

Bering Sea - Western Interior



Resource Management Plan



PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES CONCEPTS

Preliminary Alternatives Outreach Period

February 22 – March 20, 2015

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	4
2. HOW TO READ THE TABLES.....	5
3. PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE TABLES.....	6
3.1 Subsistence Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	6
3.2 Fisheries Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	11
3.3 Wildlife Preliminary Alternatives Concepts	15
3.4 Grazing Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	19
3.5 Travel Management Preliminary Alternatives Concepts	22
3.6 Locatable Minerals Preliminary Alternatives Concepts	26
3.7 Leasable Minerals Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	31
3.8 Realty Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	34
3.9 Soils Preliminary Alternatives Concepts	38
3.10 Water Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	42
3.11 Air Quality Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	44
3.12 Forestry Preliminary Alternatives Concepts	46
3.13 Wildfire Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	48
3.14 Vegetation Preliminary Alternatives Concepts	50
3.15 Non-native Invasive Species Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	53
3.16 Recreation and Visitor Services Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	55
3.17 Visual Resource Management Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	60
3.18 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Alternatives Concepts.....	63
3.19 Wild and Scenic Rivers Preliminary Alternatives Concepts	65
3.20 Cultural Preliminary Alternatives Concepts	68

3.21 Historic Trails Preliminary Alternatives Concepts 71

4. HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS 74

1. INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management Anchorage Field Office is providing this Preliminary Alternatives Concept Document to share what we have developed since Public Scoping. The purpose is to share a preliminary range of alternative concepts (Alternatives 1 and 3) and seek the public's input on what they like or dislike from Alternatives 1 and 3. Alternative 2 represents the public's opportunity to suggest their reasonable alternative that differs from those provided.

Please remember that what we've prepared is preliminary and you may notice inconsistencies or problems between some resources. We still feel sharing some information is better than none and worth it at this stage in the planning process, as it will help us formulate a better Draft RMP. We welcome your feedback in the form of emails, written comment forms, and oral feedback at public meetings during this outreach period (see Section 4, How to Comment). In addition to these preliminary alternative concepts, the BLM has completed inventories and reports that we also welcome feedback on, as well as help to determine the next steps. Some alternative concept tables will reference these reports and request assistance with the next steps; they are:

Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Inventory Report

Next Step: Chapter 3, Determine Lands Proposed for Protection of Wilderness Character. After reviewing the inventory, please review Chapter 3, along with the maps in the appendix, and offer your substantive comments and detailed reasoning in regard to ***particular subunit inventory areas*** you are familiar with.

Review of Importance and Relevance Criteria for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Report

Next Step: review the analysis of relevance and importance criteria for each ACEC found TO BE and found NOT TO BE relevant and important. Please offer any additional substantive and detailed reasoning or relevant information that you feel may change the relevance and importance findings or, help determine future special management required. The ACECs found TO BE both relevant and important will be: 1) carried forward to consider whether the ACEC would require special management considerations or whether the resource values can be offered protection through other means; and 2) if special management consideration is considered needed, the ACEC would be considered under a range of alternatives.

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report

Next Step: Chapter 5, Phase Three, Suitability Assessment. After reviewing the eligibility determination process and summary, please review Chapter 5 and offer your substantive comments and detailed reasoning in regard to the suitability of ***particular river segments*** that you have familiarity with.

BSWI Watershed Analysis Framework Report

Next Step: Sections 5 and 6, please offer your input on the development of a range of alternatives specifically for the development of Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) or High Priority Restoration Watersheds.

Visual Resource Inventory Report

Next Step: Chapter 8, Visual Resource Management Classes. After reviewing the visual resource inventory (Chapters 1-7), please review Chapter 8, along with the maps in the appendix, and offer any substantive comments or detailed reasoning that you might suggest in regard to ***particular visual resource management classes*** in areas you have familiarity with.

2. HOW TO READ THE TABLES

The BSWI RMP Team, including State, Federal and Tribal cooperators, developed the following Vision Statement for this planning effort:

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.

The BSWI Team used this vision to develop desired future conditions, goals, and objectives for each resource.

Goals are broad statements of desired outcomes that usually are not quantifiable. Goals typically apply to the entire planning area and pertain to all action alternatives.

Objectives identify specific desired outcomes for resources. Objectives are usually quantifiable and measurable and may have established timeframes for achievement.

RMP decisions consist of identifying and clearly defining goals and objectives for resources and resource uses, and the allowable uses and management actions necessary for achieving the goals and objectives.

The basic goal of alternatives development is to produce distinct potential management scenarios that:

- Address the identified major planning issues
- Explore opportunities to enhance management of resources and resource uses
- Resolve conflicts among resources and resource uses
- Meet the purpose of and need for the RMP
- Are feasible

“Actions” are management decisions to help achieve the resource objectives.

“Actions Common to all Action Alternatives” refers to those management decisions with NO range of alternatives. It is believed that these management decisions are important enough to apply across every action alternative (excluding the No Action alternative or, current management, which isn’t reflected on the tables). These decisions would only be common to the action alternatives.

How to Read the Preliminary Alternatives Concepts Tables:

The purpose of the Alternative 1 and 3 columns is to demonstrate a range of decision options that you can provide input on.

The purpose of the Alternative 2 column is for YOU to propose YOUR ideas that may differ from Alternatives 1 and 3.

3. PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVE TABLES

3.1 Subsistence Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Maintain, protect, and enhance waterfowl, moose, caribou and muskox habitats to support natural reproductive capability, and a healthy, self-sustaining population of those species.
2. Manage crucial, high-value, and un-fragmented moose, caribou and muskox habitats as management priorities
3. Protect habitats important to moose that support sustainable populations important to subsistence uses.
4. Manage wildlife habitat for long term sustainability and ecosystem health.
5. BLM will follow Federal Subsistence Regulations and coordinate with partners to manage harvest levels on unencumbered BLM-managed lands.

OBJECTIVE(S)

Manage habitat to contribute to sustainable subsistence opportunities as well as ecosystem health.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Coordinate with ADF&G and FWS to help accomplish the population inventory monitoring surveys for moose, caribou, and muskox.

Data from these surveys will be used to set annual harvest levels for both State and Federal hunts.

Fish Resources

To ensure that crossings provide for fish passage, all proposed crossing designs shall adhere to the best management practices outlined in “Stream Crossing Design Procedure for Fish Streams on the North Slope Coastal Plain” by McDonald et al. (1994), “Fundamentals of Culvert Design for Passage of Weak-Swimming Fish” by Behlke et al. (1991), and other generally accepted best management procedures prescribed by the Authorizing Officer. See the Fisheries alternatives for more details.

No surface occupancy within 300 feet of fish bearing streams.

A right-of-way avoidance area for underground utilities would be established in the Sheefish Riparian Conservation Area.

Forestry Resources

All personal use and subsistence harvesting of forest products would require a permit.

All personal use and subsistence firewood harvest would require a permit.

All commercial harvesting requires a permit for any forest products harvested with the intent to sell (e.g., house logs, Christmas trees, berries, mushrooms, etc.).

All areas within 15mi of a river are open for private, subsistence, and commercial and casual use woodland harvest (including mushrooms, berries, bark, and other forest products).

All areas within 25 mi of a community are open for private, subsistence, and commercial and casual use woodland harvest (includes mushrooms, berries, bark, and other forest products). All burned areas outside of the areas above are open for private, subsistence, and commercial and casual use woodland harvest (includes mushrooms, berries, bark, and other forest products).

Permits would be granted outside these areas on a case-by-case basis dependent upon resource concerns.

Only winter harvests are allowed to minimize disturbance to soils and ground vegetation, as necessary to protect resources.

Wildlife Resources

Reindeer grazing would not be permitted in caribou wintering and calving areas.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p><u>Fish Subsistence Resources</u> Watersheds in the planning area were scored for aquatic resource value using the Watershed Aquatic Resource Value Model. RCAs would be defined as watersheds that have a score of VERY HIGH or HIGH, which is 20% of the watersheds in the planning area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) would not be withdrawn to mineral entry and leasing. However, it would be consider on a case-by-case basis, potentially with a 300-ft offset from streams. • Allow timber harvest in RCAs if it meets the criteria for preservation of those RCA values. 	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p><u>Fish Subsistence Resources</u> Watersheds in the planning area were scored for aquatic resource value using the Watershed Aquatic Resource Value Model. RCAs would be defined as watersheds that have a score of VERY HIGH, HIGH, or MEDIUM-HIGH, which is 36% of the watersheds in the planning area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) would be withdrawn to mineral entry and leasing, subject to valid existing rights. • Commercial timber harvests would not be permitted in RCAs.
<p><u>Wildlife Subsistence Resources</u> Special Recreation Permits for hunting guide-outfitters would not be authorized within a 25-mile radius of any established community in the planning area.</p> <p>Transporters carrying sport hunters would not be required to obtain a Special Recreation Permit for those activities.</p> <p>Subject to valid existing rights, no surface disturbing activities would be permitted between November 1 and</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p><u>Wildlife Subsistence Resources</u> Special Recreation Permits for hunting guide-outfitters may be authorized near established communities in the planning area.</p> <p>All transporters carrying sport hunters would be permitted under a Special Recreation Permit.</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>April 1 in the Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area that support winter moose habitat. The size and type of surface disturbing activities authorized would be determined on a case-by-case basis, based on current moose occupancy.</p> <p>Above-ground linear Right-of-ways in critical caribou winter habitat areas and critical calving habitats would be avoided unless design would allow for caribou movement. Construction would be prohibited during caribou calving season (May-June) and in critical winter habitat areas (Nov-Feb).</p>		
<p>Forest Subsistence Resources Commercial harvesting would be permitted in the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor and Riparian Conservation Areas.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Forest Subsistence Resources Commercial harvesting would NOT be permitted in the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor and Riparian Conservation Areas.</p>
<p>Access in Travel Management Areas (TMAs)</p> <p>Summer OHV Travel Cross-country travel would be permitted. Weight limit: 2,000 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60"</p> <p>Winter Travel: Weight limit: none Width limit: none</p> <p><u>Lands managed for Wilderness Characteristics TMA:</u></p> <p>Summer OHV Travel: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p>Winter OHV Travel: Casual Winter cross country allowed</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Access in Travel Management Areas TMAs)</p> <p>Summer OHV Travel Travel would be limited to existing routes. Weight limit: 3,000 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 72"</p> <p>Winter Travel: Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60"</p> <p><u>Lands managed for Wilderness Characteristics TMA:</u></p> <p>Summer OHV Travel: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p>Winter OHV Travel: Casual Winter cross country allowed</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 48 inches</p> <p><u>Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River TMA:</u> Summer OHV Travel: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 60 inches</p> <p>Winter OHV Travel: Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p><u>Rohn site Travel Management Area and Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor TMA:</u> Summer OHV Travel: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 48 inches</p> <p>Winter OHV Travel: Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p>If Subsistence OHV use results in degradation of the resources or prevents trail management that meets requirements of the National Trails Act, then this use would be prohibited.</p> <p><u>Riparian Conservation Areas TMA:</u> Summer OHV Travel:</p>		<p>Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 48 inches</p> <p><u>Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River TMA:</u> Summer OHV Travel: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 60 inches</p> <p>Winter OHV Travel: Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p><u>Rohn site Travel Management Area and Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor TMA:</u> Summer OHV Travel: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 60 inches</p> <p>Winter OHV Travel: Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p>If Subsistence OHV use results in degradation of the resources or prevents trail management that meets requirements of the National Trails Act, then this use would be prohibited.</p> <p><u>Riparian Conservation Areas TMA:</u> Summer OHV Travel:</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Cross-country travel would be permitted until monitoring shows that more than 5% of the individual RCA is being damaged by summer OHV use. Travel would then be limited to designated route determined through a Travel and Transportation Management Plan.</p> <p>Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR</p> <p>Width limit: 60"</p> <p>Winter OHV Travel:</p> <p>Winter cross country allowed</p> <p>Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR</p> <p>Width limit: 60"</p>		<p>Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR</p> <p>Width limit: 60"</p> <p>Winter OHV Travel:</p> <p>Winter cross country allowed</p> <p>Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR</p> <p>Width limit: 60"</p>

3.2 Fisheries Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Maintain intact wild stock fish populations to sustain the diverse and intact ecosystems that support traditional subsistence lifestyles and provide for rural economic opportunity.
2. Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems.
3. Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected.
4. Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms.
5. Increase the quality and quantity of habitat that supports natural diversity of fish and aquatic species.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Monitor fish escapement numbers in ACEC's, RCA's, or as identified in adaptive management) to attain escapement commiserate to the watersheds health and production capabilities.
2. Protect salmon spawning habitat from adverse environmental impacts by mineral location and development.
3. Inventory and monitor fish populations and habitat in cooperation with land management agencies, NGO's, or private parties.
4. Inventory water needs and secure water rights where needed.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Fish passage design would follow the Technical Supplement 14N: Fish Passage and Screening Design (USDA, 56 pgs.) and the Federal Highway Administration Culvert Design for Aquatic Organism Passage # 26.

Fuels

Refueling of equipment within 500 feet of the highest high water mark of any water body is prohibited with the exception of refueling motor boats, float planes, and ski planes.

Fuels shall not be stored on the active floodplain of any water body. Although fuels may be off-loaded from aircraft on ice, fuels shall not be stored on lake or river ice.

River Crossings

1. To ensure that crossings provide for fish passage, all proposed crossing designs shall adhere to the best management practices (BMPs) outlined in "Stream Crossing Design Procedure for Fish Streams on the North Slope Coastal Plain" by McDonald et al. (1994), "Fundamentals of Culvert Design for Passage of Weak-Swimming Fish" by Behlke et al. (1991), and other generally accepted best management procedures prescribed by the AO. To adhere to these BMPs, at least three years of hydrologic and fish data shall be collected for any proposed crossing of a stream whose structure is designed to occur, wholly or partially, below the stream's ordinary high water mark. These data shall include, but are not limited to, the range of water levels (highest and lowest) at the location of the planned crossing, and the seasonal distribution and composition of fish populations using the stream.
2. Except for approved crossings, alteration of waterway banks is prohibited. Waterways include natural features with sufficient water to create riparian habitat such as rivers, streams, deep/shallow lakes, tundra ponds, and shallow water tracks. Clearing of willows along the riparian zone is prohibited. Movement of equipment through willow stands shall be avoided whenever possible.

