

Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan



Preliminary Alternatives Outreach

The Anchorage Field Office vision for the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning area is to sustain the diverse and intact ecosystems that support traditional subsistence lifestyles while recognizing the importance of BLM lands to rural economies.

Bering Sea - Western Interior



Resource Management Plan



PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES OUTREACH MEETINGS

| Date | Location | Time |
|-------------------|-----------------|--|
| February 23, 2015 | McGrath | 1 p.m. |
| March 2, 2015 | Holy Cross | 1 p.m. |
| March 4, 2015 | Kaltag | 2 p.m. |
| March 5, 2015 | Grayling | 1 p.m. |
| March 10, 2015 | Bethel | 11 a.m. |
| March 11, 2015 | Kalskag | 10 a.m. |
| March 11, 2015 | Lower Kalskag | 1 p.m. |
| March 12, 2015 | Russian Mission | 1 p.m. |
| March 16, 2015 | Aniak | 1:30 p.m. |
| March 17, 2015 | Crooked Creek | 1 p.m. |
| March 18, 2015 | Chuathbaluk | 12 p.m. |
| March 19, 2015 | Anchorage | 4:30 p.m. Open House 6:30 p.m. Presentation, Comments |
| March 24, 2015 | Nulato | 2 p.m. |
| March 26, 2015 | Unalakleet | 1:30 p.m. |



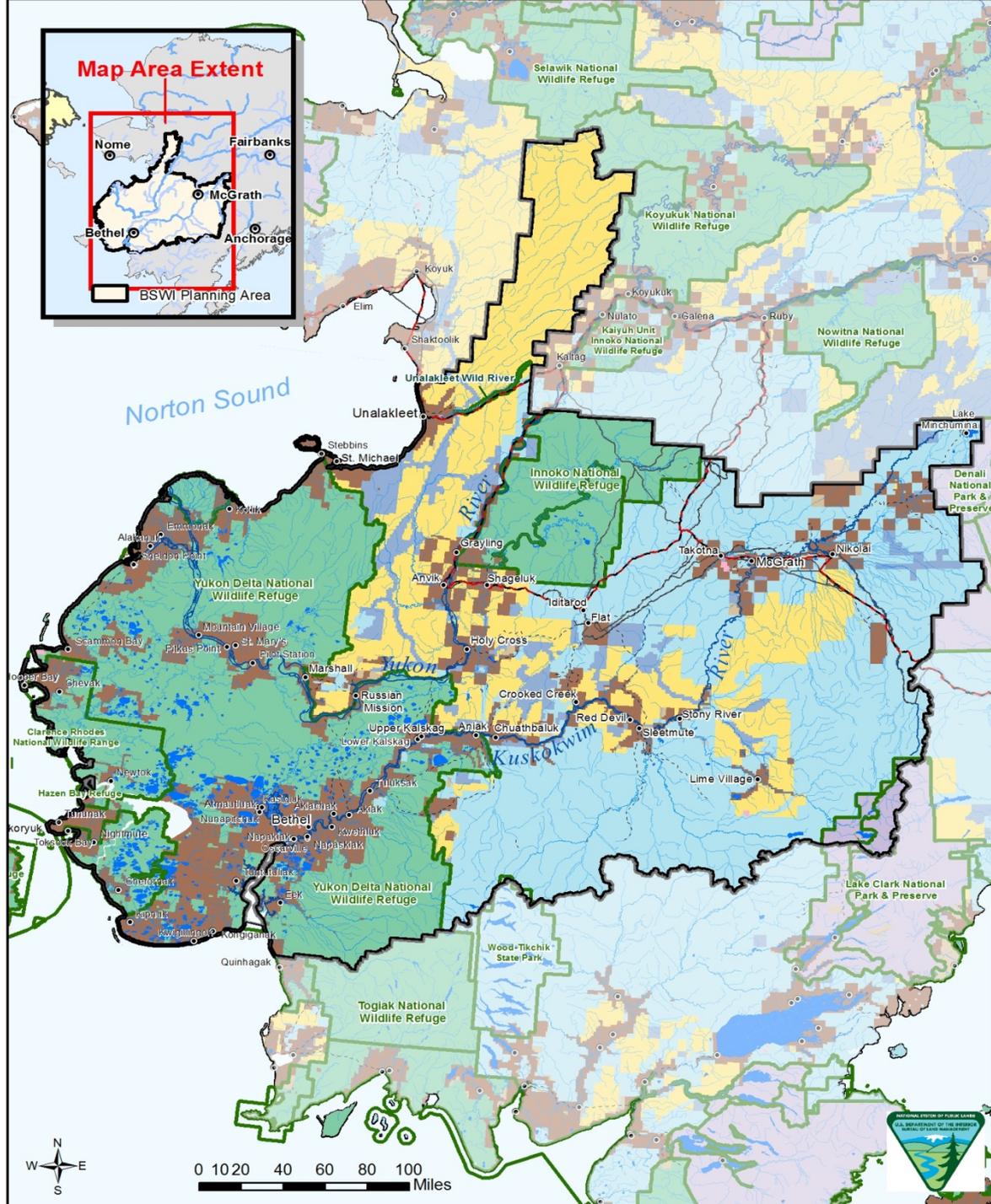
PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

