



News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Date for Close of the Comment Period for Bering Sea Western Interior Plan As A Result of the Federal Government Shutdown

ANCHORAGE -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the new date for the close of the comment period for the Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan (BSWI RMP).

The BLM initially scheduled the original date for the close of the comment period to be December 16, 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. Due to the holiday season, the new date for the close of the comment period for the BSWI RMP will be extended 32 days 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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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2012, activities on public lands generated \$4.6 billion in revenue, much of which was shared with the States where the activities occurred. In addition, public lands contributed more than \$112 billion to the U.S. economy and helped support more than 500,000 jobs.