3. Crossing of waterway courses shall be made using a low-angle approach to avoid disruption of the natural stream or lake bank. Except at approved crossings, operators are encouraged to travel a minimum of 100 feet from overwintering fish streams and lakes.
4. If snow ramps or snow bridges are used at water crossings for bank protection, the ramps and bridges shall be substantially free of soil and/or debris. Snow bridges shall be removed or breached immediately after use or before spring breakup.
5. To avoid additional freeze down of deep-water pools harboring overwintering fish, waterways shall be crossed at shallow riffles from point bar to point bar whenever possible.

Priority Restoration Watersheds

High priority watersheds for restoration are those that rank HIGH or VERY HIGH for aquatic resource values and are in a degraded condition. This is determined using the Riparian Conservation Area modelling method (see RCA report for more information).

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA) Watersheds in the planning area were scored for aquatic resource value using the Watershed Aquatic Resource Value Model. RCAs would be defined as watersheds that have a score of VERY HIGH or HIGH, which is 20% of the watersheds in the planning area.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA) Watersheds in the planning area were scored for aquatic resource value using the Watershed Aquatic Resource Value Model. RCAs would be defined as watersheds that have a score of VERY HIGH, HIGH, or MEDIUM-HIGH, which is 37% of the watersheds in the planning area.</p>
<p>Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling No Surface Occupancy within the river, stream, or lake bed for exploratory drilling.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Oil and Gas Exploratory Drilling Exploratory drilling in river, stream, and lake beds, as determined by the highest high water mark, is prohibited. Exceptions to this stipulation may be authorized by the BLM in cases of shallow lakes which freeze to the bottom, do not support significant fish or bird populations, and are hydrologically isolated. Further, such an exception may be granted only if it is environmentally preferable to maintaining the restriction.</p>
<p>No Surface Occupancy (applies to Leasable, Locatable, Salable mineral development, subject to valid existing rights) No Surface Occupancy within 300 feet of fish bearing streams.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>No Surface Occupancy (applies to Leasable, Locatable, Salable mineral development, subject to valid existing rights) In Riparian Conservation Areas (RCAs) withdraw watershed to mineral entry and leasing, subject to valid</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
		existing rights. NSO for non-mineral permitted actions and for valid existing rights.
<p>Mining Transportation Transport of mining equipment overland (no-existing road/tail) would be limited to periods with frozen ground and a minimum of 10 inches of snow cover to prevent habitat damage.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Mining Transportation Whenever possible, overland moves that are a part of permitted operations would occur during winter when frost and snow cover is sufficient to minimize vegetation and soil disturbance and compaction. The AO would determine the date when sufficient frost and snow cover exists and no overland moves should occur until these conditions are met.</p> <p>Winter trails and ice roads for overland moves would be designed and located to minimize compaction of soils and breakage, abrasion, compaction, or displacement of vegetation.</p> <p>Clearing of drifted snow is generally allowed, to the extent that vegetative ground cover is not disturbed.</p> <p>Offsets of winter trail/ice road locations may be required to avoid using the same route or track each subsequent year.</p> <p>When access is required in snow-free months, routes that utilize naturally hardened sites would be selected to avoid trail braiding. Wetlands would be avoided.</p> <p>The permittee would employ vehicle types and methods that minimize vegetation and soil disturbance, such as use of air or water craft, utilizing existing roads or trails, or use of low ground pressure vehicles.</p> <p>The use of heavy machinery in saturated soil conditions would be limited to low ground pressure designated machinery.</p>
<p>Withdrawals (applies to Leasable, Locatable, Salable mineral development, subject to valid existing rights): Withdraw RCA watersheds to mineral entry, staking, and oil and gas development.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Withdrawals (applies to Leasable, Locatable, Salable mineral development, subject to valid existing rights): No withdrawals. Consider on a case-by-case basis, potentially a 300-ft offset from streams in RCA watersheds</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Commercial Timber Harvest Allow timber harvest in RCAs if it meets the criteria for preservation of those RCA values.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Commercial Timber Harvest Commercial timber harvests would not be permitted in RCAs.</p>
<p>OHV If watershed degradation is occurring in RCAs, OHVs will be limited to designated routes. One stream crossing would be allowed per mile of stream. If that is exceeded, then routes would be designated through a Travel and Transportation Management Plan. All RCA areas would be Limited for OHVs (see Travel Management Section).</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>OHV RCAs would be closed to overland OHV travel except in winter when conditions are adequate to protect from resource damage (a combination of frozen ground and minimum of 10 inches of snow).</p>
<p>Right-of-Way (ROW) Exclusion/Avoidance A ROW avoidance area for underground utilities would be established in the Sheefish RCA.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Right-of-Way (ROW) Exclusion/Avoidance A ROW exclusion area for underground utilities would be established in the Sheefish RCA.</p>

3.3 Wildlife Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Maintain, protect, and enhance habitats to support natural wildlife diversity, reproductive capability, and a healthy, self-sustaining population of wildlife species.
2. Manage crucial, high-value, and un-fragmented habitats as a management priority.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Implement Executive Order 13186, "Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds" during all activities to protect habitat for migratory birds. Birds listed on the current USFWS "Birds of Conservation Concern" and Boreal Partners-in-Flight priority species (as updated) would be prioritized.
2. BLM would use adaptive management strategies to further conserve habitat and avoid impacts to "Birds of Conservation Concern" and Partners-in-Flight priority species when their specific habitat needs and population distribution are identified.
3. Cooperate with ADF&G to accomplish population and habitat goals and objectives for moose, caribou, and muskox management plans.
4. Cooperate with ADF&G and DNR to determine stipulations to protect raptor habitats and nesting sites on BLM land from disturbance related to barge traffic on rivers.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Coordinate with ADF&G and FWS to help accomplish the population inventory monitoring surveys for moose, caribou, and muskox. Data from these surveys would be used to set annual harvest levels for both State and Federal hunts.

Grazing

Reindeer grazing would not be allowed in caribou wintering and calving areas.

Predator Control

BLM would work in cooperation with ADF&G to use predator control as a management tool to manage the long term sustainability of both predator and prey populations.

Aircraft disturbance guidelines - all flights associated with BLM permitted activities

Aircraft are required to fly 1500-ft AGL within 0.50mi from priority raptor sites, except during takeoff and landing and when it would compromise safety. This protection is not intended to restrict flights necessary to conduct wildlife surveys satisfying wildlife data collection requirements.

Pilots are requested to maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet above the surface of the following: National Parks, Monuments, Seashores, Lakeshores, Recreation Areas and Scenic Riverways administered by the National Park Service, National Wildlife Refuges, Big Game Refuges, Game Ranges and Wildlife Ranges administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wilderness and Primitive areas administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

Note: FAA Advisory Circular AC 91-36, Visual Flight Rules (VFR) Flight Near Noise-Sensitive Areas, defines the surface of a national park area (including parks, forests, primitive areas, wilderness areas, recreational areas, national seashores, national monuments, national lakeshores, and national wildlife refuge and range areas) as: the highest terrain within 2,000 feet laterally of the route of flight, or the upper-most rim of a canyon or valley.

Power lines and Communications Towers

Communications towers are required to use BMPs to reduce or minimize bird strikes. All transmission power lines would comply with industry accepted best management practices to prevent raptors and other birds from colliding with or being electrocuted by utility lines, alternative energy structures, towers, and poles (APLIC 2012, <http://www.aplic.org/>). If possible bury utility lines in important bird areas. Where raptors are likely to nest in human-made structures (such as cell phone towers) and such use could impede operation or maintenance of the structures or jeopardize the safety of the raptors; equip the structures with either (1) devices engineered to discourage raptors from building nests, or (2) nesting platforms that would safely accommodate raptor nests without interfering with structure performance.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Minerals (applies to Leasable, Locatable, Salable Minerals and Realty Actions):</p> <p>Mineral leasing allowed in critical moose calving and wintering habitats under standard stipulations.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Minerals (applies to Leasable, Locatable, Salable Minerals and Realty Actions):</p> <p>No mineral leasing or development, subject to valid existing rights, in critical moose calving and wintering habitats.</p>
<p>Right-of-Ways (ROW):</p> <p>Caribou (all herds) - Avoid above-ground linear ROW in critical winter habitat areas and critical calving habitats unless design would allow for caribou movement.</p> <p>Construction would be prohibited during calving season (May-June) and in critical winter habitat areas (Nov-Feb).</p> <p>Moose - Avoid above-ground ROW within moose wintering areas to protect critical habitats (riparian) unless facility design would allow for moose movement.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Right-of-Ways (ROW):</p> <p>Caribou (all herds) - Exclude above-ground linear ROW in critical winter habitat areas and critical calving habitats unless design would allow for caribou movement.</p> <p>Moose - Exclude above-ground ROW within moose wintering areas to protect critical habitats (riparian) unless design would allow for moose movement.</p>
<p>Hunting</p> <p>Transporters carrying sport hunters would not be required to obtain a Special Recreation Permit for those activities.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Hunting</p> <p>All transporters carrying sport hunters would be permitted under a Special Recreation Permit.</p>
<p>Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area:</p> <p>This area would be managed in the same fashion as the general planning area.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area:</p> <p>A wildlife conservation area would be established to protect moose winter and calving habitat as well as migratory waterfowl habitat in the Yukon-Innoko</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Land birds:</p> <p>During the nesting season (May 1 – Jul 31) avoid permitted surface disturbing activities and vegetation-altering projects in migratory bird habitat.</p> <p>Conduct pre-construction surveys for nesting migratory birds in riparian areas during the nesting season (May 1 – Jul 31) before implementation of permitted activities if vegetation removal/surface disturbing activities are greater than 5 acres in size. If active nest sites are found, removal of those nest sites is prohibited.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Bottom riparian shrub belt.</p> <p>Land birds:</p> <p>Avoid ROW in riparian areas (critical nesting habitats). No mineral leasing in riparian areas.</p>
<p>Waterfowl habitat:</p> <p>Subject to valid existing rights, surface disturbance for leasable, salable, and locatable mineral development would be prohibited between May 1 and July 31.</p> <p>Subject to valid existing rights, surface disturbance for leasable, salable, and locatable mineral development would be prohibited in nesting waterfowl areas in the Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area between May 1 and July 31.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Waterfowl habitat:</p> <p>No surface occupancy, subject to valid existing rights, for Right-of-ways in the Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area</p> <p>Withdraw/close nesting waterfowl areas in the Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area from locatable, salable, and leasable mineral entry.</p>
<p>Wildlife Habitat Stipulations</p> <p>No establishment of raptor buffers and associated restrictions on surface disturbing activities.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Wildlife Habitat Stipulations</p> <p>Subject to valid existing rights, no Surface Occupancy around active raptor nests for 0.25 mile</p> <p>Subject to valid existing rights, no surface disturbance permitted activities around active raptor nests for 0.50 miles.</p> <p>Subject to valid existing rights, no surface disturbing activities would be permitted between November 1 and April 1 in the Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area that support winter moose habitat. The size and type of surface disturbing activities authorized would be determined on a case-by-case basis, based on current moose occupancy.</p>
<p>Raptors:</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Raptors:</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Priority raptor species are defined as Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcons, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle.</p> <p>Pre-work raptor nesting surveys would be required.</p> <p>Nesting seasons are defined as: From April 15 through August 15 for bald eagles, golden eagles, and peregrine falcons; and, from March 15 through July 20 for gyrfalcons.</p> <p>To minimize the direct loss of priority raptor foraging habitat, all reasonable and practicable efforts would be made to locate permanent facilities as far from priority raptor nests as feasible and to minimize habitat loss to the extent feasible. Of particular concern for avoidance are ponds, lakes, streams, wetlands, and riparian habitats.</p> <p>To reduce disturbance to nesting priority raptors, campsites authorized by the BLM, including short- and long-term camps and agency work camps, must be located at least 500-meters from any known priority raptor nest site during the nesting season. Exceptions may be granted by the AO if no feasible alternative exists.</p>		<p>Priority raptor species are defined as Peregrine Falcon, Gyrfalcons, Golden Eagle, Bald Eagle.</p> <p>Pre-work raptor nesting surveys would be required.</p> <p>Permitted activities would be required to use practices to avoid impact upon raptors, to include visual, noise controls and/or other currently accepted measures as necessary to avoid raptor nest abandonment or nest failure.</p> <p>To reduce disturbance to nesting priority raptors, campsites permitted by the BLM, including short- and long-term camps and agency work camps, must be located at least 0.25-miles from any known priority raptor nest site during the nesting season.</p>
<p>Minimizing potential for disease transmission for Dall sheep, mountain goats, and muskox:</p> <p>The use of goats, sheep, Camelids (camels, llamas, alpacas, etc.) as pack stock would be prohibited in areas occupied by Dall sheep, mountain goats, and muskox habitats.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Minimizing potential for disease transmission for Dall sheep, mountain goats, and muskox:</p> <p>The use of goats, sheep, Camelids (camels, llamas, alpacas, etc.) as pack stock would be prohibited in areas occupied by Dall sheep, mountain goats, and muskox habitats.</p>

3.4 Grazing Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Support opportunities for permitted grazing of reindeer when proper grazing management ensures the protection, conservation, and improvement of rangeland ecological health.
2. Manage rangelands for long-term sustainability of habitat, resilient ecosystems, and connectivity of native wildlife movement.
3. Minimize conflict with caribou herds from permitted grazing.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. This plan would implement the BLM Alaska Reindeer Grazing Policy once it is developed.
2. Maintain or restore rangelands to ensure or to make progress towards meeting BLM Alaska Land Health Standard 4.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Surface-disturbing rangeland improvements would be 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 a grazing permit application that includes a comprehensive Grazing Management Plan and a business plan.

Permittees would conduct a rangeland health assessment to report grazing utilization and herd rotation on an annual basis.

Non-compliance would be addressed with a notice of non-compliance. A second notice of non-compliance would be issued if a permittee fails to comply within 1 year of the first notice. If non-compliance continues after the second year, the case would be referred to law enforcement for trespass.

