

Bay Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan

Table of Contents

RECORD OF DECISION

I. Summary.....	ROD-3
II. Decision	ROD-3
III. Alternatives	ROD-5
IV. Management Considerations in Selecting the Approved Plan	ROD-7
V. Mitigation Measures	ROD-8
VI. Plan Monitoring.....	ROD-8
VII. Public Involvement	ROD-8
VIII. Modifications to and Clarifications of the Proposed RMP/FEIS.....	ROD-9
IX. Availability of the Plan	ROD-13
X. Field Manager Recommendations.....	ROD-13

APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. Introduction	Approved RMP-3
II. Management Decisions	Approved RMP-6
III. Public Involvement.....	Approved RMP-37
IV. Management Plan Implementation.....	Approved RMP-37
V. Adaptive Management/Plan Evaluation.....	Approved RMP-38

REFERENCES

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Resource Protection Measures

Appendix B: Master Memorandum of Understanding between ADF&G and BLM

Appendix C: Generally Allowed Uses on State Land

Appendix D: Wild and Scenic River (WSR) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
(ACEC) Justification

Appendix E: Maps

Bay Record of Decision

Table of Contents

I. SUMMARY.....	ROD-3
II. DECISION.....	ROD-3
III. ALTERNATIVES	ROD-5
A. Alternative Description	ROD-5
B. The Environmentally Preferred Alternative	ROD-7
IV. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS IN SELECTING THE APPROVED PLAN	ROD-7
V. MITIGATION MEASURES	ROD-8
VI. PLAN MONITORING	ROD-8
VII. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	ROD-8
VIII. MODIFICATIONS TO AND CLARIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED RMP/FEIS	ROD-9
A. Modifications	ROD-10
B. Clarifications	ROD-11
IX. AVAILABILITY OF THE PLAN	ROD-13
X. FIELD MANAGER RECOMMENDATIONS.....	ROD-13

BAY RECORD OF DECISION

I. SUMMARY

This Record of Decision (ROD) approves the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) proposal to manage the public lands in the Bay planning area under the Anchorage Field Office's jurisdiction as presented in the attached Resource Management Plan (RMP). This RMP is almost identical to Alternative D in the December 2007 Bay Proposed RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USDI-BLM 2007). This ROD provides the rationale for selecting the management decisions described in Alternative D, and provides clarifications and modifications incorporated into the RMP. The attached RMP describes the program area decisions and mitigation measures approved for BLM lands in the Bay planning area.

The Bay planning area includes lands administered by the State of Alaska (State), Native Corporations, the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and private landowners. Of the approximately 23,048,654 acres within the planning area, decisions in the RMP will initially apply to 1,975,966 acres of BLM-managed lands. Approximately 1,024,712 of these 1,975,966 acres are selected by the State or Native Corporations for conveyance. Due to over-selections, not all of these selected lands will actually be conveyed. When conveyances are complete in 2010, approximately 1,163,604 acres are expected to remain under BLM management in the Bay planning area (Map E-1).

II. DECISION

The decision is hereby made to approve the attached Bay RMP for the Bay planning area. The RMP replaces the Southwest Management Framework Plan (MFP) (USDI-BLM 1982) for lands within the Bay planning area.

This plan was prepared under the regulations (43 CFR Part 1600) implementing the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared in association with this RMP in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. This ROD serves as the final decision establishing the land use plan decisions outlined in the RMP and is effective on the date it is signed. No further administrative remedies are available for these decisions.

The RMP is nearly identical to Alternative D as described and analyzed in the Bay Proposed RMP/FEIS published December, 2007. Specific management decisions for public lands in the Bay planning area under the jurisdiction of the Anchorage Field Office are presented in Section II of the RMP (attached).

The RMP does not contain decisions for the surface or mineral estates of land administered by the State of Alaska, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, or private lands and minerals.

A summary of major decisions in the RMP include:

- The RMP recommends the Secretary of the Interior revoke all ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals as described in Public Land Orders 5174, 5179, 5180, 5181, 5184, and 5186. The revocation of these withdrawals would open approximately 1.1 million acres for mineral leasing or mineral entry on lands retained by BLM, not on State- or Native-selected lands. State- and Native-selected lands would not be open to mineral leasing or locatable mineral entry until conveyance or relinquishment of selection. Revoking the withdrawals would remove large-scale prohibitions on these activities. However, resource protection measures (Appendix A) have been developed in the RMP to minimize impacts to resources.
- Manage public land resources to enhance vegetative communities, fish and wildlife resources, natural, cultural, and geological resources, and recreational opportunities.
- Manage uses to protect and prevent damage to public land resources, and to enhance those resources where feasible.
- Designate areas as 300-foot setbacks and No Surface Occupancy (NSO) for the East and South Fork Arolik River, Faro Creek, South Fork Goodnews River and Klutuk Creek. These water bodies are identified as having sensitive aquatic habitat.
- All BLM lands will be managed as VRM Class IV, except:
 - BLM lands in the full visible foreground up to 1/2 mile from established winter trail/road systems will be managed as VRM Class III, including Goodnews to Quinhagak coastal and Arolik River routes; Goodnews Bay to Dillingham route; Dillingham to Aleknagik; Dillingham to Koliganek; Ekwok to Naknek; New Stuyahok to Levelock; and Naknek to King Salmon.
 - BLM lands in the full visible foreground up to 1/2 mile from main river travel routes will be managed as VRM Class III, including portions of the North Fork Goodnews River; Middle Fork Goodnews River; South Fork Goodnews River; and East Fork Arolik River; Nushagak River; Kvichak River; Lower Mulchatna River; and Alagnak Wild River.
 - BLM lands in the full visible foreground up to one mile from the boundaries of Togiak NWR, Becharof NWR, Katmai NPP, and Lake Clark NPP will be managed as VRM Level III.
 - The Carter Spit ACEC will be managed as VRM Class III.
- All BLM-managed lands (unencumbered, State-, and Native-selected) in the planning area (approximately 1.9 million acres) will be managed for Semi-Primitive Motorized recreation setting.
- Designate all BLM-managed lands (unencumbered, State-, and Native-selected) in the planning area as “limited” to Off-Highway Vehicles (OHVs), where OHVs shall be required to stay on existing trails whenever possible. Snowmachines will be allowed open cross-country travel when adequate snow cover is present – that is, adequate to avoid crushing vegetation or removing ground cover.

- The BLM recognizes that the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) for subsistence activities is a valid use of BLM-managed public lands in Alaska. This activity is fundamentally different from the use of OHVs for recreational activities, and our management of it is guided by Section 811 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Section 302(b) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act gives broad authority to the Secretary of the Interior to authorize uses of public lands through a variety of instruments. In the case of subsistence use of OHVs, this plan and its Record of Decision recognizes and authorizes use of OHVs for subsistence purposes throughout the planning area, unless specified otherwise or such use is excluded by the Authorized Officer.
- Designate the 36,220 acre Carter Spit as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to provide additional protection to the Steller's eider (protected species under the Endangered Species Act) and its habitat.

III. ALTERNATIVES

Four alternatives, including a No Action Alternative were analyzed in detail in the Draft RMP/EIS (USDI-BLM 2006) and in the Proposed RMP/FEIS (USDI-BLM 2007). Alternatives were developed to address major planning issues and to provide direction for resource programs influencing land management. All management under any of the alternatives would comply with state and Federal regulations, laws, standards, and policies.

Each alternative emphasizes a different combination of resource uses, allocations, and restoration measures to address issues and resolve conflicts among uses, so program goals are met in varying degrees across the alternatives. However, each alternative allows for some level of support for all resources present in the planning area. The alternatives emphasize certain programs and activities, and whether active or passive management would occur. The alternatives differ in how fast program goals would be met and the degree to which program goals would be met. Management scenarios for programs not tied to major planning issues and/or mandated by law often contain few or no differences in management between alternatives.

A. Alternative Description

Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, promotes the continuation of current management practices. Land and resource management would continue under the guidance of the existing Southwest Management Framework Plan (MFP) (USDI-BLM 1982) for the Goodnews Block only. Direction contained in existing laws, regulations and policy statements would provide guidance for managing lands within the remainder of the planning area and sometimes override provisions in the Southwest MFP. The current levels, methods and mix of multiple use management of BLM land in the planning area would continue. No lands would be open to mineral leasing and large tracts would remain closed to new locatable minerals activities due to retention of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) withdrawals. No Special Designations would be proposed, and lands would remain unclassified for off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and visual resource values. In general, proposed land use would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. Leasable and locatable mineral activities would be guided by requirements in specific operational plans on a project-specific basis.

Alternative B highlights actions and management that would facilitate resource development. All ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals would be revoked, opening all BLM unencumbered lands to leasable and locatable mineral activities. Selected lands whose selection is relinquished would also be open to mineral activities. The BLM-managed lands within the planning area would be designated as “open” to OHV use. No Special Designations would be proposed and visual resources would be managed as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class IV. Leasable and locatable mineral activities and other permitted activities would be guided by requirements in specific operational plans on a project-specific basis.

Alternative C emphasizes actions and management that protect and enhance renewable resources, archaeological, and paleontological values. Leasable and locatable mineral activities would be more constrained than in Alternatives B or D.

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) would be proposed, including the Bristol Bay ACEC (974,970 acres) and the Carter Spit ACEC (61,251 acres). ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals would be retained for the Carter Spit ACEC; this area would remain closed to mineral activities. ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals would be lifted from the Bristol Bay ACEC, opening this area to mineral activities. Both proposed ACECs would be closed to salable mineral activities.

All other ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals would be revoked, BLM unencumbered lands to leasable and locatable mineral activities.

Three eligible river segments, portions of the Alagnak River, and portions of the Goodnews River mainstem and Goodnews River Middle Fork, would be found suitable and recommended for inclusion in the National WSR system. ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals would be maintained for proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs) serving as interim protection until Congress has had an opportunity to act on the proposals.

All proposed WSR segments and ACECs would be managed as VRM Class III, and most of the remainder of the BLM-managed lands within the planning area would be managed as VRM Class IV. All BLM-managed lands within the planning area would be designated as “limited” to OHV use and a 2,000-lb gross vehicle weight rating would be enforced. Resource protection measures and additional constraints as identified through project-specific NEPA analysis would be used to protect resources on BLM-managed lands within the Bay planning area.

Alternative D provides a balance of protection, use, and enhancement of resources. ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals would be revoked, and the majority of unencumbered lands and any selected lands whose selection is relinquished would be open to leasable and locatable mineral activities. ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals would be revoked within a proposed Carter Spit ACEC (36,220 acres). The Carter Spit ACEC would be closed to salable mineral entry. No eligible WSRs would be found suitable and, thus, not recommended for inclusion in the National WSR system.

BLM lands in the full visible foreground up to one mile from the boundaries of Conservation System Units (CSU) would be managed as VRM Class III. BLM-managed lands up to ½ mile from established winter trail or road systems would be managed as VRM Class III. The proposed Carter Spit ACEC would be managed as VRM Class III, and all other BLM-managed lands would be managed as VRM Class IV.

All BLM-managed lands within the planning area would be designated as “limited” to OHV use and a 2,000-lb gross vehicle weight rating would be enforced. Resource protection measures

and additional constraints as identified through project-specific NEPA analysis would be used to protect resources on BLM-managed lands within the Bay planning area.

B. The Environmentally Preferred Alternative

Alternative D, the agency preferred alternative, is the environmentally preferable alternative. Considering the impacts from the whole suite of decisions in Alternative D, it is the alternative that best protects and enhances the natural (biological and physical) and human (cultural, social and economic) environment.

IV. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS IN SELECTING THE APPROVED PLAN

The BLM is tasked with the responsibility of multiple use management, as mandated under FLPMA and numerous other laws and regulations that govern the management of public lands for various purposes and values. The diversity of community needs and stakeholders, as communicated through public meetings, government-to-government consultations, written comments, etc. drove the development of the preferred alternative. Recommendations received from the Alaska Resource Advisory Council (BLM's official advisory council) were also incorporated into the preferred alternative.

The BLM heard from the public and stakeholders that the RMP should address both natural resource concerns and social and economic concerns. Alternative D's actions would best improve and sustain natural resource conditions while meeting the needs and demands for resource use and commodities.

Management considerations for State- and Native-selected lands were incorporated into Alternative D. These lands make up 65% of the lands managed by the BLM in the Bay planning area. Diligent effort was made to coordinate and consult with the State of Alaska and Native Corporations. As a result, decisions made in the RMP affecting selected lands are generally consistent with State or Native Corporation land use management. In general, decisions for selected lands avoid a major commitment of resources and are custodial in nature. Designations such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are not made on selected lands, but site-specific measures are identified through ROPs or Stipulations (Appendix A) that would protect resource values on selected lands.

