

# KOBUK-SEWARD PENINSULA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN SCOPING REPORT

August 24, 2004

## I. INTRODUCTION

### a. Overview, Purpose and Need for the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP.

The Northern Field Office (NFO) and Anchorage Field Office (AFO) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are preparing the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan (KSPRMP) to provide a comprehensive framework for managing and allocating uses of the public lands and resources within northwestern Alaska. Currently, the Northwest Management Framework Plan (MFP) completed in 1982 guides the use of these lands. The MFP has not been maintained, amended, or revised. A new Resource Management Plan (RMP) is necessary to comply with Appendix C of the Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1), and to address any new issues that evolved since the MFP was approved. The RMP will resolve resource management issues not adequately addressed by the MFP and provide direction for site-specific activity planning and implementation of specific tasks in the future. Ultimately, a new RMP will supersede the existing Northwest MFP.

The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended, provides the authority for the Bureau of Land Management to conduct land use planning on public lands. In particular, Sec. 202 (a) requires the Secretary of the Interior, with public involvement, to develop, maintain, and when appropriate, revise land use plans that provide for the use of the public lands by tracts or areas. Implementing regulations are contained in the Code of Federal Regulations, 43 CFR 1610. BLM Manual, 1601 Land Use Planning, and Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1) provide procedures and guidance for the planning process.

### b. Description of the Planning Area

The Kobuk-Seward Peninsula planning area encompasses approximately 31.6 million acres, of which 13 million acres are administered by BLM (Planning area Map 1). The planning area encompasses the area from Point Lay, south to the Norton Sound, and from the Bering and Chukchi seas east to the upper Kobuk River. It includes the Seward Peninsula, east to the Nulato Hills and the boundary of the Central Yukon Planning area. It generally encompasses the area included in the NW Arctic Borough, the northern portion of the Bering Straits Region, and the western edge of the North Slope Borough. There are 25 villages or small communities within the area. The planning area is mostly roadless except for about 200 miles of road on the Seward Peninsula, originating in Nome, and roads within

villages. The planning area includes lands administered by the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), as well as lands conveyed to the State, Native corporations, or other private landowners (Table 1). It also includes lands selected, but not yet conveyed, to the State of Alaska and Native Corporations.

The planning area boundary is based upon the area covered by the Northwest MFP (all BLM lands in Northwest Alaska excluding the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska). This area encompasses lands currently managed by the Northern Field Office. The BLM has proposed revising the Northern Field Office's boundaries in fiscal year 2005. Under the proposal, the Seward Peninsula would become part of the Anchorage Field Office. Accordingly, both field offices will be involved in completing and adopting the KSPRMP to guide management on their respective lands.

**Table 1: Land Status Within the KSP Planning Area**

<b>Land Category</b>	<b>Subtotal Acres</b>	<b>Total Acres</b>
<b>BLM-Administered Lands</b>		
BLM Public Lands	4,990,000	
State Selected (BLM)	3,568,000	
AK Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Selected (BLM)	4,419,000	
Both State & ANCSA Selected	109,000	
<b>Total BLM</b>		<b>12,977,000</b>
<b>National Park Service Lands</b>		<b>4,222,000</b>
<b>Fish and Wildlife Service Lands</b>		<b>2,978,000</b>
<b>State of Alaska Lands</b>		<b>5,635,000</b>
<b>Native (ANCSA) Lands</b>		<b>5,596,000</b>
<b>Private</b>		<b>233,000</b>
<b>Military</b>		<b>20,000</b>
<b>Total Lands within Planning Area</b>		<b>31,661,000</b>

Note: All acreage figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000 acres to account for future updates to improve land status data. No warranty is made by BLM as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data. For official land status and boundary information, refer to cadastral survey plats, master title plats, and land status case-files.

**c. Description of the Scoping Process**

Notice of Intent for the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan was published in the *Federal Register* on January 30, 2004. The formal scoping period began at the end of January and extended until the end of April. Nine public meetings were held during the formal scoping period. Meetings were held in the larger communities of Fairbanks and Anchorage, as well as in several smaller communities and villages within

the planning area, including Nome, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Kotzebue, Kiana, Kivalina, and Buckland.

The purpose of the meetings was to introduce the public to BLM planning process and the RMP. Information presented at the meetings included:

- the need for a new plan
- a description of the planning area
- the planning schedule
- an outline of the types of land use allocations and management objectives to be considered during planning
- specific examples of decisions that might come out of the plan.