Supplemental feeding may be authorized (weed free forage required).

The BLM would continue to work cooperatively with the Kawerak, Inc. Natural Resources Division’s Reindeer Herders Association, University of Alaska-Fairbanks Reindeer Research Program, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to support grazing operators’ ability to maintain rangeland health.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
No reindeer grazing permits would be issued.	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	Reindeer grazing permits would be authorized according to the BLM Alaska Grazing Policy on a case-by-case basis.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
No reindeer grazing permits would be issued.	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	Open to reindeer grazing: All areas outside the 20-year historic caribou range.
No reindeer grazing permits would be issued.	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	The following areas would be closed to reindeer grazing: All areas within the 20-year historic caribou range Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River Corridor Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trails Management Corridor Areas to be managed for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics
No reindeer grazing permits would be issued.	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	Utilization: <u>Utilization – Grazed class 2</u> Grazing operations are administered to a maximum utilization threshold of Grazed Class 2 (5 -25% MAX of the lichen cover is disturbed or dislodged). Other criteria for this utilization include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is no appreciable disturbance to the lichen cover. • Craters are not apparent; a few individual bites are noted. • Recovery may be 2 (lowland) - 4 (upland) years. BLM would conduct monitoring of permitted grazing operations. Monitoring each permitted grazing range utilization and herd location(s) once every 3 years, at a minimum, or more frequently if deemed necessary for permit compliance.
No reindeer grazing permits would be issued.	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	Caribou Avoidance: A minimum 5-mile buffer would be maintained between known caribou habitat and permitted grazing ranges. If caribou herds enter permitted grazing allotments, permittees are required to take actions to remove permitted domestic herds to a location within their permitted grazing range to meet a minimum 5-mile distance between caribou and permitted grazing herd. This may also involve corralling and/or harvesting or

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
		moving to pre-authorized safe areas.
<p>No reindeer grazing permits would be issued.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Permit Terms:</p> <p>Grazing fees would be based on the current CFR guidance of \$10.00 per permit.</p> <p>Unless already defined by an existing regulation, permit term would be 10 years.</p> <p>Reindeer herd crossing permit applications would be addressed as per direction in CRF 43, § 4300.80 for proposals to move livestock across BLM managed lands, lands that are currently not administered under an existing grazing permit.</p> <p>Permitted grazing would require satellite collars/tracking devices on a minimum of 5% of the permitted reindeer livestock. This data would be immediately available to the BLM upon request, and would be provided with annual reports showing location(s) of the herd throughout the year.</p>

3.5 Travel Management Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Maintain resource integrity, intactness (no permanent, irretrievable reduction of resources values or function.)
2. Provide for traditional access.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Support and leverage a culture of surface travel user stewardship and conservation.
2. Provide for easily understood use requirements and conditions.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The winter OHV use period would be those times periods when snow of sufficient depth, 10 inches or more, or a combination of snow and frost depth is sufficient to protect the underlying vegetation and soil.

The summer OHV use period would be any condition that is 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.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River TMA: <u>OHV Designation = Limited</u> <u>Summer OHV travel is limited to existing roads and parking areas.</u> Summer Casual and Subsistence Use: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 60 inches</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River TMA: <u>OHV Designation = Limited</u> <u>Summer OHV travel is limited to existing roads and parking areas.</u> Summer Casual and Subsistence Use: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 60 inches</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:</p> <p>Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p>		<p>Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:</p> <p>Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p>
<p>Rohn site Travel Management Area and Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor:</p> <p><u>OHV designation = Limited</u> <u>Casual Summer OHV travel is prohibited</u></p> <p>Summer OHV Subsistence Use:</p> <p>Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 48 inches</p> <p>Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:</p> <p>Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p>If Subsistence OHV use results in degradation of the resources or prevents trail management that meets requirements of the National Trails Act, then this use would be prohibited.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Rohn site Travel Management Area and Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor:</p> <p><u>OHV designation = Limited</u> <u>Casual Summer OHV travel is prohibited.</u></p> <p>Summer OHV Subsistence Use:</p> <p>Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 60 inches</p> <p>Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:</p> <p>Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p>If Subsistence OHV use results in degradation of the resources or prevents trail management that meets requirements of the National Trails Act, then this use would be prohibited.</p>
<p>Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor:</p> <p>Summer OHV use for reindeer herding operations would be prohibited on the INHT</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor:</p> <p>Summer OHV use for reindeer herding operations would be prohibited on the INHT</p>
<p>Lands managed for Wilderness Characteristics Travel Management Area:</p> <p><u>OHV designation = Limited</u> <u>Casual Summer OHV travel is allowed only on existing trails.</u></p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Lands managed for Wilderness Characteristics Travel Management Area:</p> <p><u>OHV designation = Limited</u> <u>Casual Summer OHV travel is allowed only on existing trails.</u></p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Summer OHV Casual and Subsistence Use: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p>Winter OHV Casual and Subsistence Use: Casual Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 48 inches</p>		<p>Summer OHV Casual and Subsistence Use: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p> <p>Winter OHV Casual and Subsistence Use: Casual Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 48 inches</p>
<p><u>All remaining lands Travel Management Area:</u> <u>OHV Designation = Limited</u></p> <p>Summer Casual and Subsistence Use: Cross-country travel would be permitted. Weight limit: 2,000 GVWR Width limit: 60"</p> <p>Winter Casual and Subsistence Use: Weight limit: none Width limit: none</p>	<p>Possible Considerations: Weight limit: 3,000 GVWR, reduced as necessary if resource damage occurs. Width limit: would be determined as necessary if resource damage occurs.</p>	<p><u>All remaining lands Travel Management Area:</u> <u>OHV Designation = Limited</u></p> <p>Summer Casual and Subsistence Use: Travel would be limited to existing routes. Weight limit: 3,000 GVWR Width limit: 72"</p> <p>Winter Casual and Subsistence Use: Weight limit: 1,500 GVWR Width limit: 60"</p>
<p><u>TMA Adaptive Management Considerations:</u> 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.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p><u>TMA Adaptive Management Considerations:</u> Limited summer OHV use in areas of dwarf shrub, lichen, and sparse vegetation: travel only allowed on existing routes. This applies to the casual user, it does not apply to the subsistence user.</p>
<p>Special Areas with Limited OHV Use: Areas within 100 feet of identified airstrips and boat landings would be closed to motorized in the summer.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Special Areas with Limited OHV Use: Areas within 50 feet of identified airstrips and boat landings (see appropriate map) would be closed to motorized use in the summer.</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Riparian Conservation Areas with Limited OHV Use: <u>OHV Designation = Limited</u></p> <p>Summer Casual and Subsistence Use: Cross-country travel would be permitted until monitoring shows that more than 5% of the individual RCA is being damaged by summer OHV use. Travel would then be limited to designated route determined through a Travel and Transportation Management Plan. Weight limit: 1,500 GVWR Width limit: 60"</p> <p>Winter Casual and Subsistence Use: Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,500 GVWR Width limit: 60"</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Riparian Conservation Areas with Limited OHV Use: <u>OHV designation = Limited</u> <u>Casual Summer OHV travel is prohibited.</u></p> <p>Summer OHV Subsistence Use: Summer OHV Limited to existing routes Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Size limit: 60 inches</p> <p>Winter Casual and Subsistence Use: Winter cross country allowed Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR Width limit: 60 inches</p>

3.6 Locatable Minerals Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Provide for the opportunity to develop locatable and salable mineral resource on public lands to meet the national, regional and local needs while ensuring the long-term health and diversity of the land.
2. Ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and strict conformance with the Code of Federal Regulations for: 43 CFR 3809, Surface Management (mining); 43 CFR 3715, Use and Occupancy (occupancy of mining claims); 43 CFR 3600, Mineral Materials (common variety minerals mining).
3. Encourage exploration of public lands to define potential mineral resources of national strategic interest, minerals to support green technology development and carbon reduction technology, and economically crucial for state and local communities.
4. Develop a state wide programmatic Environmental Assessment for Use and Occupancy for Notice level operations that can be tiered to, which would increase processing time within the BLM

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Process all plans and notices in accordance with 43 CFR 3809 and 3715 regulations with a focus on quality product delivery to applicants within a reasonable timeframe to support Alaska's unique and seasonally dependent placer mining industry.
2. Conduct all mandatory compliance inspections annually and provide constructive feedback to miners on the status of their mining operation with a focus on resolving issues at the lowest and most reasonable level and progressively working through the steps of allowable enforcement actions to return the mining operation to the line of acceptability.
3. Require reclamation of mine sites, both placer and hard rock, to comply with the latest industry standards and best management practices.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES

1. Manage mining related activities in accordance with 43 CFR 3809 and 3715.
2. All Notice and Plan level operations would submit an invasive species inventory, monitoring, and control plan in accordance with BLM-AK Invasive management policy (IAW 43 CFR 3809.420).
3. In locations where topography and water volume allow, all Plan level placer mining operations would be required to be a zero discharge facility unless authorized otherwise by the BLM due to these site specific considerations or restraints that would make zero-discharge economically or technically unfeasible (IAW 43 CFR 3809.420).
4. ** Establish a BSWI Placer EIS for applicable mining district that encompasses all mining activity (NOT notice exploration but actual mining) of 5 acres or less that can be tiered to facilitate and encourage placer mining.
5. All Plan-level mining would submit to the BLM office a courtesy copy of the required water quality annual report monthly summarizing required criteria identified in the that is required by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) NPDES permit(mainly turbidity above and below discharge point- known GPS (IAW 43 CFR 3809.401 and .420).

6. All occupancies in area that are not incident to mining, as defined in 3715/3809, shall come into compliance within (2) years of the approval of this LUP. If occupancy does not comply after that deadline it would be removed in accordance with 43 CFR 3715.6 and .7-1.3715.
7. All new and current existing Notice and Plan operations (notice/plans) would designate a specific GPS point that is clearly marked on the ground that photos of the operation would be taken from and submitted to the BLM in the end of year report for reclamation. These photos would be taken in the spring and fall each mining season.
8. All lode/hard rock tailings ponds that retain deleterious material would be doubled lined and would incorporate all sensors and best management/industry practices and standards. They must include a backup/alternative water treatment system that would allow controlled discharge of the treated effluent to avoid overtopping or release of the controlled material/water to the environment.
9. All tailings dams that meet the State of Alaska Dam Safety control criteria would submit third party engineering stability/measurement report to the BLM by Sep. 31 every other year from the date that the BLM signs the Plan of Operations NEPA decision record.
10. All Notice and Plan placer operations that meet the criteria of the 2015 Mining Fisheries IMs would comply with all conditions of that IM.
11. In accordance with conditions specified in the 2015 Bonding IM, Notice and Plan level operations that wish to use the bond pool must submit a reclamation cost estimate as described in 43 CFR 3809.500
12. All mineral material sites related to any mine development in the BSWI area must be reclaimed in accordance with an approved reclamation plan that meets all applicable criteria outlined in 43 CFR 3600 (but using the 43 CFR 3809 reclamation guidance, IMs, and other resources as needed). Use and Occupancy activity for Notice level operations would be tiered to the Programmatic Environmental Assessment.
13. Use and Occupancy for Notice Level decisions across the planning area:

Definition/Criteria for “Substantially”:

- Demonstrate the need for the cabin or structure related to the level of mining proposed.
- Occupancy facilities approved would be minimal

Temporary structure definition (43 CFR 3715): tents, and tents with platforms. All of which are dismantled from the site at the end of the use season. After two years, all materials are removed from the site.

Structures allowed according to geographic mining activities:

- For mining activities that would involve less than 5 acres of surface disturbance, no permanent structures would be authorized.
- No grading or excavation for footings or placement of buried structures.
- Related pit toilets must be constructed in accordance with State of Alaska regulations. If privy cannot meet Alaska regulations, all human waste must be carried out.
- Well development must require a ROW related to mining site activity.
- A water well in support of use and occupancy on a notice level operation would not be permitted.

- Matting would be required for walkways in areas of tundra and lichen-rich habitat.

Structures allowed according to length of mining activity:

- For mining activities that would occur in under 3 months, approved occupancy facilities are temporary and removable tents (no tent platform).
- For mining activities that would be more than 3 months in duration and less than 8 months, a temporary and removable tent with platform would be allowed.
- No occupancy for 43 CFR 3715-permitted facilities in riparian areas.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Refer to Leasable Mineral Potential Report and the Coal, Geothermal, and Oil and Gas Basin Map to make specific area suggestions. Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Cumulative effects of placer mines within BSWI mining districts</p> <p>No cumulative effects restrictions.</p>	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	<p>Cumulative effects of placer mines within BSWI mining districts</p> <p>Concurrent reclamation would be 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).</p>
<p>Withdrawals</p> <p>Lift all existing withdrawals to mineral entry, with the exception of the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor and the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River, but require a plan of operations for all areas for all actions. Any designations for ACEC or RCA would close those lands to mineral entry.</p>	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	<p>Withdrawals</p> <p>Open all BLM lands to mineral entry.</p>
<p>Bonding</p> <p>All Notice and Plan level placer operations that meet the criteria of the 2015 Reclamation Cost Estimate IM would comply with all conditions of that IM. Otherwise the Alaska State Wide Bond Pool would be accepted in accordance with 43 CFR 3809 and the BLM-DNR Bond Pool Agreement **(application of this requirement is</p>	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	<p>Bonding</p> <p>All operations have the option to utilize the Alaska State Wide Bond Pool, however the 2015 RCE IM would apply **(application of this requirement is contingent on changes, modification, or closure of the IMs at any point throughout the life of the LUP-- bonding type/action would remain fully at the discretion of the Authorized</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>contingent on changes, modification, or closure of the IMs at any point throughout the life of the LUP-- bonding type/action would remain fully at the discretion of the Authorized Officer).</p> <p>All existing and new activities would be bonded using an individual financial guarantee, or other acceptable means as defined in 43 CFR 3809.500, that would be calculated through a Reclamation Cost Estimate. Use of the Alaska State Wide Bond pool would be restricted to operations that have shown a record of 5 or more years of successful reclamation of mined lands with no significant compliance issues (defined as no adverse compliance issues that has resulted in actions greater than a Notice of Noncompliance as defined in 43 CFR 3809.600).</p>		<p>Officer).</p>
<p>Riparian and stream disturbance/reclamation</p> <p>All Notice and Plan level placer operations that meet the criteria of the 2015 Stream Reclamation Effectiveness Monitoring and Baseline Data IMs would comply with all conditions of that IM.</p> <p>In accordance with the Reclamation Effectiveness Monitoring IM, reclaimed channel must meet the level 3 functionality of the stream function pyramid with an upward trend towards the next level. **(application of this requirement is contingent on changes, modification, or closure of the IMs at any point throughout the life of the LUP)</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Riparian and stream disturbance/reclamation</p> <p>All Notice and Plan level placer operations that meet the criteria of the 2015 Stream Reclamation Effectiveness Monitoring IM would comply with the conditions of that IM with the exception that the reclaimed channel must meet the level 2 functionality of the stream function pyramid with an upward trend towards the next level.</p> <p>Operators would be required to submit geo-located photographs that include 10 foot long measurement rods (dived into 1 foot increments) in each photo for reference scale (this requirement would take place of the Baseline data IM). Photos, at minimum, would include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One photo of a measurement rod in the thalweg of the stream every 10 feet of the length of stream to be mined/relocated. • One photo every 25 feet along the left and right banks of the stream with the measurement rod placed to show bank height. • One photo looking downstream from the point of diversion and a photo looking upstream from the point where the diversion would return to the natural channel. Each photo would include the measurement rod parallel to the ground