The BLM chose Alternative D (with slight modifications and clarifications, see ROD page 9) as the approved RMP to address the diverse needs and concerns of the public and provide a practical framework for managing BLM public lands. The RMP provides a balance between reasonable measures to protect resource values and the public need for use of BLM's public lands.

V. MITIGATION MEASURES

Measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm were built into the RMP and are presented in Appendix A. Additional measures to mitigate environmental impacts may be developed during subsequent NEPA analysis at the activity level planning and project stages.

VI. PLAN MONITORING

The BLM will monitor the RMP to determine whether the objectives set forth in this document are being met and if applying the land use plan direction is effective. Monitoring for program areas is outlined in the *Management Decision* sections of the RMP. If monitoring shows land use plan actions or mitigation measures are not effective, the BLM may modify or adjust management through plan maintenance. Maintenance is limited to further refining, documenting, or clarifying a previously approved decision incorporated in the plan. Maintenance must not expand the scope of resource uses or restrictions or change the terms, conditions, and decisions of the RMP.

Plan maintenance does not require formal public involvement, interagency coordination, or the NEPA analysis required for making new land use plan decisions. Maintenance actions must be documented in the plan or supporting components.

Where the BLM considers taking or approving actions which will alter or not conform to overall direction of the plan, the BLM will prepare a plan amendment or revision and environmental analysis of appropriate scope.

VII. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

One of the BLM's primary objectives during development of the RMP was to understand the views of various publics by providing opportunities for meaningful participation in the planning process. To meet this objective, the BLM implemented a comprehensive public involvement program.

During the scoping phase of the RMP, the BLM conducted public meetings in Dillingham, Anchorage, Soldotna, Homer, Aleknagik, Koliganek, Iliamna, and Naknek, and conducted scoping presentations to the Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Bristol Bay Native Corporation (BBNC), and Calista Corporation. The BLM met with Bristol Bay Native Association management and staff on two occasions, attended a BBNC workshop, met with Choggiung managers and staff on two occasions, contacted and met with BLM Resource Advisory Committee members, met with FWS Anchorage Regional Office planning staff, and visited with King Salmon Native Association managers.

Concurrent with the beginning of the scoping period in January 2005, the BLM developed a RMP website. The website included the schedule of public meetings and general schedule for the Bay planning process. An overview of the Goodnews Block portion of the 1981 Southwest Management Framework Plan was also available on the website. Other Federal agencies and Native village governments with interest and/or special expertise were invited to become Cooperating Agencies. While the U.S. Air Force expressed initial interest, no agencies entered

into formal Cooperating Agency status. However, all of the Federal agencies administering lands within the Bay planning area and most of the traditional village councils expressed great interest in continuing to be involved in a less formal capacity.

The BLM also conducted public meetings in Anchorage, Aleknagik, New Stuyahok, Goodnews Bay and Dillingham, conducted a teleconference with Quinhagak village, and continued meetings with various levels of Native government after publication of the Draft RMP to discuss specific issues in-depth and solicit comments. The BLM used newsletters, media news releases, and website postings to offer information to groups, individuals and agencies. Detailed information on the public involvement efforts is included in both the Draft Bay RMP/EIS (USDI-BLM 2006) and Bay Proposed RMP/FEIS (USDI-BLM 2007) in Chapter 5, *Consultation and Coordination*.

After publication of the FEIS, the BLM received four valid protests. These protests were filed by the Renewable Resources Coalition, Alaska Wilderness League (representing other groups and individuals), Thomas Pebler of Anchorage, and Becky S. Savo of Naknek. These protests, resolved by the BLM Director on September 30, 2008, required minor modifications and clarifications as described in *Modifications to and Clarifications of the Proposed RMP/FEIS* section of this ROD.

Following the publication of the FEIS, the Governor of the State of Alaska was afforded the opportunity to review the Proposed RMP/FEIS to identify any inconsistencies between the RMP and approved state or local plans, policies or programs. The Governor's Consistency Review (GCR), dated February 1, 2008, found the Proposed RMP/FEIS to be consistent with state priorities, policies, and land use plans but requested clarification of certain technical and administrative points. These points of inconsistency are described in the *Modifications to and Clarifications of the Proposed RMP/FEIS* section of this ROD.

Throughout implementation of the RMP, the BLM will continue to actively seek the views of the public, using news releases and mass mailings to ask for participation, and provide information about new and ongoing implementation planning, site-specific or project planning and opportunities and timeframes for comment. The BLM will also continue to coordinate with the numerous state, Federal, tribal, and local agencies and officials interested and involved in the management of BLM lands in Bay planning area.

VIII. MODIFICATIONS TO AND CLARIFICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED RMP/FEIS

As a result of protests on the Proposed RMP/FEIS, response from the State of Alaska Governor's Consistency Review, and additional internal and external review, the BLM made minor modifications to and clarifications of the Proposed RMP/FEIS. Modifications resulted in changes to the RMP, while clarifications are made to the EIS that do not become part of the management described in the RMP. None of these modifications or clarifications have altered the results of the analysis in the FEIS.

A. Modifications

1. The Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Analysis presented in the Bay FEIS has been modified to remove the Kvichak River from the WSR Analysis as stated in Chapter 2 of the FEIS (FEIS page 2-6). Appendix D of the RMP contains the corrected WSR Analysis. Additional text has been added to the WSR Analysis in the RMP to explain that, "This analysis excludes the Kvichak River because the BLM does not have administrative interest in the water, the submerged lands (Determination of Navigability, 1985), nor the lands immediately adjacent to this water body, due to conveyance of lands. Additionally, a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest finding was issued by the Bureau of Land Management for the Kvichak River. This Disclaimer clarifies that the Federal government does not have a competing interest (with the State of Alaska) in the submerged lands."

Additionally, the fish habitat Relative Resource Value for the Kvichak River presented in FEIS Table B.2 (FEIS page B-6) is inconsistent with that presented in the text on FEIS page 3-121. The removal of the Kvichak River from the WSR Analysis remedies the inconsistency of the fisheries resource value for the Kvichak River presented in the FEIS (RMP Appendix D).

2. The WSR Analysis has been modified to include a detailed description of the outstandingly remarkable value ranking criteria for fisheries, scenery, recreation, wildlife/subsistence, and Cultural/Historic (RMP Appendix D).
3. The WSR Analysis has been modified to include all criteria for determining non-suitability of eligible rivers. This inclusion describes the BLM's inability to manage the river and protect identified values because the BLM lacks administrative jurisdiction of these eligible rivers in the Bay planning area. Additionally, though local support for WSR designation was expressed during the planning process, the administrative jurisdiction of eligible rivers is retained by the State of Alaska who has expressed disinterest in WSR designation (RMP Appendix D).
4. Modifications have been made to Required Operating Procedure (ROP) FW-3b to restate the ROP as follows (RMP Appendix A):

"Minimize human interference with the Mulchatna, Northern Alaska Peninsula or Nushagak caribou herds during the following critical periods:

Calving aggregations (May 15 to June 15),
Post calving aggregations (June 15 to July 15) or
Insect relief aggregations (June 15 to August 31)

If no feasible alternative exists, qualified personnel will conduct a preliminary site survey within the two week period prior to an activity's projected start date to establish caribou presence. Additionally, the presence of caribou at the time of commencement of a temporary activity will result in the delay of temporary activities until caribou have left the area. Approval of long term or permanent activities is dependent upon NEPA analysis, the extent and duration of impacts, particularly habitat fragmentation and the propensity to displace the animals, and the ability to devise appropriate mitigation measures."

B. Clarifications

1. Add these two paragraphs to Proposed RMP/FEIS page 1-14, Wilderness Characteristics, to describe the policy of former Interior Secretary Gale Norton regarding wilderness in Alaska:

To clarify, Alaska lands were exhaustively inventoried for their wilderness values when Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971. Subsequently, Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA). In ANILCA, Congress chose to preserve 57 million acres as formally designated wilderness. Section 1320 of ANILCA exempts BLM lands in Alaska from the wilderness study process required under Section 603 of FLPMA. Section 1320 of ANILCA gives the Secretary of the Interior, in carrying out duties under section 201 and 202 of FLPMA, the discretion to identify areas in Alaska which are suitable as wilderness. Shortly after the passage of ANILCA, the Secretary exercised this discretion to adopt a policy not to conduct wilderness inventory, review, or study as part of the BLM planning process in Alaska.

The latest direction provided the Secretary in 2003, instructed the BLM to consider wilderness study proposals in Alaska only if there is broad support among Alaska's elected officials and that absent this broad support, wilderness should not be considered in RMPs. During development of this RMP, there has been a lack of broad support from Alaska's elected officials for wilderness proposals.

2. As described in the RMP, Travel Management, Management Actions section, the BLM's management decision for OHV use in the Bay planning area is, "OHVs will use existing trails, consistent with the State's Conditions on Generally Allowed Uses..." and "OHV use will be conducted in a manner that minimizes disturbance of vegetation, disturbance of soil stability, or impacts to drainage systems; changing the character of, polluting, or introducing silt and sediment into streams, lakes, ponds, seeps, or marshes; and disturbance of fish and wildlife." Additionally, all proposals for OHV management under consideration would be consistent with Section 811 of ANILCA, which allows for appropriate use for subsistence purpose.
3. Disregard the following words: "...where there is a demonstrated lack of support by residents using the rivers" (Proposed RMP/FEIS page 2-56, Alternative D). As stated in the Bay RMP scoping report (USDOJ-BLM, 2005d) there was some support for WSR designation in some comments.
4. Land comprising the Carter Spit ACEC is subject to the management decisions for OHV use as described on page 2-41 of the Proposed RMP/FEIS, section e. Travel Management, 3(b) management decisions.
5. There are currently no designated trails on BLM-managed lands in the Bay planning area, only existing trails. Trails may be designated through a Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management, planned for completion within five years of signing the ROD for the RMP/FEIS.
6. In the event lands adjacent to the Carter Spit ACEC are relinquished from current selection, the BLM will consider incorporating these lands into the Carter Spit ACEC. As

stated on pages 2-54 and 2-55 of the Proposed RMP/FEIS states, "Should lands adjacent to the ACEC be relinquished from selection, they may be added to the ACEC. This would be performed through a plan amendment at a later date."

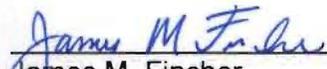
7. The Carter Spit ACEC is recommended as a ROW avoidance area (ROW may be permitted with special restrictions), as written in Chapter 2 of the Proposed RMP/FEIS, page 2-51 Alternative D; page 2-52, Table 2.10 Land Use Authorizations, Alternative D; and page 2-71 Table 2.12, Alternative Summary Table, Land Use Authorizations and Rights-of-Way, Alternative D. This clarifies the discrepancy in text on page 2-83, Table 2.13, Effects to Lands and Realty, Alternative D, stating, "Additional restrictions would include no Land Use Authorizations in the proposed Carter Spit ACEC."
8. The Proposed RMP/FEIS on page 3-136 references an incorrect definition of State subsistence use. The State does not allocate subsistence resource harvest opportunities based on rural or non-rural residency. See Alaska Subsistence Statute 16.05.258.
9. In Alternative D, the BLM has identified parcels for disposal (Sale) as described in the FEIS, Table 2.10, on page 2-52. Text on page 2-46, Management Common to All Action Alternatives (B, C, and D) describing, "No specific parcels available for sale are identified in this RMP", is incorrect.
10. As requested from protests, an updated description of the Pebble Partnership can be found at the following website: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/mining/largemine/pebble/>
11. All trails discussed on Proposed RMP/FEIS pages 3-103 and 3-104 are depicted in Map 3.44 rather than Map 3.43 as stated.
12. On Proposed RMP/FEIS page 3-103: Trail EIN 4 C3, C4, D1, D9 crosses lands selected by Kuitsarak, Incorporated rather than Calista Corporation as stated.
13. On Proposed RMP/FEIS page 3-103, fourth paragraph: Section 23, T. 10 S., R. 71 W. and the beginning of the trail referenced, is a priority selection of Kuitsarak, Incorporated rather than Calista Corporation as written in the Proposed RMP.
14. Page 3-103, fifth paragraph, Winter trail EIN 1 C3, C5, D1, D9, M is located on the surface estate reserved in Patent 50-95-0632 to Kuitsarak, Incorporated. The subsurface estate is owned by Calista in Patent 50-95-0633.
15. Page 3-104, first sentence: No regional corporation or state selection priority exist in this section but rather land status is BLM unencumbered.

IX. AVAILABILITY OF THE PLAN

Copies of the Record of Decision and the Bay Resource Management Plan are available on request from the following locations: BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99507, (907) 267-1246 or (800) 478-1263, and on the Anchorage Field Office website at: http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/bay_rmp_eis_home_page.html

X. FIELD MANAGER RECOMMENDATIONS

Having considered a full range of reasonable alternatives, associated effects, and public input, I recommend adoption and implementation of the attached Bay Resource Management Plan.



