

Alaska Lands Update

Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska
3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK 99709

BLM Holds Its First Meeting for New Central Yukon Land Plan and Extends Comment Period Deadline

The Bureau of Land Management announced the start of its public meeting series for the scoping period for the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement. The first meeting was held at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center in Fairbanks on Monday, Oct. 28 and will continue as follows:

Community	Date/Time/Location
Koyukuk	Tues. Oct. 29, 1:30 p.m., Community Center
Wiseman	Thurs. Oct. 31, 2 p.m., Community Center
Nenana	Mon. Nov. 4, TBD
Nulato	Tues. Nov. 5, TBD
Stevens Village	Wed. Nov. 6, TBD
Ruby	Thurs. Nov. 7* (tentative) TBD
Lake Minchumina	Mon. Nov. 18, 2 p.m., Library
Anchorage	Week of Dec. 2, Campbell tract Science Center

Meetings in another six communities, as well as specific meeting places and times, will be posted on the BLM's

website at www.blm.gov/ak as this information becomes available.

During the scoping period for this plan, the BLM is seeking input from the public and interested agencies on the nature and extent of issues and impacts to be addressed in the RMP, which will provide future direction for approximately 16 million acres of BLM-administered public land in central and northern Alaska. This includes the Dalton Highway Corridor, BLM-managed lands in the central Yukon River watershed, and the Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Study Area. Development of the plan will take several years.

There is also a new date for the close of the scoping period for this plan. The BLM initially scheduled 180 days for scoping, and the original date for the close of the scoping period was December 11, 2013. Due to the lapse in appropriations and the resulting Federal government shutdown, the documents were not available on the BLM website from October 1 through October 16, 2013. Accordingly, the new date for the close of the scoping period for the Central Yukon RMP/EIS is January 17, 2014.

Public involvement is an essential and required part of the planning process, and comments submitted by January 17, 2014 will be included in the BLM's scoping report for the RMP.

For more information on the plan, the process and how to provide comment, visit the BLM planning website at: www.blm.gov/ak/planning. ♦

Rural Determination Process Rulemaking Comment Period Extended

Collectively, the US Forest Service and the US Fish and Wildlife Service have announced in the *Federal Register* an extension of the comment period for a proposed rulemaking on the rural determination process. The Federal Subsistence Board is extending the comment period through December 2, 2013, on its earlier request for comments. The Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, through the Board, has rescheduled public meetings to receive comments and make recommendations to the Federal Subsistence Board.

Comments may be submitted electronically to subsistence@fws.gov

To review the announcement in the Federal Register visit: www.regulations.gov
Search Docket ID: FS_FRDOC_0001-1693

New Date for the Close of Scoping Comments for the Bering Sea—Western Interior Plan as a result of the Federal Government Shutdown

The Bureau of Land Management announced on October 25 the new date for the close of the public scoping comment period for the Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan (BSWI RMP). The BLM initially scheduled for the close of the public scoping comments to be December 16, 2013, but due to the lapse in appropriations and the resulting Federal government shutdown, the documents were not available to the public on the BLM website during that time. Therefore, the deadline has been extended to January 17, 2014.

Public involvement is an essential and required part of the planning process, and comments submitted by January 17, 2014 will be included in the Scoping Report.

Comments may be submitted to BSWI_RMP_Comment@blm.gov. For more information, visit our website at www.blm.gov/ak/planning. ♦

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Deadlines and Reminders

- **BLM—Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan** has opened public scoping though **January 17, 2014**. More information and to submit comments visit the project website at: http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/bering_sea_western.html;
- **Central Yukon Planning Area Scoping Comment Period through January 17, 2014**. For information at: www.blm.gov/ak or email the project Manager at j05cole@blm.gov;
- The **Chugach National Forest Plan Revision Phase I - Assessment** is well underway. Planning Meetings have been rescheduled for these communities: **Girdwood & Whittier combo meeting: Wednesday November 13, 6:00-9:00 pm** at the Girdwood Community Center; **Anchorage: Wednesday, November 20, 6:00-9:00 pm** at the Chugach National Forest 161 E. 1st Avenue, Door 8. For more information visit the planning website at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/chugach/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprdb5408185>;
- The USFS proposes to issue a permanent **Ecological Restoration Policy** in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2020 and is accepting comments until **November 12, 2013**. For more information visit the project website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/>;
- **ANILCA TRAININGS** conducted by the Institute of the North—a twice annual training “...at the request of Congress, the Institute of the North created a detailed and in-depth training curriculum on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. The curriculum illuminates the Alaska context for this sweeping and historic lands act and explains, in detail, its unique aspects.” This is a **two-day course, in Anchorage, on March 5-6, 2014**. For more information, visit the Institute of the North online at: <https://www.institutenorth.org/programs/alaska-commons/anilca-training/>;
- **“In Hovercraft case, Judge Rules Park Rules Apply Across Nation -- Including Alaska”**; *Alaska Dispatch*, November 3, 2013; online post at: <http://www.alaskadispatch.com/article/20131103/hovercraft-case-judge-rules-park-rules-apply-across-nation-including-alaska>;
- State of Alaska—DNR’s new Land Records Site: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/landrecords/>.