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
		surface. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One photo along every 25 feet of the floodplain on either side of the stream with the view-focus oriented towards the stream channel. **(application of this requirement is contingent on changes, modification, or closure of the IMs at any point throughout the life of the LUP)
<p>Reclamation</p> <p>Uplands Reclamation All Notices and Plans would develop reclamation/re-vegetation plans that incorporate the following (IAW 43 CFR 3809.420).</p> <p>Vegetation percent cover criteria for Slopes of 20:1 or less must, once final earthwork is complete, topsoil replaced, and slash/vegetation matter spread throughout, achieve 70% vegetative cover in 3 years with an additional 2 year monitoring period to determine long term success. If only 30% vegetative cover is observed by year three then additional seeding and fertilizer would be incorporated to achieve the required 70% cover.</p> <p>Slopes of 20:1 to 3:1 would (once final earthwork is complete, topsoil replaced, and slash/vegetation matter spread throughout) be actively reseed with certified and approved native seed and proper fertilizer mix. They would be monitored for re-vegetation that must achieve 70% cover in 3 years. If only 30% vegetative cover is observed by year three then additional seeding and fertilizer would be incorporated to achieve the required 70% cover.</p> <p>Slopes greater than 3:1 would still require special consideration by BLM for reclamation purposes and may require more aggressive re-vegetation methodologies on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>These plans must incorporate the re-vegetation criteria outlined by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Plant Material Center and be certified weed-free.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Reclamation</p> <p>Uplands Reclamation All Notices and Plans would develop reclamation/re-vegetation plans that incorporate the following (IAW 43 CFR 3809.420).</p> <p>Vegetation percent cover criteria for Slopes of 20:1 or less would be signed off as “Reclaimed” once final earthwork is complete, topsoil replaced, and slash/vegetation matter spread throughout.</p> <p>Slopes of 20:1 to 5:1 would need to be monitored for re-vegetation that must achieve 30% cover in 3 years or 70% cover in 5 years. If these criteria are not achieved at their respective year mark than fertilization and seeding would be required to achieve the required percent cover.</p> <p>Slopes greater than 5:1 would (once final earthwork is complete, topsoil replaced, and slash/vegetation matter spread throughout) be actively reseed with certified and approved native seed and proper fertilizer mix need to be monitored for re-vegetation to meet 30% cover in 3 years or 70% in 5 years. If these criteria are not achieved at their respective year mark then engineered erosion controls in addition to fertilization and seeding would be required until vegetation achieves 70% cover.</p> <p>Slopes greater than 3:1 would still require special consideration by BLM for reclamation purposes and may require more aggressive re-vegetation methodologies on a case-by-case basis.</p>

3.7 Leasable Minerals Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOAL

Provide opportunities for exploration and development of federal mineral resources to meet national, regional and local needs while ensuring the long-term health and diversity of the land.

OBJECTIVE

Require reclamation of exploration and operational development sites to comply with the latest industry standards and best management practices.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES

Standard Leasing Stipulations would apply to all areas open to Leasing.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Refer to Leasable Mineral Potential Report and the Coal, Geothermal, and Oil and Gas Basin Map to make specific area suggestions.

Leasable Minerals include coal and coal bed natural gas, oil and gas, peat, and geothermal resources.

Decisions that can be made regarding Leasing:

1. **Open Subject to Standard Lease Terms and Conditions:** These are areas where it has been determined through the planning process that the terms and conditions attached to the leasing document are sufficient in allowing exploration and development.
2. **Open Subject to Seasonal or Other Minor Constraints:** These are areas where it has been determined that 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 activities in designated big game winter ranges, or controlled surface use stipulations such as creating a buffer zone around a critical resource.
3. **Open Subject to No Surface Occupancy or Other Major Constraint:** These are areas where it has been determined through the planning process that 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.
4. **Closed to Leasing:** These are areas where it has been determined that 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. These areas are outlined in 43 CFR 3100.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>All Coal Deposits in plan area</p> <p>All deposits would be open to leasing with the following resource constraints:</p>	<p>Manage the following Coal Deposits as closed to leasing (include reasoning why):</p> <p>Manage the following Coal Deposits as open to</p>	<p>All Coal Deposits in planning area</p> <p>All deposits would be closed to leasing.</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>I. No surface occupancy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in Riparian Conservation Areas. • within rivers, streams, or lake beds (as determined by the highest high water mark). • within 300 feet of fish bearing streams. • on lands with priority management for wilderness characteristics. • in the Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area. • on slopes of 30% or greater. • between May 1 and July 31 in migratory bird habitat. • within 0.5 miles of active raptor nests. • within 30 feet if BLM-sensitive plant species. 	<p>leasing (include reasoning why):</p>	
<p>Galena Basin Coal Deposit Closed to leasing in Riparian Conservation Areas</p>	<p>Galena Basin Coal Deposit # acres closed to leasing # acres open to leasing # acres Non-Surface Occupancy # acres with Time (seasonal) and controlled surface use</p>	<p>Galena Basin Coal Deposit Open to Leasing in Riparian Conservation Areas</p>
<p>All Oil and Gas Basins in the plan area The following areas would be closed to leasing due to resource concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian Conservation Areas • Critical moose calving and wintering habitats • Critical caribou calving and wintering habitats • Nulato Hills Lichen, Caribou, and Sensitive Plant Conservation Area <p>The following areas would be No Surface Occupancy (NSO) to leasing due to resource concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in Riparian Conservation Areas. • within rivers, streams, or lake beds (as determined by the highest high water mark). • within 300 feet of fish bearing streams. • on lands with priority management for wilderness characteristics. 	<p>All Oil and Gas Basins in the plan area (including reason why) The following areas would be closed to leasing due to resource concerns:</p> <p>The following areas would be NSO to leasing due to resource concerns:</p> <p>The following areas would have seasonal- controlled surface use due to resource concerns (e.g, springs, meadows, riparian areas during melt; calving areas and dates; nesting areas and dates; winter range areas and dates, etc.):</p> <p>The following areas would have controlled surface use (CSU) due to resource concerns (e.g., within 300 feet of</p>	<p>All Oil and Gas Basins in the plan area All basins would be open to leasing under the standard stipulations</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area. • on slopes of 30% or greater. • between May 1 and July 31 in migratory bird habitat. • within 0.5 miles of active raptor nests. • within 30 feet if BLM-sensitive plant species. <p>The following areas would have seasonally-controlled surface use due to resource concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • between May 1 and July 31 in migratory bird habitat. • during calving season in critical caribou calving areas (May-June) and during winter in critical caribou winter habitat areas (Nov-Feb). <p>The following areas would have controlled surface use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slopes of 30% grade or greater. 	<p>X, Land with slopes greater than X%, within X mi. of raptor nests...etc.):</p>	

3.8 Realty Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOAL

1. Consolidate BLM-managed lands in the planning area to assist in effective land management.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Lands will be identified for sale to benefit local communities per the criteria for R&PPA.
2. Disposal of reversionary interest would be evaluated and addressed on a case-by-case basis, based on BLM management needs.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Dispose of lands which meet the following criteria:

1. A tract that was acquired that is no longer needed for federal purposes.
2. A tract whose disposal would serve the public objectives such as expansion of communities and economic development or an R&PP reverter clause or any other reversionary interests
3. A tract of land because of its location or other characteristics is difficult or uneconomic to manage and is not suitable for management by another federal agency.
4. Federal mining claims that become abandoned and void that are surrounded by State or Native land.
5. Identify specific parcels and list here: R&PP patents.
6. Exchange will be considered on a case-by-case basis to benefit public interests. Exchanges would focus on efficient management of public lands and objectives including: protection of fish and wildlife, cultural resources, wilderness and aesthetic values, enhancing recreational opportunities, and community expansion. Exchanges will not be pursued until final State and Native entitlement is reached.
7. 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.
8. Further identify parcels for disposal, retention, and criteria for acquisition.

Acquisition Criteria:

1. 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.
2. Inholdings in the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River Corridor would be acquired when available from willing sellers.
3. Inholdings on BLM administered portions of the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor would be acquired when available from willing sellers.
4. Once ANCSA and State conveyances are completed, retain large blocks of BLM managed land in the following areas:
 - Unalakleet South to Yukon River and east to Kuskokwim River
 - Nikolai south to Lime Village

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Withdrawals (Subject to valid existing right):</p> <p>Riparian Conservation Areas would NOT be withdrawn from mineral entry.</p> <p>Riparian Conservation Areas with 17(d)I withdrawals would not be withdrawn from mineral entry.</p> <p>The Unalakleet Administrative site would be identified for a FLMPA withdrawal.</p> <p>Air Navigation Site withdrawals held by BLM would be revoked, with the exception of the Rohn air navigation site, and identified for future disposals if conveyance to State or ANCSA Corporation is not possible or prohibited by PLO.</p> <p>The Bethel and McGrath fire stations would be reviewed for either withdrawal revocation or retention based on the needs of the Alaska Fire Service.</p> <p>The Unalakleet Air Force Station withdrawal would be revoked and this parcel would be identified for future disposal if conveyance to an ANCSA Corporation is not possible.</p> <p>Existing opening orders PLO 6098 and PLO 6768 would remain as well as designation of the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River (ANILCA).</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Withdrawals (Subject to valid existing right):</p> <p>Riparian Conservation Areas would be identified for withdrawn from mineral entry.</p> <p>Riparian Conservation Areas with 17(d)I withdrawals would be identified for withdrawn from mineral entry.</p> <p>The Unalakleet Administrative site would be identified for a FLMPA withdrawal.</p> <p>Air Navigation Site withdrawals held by BLM would be revoked and identified for future disposals if conveyance to State or ANCSA Corporation is not possible or prohibited by PLO.</p> <p>The Bethel and McGrath fire stations would be reviewed for either withdrawal revocation or retention based on the needs of the Alaska Fire Service.</p> <p>The Unalakleet Air Force Station withdrawal would be revoked and this parcel would be identified for future disposal if conveyance to an ANCSA Corporation is not possible.</p> <p>Existing opening orders PLO 6098 and PLO 6768 would remain as well as designation of the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River (ANILCA).</p>
<p>Subject to valid existing rights, 17d-I withdrawals would be lifted and FLPMA withdrawals would be placed to withdraw the following areas from locatable, salable, leasable mineral entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River • Iditarod National Historic Trail • Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers • Riparian Conservation Areas 	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Subject to valid existing rights, 17d-I withdrawals would be lifted and FLPMA withdrawals would be placed to withdraw the following areas from locatable, salable, leasable mineral entry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River • Iditarod National Historic Trail • Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheefish spawning areas • Nulato Hills Ecoregion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ open to locatable ○ open to leasing 		
<p>Right-of-way (ROW) Exclusion & Avoidance:</p> <p>There would not be any ROW exclusion areas within Conservation System Units.</p> <p>Subject to valid existing rights, the following would be ROW avoidance areas:</p> <p>Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor</p> <p>Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area</p> <p>Riparian Conservation Areas</p> <p>Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River Corridor</p> <p>All lands managed for wilderness character</p> <p>Areas with BLM-sensitive plants, unless within a CSU</p> <p>Six unique ecosystems, unless within a CSU</p> <p>Footprint of public shelter cabins</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Right-of-way (ROW) Exclusion & Avoidance:</p> <p>There would not be any ROW exclusion areas within Conservation System Units.</p> <p>Subject to valid existing rights, the following would be ROW avoidance areas within CSUs and ROW exclusion areas outside of CSUs:</p> <p>Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor</p> <p>Innoko Bottoms Wildlife Priority Area</p> <p>Riparian Conservation Areas</p> <p>Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River Corridor</p> <p>All lands managed for wilderness character</p> <p>Areas with BLM-sensitive plants, unless within a CSU</p> <p>Six unique ecosystems, unless within a CSU</p> <p>Footprint of public shelter cabins</p> <p>Permafrost and highly erodible soils for underground utilities</p>
<p>Permits and Leases:</p> <p>No permits or leases will be granted for private recreational cabins nor will permits be granted for private recreational use of existing cabins.</p> <p>Trespass cabins will be either removed or turn into government administrative sites.</p> <p>Granting of permits and leases will be determined on a case-by-case basis based on the compatibility of the permits and leases with management goals of the lands where they are located.</p> <p>No permits or leases for structures within lands managed for Wilderness Characteristics unless they</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Permits and 2920 Leases:</p> <p>No permits or leases will be granted for private recreational nor will permits be granted for private recreational use of existing cabins.</p> <p>No leases or commercial cabin permits will be granted within the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor.</p> <p>Occupancy leases or trapping/subsistence cabin permits will not be allowed within 300 feet of riparian areas.</p> <p>Trespass cabins will be either removed or turn into government administrative sites.</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>allow for the preservation and enhancement of wilderness character.</p>		<p>Trapping cabins would not be permitted within 30 miles of each other or an established community to avoid user conflict.</p> <p>Structures would not be permitted within the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River Corridor.</p> <p>Structures would not be permitted within lands managed for wilderness characteristics unless they allow for the preservation and enhancement of wilderness character.</p>