James M. Fincher
Anchorage Field Manager

11/03/2008
Date

CONCURRENCE

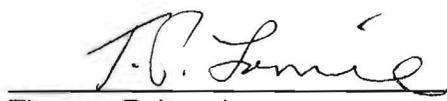


Gary Reimer
Anchorage District Manager

11/03/08
Date

APPROVAL

In consideration of the foregoing, I approve the Bay Resource Management Plan.



Thomas P. Lonnie
State Director

11-4-08
Date

Bay Approved Resource Management Plan

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	Approved RMP-3
A. Planning Area and Map	Approved RMP-3
B. Relationship to BLM Policies, Plans, and Programs	Approved RMP-4
C. Related Plans	Approved RMP-5
II. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS	Approved RMP-6
A. AIR QUALITY	Approved RMP-7
B. AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN	Approved RMP-7
C. CULTURAL and PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Approved RMP-8
D. FIRE MANAGEMENT and ECOLOGY	Approved RMP-9
E. FISH	Approved RMP-10
F. FLOODPLAINS	Approved RMP-11
G. FORESTS AND FOREST PRODUCTS	Approved RMP-12
H. GRAZING (LIVESTOCK AND REINDEER)	Approved RMP-13
I. LANDS AND REALTY	Approved RMP-13
J. MINERALS	Approved RMP-20
K. PUBLIC SAFETY: ABANDONED MINE LANDS / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Approved RMP-26
L. RECREATION	Approved RMP-27
M. RENEWABLE ENERGY	Approved RMP-28
N. SOILS	Approved RMP-28
O. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES	Approved RMP-29
P. SUBSISTENCE	Approved RMP-30
Q. TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AND OHV USE	Approved RMP-31
R. VEGETATION, WETLAND, and RIPARIAN HABITAT	Approved RMP-32
S. VISUAL RESOURCES	Approved RMP-34
T. WATER	Approved RMP-35
U. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS	Approved RMP-36
V. WILDLIFE	Approved RMP-36
III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	Approved RMP-37
IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION	Approved RMP-37
V. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT/PLAN EVALUATION	Approved RMP-38

List of Tables

Table 1. Land Status within the Bay Planning Area	Approved RMP-4
Table 2. List of Plans for lands within and adjacent to the Bay Planning Area ..	Approved RMP-5
Table 3. Parcels Identified for Disposal Preferably through Sale	Approved RMP-16
Table 4. Parcels Identified for Potential Exchange	Approved RMP-17

BAY APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

This Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) replaces the Southwest Management Framework Plan approved in 1981 and is now the land use plan for public lands in southwest Alaska administered by the BLM's Anchorage Field Office. The RMP adopts the management described in Alternative D and the Management Common to All Alternatives section presented in the Proposed Bay RMP/Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (USDI-BLM 2007), with adjustments as described in the *Modifications to and Clarifications of the Proposed RMP/FEIS* sections of the ROD.

A. Planning Area and Map

The Bay planning area includes lands adjacent to Bristol, Goodnews, and Jacksmith bays, and extends northerly to the Kanektok River. It includes the headwaters of the Togiak, Tikchik, King Salmon, Nushagak, Mulchatna, Kvichak-Alagnak, and Naknek river drainages. It also includes the east side of Iliamna Lake and Kakhonak Lake, the western portion of the Alaska Range and the Aleutian Range, and the upper portions of the Alaska Peninsula north of Becharof Lake and Egegik Bay (Map E-1). This region consists primarily of broad, level to rolling upland tundra-covered river basins. Residents of the Bay planning area are located in 25 villages. There are two State organized boroughs within the planning area, Bristol Bay and Lake and Peninsula Boroughs, and three ANCSA Regional Corporations have real estate holdings within the planning area; Calista, Incorporated, Ltd., Bristol Bay Native Corporation, and Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated.

People residing within the Bay planning area are heavily engaged in a subsistence economy. Besides the subsistence economy, commercial fishing, commercial guiding, and sports hunting and fishing are the primary pursuits in the planning area.

Transportation is predominantly by air or water. The planning area contains approximately 92 miles of secondary roads, none of which are located on unencumbered BLM lands. Access to public lands is by boat, airplane, or off-highway vehicle (OHV), though a few areas are accessible by automobile.

In addition to BLM-managed lands, the planning area includes lands administered by the State of Alaska (State), Native Corporations, the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and private landowners.

Of the approximately 23,048,654 acres within the planning area approximately 5% of the total acreage is expected to remain under BLM management (Map E-2). Table 1 summarizes land status within the Bay Planning Area.

Table 1. Land Status within the Bay Planning Area

Land Category	Acres	Percent of the Planning Area
BLM-managed lands		
BLM public lands (unencumbered)*	1,163,604	5.05%
State-selected**	348,388	1.51%
Native-selected	411,268	1.78%
Dual-selected***	265,056	***
Mineral Estate	52,705	0.23%
BLM-managed lands subtotal	1,975,965	8.57%
National Park Service managed lands	4,193,427	18.19%
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed lands	4,400,956	19.09%
Military	10,832	0.06%
State of Alaska	9,731,275	42.2%
Private****	2,788,904	12.1%
Total lands within the planning area	23,048,654	100.0%

*Includes a portion of the Neacola Block, in the northeastern most corner of the planning area, comprising 21,419 acres, which was addressed in the Ring of Fire RMP/EIS and will not be addressed in this plan.

**State-selected lands according to BLM Land Status.

*** Intersection of State priority selection with Native-selected lands (according to BLM Land Status). Dual-selected acres are already included in the State-selected and Native-selected totals, and are not included in the total lands within the planning area acreage.

****Private lands include ANCSA lands, Native allotments, and all other privately owned lands. The vast majority of this acreage is comprised of Native Corporation land.

B. Relationship to BLM Policies, Plans, and Programs

The following BLM plans and standards relate to or govern management in the planning area:

- Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan (Alaska Department of Natural Resources et al. 1998)
- Land Use Plan Amendment for Wildland Fire and Fuels Management – Environmental Assessment (BLM 2004d) Decision Record (BLM 2005d)
- BLM’s Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards (2004a)
- BLM-Alaska Fire Management Plan (BLM 2005g)

In the event there are inconsistencies or discrepancies between previously approved plans and this RMP, the decisions contained in the RMP will be followed. All future resource authorizations and actions will conform to, or be consistent with the decisions contained in the RMP. However, this plan does not repeal valid existing rights on BLM-managed lands. A valid existing right is a claim or authorization that takes precedence over the decisions developed in this plan. If such authorizations come up for review and can be modified, they will also be brought into conformance with the plan.

While the FEIS for the RMP constitutes compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the broad-scale decisions made in this RMP, the BLM will continue to prepare Environmental Assessments (EAs) or Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) where appropriate as part of implementation level planning and decision-making.

C. Related Plans

Plans previously developed by Federal, State, local and Tribal governments that relate to management of lands and resources within and adjacent to the Bay planning area were reviewed and considered as the RMP/EIS was developed. Table 2 provides a list of major regional plans that have been reviewed in preparation of this RMP/EIS.

Table 2. List of Plans for lands within and adjacent to the Bay Planning Area

Management Plan	Agency
Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement	BLM 2008
Alaska Peninsula/Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Complex Final Public Use Management Plan	USFWS 2004
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan EIS/Wilderness Review Draft	USFWS 2006
Alaska Department of Fish and Game Habitat Protection Section State Game Refugees Critical Habitat Areas & Game Sanctuaries	ADNR 1981
Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Kuskokwim-Illiamna Planning Area	Multiple, 1983
Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Yukon-Togiak Planning Area	Multiple, 1984
Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan, Kodiak-Alaska Peninsula Planning Area	Multiple, 1986
Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards	BLM 2004
Becharof National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan EIS/Wilderness Review Final	USFWS 1985
Bureau of Land Management Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Assessment for the Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment for Wildland Fire and Fuels Management for Alaska	BLM 2004
Bristol Bay Area Plan For State Lands	ADNR 1984
Bristol Bay Area Plan	ADNR 2004
Bristol Bay Borough Comprehensive Plan	ADNR and ADF&G 1985
Fire Management Plan for Western Arctic National Parklands, Alaska	NPS 2004
Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan King Salmon Airport	U.S. Air Force 1999-2003
Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan South coastal Long Range Radar Sites, Alaska	U.S. Air Force 2000-2003
Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan Southwestern Inactive Sites, Alaska	U.S. Air Force 2001-2005
Katmai General Management Plan Wilderness Suitability Review Land Protection Plan	NPS 1986
Lake Clark General Management Plan National Park and Preserve/Alaska Environmental Assessment	NPS 1984
Lake Clark National Park and Preserve Resource Management Plan	NPS 1999

Management Plan	Agency
Bureau of Land Management Decision Record for the Land Use Plan Amendment for Wildland Fire and Fuels Management for Alaska	BLM 2005
McNeil River State Game Refuge and State Game Sanctuary Management Plan	ADNR 1996
Nushagak & Mulchatna Rivers Recreation Management Plan Resource Assessment	ADNR Draft 2004
Southwest Planning Area Management Framework Plan Anchorage District Office	BLM 1981
Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan EIS/Wilderness Review	USFWS 1985
Wood-Tikchik State Park Management Plan	ADNR 2002

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

II. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

This section of the RMP presents the decisions (i.e., goals and objectives, land use allocations, and management actions) established for public lands in the Bay planning area managed by the BLM's Anchorage Field Office. These decisions are presented by program area. *Goals* are broad statements of desired outcomes and usually not quantifiable. *Desired Future Conditions* for several programs are included in the RMP as *Objectives*. Most of the identified objectives are long range in nature and will not be achieved immediately, but rather are assumed to require a period of 20 to 50 years to achieve. *Management Actions* guide program activities and projects usually described in terms of applicable laws, regulations, and policies. *Allocations* describe specific areas where programmatic goals and objectives are to occur when not applicable planning area wide. *Monitoring* describes plans for meeting goals and objectives. Not all types of decisions were identified for each program.

This section is organized alphabetically by program area with the following titles:

- Air Quality
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Fire and Fuels Management
- Fish
- Floodplains
- Forest and Forest Products
- Lands and Realty
- Grazing (Livestock and Reindeer)
- Minerals
 - Fluid Leasing
 - Locatable
 - Salable/Mineral Materials
- Public Safety: Abandoned Mine Lands/Hazardous Materials
- Recreation
- Renewable Energy
- Soils
- Special Status Species: Fish, Plants, and Wildlife

Subsistence
Travel Management and OHV Use
Vegetation, Wetland, and Riparian Habitat
Visual Resources
Water
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wildlife

Some management actions refer to specific Required Operating Procedures (ROPs) or Stipulations. These ROPs and Stipulations are described in Appendix A, Resource Protection Measures.

Maps depicting the management decisions are provided in Appendix E for reference.

A. AIR QUALITY

A-1: Goal

The BLM will protect and enhance the quality of air resources associated with BLM-managed lands in the planning area as well as consider, if practicable, minimizing the impacts of smoke to human health, communities, recreation and tourism from wildfire and prescribed burns. Smoke and its public health impacts are a parameter in fire suppression decisions.

A-2: Objectives

- All actions that may impact air quality will comply with local, State, and Federal requirements.

A-3: Management Actions

- The BLM will stipulate that all direct or authorized emission-generating activities occurring on BLM-managed lands within the planning area comply with the Federal and State air quality laws and regulations.
- The BLM will also implement interagency wildland fire smoke mitigation measures adopted by the Alaska Wildland Fire Coordinating Group and consider public health and safety in all fire management activities.

A-4: Monitoring

Monitoring will be performed as required as identified in project-specific NEPA analysis.

B. AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

B-1: Goal

ACECs are designated to highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, and scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes.

B-2: Allocations

Designate approximately 36,220 acres in the Goodnews planning block as an ACEC, including Carter Spit and adjacent coastal wetland habitat (Map E-3).

B-3: Carter Spit ACEC

B-3-a: Objectives

Protect coastal areas associated with molting and staging habitat for Steller's eiders, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

B-3-b: Management Actions

- OHVs would be limited to existing trails.
- The ACEC would be open to leasable mineral entry subject to resource protection measures and additional provisions determined through project-specific NEPA analysis.
- The ACEC would be opened to locatable mineral subject to Required Operating Procedures and project-specific requirements as determined through project-specific NEPA analysis.
- The ACEC would be closed to salable mineral development.
- The area would be designated as a Rights-of-Way (ROW) avoidance area (ROW may be permitted with special restrictions).
- Livestock grazing would be managed on a case-by-case basis.
- Inventories and assessments of biological and habitat resources (particularly Steller's eider) is a field office priority. The timing and scope of inventory efforts will be determined by available funding.
- An inventory of cultural and paleontological resources would be a field office priority for the proposed Carter Spit ACEC dependent upon available funding.
- Carter Spit ACEC will be managed as VRM Class III.

B-3-c: Monitoring

Inventories and assessments of biological, habitat, cultural and paleontological resources will be a field office priority determined by available funding.