The meetings ended with a public comment period where participants identified issues and concerns, and raised questions regarding BLM-managed lands. At each meeting, BLM made available for review numerous maps depicting land status, guide use areas, State-identified RS 2477 routes, proposed research natural areas, vegetation types, reindeer grazing allotments, mineral entry, and distribution of anadromous fish.

The BLM also involved the public in the planning process and solicited input by giving the scoping presentation to various groups at their request and by presenting information about the planning process at various other meetings open to the public. Presentations were given at the Fairbanks Chapter of the Alaska Miners Association and International ROW Association meetings. Bering Strait Region ANSCA Corporations attending a BLM conveyance meeting in Nome on April 29, 2004 were invited to submit comments and were provided with background material on the planning effort.

Concurrent with the scoping period, a Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP website was developed. The website included the schedule of public meetings, an explanation of the planning process, and various background documents such as the Northwest MFP Evaluation (2002). As the scoping meetings were completed, meeting notes and a summary of the issues, concerns, and questions raised at each meeting were listed on the website. Additional written comments were received during the scoping period and are incorporated into this report. When finalized, this scoping report will be posted on the website.

#### **d. Cooperating Groups/Agencies**

The State of Alaska and BLM recently developed a strategy for interagency cooperation and consultation on land use planning efforts. As part of this strategy, the State of Alaska and BLM agreed to jointly fund a liaison position. BLM requested State input into the scoping process by

contacting the State of Alaska liaison office by letter on February 5, 2004. On May 7, 2004 consolidated scoping comments were received.

On March 1, 2004 BLM held a training session entitled “Planning Nuts and Bolts” in preparation for development of the RMP. Representatives from Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and NPS, Western Alaska Parklands were invited to participate in the training. Four people from the Northern Region of DNR attended the training course.

To promote scoping participation, BLM mailed letters to Boroughs, Native corporations and cities listed below. The letters explained the RMP process, stressed the need for cooperation/consultation, invited participation, and included background material. A similar letter providing background material for the meeting was sent to all the Village IRA councils where scoping meetings were scheduled.

- Bering Straits Native Corporation, Nome
- Cities within the Bering Straits Region
- Kawerak Inc., Nome
- Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association, Nome
- NANA Regional Corporation, Kotzebue
- Northwest Arctic Borough
- Cities within the Northwest Arctic Borough
- Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
- Arctic Slope Regional Corporation
- Cities within the North Slope Borough that are also within the Planning area.
- North Slope Borough

A BLM news release that included the scoping meeting schedule and invited public comment was faxed or e-mailed to BLM media list, NPS offices in Nome and Kotzebue, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, FWS offices in Anchorage and Fairbanks, National Resource Conservation Service offices in Nome and Anchorage, ADF&G offices in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Nome, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Alaska Audubon, and the Cities and Village Corporations of Nome, Kotzebue, Koyuk, Kivalina, Shaktoolik, Buckland, and Kiana. A flyer announcing the time and location of nearby meetings was faxed to IRA councils for Nome, Kotzebue, Koyuk, Kivalina, Shaktoolik, Buckland, Kiana, Teller, Council, and Solomon.

During the scoping period, BLM representatives met with the Nome City Manager, ADF&G in Nome, and Selawik National Wildlife Refuge. Bering Strait Region ANCSA Corporations attending a BLM conveyance

meeting in Nome on April 29, 2004 were invited to submit scoping comments and provided with background material on the planning effort.

**e. Collaboration With Tribes**

On March 8, 2004 letters requesting government-to-government consultation were sent to the following 25 tribes within the planning area. As mentioned in the previous section, letters providing background information were also sent to several Native corporations and tribal entities, particularly in those communities where public meetings were scheduled. Follow-up calls and/or faxes to all the tribes reminding them of the comment period were completed in late April. The Kotzebue IRA and Shaktoolik IRA sent letters in response to our request for government-to-government consultation.