3.9 Soils Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Ensure that soils are properly functioning with appropriate infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage, vegetation and root densities matching soil properties, climate, and landform.
2. Ensure that actions on Federal Lands in the planning area provide protection to the soil surface including protection from vegetation trampling/removal, soil compaction, and soil erosion.
3. Encourage development on previously developed or disturbed areas.
4. Reduce erosion and compaction to soils.
5. Increase efforts to inventory soil resources in the planning area.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Restore soils where oil spills or other hazardous materials release has impaired soil quality.
2. Monitor modifications to the landscapes such as soil disturbance from fire (infiltration), vegetation manipulation, and climate change issues.
3. Restore/rehabilitate areas of man-made disturbance greater than 5 acres (notice vs plan-level acreage). Require Plans of Operation in areas with sensitive soils, regardless of acreage (Alternative Concept) (sensitive soils-high wind/water erodability, low rehabilitation, slopes >20%, etc., aspect, permafrost)
4. Regular and routine monitoring of permitted areas. Monitoring requirements would be determined on a project-by-project basis.
5. Reduce accelerated erosion/compaction from mining activities through sound development of mining and development plans, concurrent reclamation, and frequent monitoring.
6. Establish buffer zones/setbacks in riparian areas to remove direct disturbance to sensitive and highly erosive soils.
7. Prioritize soil inventory efforts to WSR's, ACEC's, or other designated areas and expand to adjacent areas as funding permits. NRCS Partner, Statewide Soil Strategy Plan reference needed and prioritize areas, might influence watershed areas as well.
8. Protect sensitive/critical watersheds and other high priority areas.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Permafrost Protection Measures

For all surface disturbing permitted activities and activities that require a reclamation plan (e.g., notice level activities) in areas with permafrost, the BLM would require the project proponent's reclamation plan include BMPs to avoid or minimize impacts to permafrost. These BMPs could include, but are not limited to: avoidance; permafrost impact prevention measures (meet conditions of appropriate snow cover and frozen ground, leave vegetation intact, drive and crush, restoration timeline, seasons for operation and overland equipment moves, minimum impact equipment and tools analysis); and Compliance with State of Alaska Arctic Civil Engineering Requirements, if applicable.

General Performance Standards for prevention of Unnecessary and Undue Degradation (prospecting, exploration, and mine development activities, Surface Management Handbook)

The operator must use equipment, devices, and practices that would meet the performance standards of the surface management regulations.

Sequence of operations: The operator must avoid unnecessary impacts and facilitate reclamation by following a reasonable and customary mineral exploration, development, mining, and reclamation sequence.

Mitigation measures: Operator must implement mitigation measures specified by the BLM in order to protect public lands.

Concurrent Reclamation: The operator must initiate reclamation at the earliest economically and technically feasible time on those portions of the disturbed area that the operator would not disturb further. Early initiation of reclamation would stabilize soil, control runoff, and otherwise prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of lands and resources.

Specific Performance Standards

Mining Waste: The operator would be required to manage all tailings, rock dumps, deleterious material or substances, and other waste produced from the operations to prevent impacts that would violate applicable Federal or state laws.

Performance of Reclamation: Operators are required to reclaim disturbed areas in accordance with the performance standards and their approved reclamation plans. This includes provisions for: Isolation, control, or removal of acid-forming, toxic, or deleterious substances; Regrading and reshaping with adjacent landforms, facilitate re-vegetation, control drainage, and minimize erosion; Rehabilitation of fisheries and wildlife habitat; Placement of growth medium and establishment of self-sustaining revegetation; Removal of buildings, structures, or other support facilities; Plugging of drill holes and closure of underground workings; and providing for post-mining monitoring, maintenance, or treatment.

Soil and Water protection BMPs

A storm water pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) would be required for fuel storage or surface disturbances.

Anadromous stream crossing with a motor-vehicle requires a State of Alaska habitat permit.

Restrictions would not apply if they are inconsistent with riparian restoration or compensatory mitigation.

Protections/Restrictions for permafrost areas

Right-of-Ways for temporary roads would be avoided on permafrost soils. Temporary roads constructed on permafrost would be required to be constructed in the winter (frozen ground with at least 10" of snow) so that the vegetative layer stays intact. Travel would be limited to the winter.

Roads/airstrips would require special engineering considerations on permafrost soils to provide adequate base material for insulation.

Gas and oil pipelines and power utilities would be raised on elevated utilidors, laid on gravel foundations or pilings, or buried and sufficiently insulated to prevent permafrost degradation

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Soil Survey</p> <p>For all surface disturbing permitted activities greater than 5 acres, a randomly-selected basic soil nutrient assessment would be conducted. Project proponent would provide GPS coordinate, photograph, and soil samples from each soil profile to the BLM.</p> <p>The purpose of the soil survey would help to determine existing soil types on-site and therefore, guide the selection of more appropriate reclamation measures.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Soil Survey</p> <p>For all surface disturbing permitted activities greater than 5 acres, a soils survey would be required to include buffer areas around the permitted area. The extent and detail of survey would be determined on a case-by-case basis at the implementation level and may include a level I NRCS soil survey.</p> <p>The purpose of the soil survey would help to determine existing soil types on-site and therefore, guide the selection of more appropriate reclamation measures and project site selection and potential off-site impacts.</p>
<p>Floodplains and Springs</p> <p>Detailed reclamation plans and overburden materials would be required for surface disturbing activities within the ordinary high water mark and/or riparian vegetation.</p> <p>Surface-disturbing activities would not be allowed within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100-year floodplains, 	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Floodplains and Springs</p> <p>Detailed reclamation plans and overburden materials would be required for surface disturbing activities within 300-feet of ordinary high water mark.</p> <p>Surface-disturbing activities would not be allowed within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100-year floodplains, • the 200 feet adjacent to a natural spring, and • waterways that have BLM water rights.
<p>Forestry Best Management Practices (does not apply to subsistence use)</p> <p>Harvesting of house logs in riparian habitat would be prohibited.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Forestry Best Management Practices (does not apply to subsistence use)</p> <p>Harvesting of house logs in riparian habitat would be allowed.</p>
<p>Surface-disturbing Permitted Activities:</p> <p>The holder shall construct low-water crossings in a manner that would prevent any blockage or restriction of the existing channel. Material removed shall be stockpiled for use in rehabilitation of the crossings.</p> <p>The holder shall design and construct adequate water-control structures in each drainage crossing to prevent</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Surface-disturbing Permitted Activities:</p> <p>No construction or routine maintenance activities shall be performed during periods when the soil is too wet to adequately support construction equipment. If such equipment creates ruts in excess of 5 inches deep, the soil shall be deemed too wet to adequately support construction equipment</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
excessive erosion along development and protect river banks from the natural erosion process within the drainage.		

3.10 Water Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Ensure that watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, properly functioning physical condition, including their upland, riparian, wetland, and aquatic components. This includes soil and plant condition supporting infiltration, soil moisture storage, and the release of water that are in balance with climate and landform and maintain or improve water quality, water quantity, and timing and duration of flow (AK Land Health Standards).
2. Ensure hydrologic cycle remains in balance and supports healthy biotic populations and communities (AK Land Health Standards).
3. Ensure water quality complies with State water quality standards and achieves, or is making significant progress toward achieving, established BLM management objectives, such as meeting wildlife needs (AK Land Health Standards).

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Implement water quality protection measures and/or restore all 303d-listed impaired streams in the planning area to address impairment and make progress towards removing them from the 303d list.
2. Reduce erosion and sediment delivery from mining activities through sound development of mining plans, adherence to state water quality controls and recommendations, and frequent monitoring.
3. Establish buffer zones/setbacks in riparian areas to remove direct disturbance to stream channel.
4. Reduce accelerated erosion and sediment delivery from mining activities through sound development of mining plans, adherence to state water quality controls and recommendations, and frequent monitoring.
5. Prior to disturbance, require detailed stream reclamation plans
6. Ensure that authorized actions do not disturb streams natural riparian vegetation, channel function/stability, and floodplain connectivity. If this disturbance does occur, require immediate reclamation.
7. Apply to the State of Alaska for water rights to preserve required flows.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Follow Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) recommendations on 303(d) listed streams.

Guidance for Pipeline Crossings would be consulted during planning to prevent breakage and subsequent contamination.

Permanent structures would not be allowed within 100 feet of both sides of the high water mark for all streams. (A permanent structure is one which is removed in its entirety each season.)

Permanent structures would not be allowed within 300 feet of both sides of the high water mark for anadromous or critical fish streams. (A permanent structure is one which is removed in its entirety each season.)

Locatable Mineral Development:

For all Notice and Plan level mining activity that includes stream disturbance, a minimum of a Level 3 stream functional objective with an upward trend is the minimum threshold for acceptable reclamation

New and modified Plans of Operations or Notices that involve stream disturbance should include stream function level reclamation objectives in the associated reclamation plan. For Plans of Operations, development of the stream reclamation objectives would rely significantly upon the characterization of stream potential as determined from the baseline environmental information provided by the operator

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Locatable Minerals:</p> <p>Both notice and plan level locatable mineral development are required to submit a detailed mining plan, including a detailed reclamation plan.</p> <p>All locatable mineral development is required to implement a 100% water recycle systems (a zero discharge operation).</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Locatable Minerals:</p> <p>Concurrent reclamation shall occur once development is complete in a particular area of a claim and prior to development of additional areas.</p> <p>When reviewing a Plan or Notice, the BLM must ensure that the Plan or Notice provides for ongoing reclamation.” To this end, a Plan or Notice must include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provisions for direct hauling and application of stripped topsoil to previous disturbances • placement of waste rock at final grade with re-vegetation • backfilling of sequential mine pits • decommissioning and reclaiming heaps and dumps that have reached capacity, and other measure as applicable. • When it is economically and technically feasible, conduct concurrent reclamation when the mine facility (rock dump or heap) has reached its capacity or is no longer producing economically viable leachate. Permittees must show success in any past performance they have completed. <p>Please see the Fisheries and Soils alternatives for more details.</p>

3.11 Air Quality Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. All activities and authorized uses on BLM-managed lands in the planning area will comply with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.
2. Air quality and related resource values within the planning area will be protected or enhanced.
3. Smoke impacts from wildland fire to human health, communities, recreation, and tourism will be minimized.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Air quality and other related values remain comparable to historical levels and are not degraded by BLM or BLM-authorized activities.
2. Activities authorized by BLM do not lead to exceedances of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards of the Clean Air Act within the planning area.
3. Visibility in Class I and Sensitive Class II areas within the planning area is maintained or improved as required by the EPA Regional Haze Rule.
4. The BLM cooperates with adjacent landowners on air quality related issues.
5. Best control measures are used to minimize the impact of fugitive dust and other criteria pollutants on communities.
6. Fire is managed to minimize air quality impacts to communities.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The BLM would implement wildland fire smoke mitigation measures adopted by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group and consider public health and safety in all fire management activities.

All prescribed burns would follow the requirements in the Interagency Enhanced Smoke Management Plan (2009).

A burn plan would be required for all prescribed burns.

The BLM would stipulate that all direct and authorized actions within the planning area will comply with Federal and State air quality laws and regulations.

All permitted activities would be required to mitigate any activity that may result in air pollution.

To reduce particle matter related to permitted roads and road development, dust abatement procedures would be required. Dust abatement methods would be decided on a case-by-case basis. The only acceptable dust abatement method would be water.

All permitted actions with the potential for criteria-pollutant emissions, greenhouse gases, Air Quality Related Values (AQRVs), National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAPs), Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs), Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), would use best management practices to meet the NAAQS and reduce emissions to the maximum extent possible. The need for detailed air quality analysis, such as dispersion modeling and mitigation to reduce emissions to a level that meets NAAQS will be made on a case-by-case basis at the implementation level.

Rights-of-way would avoid communities to the maximum extent possible.

Proposals that introduce new pollutant effects within the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trails Management Corridor and the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River would be authorized only if they do not cause more than short-term, minimal adverse impacts.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
[YOUR INPUT HERE]	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	[YOUR INPUT HERE]

3.12 Forestry Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Maintain and restore health, productivity, and biological diversity of forest and woodland ecosystems.
2. Consistent with other resource values, provide personal use wood products for local consumption and opportunities for commercial harvest.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Increase acres of BSWI inventoried for forest resources
2. Define areas where timber or biomass harvesting is acceptable
3. Require permits for all forest harvesting activities including firewood
4. Provide forest resources to meet subsistence needs of rural Alaskans
5. Provide forest resources to promote economic opportunity throughout the region

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

All personal use and subsistence harvesting of forest products would require a permit.

All personal use and subsistence firewood harvest would require a permit.

A commercial firewood permit is required for the harvest of more than 10 cords of wood.

All commercial harvesting requires a permit for any forest products harvested with the intent to sell (e.g., house logs, Christmas trees, berries, mushrooms, etc.).

Permitted timber harvest that does not include new roads, skid roads, overland travel, or other surface disturbing activities, would not be considered surface disturbing activities and surveys would not be required.

All harvest activities that include surface disturbance would require surveys.

Timber harvest permit priority areas:

All areas within 15mi of a river are open for private, subsistence, and commercial and casual use woodland harvest (including mushrooms, berries, bark, and other forest products).

All areas within 25 mi of a community are open for private, subsistence, and commercial and casual use woodland harvest (includes mushrooms, berries, bark, and other forest products). All burned areas outside of the areas above are open for private, subsistence, and commercial and casual use woodland harvest (includes mushrooms, berries, bark, and other forest products).

Permits would be granted outside these areas on a case-by-case basis dependent upon resource concerns.

Areas where timber harvest permits are approved to protect harvest:

Only winter harvests are allowed to minimize disturbance to soils and ground vegetation, as necessary to protect resources.

Disperse slash and unused tree portions should be no longer than 18”.

Use maximum stump height of 8”, unless otherwise specified in the permit.