C. CULTURAL and PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

C-1: Goal

- Identify, protect, and preserve significant cultural resources.
- 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 will comply with the NHPA Section 106.
- Manage cultural and paleontological resources for a variety of uses, including scientific use, conservation for future use, public education and interpretation, traditional use (in the case of Cultural Resources), and experimental use.
- All actions that may impact cultural resources will comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Sections 106 and 110, and with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), as well as laws governing the protection or consideration of cultural resources.

C-2: Objective

- Develop partnerships to achieve goals.

C-3: Management Actions

- When any Federal undertaking, including any action funded or authorized by the Federal Government with the potential to directly or indirectly affect any archaeological or historic site is planned, a consultation shall occur with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under the 1997 National Cultural Programmatic Agreement and the 1998 State Protocol that stands in place of 36 CFR 800.
- All cultural properties on BLM-managed lands in the Bay planning area would be managed for their scientific use (preserved until their research potential is realized).
- The BLM will notify the State of Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) when archaeological or historic sites are identified.
- An inventory of cultural and paleontological resources would be a field office priority for the proposed Carter Spit ACEC dependent upon available funding.

C-4: Monitoring

- Continue to conduct non-Section 106 related inventories as funds are available.
- Monitor cultural and paleontological resource sites in danger of alteration or destruction from natural or human-made causes, including wildland fires and the effects of fire suppression
- A periodic review of the cultural resource program will be conducted to ensure that the program is meeting the established parameters for proactive cultural resources inventory under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

D. FIRE MANAGEMENT and ECOLOGY

D-1: Goals

- Protect human life and property.
- Provide appropriate management response on all wildland fires, with an emphasis on firefighter and public safety.
- Management of wildland fires and fuels will focus on maintaining intact and functioning key ecosystem components.
- Reduce adverse effects of fire management activities.
- Base fire and fuels management activities on land use and resource objectives.
- Continue interagency collaboration and cooperation.

D-2: Management Actions

- Manage vegetation adjacent to populated areas to reduce risk of wildfires.
- Use wildland fire and fuel treatments as management tools to meet land use and resource objectives.
- Reduce risk and cost of uncontrolled wildland fire through wildland fire use, prescribed fire, manual or mechanical treatment.
- Reduce adverse effects of fire management activities.
- Prescribed burn plans will contain ROPs to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive non-native plants and noxious weeds.
- Continue interagency collaboration and cooperation.

D-3: Monitoring

- Monitor the number and size of wildland fires for cumulative impacts on wildlife habitat, particularly caribou winter range.

- Monitor vegetative communities for cumulative effects of wildland fire and suppression actions.
- Monitor cultural resources for effects of wildland fire and suppression actions.
- Vegetative communities would be monitored for cumulative effects of wildland fire and suppression activities as funding permits.

E. FISH

Note: for Special Status Fish, refer to Special Status Species.

E-1: Goal

- Work in conjunction with other programs and agencies to manage riparian areas.
- Achieve fish habitat stability and manage the aquatic and riparian habitat for all life stages of anadromous and resident fish.
- Provide for the continuing availability of fish habitat that contributes to the social, scientific, and economic aspects of the local communities and the Nation.
- Determine and maintain or restore the fisheries potential of the aquatic and riparian habitat in BLM jurisdiction in the Bay planning area.
- Section 305(b)(2) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act (MSA) requires all Federal agencies to consult with the Secretary of Commerce on all actions or proposed actions authorized, funded, or undertaken by the agency that may adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). EFH as defined in the MSA means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding or growth to maturity and can include fresh and saltwater habitats. For Alaska, EFH includes all streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and other water bodies that have been historically accessible to salmon.

E-2: Objectives

A detailed description of desired land health conditions and objectives are described in Land Health Standards (Appendix A, section B). Specific objectives for obtaining desired conditions pertaining to fisheries include:

- Water quality meets state water quality standards.
- Essential habitat elements for species, populations, and communities are present and available to the extent they are consistent with the potential/capability of the landscape.

E-3: Management Actions

- Additional site-specific objectives and habitat management actions for priority species will be established by application requests of proposed activities.
- Comply with provisions of the MSA to protect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). If land use activities are likely to adversely affect EFH, consult with the Secretary of Commerce through National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to mitigate these effects. Adverse effect is defined in 50 CFR 600.910(a) as any impact that reduces the quality and/or quantity of EFH. For Alaska, EFH includes all streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and other water bodies that have been historically accessible to salmon.
- BLM Alaska has a Master Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Alaska for management of fish and wildlife (Appendix B).

E-4: Monitoring

- Inventory and monitor fish habitat in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), other Federal agencies, private non-profit corporations and tribal agencies.
- In cooperation with ADF&G, monitor priority species population trends where issues exist or are pending and populations may be impacted.

F. FLOODPLAINS

F-1: Goals

- Reduce flood damage and loss of life and property.
- Minimize the impacts of floods on human safety, health and welfare.
- Sustain, restore and preserve the natural resources, ecosystems, and other functions of the floodplain, and the other beneficial values served by floodplains. Beneficial processes include maintaining the frequency and duration of floodplain/wetland inundation.

F-2: Objectives

Floodplain management guidelines are defined within Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management). For administrative purposes, the 100-year floodplain serves as a basis for floodplain management on public land. If available, floodplain boundaries are based on the Flood Insurance Rate Maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). If FEMA maps are not available, floodplain boundaries will be based on the best available information.

F-3: Management Actions

Proposed permitted or authorized uses would be analyzed through the appropriate NEPA document. Based on NEPA analysis, the BLM would develop mitigation to minimize impacts from proposed activities to floodplains. The resulting mitigation measures would be included in the permit that authorized the use. The BLM will continue to comply with applicable legislation, Federal regulations, and policy pertaining to floodplains.

The following are steps to be taken in order to determine whether an activity will be allowed in the floodplain.

- Before taking any action, determine whether the proposed action will occur within a floodplain.
- Provide for public review.
- Identify and evaluate practicable Alternatives for locating in the floodplain.
- Identify the impacts of the proposed action.
- Minimize threats to life, property and to natural and beneficial floodplain values, and restore and preserve natural and beneficial floodplain values.
- Re-evaluate Alternatives including no action.
- Issue findings and a public explanation.
- Implement the action (or no action).

In addition, the BLM may undertake projects as required to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains. Resource protection measures would be applied based on the proposed activity.

F-4: Monitoring

Monitoring methods will be determined based on results of project-specific NEPA analysis.

G. FORESTS AND FOREST PRODUCTS

G-1: Goals

- Manage forests and woodlands to sustain their health, productivity, and biological diversity.
- Consistent with other resource values, provide opportunities for personal and commercial use of timber and other vegetative resources.

G-2: Objectives

- Protect the soil surface from erosion; avoid detention of overland flow; maintain infiltration and permeability that is consistent with the potential/capability of the site.
- Promote moisture storage by soil and plant conditions consistent with the potential/capability of the site.
- Hydrologic, vegetative, and erosion/depositional processes support physical functioning, consistent with the potential or capability of the site.
- Nutrient cycling is occurring effectively, consistent with the potential/capability of the site.
- Essential habitat elements for species, populations, and communities are present and available to the extent they are consistent with the potential/capability of the landscape.

G-3: Management Actions

- The natural range of variation in plant composition and structure and the high value of natural resources will be sustained.
- Issue permits to authorize sale of forest products consistent with 43 CFR 5400.
- Assess the feasibility of fuel reductions, prescribed fire, or salvage logging in localized areas of insect and disease killed trees.
- Issue free use permits to harvest forest products for personal use consistent with 43 CFR 5500.
- Further restrictions on harvest of forest products would apply in the Carter Spit ACEC, including but not limited to seasonal restrictions. Additional restrictions may be determined through project-specific NEPA analysis.

G-4: Monitoring

The BLM will identify potential commercial harvest areas and high interest personal use areas as requests to harvest forest products are received. If any of these areas are identified within the Carter Spit ACEC, management will be consistent with the objectives of the ACEC.

H. GRAZING (LIVESTOCK AND REINDEER)

H-1: Goals

- Avoid conflicts between livestock grazing uses, fisheries and wildlife habitat, and subsistence uses.
- Determine range suitability for livestock, and the potential allocation of forage for livestock in the planning area ecosystems.
- Maintain habitat needed to support healthy populations of wildlife to meet population viability and human use demands, as required by FLPMA and the Land Health Standards.

H-2: Management Actions

Livestock grazing will be considered and administered on a case-by-case basis as permits are received.

- Avoid conflicts between grazing, habitat requirements of fish and wildlife, and other human uses.
- If proposals for grazing are received, develop allotment management plans that include grazing systems and fire management and allows for maintaining long-term native vegetative communities, composition, diversity, distribution and productivity.
- Allow incidental grazing of pack animals associated with special recreation permits on a case-by-case basis consistent with the permitting process for special recreation use permits, Required Operating Procedures and the Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards.
- Special recreation permits and casual use of grazing animals require evaluation for suitability and compatibility before authorizing use.
- Grazing permits would be subject to Required Operating Procedures and project-specific requirements, to maintain habitat needed to support healthy wildlife populations.

H-3: Monitoring

- The BLM would consider cooperative monitoring with adjacent landowners and agencies to assess range conditions and use and to provide the necessary information to manage all aspects of grazing activities.
- The BLM would inventory habitat to ensure priority for wildlife species, and that conflicts or threats are adequately addressed.

I. LANDS AND REALTY

I-1: Goals

- Meet public needs for use authorizations while minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values.
- Adjust land ownership to consolidate public land holdings, acquire lands with high public resource values, and meet public and community needs.
- Identify disposal areas based on specific disposal criteria and other evaluation factors identified in this plan.
- Assist with Alaska goal of completing the Alaska Lands Transfer program by established timeframes.
- Satisfy State and local government land use needs as well as public and/or private demonstrated needs as they arise.

- Revoke BLM-held withdrawals deemed inappropriate and restore them to the public domain.
- Revoke withdrawals for other agencies at their request, provided that the lands are suitable to be restored to the public domain.

I-2: Land Use Authorizations

Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM lands for special purposes under several different authorities; leases, permits, and easements under section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA); airport leases under the Act of May 24, 1928; and leases under the Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act as amended.

I-2-a: Land Use Authorizations (Unencumbered Lands)

A. FLPMA leases: All FLPMA leases would be at market value rental, or determined according to a rental schedule. Cabins or permanent structures used for private recreation cannot be authorized under this authority. Proposals for leases for commercial use cabins, special use cabins, or subsistence use cabins would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Currently there are no commercial use cabins, special use cabins or subsistence use cabins located on BLM lands in the Bay planning area. 43 CFR 2920.1-1 clarifies when a lease, permit, or easement is required.

Required Operating Procedures would apply, and NEPA compliance is necessary for approving FLPMA Leases.

B. Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Leases: R&PP leases will follow requirements in 43 CFR 2740. Should lands leased under the R&PP authority be authorized for sale, the land would be removed from Federal ownership via a patent with a reversionary clause.

R&PP leases would not be issued for projects that may include the disposal, placement, or release of hazardous materials (i.e., sanitary landfills). In the case of an existing lease where the purpose of the lease is to dispose, place or release hazardous materials, the land must be converted to patent without a reversionary clause, thereby preventing the land from returning to Federal ownership.

C. FLPMA Permits: Permits are issued at market value rental, or determined according to a rental schedule. According to 43 CFR 2920.2-2, they may be granted for a land use if the BLM determines that the use is in conformance with the agency plans, policies, and programs, local regulations, and other requirements, and will not cause appreciable damage or disturbance to the public lands, their resources, or improvements.

In general:

- Cabins or permanent structure permits would not be issued for private recreation purposes.
- Commercial use cabins, special use cabins, or subsistence use cabins may be authorized with short-term (maximum three year) permits renewable at the discretion of BLM. Once the permittee demonstrated conformance to policies and regulations, the Authorized Officer could reissue the authorization as a lease or renew as a permit.

(Trapping shelters would be authorized by short-term (three years maximum) FLPMA sec. 302 permits renewable at the discretion of the BLM and tied to the applicant's ability to show actual use for profitable trapping purposes).

- Shelters, tent platforms, and other temporary facilities and equipment used for hunting and fishing are allowed on BLM lands under Section 1316 of ANILCA.

D. FLPMA Easements: Each proposal for an easement would be considered pursuant to 43 CFR 2920.7. Authorized easements would contain terms and conditions protecting the environment, public health, and safety.

I-2-b: Land Use Authorizations (Selected Lands)

A land use authorization is an authorization issued by the BLM to use public lands in accordance with section 302 of FLPMA. The two most commonly issued authorizations in the planning area are leases and permits.

The State of Alaska and ANCSA Native Corporations have selected BLM-managed lands in the Bay planning area for conveyance. State and Native selections affect BLM's processing of land use authorizations.