1. Where we're at, where we're headed
2. Why we're here, what we want
3. Review planning area & BLM land
4. Review list of resources, available maps
5. View presentation
6. Discuss preliminary alternatives
7. Sharing session

BSWI RMP PLANNING AREA

Recent Planning Area
Boundary Change:

- Removed the islands
- Added a portion of the Nulato Hills





BSWI RMP PLANNING AREA

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| BSWI PLANNING AREA | 62,337,776 | 100% |
| Bureau of Land Management | 10,674,478 | 17.1% |
| BLM-Native Selected | 165,932 | 0.3% |
| BLM- State Selected | 2,601,470 | 4.2% |
| TOTAL BLM ACRES | 13,441,880 | 21.6% |
| Fish and Wildlife Service | 18,450,428 | 37.7% |
| Military | 34,357 | 0.1% |
| National Park Service | 551,570 | 1.1% |
| Native Patent or IC | 10,389,491 | 21.2% |
| Private | 3,159 | 0.0% |
| State Patent or TA | 18,163,661 | 37.1% |
| Water | 1,303,229 | 2.7% |
| TOTAL NON-BLM | 48,895,896 | 78.4% |



WHERE ARE WE AT?

Planning Phase

Public Scoping (30+ days)

Develop Alternatives

Preliminary Alternatives Outreach

Prepare DRAFT RMP/EIS

Public Comment on DRAFT RMP/EIS
(90+ days)

Prepare Proposed RMP/Final EIS

Protest Period and Governors

Consistency Review

Record of Decision

Dates

July, 2013 - January, 2014
2014

February – March, 2015

2015 - 2016

2016 - 2017

2017

2017

2017



WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

- Completed Public Scoping Jan 2014
- Published Scoping Summary Report May 2014
- Drafted Preliminary Alternatives Concepts
- Completed Inventories & Reports:
 - Visual Resource Inventory
 - Lands with Wilderness Character Inventory
 - Watershed Analysis
 - Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments
 - Relevant and Important Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
 - Leasable Mineral Occurrence and Development Potential



WHY ARE WE HERE?

- Input on Draft Preliminary Alternative Concepts
- Input on Inventories/Reports & Next Steps

INVENTORY or REPORT

NEXT STEP

Visual Resource Inventory: *Determine Visual Resource Management Classes*

Lands with Wilderness Character Inventory: *Determine lands to propose for protection of wilderness characteristics*

Watershed Analysis: *Determine Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) & Restoration Watersheds*

Eligible Wild and Scenic River Segments: *Determine Suitable River Segments*

Relevant and Important Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: *Determine if special management is required to protect relevant and important ACEC resource value(s)*



PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

- 1. Guided by Planning Area Vision**
- 2. Informed by Scoping Issues**
- 3. Developed Resource Desired Future Conditions**
- 4. Developed Resource Goals**
- 5. Developed Resource Objectives**
- 6. Identified Range of Alternatives (Management Decisions, Strategies, Land Uses) to:**
 - Resolve issues*
 - Achieve desired conditions*
 - Meet goals and objectives*



RESOURCE OVERVIEW *(available reports)*

- Wildlife
- ***Fisheries/
Watershed***
- Forestry
- Subsistence
- Grazing
- Travel Mgt
- Locatable Min
- Leasable Min
- Realty
- Soils
- Water
- Wildfire
- Air
- ***Wild Scenic
Rivers***
- ***Visual***
- ***Lands
Wilderness
Character***
- National Trail
- Recreation
- Invasives
- Cultural
- Vegetation



HOW TO ACCESS INVENTORIES, REPORTS, ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS

www.blm.gov/ak/planning/bswi

Click on link to “PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES OUTREACH ONLINE OPEN HOUSE” to access all meeting materials, maps, inventories, reports, and alternative concepts



WHAT IS EFFECTIVE COMMENT?