Follow State Forest Practices Act BMPs (see appendix).

Required to maintain existing trails within the harvest unit and not block access during harvest operations.

Cannot disturb or cut trees used for trapping in the harvest unit.

Harvest of dead or downed wood for recreational uses is allowed, including camping on all BLM-managed land throughout the planning area.

Commercial harvesting would not be permitted within the Unalakeet Wild and Scenic River and lands managed for wilderness characteristics.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Commercial harvesting would be permitted in the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor and Riparian Conservation Areas.	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	Commercial harvesting would NOT be permitted in the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor and Riparian Conservation Areas.

3.13 Wildfire Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Protection of human life is the single overriding priority.
2. Setting priorities among protecting communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and cultural resources would be done based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of protection.
3. Fire is recognized as a natural ecosystem process.
4. Fire is used to achieve resource objectives.
5. Fire management adapts to potentially novel changes in fire regime and vegetation.
6. Fire management recognizes that it may not be practical or economical to maintain vegetation within historical ranges of variation.
7. Fire is freely allowed to fulfill its role as an ecosystem disturbance agent, to the extent possible.
8. Smoke impacts to communities are minimized.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Manage to maintain fire regimes in Fire Regime Condition Class I.
2. Provide for appropriate fire management actions on fires that threaten human life and property, communities, cultural and historic sites, public facilities and other resource values.
3. Incorporate public health and environmental quality considerations into fire management activities.
4. Use fire management strategies that result in minimum suppression costs, considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected, consistent with resource objectives.
5. Use a full range of fire management activities to achieve ecosystem sustainability including its interrelated ecological, economic, and social components.
6. Use wildland fire to protect, maintain, and enhance natural and cultural resources and, as nearly as possible, allow fire to function in its natural ecological role.
7. Use fuels treatment techniques where needed to reduce wildfire hazard.
8. Balance fire management costs against resource values and objectives.
9. Select, maintain, and annually review fire management options to meet current land use, resource objectives, protection needs, laws, suppression concerns, or BLM mandates and policies, regardless of administrative boundaries.
10. Coordinate, cooperate, and partner with Federal, State, Tribal, and other local governments in fire management.
11. Minimize adverse effects of fire management activities.
12. Identify and address research and development needs to support science-based decisions and avoid unwanted fire effects.

13. Identify areas for emergency stabilization and burned area emergency stabilization within 7 days of fire control.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Fire operations in lands managed for wilderness characteristics, the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor, and the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River would use minimum impact suppression tactics.

Retardant would not be used in lands managed for wilderness characteristics, the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor, and the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River.

Wildland Fire Use (WFU) would be allowed in the Limited and Modified (after conversion) areas.

WFU would be allowed in Full and Critical areas under special circumstances at the documented discretion of the Field Office Manager.

Allow fire use in proximity to locations in the Known Sites Database and the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor depend on sensitivity to fire, available firefighting resources, mitigation measures, and weather and fuel conditions, at the discretion of the Authorized Officer.

Fire suppression in the Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor would be prioritized to protect human life, cultural sites, and existing facilities.

Prioritize defensible space surrounding agency facilities, cultural and historical sites and other resource values.

Prescribed fire and fuel treatments are allowed in lands managed for wilderness characteristics under the restrictions of BLM Manual 6340 “Management of Designated Wilderness Areas “.

Prescribed fire within the Iditarod National Historic Trail travel corridor would be allowed only for the purposes of maintaining or restoring the trail or trail characteristics [e.g., broadcast or pile-burning blow-down].

Prescribed fire would be used in Wild and Scenic River areas under the restrictions of BLM Manual 6400 “Wild and Scenic Rivers – Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, Planning, and Management “.

Assist communities with Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Same as Actions Common to All Action Alternatives	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	Same as Actions Common to All Action Alternatives

3.14 Vegetation Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Sustain and strengthen landscape level ecosystem resiliency to change.
2. Ensure that habitats support healthy, productive, and diverse communities of native plants and animals, as required by the BLM Alaska Land Health Standards.
3. Prevent the listing of BLM Sensitive plant species under the Endangered Species Act.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Manage for at least 95% of vegetation in the planning area to a “very high” condition (unaffected by the human footprint) at the 6th level HUC watershed.
2. No more than 2% of a 6th level HUC watershed damaged by OHV use.
3. Riparian zones: At least 70% bank vegetation coverage cover for any 10 mile stretch of creeks and streams.
4. Prioritize strategic conservation in parcels near or contributing to the resiliency of existing conservation system units (Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor, Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River, and neighboring conservation system units).

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Restoration:

Prioritize Restoration in the follow order: (1) areas with degraded permafrost; (2) areas in riparian zones; (3) areas with lichen-rich habitat; (4) areas near BLM-sensitive plant species or unique ecosystems; (5) Riparian Conservations Areas; and (6) Other areas identified for prioritization based on habitat analysis.

Reroute, restore, harden, or close OHV trails with significant surface disturbance, especially in wetlands or underlain with permafrost, to make progress toward restoring ecosystem health.

Surface-Disturbing Permits:

All surface-disturbing permitted activities must develop a plan for reclamation or restoration as part of the authorization use request. These plans should describe current vegetative conditions: including plant community composition, structure, cover, seral stages, soil descriptions, age class distribution, presence of NNIS, desired vegetative conditions (based on the ecological capability of the site), treatment methods, measures for preventing introduction and spread of NNIS, and monitoring actions. Current restoration BMPs are provided by the BLM and can be updated in the future, however, permittees may use other methods if they are proven to achieve the same objective.

Permittees must use native seed and propagules for restoration and/or reclamation as certified through the State of Alaska Plant Materials Center. Coordination with the BLM Seeds of Success (SOS) program must begin during the permitting process.

Destruction of the vegetative soil mat is not authorized for surface disturbances that must be restored and/or reclaimed, unless the AO determines that no feasible alternative exists. In those cases the AO would require that the vegetative mat and topsoil be salvaged and appropriately stored and used for restoration/reclamation. If the AO decides that vegetative mat and topsoils cannot be salvaged, other measures to protect vegetation and soils would be considered.

For vegetation-removing permitted actions: (1) prioritize removal of deciduous vegetation over coniferous vegetation; and (2) prioritize removal of other types of vegetation over dwarf shrub and lichen-rich vegetation.

Existing roads and trails would be utilized for access where feasible, rather than creating new roads and trails. Construction of road or trails in wetlands and floodplains would be avoided.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>OHV Summer Travel:</p> <p>If monitoring shows more than 2% of dwarf shrub, lichen, or sparse vegetation habitats are being degraded due to summer OHV use, then travel in those areas would be limited to designated and/or existing routes. Determination of existing or designated routes would be made at the implementation level through a travel management plan. Applies to casual and subsistence user.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>OHV Summer Travel:</p> <p>Limited summer OHV use in areas of dwarf shrub, lichen, and sparse vegetation: travel only allowed on existing routes. Applies to casual and subsistence user.</p>
<p>Permitted Surface Disturbance:</p> <p>Any surface disturbing activity in known habitat for SSS flora or unique ecosystems, applicants would be required to conduct a vegetation and SSS plant survey using BLM-approved protocol. The map of known habitat would be revised when new information becomes available.</p> <p>In all other areas, surface disturbing permitted activities over 5 acres are required to conduct a vegetation and SSS plant survey using BLM-approved protocol.</p> <p>Permitted activities would be required to have a 30-meter setback from SSS flora populations when discovered during surveys for one-time, short-term disturbances.</p> <p>Permitted activities would be required to establish a 300-meter setback for SSS flora populations when discovered during surveys for long-term ground disturbing activities.</p> <p>If limestone or serpentine geologic substrate are found during survey or monitoring, Subject to valid existing rights, those areas would be withdrawn from mineral entry to protect sensitive vegetation associated with those geologic substrates.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Permitted Surface Disturbance:</p> <p>If BLM determines that a permit action has the potential to impact SSS or occurs in a unique vegetation community, a survey is required.</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Nulato Hills Ecoregion: Stipulations in this area are intended to protect lichen habitat, sensitive plant habitat and Western Arctic Caribou Herd winter habitat.</p> <p>All surface disturbing permitted activities are required to conduct SSS plant and vegetation surveys, extending 300 meter beyond the footprint of the surface disturbance, using BLM-approved protocol.</p> <p>Permitted activities would be required to have a 30-meter setback from SSS flora populations when discovered during surveys for one-time, short-term disturbances. Permitted activities would be required to establish a 300-meter setback for SSS flora populations when discovered during surveys for long-term ground disturbing activities, subject to valid existing rights.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Nulato Hills Ecoregion: Stipulations in this area are intended to protect lichen habitat, sensitive plant habitat and Western Arctic Caribou Herd winter habitat.</p>
<p>Cumulative Management: A cumulative impacts analysis, using REA or other comparable data, of all disturbances would be conducted at the 6th level HUC watershed scale for permitting of all proposed surface-disturbing activities.</p> <p>For leasable, salable and locatable activity, the BLM would require concurrent reclamation for permitted activities within each 6th level HUC watershed (regardless of economic feasibility), if existing permitted impacts exceed 5% within the entire watershed (including land not managed by the BLM).</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Cumulative Management: In areas identified as having high potential to experience climate changes: If permafrost thaws or vegetation composition changes in more than 10% of the 6th level HUC, then all surface disturbing activities larger than 5 acres would not be permitted</p>

3.15 Non-native Invasive Species Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Prevent damage to intact and functional ecosystems caused by non-native invasive species infestations (NNIS). Reduce damage caused by non-native invasive species infestations to already degraded areas.
2. Prevent the introduction and spread of non-native invasive species in un-infested areas.
3. Contain and eradicate existing non-native invasive species infestations.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Effectively integrate non-native invasive species prevention, control, and management activities into all BLM programs and functions within the planning area.
2. Prevent introduction through critical control points – inspection and cleaning, education and outreach, early detection rapid response.
3. Prioritize species with a ranking higher than 60 (scale 1-100) (Alaska Natural Heritage Program Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse) for eradication via ‘Early Detection Rapid Response’ methods. Species with a ranking lower than 60 are targeted for containment management.
4. Prioritize anadromous streams, lichen-rich habitats, moose habitat, and berry picking areas for prevention and eradication of non-native invasive species.
5. Non-native invasive species infestations occurring adjacent to communities or travel routes are prioritized over infestations further away from human activities.
6. Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) would be prioritized for any aquatic invasive species found in any surface waters that could be used by float planes or watercraft.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

All actions implemented or authorized by the BLM would include measures to prevent the introduction and spread of non-native invasive species (NNIS).

Permitted Activities:

Project proponents for permitted activities are responsible for all costs and coordination related to eradicating NNIS infestations that may exist or may result on those public lands during their approved use period unless that proponent implements a NNIS survey indicating that infestation was present prior to the granting of their permit. Project proponents would be responsible for the eradication of any increase in NNIS.

Annual Reports from all permitted operations must include an update on NNIS presence and extent.

All permitted activities must comply with current BLM Alaska NNIS Management Policy. This includes:

- Development of an NNIS Management Plan commensurate with the size and intensity of the activity. BLM would provide examples of NNIS management plans.
- At the Authorized Officer’s discretion, permittees of proposed and existing authorized activities may be required to work with surrounding land management agencies/owners to establish Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) to assist in developing and implementing NNIS management plans.
- Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points Plans would be required for the following permitted activities: Rights-of-Ways (ROWs); locatable, leasable, and salable mineral development; and transportation facilities (boats, barges, aviation, roads and trails).

- Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent the introduction and spread of NNIS, as described in the BLM Alaska NNIS Management Policy, must be followed. Permittees would work with the BLM to develop project specific BMPs where needed. These include, but are not limited to: early detection rapid response (EDRR), prevention measures such as cleaning all equipment before entering permitted site, containment measures such as timing NNIS mowing before seed set, treatment measures such as developing an integrated pest management plan.
- Methods of chemical control authorized by the BLM Vegetation Treatments using Herbicides in Thirteen Western States Record of Decision are allowed. Permittees are responsible for completing NEPA requirements related to the use of those herbicides. Treatment monitoring and reporting requirements are outlined in the Vegetation Treatments Record of Decision.

Weed-Free Material:

Only feed, mulch (hay cubes, hay pellets, or straw, for example), and erosion control materials certified as weed-free through the Alaska Weed-Free Forage certification program (or other programs with approval of the Authorizing Officer) would be authorized on BLM lands. Where Alaska certified sources are not available, locally produced forage, mulch, and erosion control materials may be used with approval from the Authorizing Officer. If no certified weed-free or local sources are available, other products may be used with the approval of the Authorizing Officer.

Only gravel and material certified as weed-free through the Alaska Weed-Free Gravel certification program would be authorized on BLM lands. Where weed-free gravel and materials are not available other sources may be used, with the approval of the Authorizing Officer.

Use of non-weed free materials does NOT relieve project proponents of their requirement to control non-native invasive species (NNIS) related to their authorized activity.

Casual Use:

At logical points of entry to BLM-managed land, based on Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) assessment framework, NNIS BMPs would be posted to encourage citizen-based NNIS prevention stewardship.

BLM would work in communities with regional land managers to establish HACCP, Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs), and outreach and educational programs.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Same as Actions Common to All Alternatives	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	Same as Actions Common to All Alternatives

3.16 Recreation and Visitor Services Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Provide opportunities for visitors to obtain desired experiences and beneficial outcomes while protecting resources.
2. Increase and improve collaboration with community networks of service providers.
3. Administer Special Recreation Permits to control visitor use, protect recreational and natural resources, provide fair market value to the United States, and provide for health and safety of visitors.
4. Improve access to appropriate recreational opportunities.
5. Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural resources.
6. Provide for visitor services, including interpretation, information and education.
7. Ensure public health and safety.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Plan for and manage the physical, social, and operational settings within each area and the activities that occur within them.
2. Manage the entire planning area as semi-primitive motorized ROS classification, with the exception of the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River uplands, to be managed as semi-primitive non-motorized.
3. Established an allocation limit for commercial big game guide-outfitters within each Guide Use Area of the planning unit.
4. Establish a buffer zone between guide-outfitter operating areas and rural communities.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Stay limits for non-permitted/non-cabin use would be restricted to 14 consecutive nights at a given time.

