

Bering Sea - Western Interior



Resource Management Plan



BSWI Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Update, 4-1-2016

The BLM has received two additional Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) nominations and inquiries about the number of ACECs analyzed in the *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: Report on the Application of the Relevance and Importance Criteria*, released in April 2015.

The two additional ACECs are being evaluated by the BLM and a future update will provide notification on their status.

The 2015 report analyzed both **existing** and **nominated** ACECs for the BLM's Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan (RMP). The report notes eleven existing ACECs and sixteen ACEC nominations, for a total of 27 ACECs.

However, two ACECs—the Kateel River ACEC and the Gisasa River ACEC— had shared acreages between the existing as well as nominated areas, so the BLM combined the analysis for these rivers. Therefore, the ACEC report analyzed 25 ACECs to determine if these areas met the **relevance and importance criteria** necessary for designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

The report found that **sixteen ACECs** met BOTH the relevance and importance criteria. These sixteen ACECs will be carried forward into the range of alternatives for the Draft RMP where it will be determined whether any special management attention to protect the identified relevant and important values is required and if so, at what scale (acreage).

The *Areas of Critical Environmental Concern: Report on the Application of the Relevance and Importance Criteria* is available on this website in the **Documents & Reports** section.