importance of these resources. Although the BLM welcomes public comments at any time, the agency must receive comments by Dec. 16 to be included in the Scoping Report. There are five ways to submit comments:

In person at public scoping meetings in communities within the planning area. The BLM will announce the meeting dates, times and specific locations at least 15 days in advance through local media, news releases and on the BLM website at www.blm.gov/ak/planning/bswi.

Via the website at www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/bering_sea_western.html

Via fax: 907-267-1267

By mail to the Anchorage Field Office, Attn: BSWI RMP, 4700 BLM Road, Anchor-

age, AK 99507; and

By email at BSWI_RMP_Comment@blm.gov.

For information about the Bering Sea-

Western Interior planning process, contact BLM at 907-267-1246 or 800-478-1263 (within Alaska).



BERING SEA ANIMAL CLINIC

Bob Sept, D.V.M. will be in Bethel
July 29-Aug. 3, 8am to 5:30pm

Location: 841 6th Avenue, Bethel.

Call for an appointment: 543-2823



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