- Questions, with reasonable basis, the ***accuracy of information*** in the inventory, report, or alternative concept
- Questions, with reasonable basis, the **adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used** for the inventory, report, or alternative concept
- Presents **new & relevant information** to the inventory, report, or alternative concept
- Presents **reasonable alternatives other than those provided**



HOW TO MAKE EFFECTIVE COMMENTS

Suggested

- Suggest specific changes in the inventory, report, or alternative concept.
- Clearly identify:
 1. Where the issue or error is located.
 2. Why you believe there is an error.
 3. Alternative ideas about how to address issues or errors.
- Provide constructive solutions with documentation or resources to support your recommendations.
- If applicable, include experience as it relates to your observations and comments.

Not Suggested

- Avoid vague statements or concerns that do not suggest a specific change or give BLM direction on which to act.
- Understand that a comment is not a vote for or against the alternatives. The BLM must rely on supporting information, not number of comments received. Numerous comments expressing the same concern or issue are considered to be one comment.
- Avoid using form letters to convey your point. Your unique way of writing or phrasing a comment is important for understanding your point of view.



HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS

- Comments due by March 20, 2015
- Put comments in writing – mail, email, fax, comment forms
 - Email: BSWI_RMP_Comment@blm.gov
 - Fax: 907-267-1267
 - Mail: BLM Anchorage Field Office
BSWI RMP
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

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PART 2: *will review as time allows*
**Preliminary Alternatives Concept
Review by Resource**



RESOURCE OVERVIEW *(available reports)*

- Wildlife
- ***Fisheries/
Watershed***
- Forestry
- Subsistence
- Grazing
- Travel Mgt
- Locatable Min
- Leasable Min
- Realty
- Soils
- Water
- Wildfire
- Air
- ***Wild Scenic
Rivers***
- ***Visual***
- ***Lands
Wilderness
Character***
- National Trail
- Recreation
- Invasives
- Cultural
- Vegetation



RESOURCE OVERVIEW

This presentation is intended to provide a brief overview summary of alternative concepts by resource. It only covers 13 of 21 resources.

For more detailed information, it may be helpful to reference the Preliminary Alternatives Concepts Document simultaneously or, at the end.

Note: BLM welcomes comment on BOTH the “Actions Common to All” AND the “Alternatives” presented



WILDLIFE ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

- No reindeer grazing in caribou wintering or calving areas
- BLM work in cooperation with ADFG to use predator control as tool for long-term predator & prey population management
- Aircraft guidelines for BLM-permitted activities to reduce wildlife impact
- Communication tower & powerline guidelines to reduce raptor and bird fatality
- Manage wildfire & fuels in caribou winter range to protect lichen habitat
- Prohibit goats, sheep, Camelids (camels, llamas, alpacas) as packstock in areas occupied by Dall sheep, mountain goats, and muskox.

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Wildlife Alternative 1

- **Mineral leasing allowed** in critical moose calving & wintering habitat w/ standard stipulations
- **AVOID above-ground ROW** in critical moose & caribou winter and calving habitat, unless design allows movement
- **NO ROW construction** during calving (May-June) & winter (Nov-Feb)
- **NO Wildlife Conservation Area**
- **AVOID surface-disturbing activities** during land bird nesting (May-Jul) & must conduct pre-construction nesting surveys
- Similar decisions for
Waterfowl
Raptors

Alt 2

YOUR
ideas

Alternative 3

- **NO Mineral leasing** allowed in critical moose calving & wintering habitat
- **EXCLUDE above-ground ROW** in critical moose & caribou winter and calving habitat, unless design allows movement
- **Establish Wildlife Conservation Area** in Innoko Bottoms to protect moose winter & calving habitat & waterfowl habitat in shrub belt
- **NO ROW & NO Mineral leasing** in critical land bird nesting habitat
- Similar decisions for
Waterfowl
Raptors



FISHERIES ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

- Fish Passage & Screening Design Standards, Culvert Design Standards for construction
- Refueling and fuel storage Standards in riparian areas
- River Crossings Standards BLM-permitted activities
 - Standards for crossing design
- Priority Restoration Watersheds = high priority watersheds for restorations
 - Those that rank HIGH or VERY HIGH for aquatic resource values and are in a degraded condition. Determined using the processes described in the ***Watershed Analysis Framework document***.