Agency Websites:

National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/state/ak/index.htm>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://alaska.fws.gov/>

U.S. Forest Service - Region 10, AK

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/r10/>

Bureau of Land Management

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html>

Department of the Interior

<http://www.doi.gov/>

National Marine Fisheries Service

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

BLM-Alaska Travel and Transportation Planning To hold Agency Meeting to Discuss BLM’s Process

BLM-Alaska invites the public and agencies to attend a discussion opportunity focusing on the BLM Travel and Transportation Planning process and access to and across BLM-managed lands.

This meeting will be at the BLM Anchorage District Office located at Campbell Tract off Elmwood Road on November 21, 2013 1-4pm. This discussion is open to the public but seating is limited. You should consider attending if you are interested in learning about how BLM plans for

access to across its lands,

The discussion will cover the basics of BLM Travel Management Planning, focusing on:

- An overview of the BLM Travel and Transportation Management policy;
- The BLM Travel and Transportation Planning process;
- The distinction between land use planning and implementation level decisions;
- The scope of public, local, and administrative use that is evaluated during the Travel Management Planning Process, and;
- The discussion will not cover specific or individual property issues but Staff will be on hand after the discussion;

For more information, please contact Mr. Randy Goodwin, Alaska Travel Management & OHV Coordinator at: (907) 474-2369 or by email: rgoodwin@blm.gov. ♦

RECENT CACFA meetings have been streamed LIVE, in real time, on Alaska Legislative Television: www.akl.tv. Thank you very much to the State of Alaska Staff that make this available and to ‘360North’ and ‘GavelALASKA’ who manage the archive for CACFA at: <http://www.360north.org/gavel-archives/?category=Citizens+Advisory+Commission+Federal+Areas>. Thank you! ♦

BLM fulfills final ANCSA entitlement for Oceanside Corporation

The Bureau of Land Management announced on October 28 that it had made an important land transfer to Oceanside Corporation, completing the corporation’s land entitlement under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA). Oceanside Corporation was formed under ANCSA to represent the Alaska Native village of Perryville.

The signing ceremony was held in Anchorage. Oceanside’s corporate board was present, as well as attorney Sam Fortier and Francisca Demoski from Bristol Bay regional corporation. BLM-Alaska State Director Bud C. Cribley signed the final patent for 6,880 acres.

Oceanside Corporation received its first conveyances under ANCSA from BLM in February, 1978. With this patent, Oceanside Corporation received just over 93,926 acres of land in the vicinity of Perryville on the Alaska Peninsula.

State of Alaska Requests U.S. Supreme Court Review of Federal Reserved Water Rights Case

On November 4, 2013, the State of Alaska filed a petition for writ of certiorari with the United States Supreme Court in *State v. Jewell*. The petition requests review of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals’ decision extending control over fishing and hunting to the federal government on state-owned navigable waters not only in, but also adjacent to federal lands.

The case involves fundamental questions of control and authority over navigable waters in the state. When Alaska became a state, it was granted the same sovereign rights as all other states, including title to the lands underlying navigable waterways within its borders, and the right to control those navigable waters and the resources in them. This right applies regardless of whether the waterway goes through federal land.

According to Attorney General Michael Geraghty, “This decision not only threatens the principle that Alaskans should manage their own fish and game, which was the impetus for Alaska statehood, but also the ability of the State to conserve its resources for future generations.”

A federal regulation promulgated in 1999 took away control of navigable waters from the State and placed them under the authority of the federal government. Relying on an unprecedented extension of the federal reserved water rights doctrine, the Ninth Circuit upheld the regulation extending federal subsistence jurisdiction to navigable waterways not only in, but adjacent to federal lands under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). This has led to conflicts and confusion about whether federal or state laws relating to fishing, hunting, and resource conservation apply on state-owned navigable waterways.

“Confusion and uncertainty for user groups do not serve Alaskans. That confusion, and the potential for future conflicts and litigation, will only increase,” stated Attorney General Geraghty, in explaining why the State is seeking appellate review. To review the State’s petition visit: http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell_media/resources_files/petition110413.pdf. ♦