Native Village of Buckland  
Native Village of Brevig Mission  
Native Village of Wales  
Teller Traditional Council  
Solomon Tribal Council  
Native Village of Shishmaref  
Native Village of Shaktoolik  
Selawik IRA Council  
Native Village of Elim  
Native Village of Deering  
Native Village of Council  
Chinik Eskimo Community  
Ambler Traditional Council  
Native Village of Shungnak  
Native Village of Kobuk  
Native Village of White Mountain  
Native Village of Point Hope  
Native Village of Point Lay  
Nome Eskimo Community  
Native Village of Notatak  
Mary's Igloo Traditional Council  
Native Village of Koyuk  
Kotzebue IRA Council  
Native Village of Kivalina  
Kiana Traditional Council

## II. COMMENT AND ISSUE SUMMARY

### a. Summary of Public Comments

Following is a summary of public comments. For a full listing of scoping comments, see VI. Appendix A.

**Recreation:** Many of the comments addressed the impact of recreational use of BLM-administered lands on subsistence resources and uses. Several comments stated that BLM should set limits of acceptable use and identify an appropriate number of guide/outfitter permits in the planning area and if possible, address the issue of air taxis and transporters. One specific area of concern that was raised numerous times was the Squirrel River. Comments indicated that user conflicts on the Squirrel River should be specifically addressed in the RMP and that a carrying capacity should be established for the area. Several comments suggested that the Squirrel River should be designated as a special recreation management area. It was also noted that the NPS is currently developing a commercial services plan for the Northwest Alaska Parklands. This plan may limit commercial uses on adjacent parks and preserves, possibly leading to increased use levels on BLM-administered land in the Squirrel River. Other areas where increased recreational use was of concern included the northeastern Seward Peninsula and the upper Kobuk River. Related to the conflict between recreation and subsistence hunting were several comments mentioning the need for increased efforts to educate recreational users on local culture including game movement, hunting techniques, reducing waste, respect for private land, keeping a clean camp, proper use of campfires, etc.

A second category of recreation comments mentioned the need for more recreational facilities such as campgrounds, trails, and shelter cabins. The City of Nome is promoting bird-watching and snowmachining as a way of increasing tourism. There may be some opportunity to promote tourism by providing more facilities on BLM land. Commenters said BLM should develop maps or brochures that suggest routes of travel and likely camping spots that avoid private property. Many people would enjoy hiking or snowmachining in the area but are intimidated because of the lack of information and facilities.

**OHV:** There was a wide variety of comments on OHV designations, ranging from recommendations to limit OHV use to designated roads and trails to designating the area as “open” with no restrictions. Four-wheeler (ATV) use was cited as a problem in a few localized areas such as the Squirrel River and on private lands near villages. One comment was that BLM should consider closing the Squirrel River to ATVs or setting limits on the number of ATVs

allowed in the Squirrel River, as the local people do not use them for hunting. OHVs are an important tool in the rural subsistence lifestyle, and Section 811 of ANILCA allows for the appropriate use of motorized vehicles traditionally used for subsistence purposes. Snowmachines and boats are widely used in the harvest of subsistence resources.

**Minerals:** Comments on mineral development were varied and most were submitted in written form rather than as oral comments at the public meetings. Comments were mixed, with some favoring mineral development and some opposed. One general concern was the conflict between subsistence resources and mineral development. It was suggested that the State of Alaska's planning intent for selected lands should be considered as BLM develops planning recommendations for this area, because the State is interested in encouraging exploration and development of mineral resources.

Coal and Oil Shale: Comments were related to granting the State authority to implement the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act (1977) if coal resources were to be developed in the planning area.

Fluid Minerals - Oil and Gas, Tar Sands, Geothermal Resources, and Coal Bed Methane: Comments on this topic were varied, with some supporting development of energy minerals for local use, others supporting widespread exploration and development, and others opposed to development. Because of the high cost of heating oil in local communities, there is interest in local use of natural gas where it occurs. Coal bed methane may provide an economical source of energy for rural Alaska, and local communities are interested in hearing about BLM's research on the viability of this potential energy source. While there are currently no State leases planned in this area, the geologic formations in portions of the planning area contain gas suitable for rural use. Norton Bay is important both locally for subsistence, and on a large ecological scale for migrating birds and mammals. Some comments supported development in Norton Bay, but others were concerned with how BLM will address the effects of off-shore exploration and leasing in Norton Bay on BLM-administered lands in the planning area (i.e., access, directional drilling, etc). The State is encouraging oil and gas development in Alaska and would like to review any proposed action that may limit or discourage exploration and development. The planning area contains basins previously identified for shallow gas leasing, and some State lands in the planning area are available for oil and gas exploration licensing. Another comment noted that the current objective in the MFP of opening all lands to oil and gas leasing should be reevaluated and that not all BLM-administered lands should be open to fluid mineral leasing. There were also comments about providing better information on current fluid mineral leasing availability and providing maps outlining resource potential.