- **Native-selected lands.** Prior to issuing a use authorization the views of the Native Corporation shall be obtained and considered. Monies received for most use authorization on Native-selected lands would go into an escrow account to be disbursed to the Native Corporation upon conveyance.
- **State-selected lands.** In accordance with 906(k) of ANILCA, the BLM must receive a letter of concurrence from the State of Alaska prior to issuance of any use authorization. The BLM may then incorporate State terms and conditions in the use authorization if they comply with Federal laws and regulations. Money received for most use authorization on State-selected lands would go into an escrow account to be disbursed to the State upon conveyance. If the State objects to the use authorization, the BLM would not issue it. If the proposal is for an authorization on land that has been top filed by the State, pursuant to 906(e) of ANILCA, a letter of concurrence is not required because the top filing is not yet a valid right, but a future interest in the land.

I-2-c: Monitoring

Land use authorizations will be monitored through field examinations to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorizing document. On-the-ground monitoring will occur periodically throughout the life of the authorization.

I-3: Land Tenure Adjustments

Land tenure adjustments could consist of a sale or an exchange. The BLM may identify disposal areas by parcel or by specific areas that would be subject to disposal based on the application of the specific disposal criteria (FLPMA, Section 203 or 206) and other evaluation factors (e.g. resource values and concerns, accessibility, public investment, encumbrances, and community needs) identified in this plan. A goal of future adjustments would be to exchange identified isolated parcels of land for those which would help the BLM to consolidate its unencumbered lands.

Lands withdrawn under the public land laws or segregated by State or Native selection would not be offered for disposal until such time as the State and Native Corporations reach full entitlement.

I-3-a: Disposal

Entitlement and Settlement: The BLM Anchorage Field Office will assist in the conveyance of lands pursuant to legislative mandates. These mandates include the Alaska Statehood Act (1958), ANCSA (1971), and the Native Allotment Act (1906). Refer to section I-6 Withdrawal Review for a detailed description of management action.

Airport and Airway Improvement Act of September 3, 1982: The BLM would continue to process airport conveyances as requested by the Federal Aviation Administration. Each conveyance must contain appropriate covenants and reservation requested by the Federal Aviation Administration. As a condition to each conveyance, the property interest conveyed must revert to the Federal government in the event the lands are not developed for airport or airway purposes or are used in a manner inconsistent with the terms of the conveyance.

Sales: Public lands meeting one or more stated criteria could be disposed of through FLPMA Section 203 (43 CFR 2710). Table 3 shows parcels the BLM has identified for disposal through land exchange or sale (Map E-4). The preferable method for disposal of these lands is through sale.

Table 3. Parcels Identified for Disposal Preferably through Sale

Parcels Identified for Land Exchange or Disposal (sale):		
Aleknagik Vicinity, T10S R55W Sec. 32, U.S. Survey 12403, lots 1 and 2, (5 acres)	Clarks Point Vicinity, T14S R55W Sec. 8, (46 acres)	Clarks Point Vicinity, T15S R55W Sec. 6,7,18, (25 acres)

Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act Sales: Lands identified for disposal under this authority that are selected by either the State or Native Corporations would have to be fully adjudicated before the BLM would entertain a sale. In order to be analyzed for disposal under the R&PP Act (43 CFR 2740, as amended, 2001), applicants must meet conditions as described in BLM Handbook H-2740-1.

No lands in the Bay planning area have been identified for disposal under this authority.

I-3-b: Exchanges

The BLM would seek to put in place mutually beneficial public interest land exchanges, which are authorized in Alaska by FLPMA, ANCSA, and ANILCA. Where feasible, the BLM will consider land exchanges to resolve issues of split estate ownership of surface and subsurface interests. When considering public interest, full consideration must be given to efficient management of public lands and to secure important objectives including protection of fish and wildlife, cultural resources, and aesthetic values; enhancement of recreational opportunities; consolidation of mineral holdings for more efficient management; expansion of communities;

promotion of multiple use values, and fulfillment of public needs. Exchanges would not be pursued until State and Native entitlements are fulfilled. Table 4 shows parcels of land in the Iliamna East and Iliamna West planning blocks and two sections east of Aleknagik identified for potential exchange (Map E-4).

Table 4. Parcels Identified for Potential Exchange

Parcels Identified for Land Exchange						
Chekok Creek, T2 and 3S, R30W. (5,749 acres)	Chulitna River, T1N, R32W Sec. 21, 22, 23, 28, 31, 32 (3,840 acres)	Katmai Boundary T11S R35W Sec. 1. (323 acres)	T11S R37W Sec. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10; Sec. 16, 21 portions. (3,533 acres)	T11S R44W Sec. 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19. (4,415 acres)	Aleknagik Vicinity, T10S R53W Sec. 7, 18 (1228 acres)	T9S R72W Sec. 18 (605 acres)

I-3-c: Acquisitions

The BLM Anchorage Field Office (AFO) does not anticipate acquiring lands within the Bay planning area during the life of this plan except perhaps through exchange or donations.

Conservation Easements: The BLM would continue to manage conservation easements for the specific purpose for which they were acquired. Currently there are no conservation easements on BLM-managed lands in the Bay planning area.

I-4: Monitoring (Disposals, Acquisitions, Exchanges)

Land ownership adjustment actions will be monitored through the BLM accomplishment tracking process. Management, realty personnel, and other key staff members in the Anchorage Field Office will meet periodically to review program status. Changes in land ownership affecting BLM lands or interests in lands will be posted to the Anchorage Field Office’s official land ownership coverage in a timely manner.

I-5: Access

I-5-a: Goal

Manage routes to provide access to public lands, recreation, and subsistence opportunities.

I-5-b: Management Actions

ANCSA 17(b) Easements: The BLM is responsible for identifying and reserving these easements during the conveyance process in accordance with 43 CFR § 2650.4-7. The management of these easements lies with the BLM or, under a Memorandum of Understanding, the appropriate Federal land manager. The BLM does not have an agreement for transferring easement management to the State of Alaska. Consequently, the BLM retains management responsibilities for easements reserved to access State lands.

The BLM would continue to administer ANCSA Section 17(b) easements that have been reserved in patents or interim conveyances to ANCSA corporations as staffing and budgets allow. ANCSA 17(b) easement management will be transferred to the National Park Service

(NPS) or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for those easements that access lands administered by these agencies or are wholly within the boundaries of the park, preserve, Wild and Scenic River corridor, or refuge. On BLM-managed lands, the BLM will continue to locate, mark and sign, GPS survey, map, and monitor ANCSA 17(b) easement locations as staffing and budgets allow. The BLM reserves easements to ensure access to Federal, State, and municipal corporation lands as ANCSA conveyances occur. The BLM would continue to identify, sign, map, monitor use, and realign ANCSA 17(b) easements, with priority based on:

- Easements with safety hazards.
- Easements accessing lands that are permanently managed by BLM or are important to BLM programs.
- Easements receiving high use.
- Easements required to implement an activity or implementation plan.
- Easements where landowners have made a request to work cooperatively on marking projects.
- Easements where environmental damage is occurring.

I-5-c: Monitoring (Access)

Periodic monitoring of easements will occur to accomplish the following:

- Assure safe and continued access to public lands and waters.
- Ascertain that the easement is actually being used for the purpose it was reserved.
- Determine maintenance needs and replacement of any markers and signs which are damaged or removed.
- Be able to justify retention of the easement or termination if the easement is no longer needed.

I-5-d: Rights-of-Way (ROW): Rental fees for ROW are at market value rental, or determined according to a rental schedule. The BLM may exempt, waive or reduce rent for a grant under certain circumstances except that there are no reductions or waivers for Mineral Leasing Act (MLA) authorizations. Construction within new ROW would consider valid existing rights and uses. Resource protection measures (Appendix A), and project-specific requirements would apply to MLA and FLPMA ROW.

ROW for oil or gas pipelines and their related facilities are issued under the authority of Section 28 of the MLA (1920). In accordance with 43 CFR 2880, the BLM will require MLA ROWs to:

- Restore, revegetate, and curtail erosion.
- Comply with air and water quality standards.
- Control or prevent damage to the environment, to public or private property, and hazards to public health and safety.
- Protect subsistence interests of those living along the Right-of-Way.

Title V of FLPMA authorizes the issuance of ROW for other uses, such as transportation systems (roads and trails), water pipelines and reservoirs, systems for generation and transmission of electric energy, and various types of communication sites. According to 43 CFR 2800 and ANILCA, the BLM may grant such Rights-of-Way provided that:

- The natural resources located on public lands administered by a government agency, where the public lands are adjacent to private or other lands, are protected.
- Undue or unnecessary environmental damage to the lands and resources is prevented.

- The utilization of ROW in common with respect to engineering and technological compatibility, national security and land use plans compatibility are promoted.
- Coordination, to the fullest extent possible, takes place with the State, local governments, interested individuals and appropriate non-governmental entities.

The Carter Spit ACEC is designated as a ROW avoidance area: refer to section B

Travel Management and OHV Use: Refer to section Q

I-5-e: Monitoring (Rights-of-Way)

Periodic monitoring of Rights-of-Way will occur to accomplish the following:

- Assure project is built in compliance with grant and resource protection measures.
- Assure Right-of-Way is continually maintained and utilized for intended purpose.

I-6: Withdrawals

I-6-a: Management Actions (ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals)

The BLM would recommend, to the Secretary of the Interior, revocation of all ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals in the planning area.

I-6-b: Management Actions (other withdrawals)

The BLM would maintain Agency withdrawals (including: two water power withdrawals, six military withdrawals, and nine administrative site withdrawals) until the agency for which the land was withdrawn, requested revocation of the withdrawal (Maps E-5a, b, c, and d).

I-6-c: Monitoring (Withdrawals)

Withdrawal actions will be monitored through the BLM accomplishment tracking process. Management, realty personnel, and other key staff members in the Anchorage Field Office will meet periodically to review program status.

I-7: Unauthorized Occupancy

Criteria for prioritizing which unauthorized cases would receive the highest consideration are:

- Situations involving new unauthorized construction, public safety, or public complaints
- Areas identified for long-term Federal management
- Selected lands on which resources are being removed without authorization, where resource damage is occurring, or the presence of a trespass cabin is holding up a conveyance
- Other selected lands

I-7-a: Management Actions

Trespass cabins may become the property of the U.S. Government and be managed as administrative sites, as emergency shelters, or as public use cabins. Possible management actions on trespass cabins include:

- Removal of the structure.
- Relinquishment to the U.S. Government for management purposes, and
- Authorization by lease or permit for legitimate uses if consistent with identified area objectives.

I-7-b: Monitoring (Unauthorized Occupancy)

Lands and Realty staff and other resource staff will continue to monitor in the field and report potential unauthorized use.

I-8: Carter Spit ACEC (Lands and Realty)

- The Carter Spit and adjacent salt marshes and wetlands (Map E-3) would be designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern to provide additional protection to Steller's eider (a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act) and the marshes and estuaries which provide the unique environment that support molting and staging habitat.
- The BLM recommends, to the Secretary of the Interior, revocation of all ANCSA 17 (d)(1) withdrawals in the planning area.
- The area would be designated as a Right-of-Way avoidance area (Rights-of-Way can be available but with special resource protection measures).
- Lands would not be considered available under R&PP.

J. MINERALS

J-1: Fluid Leasable Minerals (Oil and Gas)

J-1-a: Goal

Public lands and Federal mineral estate will be made available for orderly and efficient exploration (including geophysical exploration), development and production of fluid leasable minerals, including oil, natural gas, tar sands, coal bed methane and geothermal steam, unless a withdrawal or other administrative action is justified in the national interest. Geothermal resources would be available for leasing in areas open to oil and gas leasing. Areas closed to oil and gas leasing are also closed to geothermal leasing.

J-1-b: Allocations

Areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form: BLM-managed lands, subsurface estate, and any State- or Native-selected lands relinquished from current selection. (Map E-6a and b) ROPs and Fluid Leasable Stipulations (Appendix A) will be applied to protect other land use or resource values.

Areas closed to leasing: Existing Agency withdrawals, of approximately 3,318 acres would remain withdrawn from fluid mineral leasing. (Map E-6a and b)

Areas open to leasing, subject to additional constraints such as seasonal restrictions: Carter Spit ACEC (36,220 acres) is designated to protect habitat for federally-listed migratory bird species (Map E-6a and b), see ROPs SS-1a, 1b, and SS-2a (Appendix A).

Throughout the Bay planning area to protect caribou habitat, see Stipulations #6 and #7 and ROPs FW-3b, and FW-3d (Appendix A).

Areas open to leasing, subject to No Surface Occupancy (NSO): A 300-ft. NSO buffer on either side of the East and South Forks of the Arolik River, Faro Creek, South Fork Goodnews River, and Klutuk Creek totaling 1,834 acres (Map E-6a and b), see Fluid Leasing Stipulations (Appendix A).

