

Bering Sea - Western Interior Resource Management Plan



Special Designations in the BSWI Planning Area

Types of Special Designations

Resource Management Plans (RMPs) analyze areas that are proposed to protect important natural or cultural resources. These protections happen through Special Area Designations.

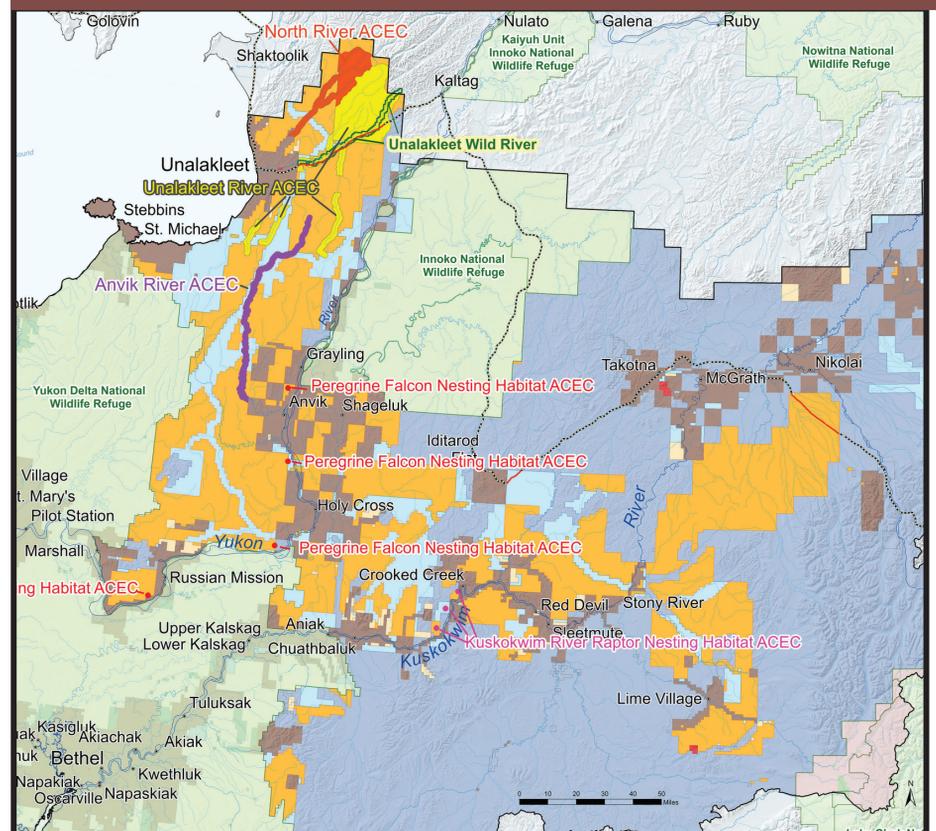
One example is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

- An ACEC is an area where special management attention is required to protect important historic, cultural, or scenic values; fish and wildlife resources; or other natural systems or processes.
- ACECs may be nominated by the public or internally by the BLM during land use planning.

Another example is Wild and Scenic River Designation.

- The RMP will inventory rivers in the planning area to determine if they are eligible and suitable for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
 - Must be free-flowing (no dams or impoundments)
 - Must have at least 1 Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV)
- Since many of the remote rivers are free-flowing, inventory primarily relates to ORVs
 - Examples of ORVs include Scenic, Recreational, Fish and Wildlife, Historic, Cultural, or other similar values.
- The ORVs are then evaluated in the context of regional and/or national significance and must be river-related.

Existing Special Designations Map



Existing Special Designations within BSWI



Existing ACECs in the BSWI Planning Area

There are 5 ACECs in the BSWI RMP planning area. This land use planning process will review the five existing ACECs, each designated in the 1980's, to determine:

- Are the ACEC designations still valid and of the proper size and location? Should they be maintained, modified, or dropped?
- Are there any other areas in the planning area that should be considered for ACEC designation?

An existing ACEC may no longer be valid if the original reason for designation is not as important as it previously was (e.g., protection of past Federally-listed endangered species that are now de-listed).

ACEC Name	Values
All of the watershed area of the North River (tributary of Unalakleet River, per the 1986 Central Yukon RMP)	Salmon and Sheefish spawning and rearing habitat
All of the watershed area of the Unalakleet River (per the 1986 Central Yukon RMP)	Salmon and Sheefish spawning and rearing habitat
The Anvik River and its drainages (per the 1981 Southwest MFP)	Spawning habitat for the largest population of chum salmon in the Yukon River system. Large population of trophy-class grizzly/brown bears
Peregrine Falcon Nesting Habitats (per the 1981 Southwest MFP)	In 1981, BLM was mandated by the Endangered Species Act to protect peregrine falcons and their habitat
Kuskokwim River Area Raptor Nesting Habitats (per the 1981 Southwest MFP)	Important nesting habitat for bald eagles, golden eagles, osprey, and gyrfalcons (all raptors) In 191, BLM was mandated by the Endangered Species Act to protect peregrine falcons and their habitat

Issues to Consider

The BLM will review the 5 existing ACECs to determine whether these designations are still appropriate.

The public may also nominate areas for ACEC designation.

Do you feel:

- The current ACEC designations are meaningful and of the proper size and location? Should they be maintained, modified, or dropped?
- Are there other areas in the planning area that should be considered for ACEC designation? What is the important resource reason?

Peregrine Falcon chicks in nest