Locatable minerals, Mineral Materials, and Nonenergy Leasable Minerals:

Comments on this topic were varied, with many favoring mineral exploration and others opposed. Assuring access for mineral development was a concern with many. There were several suggestions that this is an opportunity for BLM to review existing withdrawals and determine if they are still valid. Several comments noted that the planning area is still largely unexplored for mineral values and should remain open to mineral entry to allow for further exploration and discovery. Some comments noted specific areas that should be open or closed to mineral entry. It was mentioned that there are numerous areas that have experienced considerable mineral exploration and development in the planning area, including the following mines and placer districts: Rock Creek Mine Development, Nome Third Beach Placer Gold Project, Big Bar, Think Zinc and Rocky Mountain Exploration Projects, Ambler Volcanic Massive Sulfide Belt, Shungnak, Squirrel River, Fairhaven-Immachuk, Candle, Serpentine, Fort Clarence, Council-Solomon and Koyuk Mining District, Tin City, Kigluaik Mountains, and Kougarok Placer Mining District. Some comments noted the need for better enforcement of stipulations on mining. There were comments noting the need for information and maps regarding known mineral occurrences, past exploration and mining activity, and lands currently closed to mineral entry. There were comments relating to making mineral materials available for existing and future State and local roads, airports, and relocation of villages

**Realty:** Comments on realty were varied and some were outside of the scope of the RMP, such as land conveyance and Native allotments. There was no support expressed for making BLM lands available for disposal and at least two comments were specifically opposed to it. There is concern in the region that sale of property to private individuals may result in development that would negatively affect subsistence users. There was one request that BLM make specific parcels available for inclusion in the National Park System. A second area of concern was review and possible changes to existing withdrawals. Some favored lifting these withdrawals, particularly in areas where resource development could potentially occur, while others were opposed. There was concern that BLM adequately address the implications and impacts of lifting withdrawals. The State of Alaska requested notification if BLM planners identify any areas where BLM owns the subsurface estate and a different entity owns the surface estate. There was confusion about the definition of mean high water, particularly as it relates to land status, including status of sand bars. The State would like BLM to work on specific water bodies to resolve issues concerning ownership and use of rivers, lakes, and streams within BLM-administered lands where management conflicts arise. There was interest expressed in whether BLM could authorize subsistence use cabins. There were several requests that specific data and maps be provided in the plan.

**Access:** Comments related to access were varied, with some favoring additional access development and others opposed to new access. *Pro:* More roads may be needed to develop natural resources; BLM should provide access to public lands adjacent to private land; Aircraft landing areas on BLM lands commonly used by the public should be identified and, where not in conflict with land use designations, permitted by the plan. *Con:* Future development of roads is of concern, especially its effects on wildlife and subsistence; BLM should not authorize new airstrips that would increase access to remote areas.

There was interest in the identification of transportation corridors including:

- two alternative railroad routes between the coalfields near Point Lay to Norton Sound
- a railroad route from Ambler Copper District to Norton Sound
- transportation corridors to areas open to mining
- utility corridors for the transport of oil and gas and other mineral resources
- transportation corridors to support future economic growth in the planning area.

A second area of concern was the potential impacts of access and transportation corridors on wildlife. Transportation planning will be of concern in terms of the Western Arctic caribou herd and other wildlife. Roads fragment habitat and increase human access, which could have significant impacts on wildlife populations. Other comments mentioned the need for BLM to coordinate the RMP with other transportation plans such as the State of Alaska NW Transportation Plan, and for BLM to outline a process to resolve RS 2477 claims.

**Grazing:** Comments on grazing were divided into two categories: reindeer and bison. There were no specific comments recommending that the reindeer grazing program be eliminated. Some comments favored expansion of the program, while others recommended keeping the program at its current level. *Pro:* There should be no change in the reindeer grazing program because herders have enough problems without BLM restricting the areas they can use. Reindeer grazing leases should be a minimum of 10 years to allow herders to develop stable businesses and get loans. BLM should allow for reindeer grazing in other areas outside of the Seward Peninsula. There are highs and lows with reindeer and caribou, and herders need the flexibility to deal with the cyclical nature of the industry. Detailed and consistent goals and standards for reindeer herding should be developed in the RMP. *Con:* BLM should balance the impacts of grazing with the need for grazing on federally administered lands. If some areas have been overgrazed, BLM should consider permit closure. Areas such as the upper Kuzitrin Valley and McCarty's Marsh may qualify for such closures. BLM should commit to a long-term inventory and monitoring system specific to reindeer grazing.