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Resource Management Plan



Fisheries Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

- **Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA)** defined as watersheds with ARV score of VERY HIGH or HIGH (20% of watersheds).
- **Commercial Timber Harvest Allowed** in RCAs if it meets criteria for preservation of those RCA values.
- **No Surface Occupancy (NSO)** within 300ft of fish-bearing streams.
- **Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling NSO** within river, stream, or lake bed.
- **Overland Transport of Equipment** limited to frozen ground + 10” snow.
- **Right of Way (ROW) AVOIDANCE** for underground utilities in sheefish RCA.
- Similar decisions for: withdrawals, OHV travel, etc.

YOUR
ideas

- **Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA)** defined as watersheds with ARV score of VERY HIGH, HIGH, or MEDIUM-HIGH (37% of watersheds).
- **Commercial Timber Harvest NOT Allowed** in RCAs.
- **No Surface Occupancy (NSO)** in RCAs, withdraw RCAs from mineral entry and leasing, NSO for non-mineral permitted actions and for valid existing rights.
- **Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling exceptions granted** under conditions.
- **Overland Transport of Equipment** with multiple conditions and explanations.
- **Right of Way (ROW) EXCLUSION** for underground utilities in sheefish RCA.
- Similar decisions for: withdrawals, OHV travel, etc.



FORESTRY ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

- All personal use & subsistence forest product harvest requires permit.
- All personal use & subsistence firewood harvest would requires permit.
- Commercial firewood permit required for harvest 10+ cord.
- All commercial harvests require permit for any forest products harvested with the intent to sell (house logs, Christmas trees, berries, mushrooms,...).
- No surveys required for BLM-permitted timber harvest that do not include new roads, skid roads, overland travel, or other surface disturbing activities.
- Surveys required for all harvest that includes surface disturbance.
- **Timber Harvest Permit Priority Areas**
 - Within 15 mi. of river definition of allowable activities...
 - Within 25 mi. of community definition of allowable activities...
- Conditions for approval of timber harvest permits ...



Forestry Alternative 1

- **Commercial harvesting would be permitted** in the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor and Riparian Conservation Areas.

Alt 2

*YOUR
ideas*

Alternative 3

- **Commercial harvesting would NOT be permitted** in the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor and Riparian Conservation Areas.



SUBSISTENCE ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

- BLM to coordinate with ADF&G & FWS for population inventory monitoring surveys for moose, caribou, and muskox.
- **Fish Resources**
 - Apply standards for construction to provide for fish passage
 - NSO within 300ft of fish-bearing streams
 - ROW avoidance area for underground ROW utilities in Sheefish RCA
- **Wildlife Resources**
 - Reindeer grazing not permitted in caribou wintering and calving areas.
- **Forestry Resources**
 - Multiple requirements to attain a permit for both subsistence and personal use

Note: BLM manages subsistence resources habitat, access, & some federal hunts (moose 21E, 22A,)

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Subsistence Alternative 1

- Refer to the subsistence-related resource alternatives for:
 - Fisheries
 - Forestry
 - Wildlife
 - Recreation
 - Outfitter-Guide alternatives
 - Transporter alternatives
 - Realty Rights of Way (ROW) authorizations
 - Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Travel Management

Alt 2

YOUR
ideas

Alternative 3

- Refer to the subsistence-related resource alternatives for:
 - Fisheries
 - Forestry
 - Wildlife
 - Recreation
 - Outfitter-Guide alternatives
 - Transporter alternatives
 - Realty Rights of Way (ROW) authorizations
 - Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Travel Management



GRAZING ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

- Rangeland improvements subject to cultural, sensitive species, and soil survey requirements.
- Limitations in OHV Travel Management Areas would apply to permitted grazing areas, unless otherwise authorized by the AO.
- Proposed grazing operations must submit grazing permit application to include Grazing Management Plan & Business Plan.
- Permittees required to conduct annual rangeland health assessments.
- Grazing Non-compliance addressed with varying severity based upon number of notices issued and failure to comply with permit requirements.
- Supplemental feeding *may* be authorized (weed free forage required).