The following stipulation shall apply to all Special Recreation Permits: The Authorized Officer (AO) may suspend or modify a Special Recreation Permit, including adaptive management strategies, if necessary to protect public resources, health, safety, or the environment or as a result of non-compliance with permit stipulations.

New restrictions and/or facilities could be developed for the purposes of site protection, visitor safety, and/or enhancing targeted outcomes and setting character

Aircraft use would be unrestricted and associated minimal clearing of rocks, downed logs, and brush would be allowed on landing areas.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Transporter Operations in all Recreation Management Areas

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Require all transporters to be under a Special Recreation Permit (e.g., air taxis, boat operators, horseback).</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>All transporters, who are not Guide Outfitters, would NOT be required to obtain a Special Recreation Permit if requirements stated within 43 CFR 2932.12(a) are met. Under this regulation, the BLM may waive a permit requirement when the use begins and ends on non-public lands or related waters, traverses less than a total of 1 mile of public lands or 1 shoreline mile, and poses no threat of significant damage to public land or water resource values.</p> <p>Require licensed transporters operating on BLM lands within the planning area to have a Special Recreation Permit when they provide passengers with gear, equipment, and/or guiding service on BLM lands.</p>

BSWI Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA) Management Actions

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Hunting Guide-outfitters</p> <p>Within one year of the approved plan, establish the following allocation limits for big game guide-outfitters operating within each Guide Use Area of the planning area: 18-02 (1), 18-03 (1), 19-01 (1), 19-02 (1), 19-03 (1), 19-04 (1), 19-05 (1), 19-06 (1), 19-07 (2), 19-08 (2), 19-09 (2), 19-11 (1), 19-12 (5), 19-13 (1), 20-02 (1), 21-01 (4), 21-02 (1), 21-03 (1), 22-07 (4), 23-05 (1).</p> <p>A maximum of 33 guide-outfitters within the planning area (allocated per each Guide Use Area identified above).</p> <p>Each guide-outfitter may not operate in more than 2 Guide Use Areas on BLM land within the planning area.</p> <p>Special Recreation Permits for hunting guide-outfitters would not be authorized within a 25-mile radius of any</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Hunting Guide-outfitters</p> <p>Special Recreation Permits for hunting guide-outfitters may be authorized near established communities in the planning area.</p> <p>A maximum of 40 guide-outfitters within the planning area (allocated per GUA).</p> <p>Each guide-outfitter may operate in up to 3 Guide Use Areas.</p> <p>New Special Recreation Permit holders may be given an initial multi-year permit for a period up to 10-years, with required annual validation requirements.</p> <p>Allocation limits on big game guide-outfitters would be established on a case-by-case basis at the time of permit granting or renewal. These allocation limits would be</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>established community in the planning area.</p> <p>Continue to evaluate guide-outfitter and transporter activities on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>For new Special Recreation Permit-holders, permits would be issued for 1-year and may be extended for up to 10-years total, with required annual validation requirements.</p>		<p>determined, in part, based on observed conflict with other uses.</p>

Rohn Site Management Actions

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Establish the Rohn Air Navigation Site as a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). A recreation Area Management Plan would be required.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Revoke the current withdrawal for the Rohn Air Navigation Site and identify this parcel for disposal.</p>
<p>Rohn Cabin Use</p> <p>Non-commercial use is limited to seven consecutive days, and to no more than fourteen days in total in a calendar year.</p> <p>Written authorization from the BLM is required for permitted uses of the Rohn shelter cabin (e.g., commercial, competitive, organized group use, vending, commercial filming).</p> <p>Commercial use is prohibited.</p> <p>Only the use of dead trees for the wood stove is permitted. Cutting of live trees is prohibited.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Rohn Cabin Use</p> <p>Non-commercial use is limited to seven consecutive days, and to no more than fourteen days in total in a calendar year.</p> <p>Limitations determined on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Commercial use permit determined on a case-by-case basis.</p>

Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Corridor Management Actions

General Actions Common to All Action Alternatives for the INHT Corridor:

Stay limits for non-permitted/ dispersed, non-cabin use at a given location would be limited to 10 consecutive days within a 28-day period. After a camp has been occupied for 14 days, the camp must be moved at least 2 miles to start a new 14-day period.

Commercial, competitive, organized group use, and commercial filming is discretionary and would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

New restrictions and/or facilities could be developed for the purposes of site protection, visitor safety, and/or enhancing targeted outcomes and setting character.
 Commercial, competitive, organized group use, vending, and commercial filming is discretionary and would be allowed by permit only.

New restrictions and/or facilities could be developed for the purposes of site protection, visitor safety, and/or enhancing targeted outcomes and setting character.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>INHT Cabin Use: Non-commercial use is limited to 7 consecutive days and no more than 14 days in total in a calendar year. Written authorization from the BLM is required for commercial use of the Rohn shelter cabin. Use for commercial trapping activities is prohibited. Only the use of dead trees for the wood stove is permitted. Cutting of live trees is prohibited.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>INHT Cabin Use: Non-commercial use is limited to 7 consecutive days and no more than 14 days in total in a calendar year. Written authorization from the BLM is required for permitted uses of the Rohn, Bear Creek, Tripod Flats, Old Woman, and Foothills shelter cabins (e.g., commercial, competitive, organized group use, vending, commercial filming). Use for commercial trapping activities is prohibited. Only the use of dead trees for the wood stove is permitted. Cutting of live trees is prohibited.</p>

Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River Corridor Management Actions

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES for Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River Corridor:

Cabin construction or use of an existing structure would not be authorized under a Special Recreation Permit, excluding temporary tent platforms, which may be authorized on a case-by-case basis under a Special Recreation Permit with performance bond.

Commercial, competitive, organized group use, vending, and commercial filming in conjunction with a Special Recreation Permit or a land use permit is discretionary and would be authorized by permit.

Stay limits for non-permitted/ non-cabin use would be limited to 10 consecutive days within a 28-day period. After a camp has been occupied for 14 days, the camp must be moved at least 2 miles to start a new 14-day period.

Construction of developed recreation facilities such as permanent campsites, interpretive areas, and toilet facilities would be prohibited.

Permanent or semi-permanent commercial developments would be prohibited.

Issuing a Special Recreation Permit would be a discretionary action. Types of SRPs not permitted in the river corridor include: motor water sport/events; highway vehicles such as cars, trucks, SUVs; high speed time trials; vending services.

Only non-surface disturbing recreation activities would be considered for permit approval (e.g. vegetation cutting, soil disturbance).

Winter motorized use would be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

3.17 Visual Resource Management Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOAL

1. Manage public lands in a manner which would protect the quality of the scenic (visual) values of these lands for present and future generations.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Promote Best Management Practices (BMPs) for reclamation of landscapes, restoration of native habitats, and rehabilitation of waterways and riparian areas to enhance natural/historical scenic values that have been negatively altered.
2. Prepare and maintain on a continuing basis an inventory of visual values on all public lands.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Incorporate the following Best Management Practices for all proposed actions:

Earthwork: Avoid hauling excess earth cut or fill, utilize curvilinear or topographical sloping, retain existing rock and vegetation formations whenever possible, irregular rock cut techniques, and prohibit dumping or sloughing of material downslope.

Vegetation Manipulation: Retain as much existing vegetation as possible; use vegetation to screen development from view, scalloped and irregular edging versus straight lines, and feather and thin edges of cleared areas.

Structures: Repeat line, form, color, and texture. Minimize the number of structures, use earth-tone colors, use self-weathering materials, use natural stone, bury all or part of the structure, use paint finishes with low reflectivity, employ native building materials, and use naturally-appearing forms to complement landscape character.

Color: Avoid colors that cause the most contrast, choose colors two to three shades darker than background colors, achieve best blending with surrounding landscape in all seasons, galvanized steel on utility structures should be darkened to prevent glare, and color (hue) is most effective within 1,000 feet.

Locate Linear Alignments (new roads, trails, utility corridors, etc.): Identify all possible alternative alignments first, select the most feasible for the proposed project, use topography to hide manmade changes, analyze soil stability, determine re-vegetation plan, evaluate hydrologic condition and erosion potential, use curvilinear landscape route selection, avoid fall-line cuts and bisection ridge tops, avoid valley bottoms, and hug vegetation lines.

Reclamation / Restoration: Require reclamation and restoration as part of all proposed action design packages, restore all areas of disturbance as closely as possible to previous conditions, mulch cleared areas, furrow slopes, use planting holes on cut/fill slopes to retain water, choose native plant species; fertilize, mulch, and water vegetation; replace soil, brush, rocks, forest debris, etc. over the disturbed area.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
---------------	---------------	---------------

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>All lands managed for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:</p> <p>Would be assigned Visual Resource Management (VRM) class II</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>All lands managed for Lands with Wilderness Characteristics:</p> <p>Would be assigned Visual Resource Management (VRM) class III</p>
<p>Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River</p> <p>VRM Class I for lands within the river corridor, ¼ to ½ mile each side.</p> <p>VRM Class II for BLM lands in full visible foreground/middle ground, from corridor boundary to 5 miles from river.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River</p> <p>VRM Class II for lands within the river corridor, ¼ to ½ mile each side.</p> <p>VRM Class III for BLM lands in full visible foreground/middle ground, from corridor boundary to 5 miles from river.</p>
<p>Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor:</p> <p>VRM Class I for BLM lands in full visible background based on GIS analysis up to 15 miles or within determined trail corridor boundary.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Iditarod National Historic Trail National Trail Management Corridor:</p> <p>VRM Class I for BLM lands in full visible background based on GIS analysis up to 15 miles or within determined trail corridor boundary.</p>
<p>Proposed Rohn Special Recreation Management Area:</p> <p>VRM Class II (small parcel BLM lands surrounded by state lands)</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Proposed Rohn Special Recreation Management Area:</p> <p>VRM Class III (small parcel BLM lands surrounded by state lands)</p>
<p>Conservation System Unit Boundaries:</p> <p>VRM Class II for BLM lands in full visible foreground based on GIS analysis up to one-mile from the boundaries of Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Denali National Park & Preserve, and Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Conservation System Unit Boundaries:</p> <p>VRM Class III for BLM lands in full visible foreground based on GIS analysis up to one-mile from the boundaries of Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, Denali National Park & Preserve, and Innoko National Wildlife Refuge.</p>
<p>Existing Roads & Trails:</p> <p>VRM Class II in the full visible foreground based on GIS analysis up to one-half mile from established winter/road system for BLM lands with established winter routes, indicated on the Roads Trails AKDNR (USGS) data layer.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Existing Roads & Trails:</p> <p>VRM Class III in the full visible foreground based on GIS analysis up to one-half mile from established winter/road system for BLM lands with established winter routes, indicated on the Roads Trails AKDNR (USGS) data layer.</p>
<p>Coastal Areas:</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Coastal Areas:</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
VRM Class II for BLM lands in the full visible foreground based on GIS analysis up to three miles inland from Coastlines, such as lands within the Golsovia River area.		VRM Class III for BLM lands in the full visible foreground based on GIS analysis up to three miles inland from Coastlines, such as lands within the Golsovia River area.
<p>River Travel Routes:</p> <p>VRM Class II for BLM lands in the full visible foreground up to one-half mile from main river travel routes, includes Yukon River, Anvik River, and Kuskokwim River.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p> <p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>River Travel Routes:</p> <p>VRM Class III for BLM lands in the full visible foreground up to one-half mile from main river travel routes, includes Yukon River, Anvik River, and Kuskokwim River.</p>
<p>Remaining BLM-managed land in the planning area:</p> <p>VRM Class IV for remaining lands not listed above.</p>	<p>[YOUR INPUT HERE]</p>	<p>Remaining BLM-managed land in the planning area:</p> <p>VRM Class IV for remaining lands not listed above.</p>

3.18 Lands with Wilderness Characteristics Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Maintain the area's existing natural conditions.
2. Maintain opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined types of recreation.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Determine how much, if any, of the 46 parcels or, portions of the 46 parcels, to manage for the protection of wilderness character as a priority over other uses.
2. Determine what management actions would provide protection of wilderness character in those areas.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALTERNATIVES THAT INCLUDE LANDS PROPOSED FOR PROTECTION OF WILDERNESS CHARACTER

Compatible uses for lands proposed for priority management for wilderness character:

Visual Resource Management Class II;

Snowmobile travel with adequate snow cover (ANILCA); Motorboat use (ANILCA); Airplane use, including primitive, unimproved landing areas (ANILCA);

Temporary structures and equipment placement related to hunting, fishing, and trapping; and

Human-made features permitted if considered substantially unnoticeable and acceptable in identified LWC areas (e.g., trails, trail signs, bridges, fire breaks, pit toilets, fisheries enhancement facilities, fire rings, historic properties, archaeological resources, hitching posts, snow gauges, water quantity and quality measuring devices, research monitoring markers and devices, minor radio repeater sites, air quality monitoring devices, fencing, spring developments, barely visible linear disturbances, and stock ponds).

Incompatible uses for lands proposed for priority management for wilderness character:

Mineral entry; Leasing with surface occupancy with no exceptions, waivers, or modifications; Right-of-way exclusion areas; Construction of new roads; Mineral material sales; Commercial or personal-use wood-cutting permits; Construction of new structures and facilities unrelated to the preservation or enhancement of wilderness characteristics or necessary for the management of uses allowed under the land use plan; and Lands available for disposal.

Fire management:

Actions taken in lands proposed for protection of wilderness character would be conducted to protect life and safety, to meet natural and cultural resource objectives, and to minimize negative impacts of the fire management actions and the fires themselves (Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation Operations, 2014, Ch. 11, pg. 11-19).

LWC travel management area (TMA) OHV designation for lands proposed for priority management for wilderness character = Limited, Casual Summer OHV travel is allowed only on existing trails in lands proposed for protection of wilderness character.

Summer OHV Casual and Subsistence Use:

- Summer OHV Limited to existing routes

- Weight limit: 1,500 lbs. GVWR
- Size limit: 60 inches

Winter OHV Casual and Subsistence Use:

- Casual Winter cross country allowed
- Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR
- Size limit: 48 inches

Wood cutting:

Prohibit wood cutting (e.g. firewood or house logs) to help preserve the naturalness of the area by reducing the potential of building new roads or road proliferation, as well as vegetation scars.