Special attention should be given to the impacts of reindeer grazing on caribou populations and migratory patterns.

One person stated that BLM should consider authorizing buffalo (bison) as an alternative type of livestock. Other concerns expressed about BLM authorizing bison grazing included the potential effect it could have on local ungulates and vegetation, the minimal economic gain that bison introduction may add to the region, and social issues related to the introduction of another large ungulate.

**Soil, Water, and Air:** Water quality and air pollution concerns were the most frequent comments received on soil, water, and air issues. One comment noted concerns about water pollution caused by the release of fuel and oil from abandoned boats and OHVs. Water quality in rivers serving as municipal water sources was of concern in several communities. This was of particular concern in the community of Kivalina regarding the Wulik River and potential contamination from Red Dog Mine. Dust from Red Dog mine was also mentioned as a concern. One commenter said that BLM should not assume that soil, water, and air are in good condition but should go out and inventory current conditions.

**Vegetation:** BLM received comments related to maintaining fish, wildlife, and vegetative habitats in their natural condition, protecting riparian habitat, and preventing the spread of noxious and invasive plant species. One comment noted that BLM should not assume that vegetation is in good condition but should inventory current conditions.

**Cultural and Paleontological Resources:** Comments mostly noted general areas with known cultural resources requiring protection. For example, prehistoric settlements on the coast of Northwest Alaska may be at risk from modern development. Similarly, historic mining sites on the Seward Peninsula may be at risk from modern mining activity. If archaeological or historical sites are identified through this planning process, the State may request that recreational or commercial uses be precluded in order to protect archaeological and historic sites.

**Visual Resources:** Three comments were received on visual resource management (VRM). The comments received related to the need to complete a visual resource inventory, the need to preserve the scenic quality of the land in support of the tourism industry, and the need to avoid unnecessary limitations on development and uses of the land. Most of the discussion on VRM occurred at the public meeting in Nome.

**Special Status Species:** BLM received four comments specific to special status species. The few comments received were related to addressing special status species management in the RMP, identifying special status species

occurring in the planning area, the recommendation that Arctic char should be a special status species (the Kigluaik char is a BLM sensitive species), and possibly designating a research natural area for populations of genetically isolated Arctic char in the Kigluaik Mountains.

**Wildlife:** BLM received many comments relating to management of habitat of important subsistence species such as caribou and moose. This was a common theme at most of the public meetings held in the region. Several comments noted that the planning area includes important habitats and migration routes for the Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH). The planning area includes most of the villages that depend on the Western Arctic herd and should address caribou management and human uses like subsistence that are dependent on caribou. Development needs to be done in a controlled manner so that it does not negatively affect subsistence resources and access. Over the last 20 years people have seen changes in location and migration of caribou. It is important that the caribou migrate close to communities. The plan needs special consideration of caribou migration routes and calving areas. BLM should maintain a working relationship with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group and seek to integrate the WACH Management Plan into the RMP. Of increasing importance in this area are the strategic impacts of industrial development, particularly transportation corridors, on caribou habitats, caribou movements, and subsistence lifestyles. Given the patchwork nature of land ownership in the planning area, it is very important that management approaches for fish and wildlife be integrated and complimentary to the greatest degree possible. An ecosystem management approach is highly desirable, especially for caribou. BLM could consider co-management of the Squirrel River between BLM and the Tribes. Moose populations are declining throughout the Seward Peninsula and it is becoming more difficult to obtain moose for subsistence. Several comments were related to management of bird habitats. Bird-watching is becoming an increasingly popular activity in western Alaska, especially on the Seward Peninsula road system. Habitats for certain upland species like bristle-thighed curlew, lesser golden plover, bluethroat, Arctic warbler and gray-headed chickadee may require special management consideration by BLM. The planning area encompasses important habitats for certain charismatic raptors like gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, rough-legged hawks, and golden eagles.