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Grazing Alternative 1

- No reindeer grazing permits would be issued.

Alt 2

YOUR
ideas

Alternative 3

- **Reindeer grazing permits issued on a case-by-case basis.**
- **Open to reindeer grazing:** Areas outside 20-year historic caribou range.
- **Closed to reindeer grazing:** Areas within the 20-year historic caribou range, Unalakleet WSR Corridor, Iditarod NHT Corridor, Areas to be managed for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
- **Utilization:** Grazed class 2
- **Caribou Avoidance:** min 5-mile buffer maintained from known caribou habitat. Permittees must take action to remove domestic herds to keep distance by using corralling and/or harvesting or moving to pre-authorized safe areas.
- **Permit Terms:** fees, terms, satellite collars/tracking devices...



TRAVEL MGT ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

- **Winter OHV use period** = snow of sufficient depth, 10 inches or more, or a combination of snow and frost depth sufficient to protect the underlying vegetation and soil.
- **Summer OHV use period** = any condition that does not meet the winter OHV use period.
- All action alternative decisions would apply to trails and cross country travel unless otherwise stated.
- **A BLM Trail** is a linear route managed for human-powered, stock, or off-highway vehicle forms of transportation or for historical or heritage values. Trails are not generally managed for use by four-wheel drive or high-clearance vehicles.

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Travel Management Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River TMA:

Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River TMA:

- *OHV Designation = Limited*
- Summer OHV travel is limited to existing roads and parking areas.

Same as Alternative 1

Summer Casual and Subsistence Use:

Summer OHV Limited to existing routes

Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR

Size limit: 60 inches

*YOUR
ideas*

Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:

Winter cross country allowed

Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR

Width limit: 60 inches

Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor TMA:

Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor TMA:

Summer OHV use for reindeer herding operations would be prohibited

Same as Alternative 1

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Resource Management Plan



Travel Management Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

Lands managed for Wilderness

Lands managed for Wilderness

Characteristics TMA:

Characteristics TMA:

- *OHV designation = Limited*
- Casual Summer OHV travel is allowed only on existing trails.

Same as Alternative 1

Summer OHV Casual and Subsistence Use:

Summer OHV Limited to existing routes

Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR

Width limit: 60 inches

*YOUR
ideas*

Winter OHV Casual and Subsistence Use:

Casual Winter cross country allowed

Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR

Size limit: 48 inches

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Resource Management Plan



Travel Management Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

All remaining lands TMA:

- *OHV Designation = Limited*

Summer Casual and Subsistence Use:

Cross-country travel would be permitted.

Weight limit: **2,000 GVWR**

Width limit: **60"**

Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:

Weight limit: none

Width limit: none

*YOUR
ideas*

All remaining lands TMA:

- *OHV Designation = Limited*

Summer Casual and Subsistence Use:

Cross-country travel would be permitted.

Weight limit: **3,000 GVWR**

Width limit: **72"**

Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:

Weight limit: **1,500 GVWR**

Width limit: **60"**

Special Areas within **100** feet of identified airstrips and boat landings TMA:

closed to motorized during summer OHV period (no snow / frozen ground)

Special Areas within **50** feet of identified airstrips and boat landings TMA:

closed to motorized during summer OHV period (no snow / frozen ground)

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Resource Management Plan



Travel Management Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

All remaining lands TMA:

- *OHV Designation = Limited*

Summer Casual and Subsistence Use:

Cross-country travel would be permitted.

Weight limit: **2,000 GVWR**

Width limit: **60"**

Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:

Weight limit: none

Width limit: none

*YOUR
ideas*

All remaining lands TMA:

- *OHV Designation = Limited*

Summer Casual and Subsistence Use:

Cross-country travel would be permitted.