J-1-c: Management Actions

- Lands currently selected by the State and Native Corporations are segregated from mineral leasing to avoid potential encumbrances on selected lands prior to conveyance.
- Areas for potential leasing would be identified consistent with the goals, standards, and objectives for natural resources within the planning area. Areas where oil and gas development could coexist with other resource uses would be open to leasing under Standard Lease Terms. ROPs and Fluid Leasing Stipulations (Appendix A) may also apply.
- Fluid Leasing Stipulations and Required Operating Procedures described in Appendix A apply to all BLM-managed lands in the Bay planning area open to oil and gas leasing. Fluid Leasing Stipulations notify the leaseholder that development activities may be limited, prohibited, or implemented with mitigation measures to protect specific resources. The Fluid Leasing Stipulations would condition the leaseholder's development activities and provide BLM the authority to require other mitigation or to deny some proposed exploration and development methods.
- Additional constraints might also be required based on project-specific NEPA analysis. Additional information can be provided to the lessee in the form of a lease notice. This notice does not place restrictions on lease operations, but does provide information about applicable laws and regulations, and the requirements for additional information to be supplied by the lessee.
- For Federal oil and gas where the surface is managed by another Federal agency, the BLM will consult with that agency before issuing leases.
- All areas open to mineral leasing would be open to geophysical exploration, except those lands containing NSO restrictions, which would only be available for geophysical exploration in winter conditions, subject to Fluid Leasing Stipulations and through Casual Use as described in 43 CFR 3150.05(b) during non-winter conditions. On a case-by-case basis geophysical exploration may be allowed in areas closed to oil and gas leasing based on the nature and level of impacts from the exploration, and consistency with other applicable policy. Oil and gas geophysical exploration activity on public lands in Alaska, the surface of which is administered by the BLM, is governed by regulations found at 43 CFR Subparts 3150, 3152, and 3154. A Federal oil and gas lease is not required to conduct geophysical exploration. The BLM will review Notices of Intent to Conduct Geophysical Exploration (NOI) in the planning area and develop appropriate mitigation measures so as not to create unnecessary or undue degradation. A site-specific environmental analysis will be prepared for each NOI filed. Fluid Leasing Stipulations, ROPs, and Standard Lease Terms developed in this document (Appendix A) serve as the starting point for developing required mitigation measures for each NOI.
- Geothermal resources would be available for leasing in areas open to oil and gas leasing. Areas closed to oil and gas leasing are also closed to geothermal leasing. There are no Known Geothermal Resource Areas (KGRAs) on BLM-managed lands within the planning area. A site-specific environmental analysis would be prepared should interest be expressed in exploring for or developing geothermal resources in the planning area. This analysis would address the application of Fluid Leasing Stipulations and may develop additional mitigating.
- Coal bed natural gas (CBNG) development is authorized by the same process as oil and gas.
- Public lands available for oil and gas leasing would be offered first by competitive bid at an oral auction. Fluid Leasing Stipulations, terms, and conditions would be applied at the time of leasing. Leasing of available lands under jurisdiction of another Federal

agency would only occur following consultation, and consent if necessary, from the surface managing agency.

- Where oil or gas is being drained from lands otherwise unavailable for leasing, there is implied authority in the agency having jurisdiction of those lands to grant authority to the BLM to lease such lands (43 CFR 3100.0-3(d)). Leasing of such lands would only occur following consultation, and consent if necessary, from the surface managing agency.
- The terms of existing oil and gas leases cannot be changed by the decisions in this document. However, when the lease expires, the area will be managed for oil and gas according to the decisions made in this RMP/EIS.

J-1-d: Monitoring

If leasing occurs, monitoring will be done to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, conditions of leases, and the requirements of approved exploration/development plans/applications for permit to drill. Monitoring activities will include:

- Periodic field inspections of leasable mineral activities. Inspections will be conducted to determine compliance with applicable laws, regulations, Fluid Leasing Stipulations, and the requirements of approved exploration and development plans, applications for permit to drill, and sundry notices.
- Monitoring of oil and gas drilling/production activities in the planning area. Total surface disturbance from all drilling will be tracked.

An accurate accounting of production will also be tracked on producing leases.

J-2: Solid Leasable Minerals

The Governor of any state with an approved regulatory program may request that the Secretary of the Department of the Interior enter into a cooperative agreement to grant the State the authority to implement the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 on Federal lands. At present, Alaska has no such agreement in place.

J-2-a: Goal

Public lands and the Federal mineral estate will be made available for orderly and efficient exploration, development and production of solid leasable mineral resources (including coal and oil shale, and non-energy leasable minerals (including potassium, sodium, phosphate and gilsonite), unless continued withdrawal from mineral entry is justified in the national interest.

All solid leasable minerals actions will comply with goals and objectives for natural resources in the planning area.

J-2-b: Allocations

Currently there are no known coal resources on BLM-managed lands in the Bay planning area. There is no occurrence of phosphates, oil shale, or sodium resources in the planning area.

J-2-c: Management Actions

- Leasing and exploration licensing are subject to BLM standard lease terms and Required Operating Procedures (Appendix A).
- Coal and oil shale exploration and leasing will comply with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, the

Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Land of 1947 and other Federal resource and environmental laws, coal regulations and coal planning criteria.

- All unencumbered BLM-managed lands within the Bay planning area, subject to coal leasing under Part 43 CFR 3400.2, are open to coal exploration and study through the issuance of an exploration license. To date, no areas within the Bay RMP have been identified as having economic coal reserves. Therefore, the coal screening process (as identified by 43 CFR 3420.1-4) has not been conducted for this plan. If an application for a coal lease should be received, an appropriate environmental analysis, including the coal screening process, would be conducted to determine whether or not the coal areas are acceptable for leasing under 43 CFR 3420.1-4(e). The Bay RMP/EIS would be amended as necessary.
- Should coal operations be developed on Federal lands, an agreement would likely be developed between the State of Alaska and the Office of Surface Mining defining the regulatory role of the State in these mining operations (30 CFR 745).
- The Mineral Leasing Act authorizes the leasing of Federal lands for the development of oil shale. However, there are currently no regulations governing the leasing of oil shale. Oil shale may be leased under the authority of 30 U.S.C. Chapter 3A, Subchapter V, section 241.
- Solid leasable minerals include chlorides, sulfates, carbonates, borates, silicates or nitrates of potassium or sodium and related products; sulphur, phosphate and related minerals; oil shale, coal and gilsonite (including all vein-type solid hydrocarbons). The likelihood of commercially valuable deposits of these minerals occurring on BLM-managed lands in the planning area is not presently known. If solid leasable mineral deposits (excluding oil shale and coal) were discovered, subsequent leasing, exploration, and development would be analyzed and would be subject to regulations under 43 CFR 3500 (Leasing of Solid Minerals other than Coal and Oil Shale). Non-energy leasable mineral exploration and leasing will comply with the Mineral Leasing act of 1920, as amended, the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Land of 1947, as amended, Federal resource laws, the Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946, and non energy leasable minerals regulations.
- Lands under selection by the State and Native Corporations are segregated from mineral leasing. The categories and constraints identified in this section only apply on lands retained in long-term Federal ownership.

J-3: Locatable Minerals

J-3-a: Goal

Maintain or enhance opportunities for mineral exploration and development while preventing undue and unnecessary degradation of other resource values from the development of locatable and salable mineral resources.

J-3-b: Allocations

- This RMP recommends revocation of withdrawals to open approximately 1,102,489 acres of unencumbered BLM land and any State- or Native- selected lands relinquished from selection to mineral location. All selected lands would remain closed to mineral entry.
- Approximately 3,968 acres would remain withdrawn from mineral entry due to Agency withdrawals as described in specific PLOs (Maps E-5a, b, c, d).
- The Carter Spit ACEC would be open to locatable mineral activities. ROPs (Appendix A) would apply to protect habitat for Steller's eider, a federally-listed migratory bird species (Map E-7a).
- A 300-ft setback on either side of the East and South Forks of the Arolik River, Faro Creek, South Fork Goodnews River, and Klutuk Creek (Maps E-7a and b) would be established to protect riparian areas and soils adjacent to sensitive habitat for salmon and resident fish (ROPs, Appendix A).

J-3-c: Management Actions

- Mining of locatable minerals including existing mineral claims, would be subject to the surface management regulations found in 43 CFR 3809. Surface occupancy under the mining laws will be limited to uses incident to the mining operation. Bonding will be required in accordance with BLM policy. Specific measures that would be utilized to minimize surface impacts and to facilitate rehabilitation and revegetation of mined areas can be found in the Required Operating Procedures in Appendix A.
- All operations must file a Notice or Plan of Operations with BLM. A Plan of Operations is required for operations in excess of 5 acres. All Plans of Operations must be approved prior to commencement of on-the-ground activities. Areas withdrawn from mineral location in which valid existing rights are being exercised require the filing of a Plan of Operations.
- All operations within the Carter Spit will require a Plan of Operations.
- Lands under selection by the State and Native Corporations are segregated from locatable mineral and salable material entry. For State- and Native-selected lands, revocation or modification of ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals as indicated below only apply if lands are retained in long-term Federal ownership.

J-3-d: Monitoring

Monitoring of mining operations will be done to ensure compliance with 43 CFR 3809 and other regulations and conditions of approval, specifically preventing "unnecessary or undue degradation." Each Plan of Operation and Notice will have mitigation measures that cover the life of the operation. Field inspections will look for compliance with these measures and include monitoring reclamation of disturbed areas, revegetation and protection of the environment and public health and safety. Findings for each inspection will be documented and placed in the case file. Any non-compliance items will be noted and appropriate regulatory procedures followed.

43 CFR 3809 regulations require inspections at least four times a year for operations that use cyanide or other leachate or where there is a significant potential for acid drainage. Inspections for active operations will occur twice a year and all others will be inspected once per year. Operations in sensitive areas or operations with a high potential for greater than usual impacts will require inspections more often.

J-4: Salable Minerals (Mineral Materials)

J-4-a: Allocations

- This RMP recommends revocation of withdrawals to open approximately 1,100,654 acres of unencumbered BLM land and any selected lands relinquished from selection to salable mineral development. All selected lands would remain closed to salable mineral activities (Maps E-8a and b).
- Approximately 3,968 acres would remain withdrawn from salable mineral activities due to Agency withdrawals as described in specific PLOs. (Maps E-5a,b,c, and d)
- The Carter Spit ACEC (36,220 acres) would be closed to salable mineral activities (Map E-3).
- A 300-ft setback on either side of the East and South Forks of the Arolik River, Faro Creek, South Fork Goodnews River, and Klutuk Creek would be established to protect riparian areas and soils adjacent to sensitive habitat for salmon and resident fish (Appendix A, Resource Protection Measures).

J-4-b: Management Actions

Monitoring of mining operations will be done to ensure compliance with 43 CFR 3600 and other regulations and conditions of approval, specifically preventing “unnecessary or undue degradation”. Bonding would be required in accordance with BLM contract regulations. Each disposal shall require that a Mining and Reclamation plan be approved and on file with the BLM. On-site field inspections will look for compliance with these operations plans and include monitoring reclamation of disturbed areas, revegetation and protection of the environment and public health and safety. Findings for each inspection will be documented and placed in the case file. Generally, all salable disposals will be monitored with an annual site inspection; large volume operations or operations with a higher potential for negative impacts will be inspected more frequently.

J-4-c: Monitoring

Monitoring of salable minerals will be done to ensure compliance with applicable laws, regulations, BLM policy contained in BLM Manual Section 3600 and Handbook H-3600-1.

Field inspections of common use areas, exclusive sale sites and other operations will be done on a periodic basis and will determine compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and the requirements of the approved mining plan. Inspections will specifically note compliance with reclamation, weed control, protection of the environment, and public health and safety. Operations in sensitive environmental areas or operations with a high potential for greater than usual impacts will be inspected more often. Identification and resolution of salable trespasses will also be performed.

K. PUBLIC SAFETY: ABANDONED MINE LANDS / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

K-1: ABANDONED MINE LANDS

K-1a: Goal

- Protect public health and safety and environmental resources by minimizing environmental contamination from chemical, biological and radiological sources on public lands and BLM-owned or operated facilities.
- Comply with Federal and State hazardous materials standards and meet all Federal and State mandates, laws, Executive Orders, regulations and policies.
- Maintain the health of ecosystems through location, assessment, cleanup, and restoration of contaminated sites.
- Manage hazardous materials related risks, costs, and liabilities.
- Integrate environmental protection and compliance with all environmental statutes into all BLM activities.

K-1b: Management Actions

- Impacts caused by past hazardous materials management on BLM lands will be mitigated subject to the availability of funds.
- The BLM will prevent creation of new hazardous material sites through implementation of ROPs (Appendix A) for all land use permits, leases, ROW, and mining claims and will include pollution prevention measures in all permits, leases, and grants of ROW.