**Fish:** Comments were primarily related to preservation of fish habitat in its natural state, the recent decline of salmon in Norton Sound (particularly in the Nome area), and the importance of specific streams within the planning area for both resident and anadromous fish. The planning area includes fisheries such as the Tubutulik, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Shaktoolik that are among the richest in the region. One comment noted that salmon spawning habitat in the Kivalina and Ungalik watersheds, as well as in other watersheds identified as critical spawning habitat, should be recognized and protected. In addition, the Wulik and parts of the Noatak river systems are of international significance

for maintaining and managing Dolly Varden populations. One comment noted that additional data is needed to determine the upstream limits of anadromous fish species for most rivers in the planning area. Some people have noticed a decline in fish numbers and quality over the years. The undeveloped streams in Norton Sound such as the Tubutulik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, Ungalik, and portions of the Koyuk, Agiapuk, and Fish rivers are all very important fish habitat, as are their riparian zones. All of these drainages are important to salmon (chum, coho, pink and to some degree king), Dolly Varden, and Arctic grayling. It may be desirable to implement some sort of designation that would afford these drainages protection from development without going to the length of designation as a wild and scenic river (WSR).

**Subsistence:** BLM received many comments on subsistence. Comments were related to making subsistence a priority in the plan, protecting subsistence resources, identifying important subsistence use areas, and measuring impacts on subsistence from other uses. Some comments were outside the scope of the RMP such as changing hunting regulations. Many comments stated that subsistence is the most important issue for the plan to address or should be the highest priority. There is concern about competition between subsistence hunters and sport hunters. There is interest in co-management between BLM and the Tribes. It was suggested that BLM support the findings of the Bering Straits Coastal Resource Service Area Board, which found that subsistence was the most important use of the region. Some comments identified locally important subsistence use areas such as the headwaters of the Koyuk, Ungalik, and Inglutalik rivers; Nulato Hills; and Norton Bay. Norton Bay was identified as an area that is important for subsistence on a statewide level. This area supports fish and wildlife resources that migrate to other areas of the state. Although the highest subsistence use areas were selected by the Native Corporations to protect those lands, federal lands outside of Native corporation boundaries in the Nulato Hills are important for subsistence use. The plan should document and describe subsistence use patterns in those communities located near BLM lands, including but not limited to Kivalina, Point Hope, Kotzebue, Noatak, Kiana, Shungnak, Wales, Teller, Buckland, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, White Mountain, and Elim. Planning decisions for lands within the planning area could affect subsistence activities by communities located outside of, but near the planning area, including but not necessarily limited to Unalakleet, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, and Hughes.

**Forestry:** BLM received four comments related to forestry. Comments were made relative to harvest of firewood and house logs. In the past, house logs have been gathered upriver on the Buckland and South Fork of the Buckland River. One comment noted that no logging should be allowed but that firewood harvest would be okay.

**Fire Management:** BLM received two comments related to fire. Comments concerned the review of fire control plans, application of potentially toxic fire suppressant material, and the role fire plays in the ecosystem, particularly as it relates to management of lichen habitats for caribou.

**Planning:** Confusion about the scoping process, the need for coordinated management, and interim management of selected lands were the most common themes. Several comments concerned ensuring that resource development, levels of use and restrictions on BLM-administered lands are coordinated with existing management identified in other federal, state, and local plans, including coastal management plans. The State of Alaska requested that BLM fully recognize the State's authorities and avoid making decisions that unnecessarily encumber State-selected lands, particularly those identified as a high priority for conveyance. The plan should not develop management intent for these parcels that deviates significantly from existing DNR land use plans. On the other hand, other comments noted that BLM should commit to management of State- and Native-selected lands as BLM-administered lands until conveyed, including protective or special status and appropriate conservation measures for lands that qualify. There was concern expressed that BLM should make an effort to hold meetings in more communities within the planning area.

**Special Designations:** Comments on special designations included wilderness, wild and scenic rivers and areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs). As discussed below, wilderness inventory will not be addressed in the plan. Most of the comments on wild and scenic rivers were questions on how designation would affect management. One comment was made that the Kivalina should be wild and scenic. Another comment recommended that BLM conduct a suitability study for potential wild and scenic rivers within the planning area, including the Kivalina and Wulik Rivers. One comment recommended the North Fork, Old Woman, and North rivers of the Unalakleet as nominees for wild and scenic rivers.