Weight limit: **3,000 GVWR**

Width limit: **72"**

Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:

Weight limit: **1,500 GVWR**

Width limit: **60"**

Special Areas within **100** feet of identified airstrips and boat landings TMA:

closed to motorized during summer OHV period (no snow / frozen ground)

Special Areas within **50** feet of identified airstrips and boat landings TMA:

closed to motorized during summer OHV period (no snow / frozen ground)

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Resource Management Plan



Travel Management Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

Adaptive Management for TMAs:

If monitoring shows that more than 2% of dwarf shrub, lichen, and sparse vegetation (within a 5th level watershed) is being damaged by summer OHV use:

travel in those areas would be limited to existing routes.

Casual user: applies.

Subsistence user: does not apply.

Adaptive Management for TMAs:

Limited summer OHV use in areas of dwarf shrub, lichen, and sparse vegetation:

travel only allowed on existing routes.

YOUR
ideas

Casual user: applies.

Subsistence user: does not apply.



LOCATABLE MINERALS ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

Please refer to numbers 1-13 on the Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

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Resource Management Plan



Locatable Minerals Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

Cumulative effects of placer mines within BSWI mining districts

No cumulative effects restrictions.

Cumulative effects of placer mines within BSWI mining districts

Concurrent reclamation required before permitting if existing permitted impacts exceed 5% within the entire watershed (including land not managed by the BLM) within each 6th level HUC watershed (regardless of economic feasibility).

Withdrawals

Open all BLM lands to mineral entry.

YOUR
ideas

Withdrawals

Lift all existing withdrawals to mineral entry, with the exception of the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor & Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River, but require a plan of operations for all areas for all actions. All ACEC or RCA designations would close those lands to mineral entry.

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Locatable Minerals Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

Withdrawals

Open all BLM lands to mineral entry.

Withdrawals

Lift all withdrawals, except Iditarod NHT , Unalakleet WSR, ACECs, RCAs, AND require plan of operations for all areas for ALL actions.

Bonding

Refer to Preliminary Alternative Concepts

Bonding

Refer to Preliminary Alternative Concepts

Riparian and stream disturbance/reclamation

Refer to Preliminary Alternative Concepts

YOUR
ideas

Riparian and stream disturbance/reclamation

Refer to Preliminary Alternative Concepts

Reclamation

Refer to Preliminary Alternative Concepts

- % Vegetation Cover
- Slopes on 20:1 to 3:1
- Slopes greater than 3:1

Reclamation

Refer to Preliminary Alternative Concepts

- % Vegetation Cover
- Slopes on 20:1 to 3:1
- Slopes greater than 3:1



LEASABLE MINERALS ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Decisions that can be made regarding Leasing:

Open Subject to Standard Lease Terms and Conditions: terms and conditions attached to the leasing document are sufficient in allowing exploration and development.

Open Subject to Seasonal or Other Minor Constraints: moderately restrictive lease stipulations may be required to mitigate impacts to other land uses or resource values. Category 2 leases frequently involve timing limitations such as restricting construction winter range, nesting areas, calving areas, or controlled surface use stipulations like buffer zones around a critical resource.

Open Subject to No Surface Occupancy (NSO) or Other Major Constraint: highly restrictive lease stipulations are necessary to protect resources. Category 3 leases may prohibit the construction of well production and support facilities. These areas can be subject to directional drilling.

Closed to Leasing: where other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected and appropriate protection can only be ensured by closing the land to leasing through either statutory or administrative requirements (43 CFR 3100).

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

Standard Leasing Stipulations would apply to all areas open to Leasing

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Leasable Minerals Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

All Coal Deposits in plan area

All deposits would be **closed to leasing**

All Coal Deposits in plan area

All deposits would be **open to leasing with the following resource constraints:**

- NSO in Riparian Conservation Areas, in rivers, streams, or lake beds.
- within 300 feet of fish bearing streams.
- on lands with priority management for wilderness characteristics.
- Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area.
- on slopes of 30% or greater.
- May 1-July 31 in migratory bird habitat.
- within 0.5 miles of active raptor nests.
- within 30 feet if BLM-sensitive plant species.

YOUR
ideas

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Leasable Minerals Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

All Oil and Gas Basins in the plan area

All Oil and Gas Basins in the plan area

Areas that would be **closed**:

- Riparian Conservation Areas
- Critical moose calving and wintering habitats
- Critical caribou calving and wintering habitats
- Nulato Hills Lichen, Caribou, and Sensitive Plant Conservation Area

All basins would be open to leasing under the standard stipulations

YOUR
ideas

Areas w/ **seasonally-controlled surface use**:

- May 1-July 31 in migratory bird habitat.
- Caribou calving areas (May-June)
- Caribou winter areas (Nov-Feb).