Wildlife:

Emphasize management actions to enhance wildlife habitat (e.g., Limits on: motorized or mechanized travel; mining exploration and development stipulations to protect wildlife; and protection of watershed and riparian areas crucial to wildlife) in lands proposed for protection of wilderness character.

Recreation opportunity:

Manage to preserve and enhance opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation present in these areas in lands proposed for protection of wilderness character.

Inventory of qualifying parcels:

46 of 80 total parcels within the planning area contain wilderness characteristics, totaling 13,382,250 acres.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Refer to the LWC Inventory Report and LWC Inventory Unit Parcel Maps to make suggestions and **include your reasoning**. If suggesting portions of map parcels, please indicate the portion of the parcel you propose on the map.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
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:	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:	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.

3.19 Wild and Scenic Rivers Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Effectively manage all outstandingly remarkable values identified during the planning area Wild and Scenic River Eligibility inventory.
2. Apply relevant Best Management Practices identified from other resources.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Determine formal navigability/jurisdiction of the Anvik River.
2. Prohibit Special Recreation Permit uses that are inconsistent with the values for which Wild and Scenic Rivers are designated.
3. Prohibit unregulated subsistence harvesting of timber in Wild and Scenic River corridors which could eventually affect the aesthetics values and river bank stabilization.
4. Establish and follow thresholds to resources as a trigger mechanism in determining impacts and use levels.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River Travel Management Area (TMA): OHV Designation = Limited. Summer OHV travel is limited to existing roads and parking areas. Please see the Travel Management section for definitions of Winter and Summer travel.

Summer Casual and Subsistence Use:

- Summer OHV Limited to existing routes
- Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR
- Size limit: 60 inches

Winter Casual and Subsistence Use:

- Winter cross country allowed
- Weight limit: 1,000 lbs. GVWR
- Size limit: 60 inches

General Recommended Special Rules for Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River

1. Stay limits for non-permitted/ non-cabin use would be limited to 10 consecutive days within a 28-day period. After a camp has been occupied for 14 days, the camp must be moved at least 2 miles to start a new 14-day period.
2. Construction of developed recreation facilities such as permanent campsites, interpretive areas, and toilet facilities would be prohibited.
3. Permanent or semi-permanent commercial developments would be prohibited.

4. Issuing a Special Recreation Permit would be a discretionary action. Types of Special Recreation Permits not permitted in the river corridor include: motor water sport/events; highway vehicles such as cars, trucks, SUVs; high speed time trials; vending services.
5. Only non-surface disturbing recreation activities would be considered for permit approval.
6. Winter motorized use would be permitted on a case-by-case basis and analyzed with project-specific NEPA.
7. The wild river corridor would be designated as Visual Resource Management Class 1.
8. Continue updating the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River website with current and appropriate information.
9. Acceptable surface transportation for all river users would be limited to outboard motorboats, airplanes, dogsleds, and snowmobiles.
10. Other means of access, such as inboard jet boats, airboats, hovercraft, and all-terrain vehicles would not be allowed in the corridor.
11. Helicopters would be allowed to land in the wild river corridor as part of official duties conducted by State and Federal employees. Helicopter use by other users would be considered on a case by case basis and would require a permit. This permitting action would be analyzed with project-specific planning.
12. Maintain adequate and feasible access to private inholdings.
13. Purchase any Native allotment available for sale within the river corridor and/or purchase a scenic easement if applicable.
14. Maintain the withdrawal from mineral entry within one half mile of the bank of the Unalakleet Wild and Scenic River, subject to valid existing rights.
15. Prohibit harvesting of house logs on BLM within the river corridor.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Refer to the WSR Eligibility Report and WSR Eligibility Inventory Maps to offer additional information to be considered for specific eligible river segments.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<p>Determine Suitability for the following 22 eligible and tentatively classified waterways:</p> <p>(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.</p>	<p>Please note the following criteria when you provide input on specific eligible river segments that might be considered for suitability.</p> <p>(from Section 4a of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Characteristics that do or do not make the river corridor a worthy addition to the Wild and Scenic River System • Current status of land ownership (jurisdiction) and uses in the area • Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclose or 	<p>Determine Suitability for the following 22 eligible and tentatively classified waterways:</p> <p>(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.</p>

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
	<p>curtailed if the river were designated</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public, state, local or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river • Estimated costs of acquiring necessary lands and interests in lands, and of administering the river if designated • Ability of the agency to manage the river and protect identified values • Historical or existing rights that would be adversely affected by designation • Other issues and concerns identified in the land-use planning process 	

3.20 Cultural Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations (FLPMA, Section 103 (c), 201(a) and (c); National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 110(a); Archaeological Resources Protection Act, Section 14(a)).
2. Seek to reduce imminent threats and resolve potential conflicts from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses (FLPMA Sec. 103(c), NHPA 106, 110 (a) (2)) by ensuring that all authorizations for land use and resource use would comply with the NHPA Section 106.
3. Maintain condition (NRHP eligibility) of significant cultural resources: protect from destruction and deterioration.
4. Maintain current number of cultural resources: ensure sites are not lost to development, erosion, fire, etc.
5. Increase knowledge of cultural resources in the planning area (through proactive surveys, oral histories, etc.)

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Maintain or increase number of known sites within the planning area.
2. Increase the number of acres inventoried for cultural resources.
3. Maintain NHRP eligibility of known sites.
4. Ensure cultural resources and cultural landscapes are protected from vandalism or other human-caused damage.
5. Increase outreach and interpretation for cultural resources.
6. Prioritize listing the INHT (including trail segments and associated sites) on the National Register of Historic Places.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Follow the NHPA section 106 process, as outlined in 36 CFR Part 800 and the BLM Alaska State Protocol Agreement, to identify cultural resources and evaluate potential effects.

Monitoring:

Monitor cultural resources to identify effects from climate change. Stabilize and/or excavate threatened sites.

Specific watersheds or other locations to prioritize for monitoring: Anvik, Kuskokwim, Pitka, Unalakleet Rivers; mouth of Seal Oil Creek on Norton Sound; Kaltag Portage, Farewell Burn; historic mining communities of Iditarod, Flat, and Ophir.

Permitted activities:

The BLM Archaeologists would perform a section 106 review for all permitted activities and determine the projects' potential to effect on cultural resources. The BLM Archaeologist may require the applicant to have a qualified professional perform a cultural resource survey before authorization is granted. List criteria for inadvertent discovery stipulation permit condition. For permitted activities that occur, the following stipulation would be attached to all permits, leases, right-of-way grants, etc:

“All operations shall be conducted in such a manner as to avoid damage or disturbance to any prehistoric or historic sites or modern camp sites. The Archaeological Resource Protection Act prohibits the excavation, removal, damage, or disturbance of any archaeological resource located on public lands. Violation of this law could result in the imposition of both civil and criminal penalties of the violator. Human remains on federal lands are additionally protected by the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

Should any historic or prehistoric sites, including potential human remains be located during the course of operations under this permit, the applicant shall immediately stop work and notify the BLM authorized officer. If the applicant proposes ground disturbance in the future other than what is authorized in this grant, a cultural resource survey and evaluation would be needed before the disturbance is authorized.”

Criteria for cultural allocation:

The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook requires that cultural properties allocated to uses are subject to the management actions listed in Table C-2 to realize their use potential. All cultural sites in the planning area would be allocated for scientific use, except INHT trail segments, and consider some Iditarod National Historic Trail historic sites for public use (National Historic Trail segments, Rohn cabin site).

The BLM Land Use Planning Handbook requires the categorization of geographic area as high/medium/low priority for future inventory of cultural properties. High priority areas include the Kaltag Portage and Farewell Burn areas of the INHT. It also includes areas of high mineral potential, both because of the probability of historic mining sites, and because of the potential for future development.

All authorizations for land and resource use would comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, consistent with and subject to the objective established in the RMP for the proactive use of cultural properties in the public interest (NHPA Sec. 106, 101(d)(6), 110(a)(2)(E); national BLM-ACHP-NCSHPO Programmatic Agreement of March 1997).

Withdrawals and Exclusions:

Kaltag Portage and the INHT corridor would be withdrawn from locatable, leasable, salable entry, subject to valid existing rights. The Kaltag Portage would also be a Right-of-Way exclusion area.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Restrict permitted surface-disturbing activities, including mining, in areas with significant cultural resources. Specific areas or criteria for where development would be restricted include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presence of NRHP-eligible TCP/historic or cultural landscapes; • high density of NRHP-eligible sites. These areas would be evaluated and surface disturbing 	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	Limitations on all surface-disturbing permitted activities and mineral exploration and development in areas with significant cultural resources would be identified on a case-by-case basis based on project-specific implementation-level planning.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
activities would be limited as needed, on a case-by-case basis.		

3.21 Historic Trails Preliminary Alternatives Concepts

GOALS

1. Conserve today's Iditarod Trail and adjacent landscape so users can experience the wildland setting and challenges faced by gold rush trail travelers and mushers a century ago.
2. Preserve and protect the historical remains and historical settings of Iditarod National Historic Trail and associated historic sites for public use and enjoyment.
3. Provide for subsistence needs and outdoor recreation needs of users and promote the preservation of public access and enjoyment of the open air, outdoor areas, and historic and resources of the nation, in a manner that supports the nature and purpose of the Congressionally Designated Trails.

OBJECTIVE(S)

1. Maintain and enhance the significant qualities of high-potential Iditarod National Historic Trail segments and sites as defined in the National Trails System Act. Avoid adverse effects (as defined in the National Historic Preservation) to intact Iditarod National Historic Trail segments, their settings, and associated sites.
2. Manage the landscape (viewshed) associated with the NHTs so that visitors continue to get a sense of how this landscape influenced historic users of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.
3. Iditarod National Historic Trail Special Recreation Management Area Objective: Specific outcome-focused objectives, recreation setting character conditions, and the administrative, marketing, and monitoring framework can be found below in the SRMA-specific objectives and decisions.
4. Use/User Conflict Objective: Achieve a minimum level of conflict between recreation participants and: (1) other resource and/or resource uses, sufficient to enable the achievement of identified land use plan goals, objectives, and actions; (2) private land owners sufficient to curb illegal trespass and property damage; and (3) other recreation participants sufficient to maintain a diversity of recreation activity participation.

ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The National Trails Management Corridor (NTMC) within the planning area is comprised of four geographically distinct units:

- the Farewell Burn unit, located south of Nikolai, AK, is 48,000 acres
- the Bonanza Creek unit, located east of Flat, AK, is (approximately) 14,720 acres
- the Kaltag Portage unit, located between Unalakleet and Kaltag, AK, is (very approximately) 161,000 acres
- Rohn, located southeast of Nikolai, is approximately 400 acres.

The National Trails Management Corridor would be managed for Visual Resource Management Class I.

Withdrawals:

Maintain the existing 17d(1) salable, leasable, and locatable mineral withdrawal until the establishment of a new FLMPA mineral withdrawals (salable, locatable, and leasable) for a 1,000 foot wide corridor centered on the existing Iditarod NHT treadway (500 feet on either side of trail centerline) in the following locations:

Farewell Burn unit (2,639 acres), Kaltag Portage unit (1,368 acres), Bonanza Creek unit (TBD acres), Rohn (400 acres).

Locatable, leasable, and salable minerals in the National Historic Trail Management Corridor:

Plans of development will not be authorized if it is determined by the Authorizing Officer that impacts (both direct and cumulative) would conflict with the nature and purpose of the Iditarod NHT.

Mineral development would be required to:

- Create no more than a weak contrast (daytime) and no lights visible (nighttime) as viewed from the INHT.
- Meet VRM designations for the disturbance area, as viewed from Key Observation Points impacted by the disturbance.
- Are hidden from view from the INHT.
- Meet the VRM designation for the disturbance area, as viewed from Key Observation Points impacted by the disturbance.

The National Trails Management Corridor is open to oil and gas leasing, subject to no surface occupancy requirements. It is closed to seismic exploration.

New audible and atmospheric effects would not exceed current levels in the National Trails Management Corridor. Proposals that introduce new audible (noise) and atmospheric (smoke, dust, etc.) effects within the National Trails Management Corridor would be authorized only if they do not cause more than short-term, minimal adverse impacts to the INHT, significant INHT-related historical or recreational sites, or INHT-related recreational activities.

Right-of-Ways (ROW):

The National Trails Management Corridor is (other than the ROW issued to BLM for the INHT) a ROW avoidance area.

No realty actions would be authorized if it is determined by the Authorized Officer that impacts (both direct and cumulative) associated with the action would conflict with the nature and purpose of the INHT.

Energy and telecommunications transmission and distribution ROWs are avoided in the National Trails Management Corridor.

Industrial wind-energy development is excluded in the National Trails Management Corridor.

Other realty actions would be authorized if it is determined by the Authorized Officer that the following can be achieved:

They are hidden from view of the Congressionally Designated Trails.

They meet the VRM designation for the disturbance area, as viewed from Key Observation Points impacted by the disturbance.

OHV Travel:

In order to conserve the nature and purpose of the National Trail designation, travel management is described under the Iditarod Travel Management Area.

All classes of summer OHVs are prohibited.

Alternatives to help BLM achieve the objective(s)

Helpful Public Input: Circle decisions you like from Alternative 1 and/or 3. In the center, discuss why you like them or, insert a new idea.

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
---------------	---------------	---------------

Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
Structures with lighting within the viewshed of the INHT are allowed. All surface lighting is required to be hooded.	[YOUR INPUT HERE]	Structures with air safety lighting within the viewshed are not allowed. All surface lighting is required to be hooded.

4. HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS

The BLM will accept comments on this document through **March 20, 2015**. Please submit comments via fax, email, or regular mail to the following:

BLM Anchorage Field Office
BSWI RMP
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

BSWI_RMP_Comment@blm.gov (*preferred*)

Fax: 907-267-1267

You may also submit comments via downloadable form at the ONLINE OPEN HOUSE at the project website: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/planning/bswi>.

Thank you for participating in the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning process.