K-1c: Monitoring

The BLM will coordinate and consult with appropriate regulatory agencies for all cleanup plans, and will notify and coordinate hazardous materials activities with specific Native Corporations on Native-selected lands.

K-2: Hazardous Materials

K-2a: Goal

Protect humans and the environment from exposure to hazardous materials.

K-2b: Management Actions

- The BLM will prevent creation of new hazardous material sites through implementation of ROPs (Appendix A) for all land use permits, leases, ROW, and mining claims and will include pollution prevention measures in all permits, leases, and grants of ROW.
- Comply with all appropriate laws and regulations regarding hazardous materials.
- Do not permit unauthorized storage, treatment, or disposal of hazardous waste on public lands.
- Apply additional measures to comply with appropriate laws, regulations, and policies when the use or storage of hazardous materials is authorized (Appendix A, Required Operating Procedures ROP-Haz-a-1 through ROP-Haz-c-9).
- Conduct cleanup and reclamation in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

K-2c: Monitoring

Site clean-ups will be monitored to protect and safeguard human health, prevent/restore environmental damage and to limit the BLM's liability. The performance of the clean-up

contractor for all release on public lands will be monitored to ensure full compliance and damaged land restoration. Hazardous material monitoring data will be kept in monitoring files. All data will be collected at the time and place of the incident or until the cleanup is completed and there is no future threat to human health or environment.

L. RECREATION

Note: See the *Travel Management* section for discussion of OHV use for recreational and other purposes.

L-1: Goal

- Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities.
- Improve access to appropriate recreational opportunities.
- Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural resources
- Provide for fair value in recreation on BLM-managed lands

L-2: Management Actions

- The entire recreation area setting, including all unencumbered BLM-managed lands and selected lands until they are conveyed, would be managed as Semi-Primitive Motorized.
- Opportunities for commercial recreation will be provided consistent with area objectives for recreation management.
- The entire planning area would be designated as an Extensive Recreation Management Area. Management for dispersed recreation use and no facilities would be developed. No significant amounts of recreational staffing would be expended for the area.
- Camping associated with commercial activities would be prohibited without written authorization from the BLM. Short-term commercial camping would be limited to 14 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. Short-term camping associated with non-commercial activities would be allowed for less than 14 days in one location.

Permit Availability

- Issuing a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) is a discretionary action.
- Factors considered before approval of a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) include existing recreation conflicts, diversity of services provided to the public, number of similar services already offered, and whether the public land area available is sufficient to accommodate the proposed use.
- SRPs may be issued until the affected area's desired use level is reached. The desired use level for the Bay planning area is established using the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) limits of acceptable change (LAC) or other valid methods. (BLM,1990)
- Each SRP application is analyzed for impacts to subsistence in accordance with ANILCA 810 through application-specific NEPA processes.

L-3: Monitoring:

Monitoring of recreation resources and activities will continue to occur throughout the planning area dependant on budget and available staffing levels. Monitoring will include regular patrols to check on visitor use, recreation use-related impacts, and user conflicts. Monitoring will also emphasize identification of areas where there may be problems with compliance with rules and regulations resulting in user conflicts or resource damage.

M. RENEWABLE ENERGY

M-1: Goal

Make BLM-managed lands available for development of renewable energy sources.

M-2: Management Actions

Potential exists for the development of a variety of sources of renewable energy on BLM-managed lands in the Bay planning area, including solar, wind, and biomass renewable energy facilities. No authorizations for these purposes have been issued on BLM-managed lands within the planning area to date, nor has any interest been expressed. The BLM would consider applications for permit or lease to conduct such developments, subject to the constraints developed through project-specific NEPA analysis.

Permits for development of renewable energy would include Resource Protection Measures (Appendix A) and project-specific requirements that minimize impacts to resources.

M-3: Monitoring

Renewable energy projects will be monitored through the BLM accomplishment tracking process. Where renewable energy projects require land use authorizations, monitoring will be conducted in accordance with the monitoring in the *Lands and Realty* section.

N. SOILS

N-1: Goal

- Ensure that watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, a properly functioning physical condition that includes stream banks, wetlands, and water quality.
- The BLM will manage soils to promote healthy, sustainable, fully functioning ecosystems by maintaining the soils, which support a wide range of public values and uses.
- Minimize negative impacts to soils and prevent soil erosion. Maintain desired ecological conditions as defined by the BLM Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards.
- The BLM will provide for a wide variety of public land uses without compromising the long-term health of soil resources.
- Treatments to alter the vegetative composition of a site, such as prescribed burning, seeding, or planting will
 - be based on the potential of the site and will retain or promote infiltration, permeability, and soil moisture storage;
 - contribute to nutrient cycling and energy flow.
- Promote moisture storage by soil and plant conditions consistent with the potential/capability of the site.

N-2: Management Actions

- Ensure actions occurring on BLM lands are in compliance with the Clean Water Act, State water quality standards, and Federal wetlands and floodplain requirements.
- The BLM will require permittees to mitigate for all activities that may cause accelerated soil erosion, and to follow prescribed resource protection measures (Appendix A).
- Resource protection (Appendix A) measures may be applied on a site-specific basis for permitted activities and uses that affect soil.

N-3: Monitoring

- Inventory and monitoring data should be collected according to a Quality Assurance Project Plan.” Development of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that meets the elements of the state and/or EPA requirements listed on the following web sites will help ensure the quality of collected data and that other resource agencies, as well as the public, can utilize that data.
 - ADEC Quality Assurance Project Plan elements:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wqsar/pdfs/qappelements.pdf>.
 - EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans:
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/offices/oea/epaqar5.pdf>
- Contract soil surveys in areas of high resource value or proposed development as needed.

O. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

O-1: Goals

- Manage habitats consistent with the conservation needs of Special Status Species and in a manner that will not contribute to the need to list any species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).
- Manage plant and animal resources and wildlife habitat to ensure compliance with the ESA and to ensure progress towards recovery of listed species.
- Manage habitats consistent with the conservation needs provided in Recovery Plans for listed species.

O-2: Management Actions

- Cooperate with USFWS in the development and implementation of recovery plans, management plans, and conservation strategies for Threatened and Endangered Species (T&E) species occurring on BLM lands.
- Consult with USFWS or National Marine Fisheries Service under Section 7 of the ESA for all actions that may affect listed species or designated critical habitat or confer if actions are likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.
- Cooperate with USFWS and other agencies to monitor habitats and populations of T&E species.
- Plant and wildlife resources and habitat will be managed to ensure compliance with the ESA.
- T&E evaluations will occur on all actions proposed and mitigation or consultation carried out where listed species may occur.
- Additional site-specific actions needed to manage habitat for Special Status Species will be made through project-specific NEPA process.
- An ACEC is designated for the Carter Spit/Goodnews Bay area (Map E-3) to provide additional protection to Steller’s eiders, a federally-listed migratory bird species.
- Wildlife resources will be managed to comply with the ESA to facilitate recovery of listed species and to prevent listing of additional species.

O-3: Monitoring

- Identify botanically unexplored BLM lands within the planning area and prioritize for floristic inventory.
- Assess project proposals for potential impacts to Special Status Species plants and their habitats. Conduct pre-project inventories when SSS habitat is likely to occur in project area prior to ground disturbing activities.
- Monitor Special Status Species plant populations and associated habitats for population trends and threats on a project specific basis.
- Contribute data on Special Status Species plant locations, population numbers, and trends (and voucher specimens as needed) to the Northern Plant Documentation Center (University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum Herbarium) and Alaska Natural Heritage Program in a cooperative effort to build a statewide rare plant database.
- Inventory Special Status Species habitat and populations on BLM-managed lands in accordance with the ESA, on a project specific basis.

P. SUBSISTENCE

P-1: Goals

- Maintain and protect subsistence opportunities.
- Determine how the management actions, guidelines, and allowable uses prescribed will affect subsistence opportunities, resources, and the socio/economic environment.
- Maintain sufficient quality and quantity of habitat to support healthy populations of important subsistence species of fish and wildlife.
- The BLM will effectively manage subsistence harvests through regulations established by the Federal Subsistence Board, and in cooperation with ADF&G, other Federal agencies, the Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils, and the subsistence users.
- Ensure that rural residents engaged in subsistence use have reasonable access to subsistence resources on public lands.
- To the extent possible, minimize displacing resources from traditional harvest areas due to permitted activities.
- Avoid user conflicts over multiple use resources. Involve subsistence users in issue identification and conflict resolution.

P-3: Management Actions

The opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents on Federal public lands in Alaska is assured by law [sec. 801(1) of ANILCA]. Decisions made within this RMP will not affect the BLM's role in administration of subsistence on Federal public lands. Under all Alternatives, the BLM will continue to carry out or participate in the following administrative functions:

- **Involve Subsistence Users in Issues Identification.** Ten Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils (SRACs) were established in Section 100.22 of the Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska as an administrative structure to provide a “meaningful voice” for subsistence users in the management process. The Bay planning area encompasses parts of the Bristol Bay and Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Federal Subsistence Regions. BLM field staff members as well as those of other agencies meet twice each year with both Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils to identify emerging issues in conservation, allocation, and appropriate regulation of subsistence harvests.

- **Manage Land/Habitat; Assess Impacts to Subsistence.** ANILCA Section 810 establishes a distinct set of requirements for assessment of potential impacts to subsistence from Federal land decisions. These supplement the discussion of potential impacts to subsistence resources and uses found as part of conventional NEPA environmental reviews.
- **In a Multi-agency Setting, Monitor Resource Populations Used for Subsistence Purposes.** When these monitoring efforts are focused on key subsistence resources, they are a major contribution to the quality of subsistence management efforts.
- The BLM will work cooperatively with ADF&G and other Federal agencies to implement the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Monitoring Plan, the Western Brown Bear Management Area planning group, the Arolik Moose Moratorium and Restoration Plan, the migratory bird MOU, Boreal Partners in Flight Conservation Plan, and other cooperative management efforts of which the BLM is a part.
- **In a Multi-agency Setting, Manage Subsistence Harvests through regulations established by the Federal Subsistence Board.** With heavy reliance on SRAC input and interagency coordination, the development of subsistence regulations is a multi-step process.
- All permitted activities would operate under the Stipulations, Required Operating Procedures, and Standard Lease Terms (Appendix A).

P-4: Monitoring

- Anchorage Field Office staff issue Federal subsistence permits to rural residents. As harvest reports are turned in, the information is compiled into a database maintained by USFWS. This information can be accessed to determine current harvest levels and average levels of harvest by area. BLM law enforcement works with Alaska State Troopers to ensure compliance with Federal harvest regulations.
- In cooperation with ADF&G and other Federal agencies, the BLM will monitor habitats and populations of important subsistence species to provide information necessary to develop subsistence regulations and bag limits on Federal lands, monitor priority migratory bird species, identify habitats of importance to special status species, and identify habitats for priority species.

Q. TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AND OHV USE

Q-1: Goals

- Manage access to BLM-managed lands and water.
- Ensure protection of natural and cultural resources from OHV impacts.
- Improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities on BLM-managed lands and water.
- Incorporate BLM's national strategy for motorized off-highway vehicle use.
- Provide OHV access consistent with the provisions of ANILCA.
- Manage OHV access for resource development by applying Required Operating Procedures.

Q-2: Management Actions

- Manage all lands under BLM jurisdiction, including State- and Native-selected land until conveyance from BLM jurisdiction as "limited" to existing trails for OHV use.

- Vehicle weight limits for OHV activities would be to 2,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR includes the weight of the vehicle itself plus fuel, driver, passenger, and load).
- Consider all access to public lands, including recreational, traditional (subsistence), commercial, industrial, public roads and airstrips including motorized, non-motorized, mechanical and animal-powered modes of travel.
- Any activity-level plan or integrated activity plan (IAP) such as for an ACEC, would include a trails inventory in the activity planning area and describe specific resource concerns or conflicts, and could describe specific designated trails and trail conditions or limitations of use (seasonal, vehicle class). Such a planning process would include public, State, and Native coordination. These plans would identify and prioritize specific maintenance needs and opportunities for trail development or loops. Unencumbered BLM lands would be first priority for implementation-level planning.
- OHVs will use existing trails consistent with the State's Conditions on Generally Allowed Uses (11 AAC 96.025) (Appendix C). OHV use will be conducted in a manner that minimizes disturbance of vegetation, disturbance of soil stability, or impacts to drainage systems; changing the character of, polluting, or introducing silt and sediment into streams, lakes, ponds, seeps, or marshes; and disturbance of fish and wildlife. Snowmachines will be allowed open cross-country travel when adequate snow cover is present – that is, adequate to avoid crushing vegetation or removing ground cover.
 - All proposals for OHV management under consideration would be consistent with Section 811 of ANILCA, which allows for appropriate use for subsistence purpose.
- All proposals for OHV management under consideration would be consistent with Section 811 of ANILCA, which allows for “appropriate use for subsistence purposes of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents, subject to reasonable regulation.