Many of the comments relating to ACEC designations were questions on what would qualify. There was a recommendation that four research natural areas (RNAs) proposed in the mid-1980s be reviewed for designation as ACECs in the light of current land status and other new information. Two commenters mentioned the Kigluaik Mountains with their unique cirque lakes and associated fish populations as a potential ACEC. There was also a recommendation that BLM extend the existing Ungalik River Watershed ACEC, Inglutalik River Watershed ACEC, and Shaktoolik River Watershed ACEC, which are adjacent to the planning area, to include the remainder of these watersheds within the planning area. There was a comment that ACEC designation might be appropriate to protect some of the undeveloped streams in Norton Sound such as the Tubutulik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, Ungalik, and portions of the Koyuk, Agiapuk, and Fish rivers, all of which are all very

important habitat for salmon, Dolly Varden, and Arctic grayling. One comment noted that the Western Arctic caribou herd wintering habitat should be evaluated for special protection such as ACEC.

## **b. Issues Identified During Scoping**

The following issues were identified during scoping and through internal Planning Team review. A planning issue is identified as a matter of controversy or dispute over resource management activities or land use that is well defined and/or topically discrete, and entails alternatives between which to decide. Usually, the causal relationship between the activity or use and undesirable results are well defined or can be documented, and the level of controversy is high enough to merit further analysis. Statement of planning issues orients the planning process so that interdisciplinary thought, analysis, and documentation is directed toward resolving the planning issues during preparation of the RMP.

- Management of recreational use of BLM-administered lands
- Management of the Western Arctic caribou herd's important habitats and migration routes
- Management of BLM administered lands to provide continued access to subsistence resources
- Access (transportation corridors and access to mineral properties)
- Mineral withdrawal.

Many other management concerns were identified during scoping. A management concern is an apprehension or point of dispute involving resource management activity or land use where the relationship between the activity or use and potential undesirable effects is apparent, but not well defined. Generally a concern is of note to a few individuals, as opposed to a planning issue, which is of general importance. Many of these concerns will be addressed in the plan but did not have a high enough level of controversy to be raised to the issue level.

## **c. Anticipated Decisions To Be Made**

The following describes the type of decisions that will come out of the RMP. These decisions will either meet the requirements of the BLM Planning Handbook 1601-1, or will help address management concerns and issues identified during public scoping, evaluation of the existing land use plan, and internal BLM management concerns. Other resources not listed below will also be addressed in the RMP as required by the Planning Handbook.

**Off Road Vehicle/Trail Management:** Areas will be designated as open, limited, or closed to OHVs.

**Recreation:** The RMP will delineate Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classes, extensive recreation management areas, and special recreation management areas. It will also describe (by area) what recreation experience currently exists and what recreation experience will be managed for in the future. In special recreation management areas, recreation use objectives will be developed to identify levels of use that would meet the opportunities defined in the ROS. These recreation use objectives could include a range of user numbers for commercial vs. noncommercial use, party size, etc.

**Lands and Realty:** The RMP will identify which lands, if any, are available for disposal under the criteria provided in FLPMA (Section 203 and 206) or other statutes and regulations. It will identify criteria under which acquisition of land would occur, as well as identify proposed withdrawal areas or those areas where existing withdrawals may be revoked. The RMP will identify where and under what circumstances land use authorizations such as major leases and land use permits may be granted. If appropriate, the RMP may identify right-of-way (transportation) corridors, avoidance areas, and exclusion areas.

**Access:** The RMP will determine what needs exist for acquisition, termination, or relocation of 17(b) and other easements for access to public lands. Ultimately, this RMP will need to develop a strategy for management of 17(b) easements, in cooperation with Native entities and the State of Alaska.

**Wildlife/Fisheries:** The RMP will identify habitat management goals and objectives for habitats that support a wide variety of game and non-game species in cooperation with the State of Alaska. It will also identify actions and area-wide use restrictions needed to achieve desired habitat conditions.

**Special Status Species:** The RMP will identify strategies, use restrictions, and actions to conserve special status species.

**Fire Management:** The RMP will identify landscape-level fire management goals and objectives.

**Fluid Minerals (Oil and Gas, Geothermal Resources, and Coal Bed Methane):** The RMP will identify areas open to leasing, subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form or to major constraints such as no-surface-occupancy stipulations. Areas closed to leasing will also be identified.

**Minerals:** The RMP will identify areas open or closed to the operation of the mining laws, mineral material disposal, and nonenergy leasing. In

open areas, it will identify any area-wide terms, conditions, or other special considerations needed to protect resource values.