Areas with **controlled surface use**:

Slopes of 30% grade or greater.

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Leasable Minerals Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

All Oil and Gas Basins in the plan area

All Oil and Gas Basins in the plan area

Areas that would be **NSO**:

All basins would be open to leasing under the standard stipulations

- Riparian Conservation Areas.
- in rivers, streams, or lake beds
- within 300 feet of fish bearing streams.
- on lands with priority management for wilderness characteristics.
- Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area.
- slopes of 30% or greater.
- May 1-July 31 in migratory bird habitat.
- within 0.5 miles of active raptor nests.
- within 30 feet if BLM-sensitive plant species.

YOUR
ideas



LANDS & REALTY ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

Land Disposal Criteria:

- A tract no longer needed for federal purposes.
- A tract whose disposal would serve the public objectives (community expansion and economic development, Recreation & Public Purposes Act, other reversionary interests)
- An isolated tract of land that is difficult or uneconomic to manage.
- Abandoned and void Federal mining claims surrounded by State or Native land.
- Need to identify specific parcels and list R&PP patents.
- Exchange considered on a case-by-case basis to benefit public interests, afford efficient management of public lands and objectives . Exchanges would not be pursued until final State and Native entitlement is reached.
- Lands within the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor and the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River corridor would not be identified for disposal.
- Further identify parcels for disposal, retention, and criteria for acquisition.



LANDS & REALTY ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

Land Aquisition Criteria:

- Consider a landscape approach and dispose of small remote parcels of non-contiguous BLM land and acquire parcels to allow management of a more contiguous landscape that would reduce fragmentation to improve ecosystem health and maximize land management goals.
- Inholdings in the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River Corridor would be acquired when available from willing sellers.
- Inholdings on BLM administered portions of the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor would be acquired when available from willing sellers.
- Once ANCSA and State conveyances are completed, retain large blocks of BLM managed land in the following areas:
 - 1) Unalakleet South to Yukon River and east to Kuskokwim River
 - 2) Nikolai south to Lime Village

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Realty Alternative 1

Right-of-way (ROW) Exclusion & Avoidance:

No ROW exclusion in CSUs.

ROW avoidance areas:

- Iditarod NHT
- Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area
- Riparian Conservation Areas
- Unalakleet WSR Corridor
- Lands managed for wilderness character
- Areas with BLM-sensitive plants, unless within a CSU
- Six unique ecosystems, unless within a CSU
- Footprint of public shelter cabins

Alt 2

*YOUR
ideas*

Alternative 3

Right-of-way (ROW) Exclusion & Avoidance:

ROW avoidance in CSUs

ROW exclusion areas outside of CSUs:

- Same as Alternative 1, AND
- **Permafrost and highly erodible soils for underground utilities**

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Realty Alternative 1

Permits and 2920 Leases:

- No permits or leases granted for private recreational cabins or private recreational use of existing cabins.
- Trespass cabins will be removed or made government administrative sites.
- Granting of permits and leases will be determined on a case-by-case basis based on compatibility with management goals of the lands where located.
- No structures permitted in lands managed for Wilderness Characteristics unless they allow for the preservation and enhancement of wilderness character.

Alt 2

*YOUR
ideas*

Alternative 3

Permits and 2920 Leases:

- No permits or leases granted for private recreational cabins or private recreational use of existing cabins.
- Trespass cabins will be removed or made government administrative sites.
- No leases or commercial cabin permits will be granted within the Iditarod NHT.
- Occupancy leases or trapping/ subsistence cabin permits not allowed within 300 ft of riparian areas.
- Trapping cabins would not be permitted within 30 miles of each other or an established community to avoid user conflict.
- No structures permitted in Unalakleet WSR Corridor or lands managed for wilderness characteristics unless they allow for the ...