Q-3: Monitoring

- Trail inventory and assessment will be performed during development of activity-level planning (Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management Plan) to be completed within five years of signing the Bay RMP Record of Decision. Travel management and OHV use monitoring within the planning area will focus on compliance with specific route and area designation and restrictions, with primary emphasis on those routes or areas causing the highest levels of user conflicts or adverse impacts to resources. The secondary focus will be to establish trends in trail proliferation and density. Various methods of monitoring may be employed including aerial monitoring, ground patrol, and appropriate methods of remote surveillance such as traffic counters, etc. Route or area closures will be regularly monitored for compliance.
- Assess impacts of OHV trails, especially in high-use areas where riparian and wetland resources or water quality are at risk.

R. VEGETATION, WETLAND, and RIPARIAN HABITAT

R-1: Goal

- The BLM will maintain and protect vegetative land cover that provides for healthy fish and wildlife habitat on BLM-managed lands.
- Treatments to alter the vegetative composition of a site, such as prescribed burning, seeding, or planting will

- be based on the potential of the site and will retain or promote infiltration, permeability, and soil moisture storage;
 - contribute to nutrient cycling and energy flow;
 - help prevent the introduction and spread of invasive and noxious weeds;
 - contribute to the natural diversity of plant communities, plant community composition, and structure;
 - maintain proper functioning condition; and
 - support the conservation of Special Status Species.
- The BLM will take action to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and riparian areas, and to preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values.

R-2: Objectives (Desired Condition)

A detailed description of desired land health conditions and objectives are described in Land Health Standards (Appendix A, section B). Specific objectives for obtaining desired conditions pertaining to vegetation, wetland, and riparian habitat include:

- Promote moisture storage by soil and plant conditions consistent with the potential/capability of the site.
- Hydrologic, vegetative, and erosion/depositional processes support physical functioning, consistent with the potential or capability of the site.
- Photosynthesis is effectively occurring throughout the growing season, consistent with the potential/capability of the site.
- Nutrient cycling is occurring effectively, consistent with the potential/capability of the site.

R-3: Management Actions

- Vegetation treatments will be designed to achieve BLM Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards. Vegetation treatments will be designed to prevent introduction or spread of noxious weeds.
- Prescribed burn plans will contain measures to prevent the introduction and spread of weeds. Burn plans for large burns will prescribe conditions that result in a mosaic of burned or unburned areas within the burn unit. Smaller burns may not require a mosaic, dependent on objectives.
- Timber sales are not anticipated; however, should they occur, any ground disturbing equipment used in timber sales will be free of any material that could contain weed seeds and to the extent possible, rely on natural regeneration through proper site preparation.
- Permitted livestock grazing is not expected to occur; however, should it occur, it will be conducted in a manner that meets Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards and maintains long-term vegetation productivity.

R-4: Monitoring

- Support monitoring and assessment of riparian areas for proper functioning condition, as defined in the BLM manual Technical Reference 1737-3. Develop maintenance and restoration projects. Priority areas will include the Carter Spit ACEC, areas known to be in need of restoration, and riparian areas within anticipated or ongoing mining activity.
- Assess impacts of OHV trails, especially in high-use areas where riparian and wetland resources or water quality are at risk.

S. VISUAL RESOURCES

Bay Planning Area Visual Resource Management Class Objectives are described as:

- **Class III:** Partially retain the existing character of the landscape; change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate and may attract attention, but not dominate the view of the casual observer.
- **Class IV:** Provides for action that would make major modifications to the existing character of the landscape; change to the characteristic landscape can be high, dominate the view, and be the major focus of the viewer.

S-1: Goal

Protect the quality of scenic values of these lands.

S-2: Allocations

- Maps E-9a and b identify the location of the VRM classes across the planning area.
- BLM lands in the full visible foreground based on GIS analysis up to one-half mile from established winter trail/road systems would be managed as VRM Class III, including Goodnews to Quinhagak coastal and Arolik River routes; Goodnews Bay to Dillingham route; Dillingham to Aleknagik; Dillingham to Koliganek; Ekwok to Naknek; New Stuyahok to Levelock; and Naknek to King Salmon.
- BLM lands in the full visible foreground up to one-half mile from main river travel routes would be managed as VRM Class III, including portions of the North Fork Goodnews River; Middle Fork Goodnews River; South Fork Goodnews River; and East Fork Arolik River; Nushagak River; Kvichak River; Lower Mulchatna River; and Alagnak Wild River.
- BLM lands in the full visible foreground up to one mile from the boundaries of Togiak NWR, Becharof NWR, Katmai NPP, and Lake Clark NPP would be managed as VRM Class III. The proposed Carter Spit ACEC would be managed as VRM Class III.
- All other BLM lands would be managed as VRM Class IV.

S-3: Management Actions

- All proposed actions within the planning area would be analyzed individually for impacts on visual resources utilizing the Visual Resource Contrast Rating System as described in BLM Manual 8431 – Visual Resource Contrast Rating. This analysis would determine if the potential visual impacts from proposed surface-disturbing activities or developments would meet VRM Inventory Class management objectives assigned for the area, or whether design adjustments would be required.
- Required Operating Procedures (Appendix A) would be used to protect VRM designations.

S-4: Monitoring

No monitoring will be required. VRM designations will be protected as only permits compatible with designations will be approved.

T. WATER

T-1: Goal

- **Resource Protection** – maintain, improve, and restore the health of watersheds. Ensure that watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, a properly functioning physical condition that includes stream banks, wetlands, and water quality.
- **Water Quality** – meet or exceed local, State, and Federal requirements. Minimize negative impacts to soils and wetland vegetation and prevent soil erosion. Maintain desired ecological conditions as defined by the BLM Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards.
- **Resource Uses** – support planning, use authorizations, compliance, and special designations.
- **Service to Communities** – support collaboration in shared watersheds.
- **Management Excellence** – promote program financial efficiency and improve data quality, security, and availability.

T-2: Objectives

Desired conditions are described in Land Health Standards (Appendix A, section B). Specific conditions pertaining to Water include:

- Protect the soil surface from erosion; avoid detention of overland flow; maintain infiltration and permeability that is consistent with the potential/capability of the site.
- Promote moisture storage by soil and plant conditions consistent with the potential/capability of the site.
- Hydrologic, vegetative, and erosion/depositional processes support physical functioning, consistent with the potential or capability of the site.
- Stream channel, lake bed, shoreline characteristics are appropriate for the landscape position.

T-3: Management Actions

- In order to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act and protect the quality and quantity of drinking water, the BLM will consult with owners/operators of potentially affected, federally-regulated public water supply systems when proposing management actions in State-designated Source Water Protection Areas. The locations of public water supply systems and Source Water Protection Areas are available from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Drinking Water and Wastewater Program.
- Collect data necessary for an Alaska in-stream water reservation on water bodies having critical aquatic habitats and within the Carter Spit ACEC.
- Inventory and monitoring data should be collected according to a Quality Assurance Project Plan." Development of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that meets the elements of the state and/or EPA requirements listed on the following web sites will help ensure the quality of collected data and that of other resource agencies, as well as the public, can utilize that data.
 - ADEC Quality Assurance Project Plan elements:
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wqsar/pdfs/qappelements.pdf>.
 - EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans:
<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/offices/oea/epaqar5.pdf>
- Develop a water quality monitoring program implementing U.S. Geological Survey – National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) protocol to determine baseline water

quality values in areas having critical aquatic habitats or potential for significant impacts due to permitted activities. Monitor for significant alterations to water quality value and water flow in accordance with State and Federal regulations.

- Resource protection measures (Appendix A) would be applied on a site-specific basis for permitted activities and uses that affect water.

T-4: Monitoring

Monitor water quality and quantity as needed to achieve objectives and support Management Actions.

U. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Within the Bay planning area, the BLM did not recommend rivers for inclusion to the Wild and Scenic Rivers system.

V. WILDLIFE

Note: for Special Status Wildlife, refer to Special Status Species section

V-1: Goal

- Maintain high enough quality and quantity of habitat to support healthy wildlife populations.
- To the extent practical, mitigate impacts to wildlife species and their habitats from authorized and unauthorized uses of BLM-managed lands.
- In cooperation with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), ensure a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife resources and habitat.

V-2: Objectives

- Essential habitat elements for species, populations, and communities are present and available to the extent they are consistent with the potential/capability of the landscape.

V-3: Management Actions

- In cooperation with ADF&G, ensure a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife habitat to assist ADF&G in ensuring sustained populations and a natural abundance of wildlife.
- The BLM will work cooperatively with ADF&G, other Federal agencies, and adjacent land managers to implement the Mulchatna Caribou Herd Monitoring Plan, the Western Brown Bear Management Area planning group, the Unit 18 Goodnews/Arolik Moose Moratorium and Restoration Plan, the migratory bird MOU, and the Boreal Partners in Flight Conservation Plan.
- Resource protection measures (Appendix A) will be used to protect wildlife species.
- Manage fish and wildlife in accordance with BLM Alaska's Master Memorandum of Agreement with the State of Alaska (Appendix B) for management of fish and wildlife.

V-4: Monitoring

- In cooperation with ADF&G and other Federal agencies, the BLM will monitor habitats and populations of important subsistence species to provide information necessary to develop subsistence regulations and bag limits on Federal lands, monitor priority

migratory bird species, identify habitats of importance to special status species, and identify habitats for priority species.

III. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The BLM will continue to actively seek the views of the public using techniques such as news releases, mass mailings, and website postings to ask for participation and to inform the public of new site-specific planning and opportunities for comment.

The BLM will continue to coordinate and consult, both formally and informally, with various Federal and state agencies, Native governments, local agencies, and officials, communities, and groups interested and involved in the management of public lands in the Bay planning area.

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Plan implementation is a continuous and active process. Decisions presented in the *Management Decisions* section of this Approved Plan are of three types: Immediate, One-time, and Long-Term.

Immediate Decisions

These decisions go into effect upon signature of the Record of Decision and Approved Plan. These include decisions such as the allocation of lands as available or unavailable for oil and gas leasing, ACEC designation, and OHV designations (open, limited or closed). Immediate decisions require no additional analysis and provide the framework for any subsequent activities proposed in the planning area. Proposals for actions such as oil and gas leasing, land adjustments, and other allocation-based actions will be reviewed against these decisions/allocations to determine if the proposal is in conformance with the plan.

One-Time Decisions

The Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management Plan is the only “One-Time” action in the Approved Plan. This action requires additional analysis and site-specific activity planning and should be completed within five years from the date of the Record of Decision.

Implementation plans

The following schedule will assist BLM managers and staff in preparing budget requests and in scheduling work. However, the proposed schedule must be considered tentative and will be affected by future funding, changing program priorities, non-discretionary workloads, and cooperation by partners and external publics.

- A Comprehensive Trails and Travel Management Plan (CTTMP) should be completed within five years of signing the Bay RMP/ROD.
- Assess impacts of OHV trails, especially in high-use areas where riparian and wetland resources or water quality are at risk. An initial assessment will be incorporated into the CTTMP, successive efforts and request for funding will occur based on site specific observations.
- Collect data necessary for an Alaska in-stream water reservation within the Carter Spit ACEC. This is a five year data collection effort. Funding will be requested in Fiscal Year 2009; \$20K and 1 WM/per year.

- Contract soil surveys in areas of high resource value or proposed development as needed. These efforts and request for funding will occur based on site/project-specific requirements.
- Inventories and assessments of biological and habitat resources (particularly Steller's eider) is a field office priority. The timing and scope of inventory efforts will be determined by available funding.
- An inventory of cultural and paleontological resources would be a field office priority for the proposed Carter Spit ACEC dependent upon available funding.
- Continue to conduct non-NHPA Section 106 (Cultural Resources) related inventories as funds are available.
- If proposals for grazing are received, develop allotment management plans that include grazing systems and fire management and allows for maintaining long-term native vegetative communities, composition, diversity, distribution and productivity.

V. ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT/PLAN EVALUATION

Refer to Appendix A, section A.5 for a description of adaptive management for the Bay RMP

Evaluation is a process in which the plan and monitoring data are reviewed to see if land use plan decisions and NEPA analysis are still valid and whether the RMP is being implemented. Land use plans are evaluated to determine if: (1) decisions remain relevant to current issues, (2) decisions are effective in achieving desired outcomes, (3) decisions need to be revised, (4) decisions need to be dropped, or (5) new decisions need to be made. In making these determinations, the evaluation should consider whether resource protection measures are satisfactory, whether there are significant changes in related plans of other entities, and whether there is new data of significance to the plan.

Evaluations of the RMP will be conducted every five years, unless unexpected actions, new information, or significant changes in other plans, legislation, land conveyances, or litigation triggers more frequent evaluations.

Evaluations will follow the protocols established by the BLM Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1) (USDI-BLM 2005c) or other appropriate guidance in effect at the time of the evaluation.