SOILS ALTERNATIVE CONCEPT

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

Please refer to the Preliminary Alternatives Concepts for actions that address:

- Permafrost Protection Measures
- General Performance Standards for prevention of Unnecessary and Undue Degradation (prospecting, exploration, and mine development activities) (Surface Management Handbook)
- Specific Mining Performance Standards



WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS *REPORT AVAILABLE*

Recommended Special Rules for the Unalakleet WSR in the Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

Alternative X

Determine Suitability for 22 eligible waterways:

(small portion of) Kuskokwim River, Anvik River, Middle Fork of the Kuskokwim River, Sullivan Creek, Yukon River, Bear Creek (Nikokai), Big River, Black Water Creek, Canyon Creek, Khuchaynik Creek, McDonald Creek, North Fork Unalakleet River, Otter Creek (Aniak), Otter Creek (Anvik), Pitka Fork Middle Fork Kuskokwim River, Salmon River (Nikolai), Sheep Creek, Swift River (Anvik), Unalakleet River, Tatlawiksuk River, Theodore Creek, Yellow River.

NEXT STEP

Please provide the following criteria for specific eligible river segments:

- Characteristics that do or do not make the river corridor a worthy addition to the WSR System
- Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, or curtailed if the river were designated
- Public, state, local or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river
- Ability of the BLM to manage the river and protect identified values
- Historical or existing rights that would be adversely affected by designation
- Other issues and concerns

Bering Sea - Western Interior



Resource Management Plan



VISUAL RESOURCE **REPORT AVAILABLE**

Recommended Best Management Practices in the Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

Alternative 1

Lands managed for Lands with Wilderness

Characteristics:

Assigned Visual Resource Management (VRM) class **II**

Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River

VRM Class **I** for lands in the river corridor, ¼ to ½ mile each side.

VRM Class **II** for lands in full visible foreground/middle ground, from corridor boundary to 5 miles from river.

Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor:

VRM Class **I** for BLM lands in full visible background based on GIS analysis up to 15 miles or within determined trail corridor boundary.

Alt 2

*YOUR
ideas*

Alternative 3

Lands managed for Lands with

Wilderness Characteristics:

Assigned Visual Resource Management (VRM) class **III**

Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River

VRM Class **II** for lands in the river corridor, ¼ to ½ mile each side.

VRM Class **III** for lands in full visible foreground/middle ground, from corridor boundary to 5 miles from river.

Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor:

Same as Alternative 1

Bering Sea - Western Interior



Resource Management Plan



VISUAL RESOURCE **REPORT AVAILABLE**

Alternative 1

Alt 2

Alternative 3

Proposed Rohn Special Recreation

Management Area:

VRM Class **II** (small parcel BLM lands surrounded by state lands)

Conservation System Unit Boundaries:

VRM Class **II** for BLM lands in full visible foreground based on GIS analysis up to one-mile from the boundaries

Additional similar decisions in Preliminary Alternative Concepts for:

- Existing Roads & Trails
- River Travel Routes
- Remaining BLM-managed land in the planning area

Proposed Rohn Special Recreation

Management Area:

VRM Class **III** (small parcel BLM lands surrounded by state lands)

Conservation System Unit Boundaries:

VRM Class **III** for BLM lands in full visible foreground based on GIS analysis up to one-mile from the boundaries

Additional similar decisions in Preliminary Alternative Concepts for:

- Existing Roads & Trails
- River Travel Routes
- Remaining BLM-managed land in the planning area

*YOUR
ideas*



LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTER **REPORT AVAILABLE**

Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

- Compatible uses for lands proposed for priority management for wilderness character
- Incompatible uses for lands proposed for priority management for wilderness character
- Fire management
- travel management area (TMA) OHV designation
- Wood cutting
- Wildlife
- Recreation opportunity



LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTER **REPORT AVAILABLE**

Alternative 1

Manage (insert parcel names or provide map with your portion of the parcel(s) drawn in) as lands proposed for protection of wilderness character as a priority over other multiple uses within the following inventory areas:

- name the inventory area (**from report**) and draw in the area you recommend on a map

Alt 2

YOUR
ideas

Alternative 3

Manage NO parcels as lands proposed for management of wilderness character as a priority over other uses. Instead, emphasize other uses while applying management restrictions (conditions of use, mitigation measures) on these lands.



RESOURCE OVERVIEW ~ end here ~

If time remains, together, review the Preliminary Alternatives Concepts for the following remaining Resources:

1. Water
2. Wildfire
3. Air
4. National Trail
5. Recreation
6. Invasives
7. Cultural
8. Vegetation