**Special Designations:** Consistent with the goals, standards, and objectives for the planning area, the RMP will make the following determinations:

- Determine if any rivers are suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System
- Evaluate areas nominated for ACEC designation and if appropriate, designate as such. For each designated ACEC, identify goals, standards, and objectives, as well as general management practices and uses, including necessary constraints and mitigation measures
- Designate Research Natural Areas and Outstanding Natural Areas as types of ACECs using the ACEC designation process
- Determine if any other BLM administrative determinations (e.g., Back Country Byways, National Recreational Trails, or Watchable Wildlife viewing sites) are desired and if so, designate as such.

#### **d. Topics Raised During Scoping That Will Not Be Addressed**

The following topics were raised during public scoping. Some are beyond the scope of the plan and thus will not be addressed in the RMP. In other cases, it has already been determined through BLM policy or planning criteria that the topic would not be addressed.

**Wilderness Inventory:** Current policy, as outlined in a Memorandum from the Secretary of the Interior (April 11, 2003), is that BLM will address wilderness in new resource management planning efforts only if there is broad support from the State and federal elected officials representing Alaska. At this time, there is not broad support for wilderness consideration from State and federal elected officials representing Alaska. The State of Alaska requested that BLM adhere to this policy. Therefore, wilderness will not be addressed in the RMP.

**Lands and Realty:** The RMP will not affect conveyances or Native allotment administration.

**Commercial Activities:** The RMP will not change Special Recreation Permit administration (application requirements, fee structures, etc.). The RMP will not affect the State of Alaska's administration of guides and transporters. The RMP will not change reindeer grazing regulations.

**Subsistence:** The RMP will not change administration of the federal subsistence program by the Federal Subsistence Board. The RMP will consider impacts to subsistence activities, stipulations to protect

subsistence resources, access for subsistence, and management of fish and wildlife habitat to support subsistence species.

**Wildlife/Fish:** The RMP will not affect hunting or fishing regulations, or predator control. ADF&G manages fish and wildlife populations. Changes in hunting and fishing regulations are controlled by the Boards of Game and Fish and are beyond the scope of the plan.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers:** The North Fork, Old Woman, and North rivers of the Unalakleet will not be considered for suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System as they are outside of the planning area boundary.

**e. Valid Existing Management To Be Carried Forward**

No determination has yet been made on valid existing management to be carried forward. This determination will be made after completion of the Analysis of the Management Situation.

**f. Special Designations Including Nominations**

Currently, the only special designation within the planning area is the Iditarod Historic Trail. However, there was a recommendation that four research natural areas (RNAs) proposed in the mid-1980s be reviewed to see if designation as an ACEC is appropriate in the light of current land status and other new information. There was also a recommendation that BLM extend the existing Ungalik River Watershed ACEC, the Inglutalik River Watershed ACEC, and the Shaktoolik River Watershed ACEC to include the remainder of these watersheds within the planning area. There were suggestions that ACEC designation might be appropriate to protect caribou habitat and some of the undeveloped streams in Norton Sound, such as the Tubutulik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, Ungalik, and portions of the Koyuk, Agiapuk, and Fish rivers, which are all very important habitat for salmon, Dolly Varden and Arctic grayling. During scoping BLM asked the public what rivers had outstandingly remarkable values (i.e., are eligible for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System). Numerous rivers including the Kivalina, Wulik, Tubutulik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, Ungalik, Koyuk, Agiapuk and Fish rivers were mentioned by the public as having outstandingly remarkable values. One comment recommended that BLM conduct a suitability study for potential wild and scenic rivers within the planning area including the Kivalina and Wulik rivers. One comment suggested the following nominees for WSR designation: North Fork, Old Woman, and North rivers of the Unalakleet. However, these rivers are outside the planning area.

**III. DRAFT PLANNING CRITERIA**

The draft planning criteria were included in the RMP preparation plan, which is posted on the Northern Field Office website (<http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/Northwest/nwplanning/index.html>). There were no specific comments on the planning criteria during scoping; however, some of the criteria were independently brought up by the public as something that BLM should do during planning. The following draft planning criterion was modified from its original form, which was published in the prep plan, based on the approval of the Alaska Land Health Standards in March 2004.

- Alaska Land Health Standards and Guidelines will be incorporated into this plan.

#### **IV. DATA SUMMARY AND DATA GAPS**

A data needs summary is available in the RMP preparation plan which is posted on the Northern Field Office website (<http://aurora.ak.blm.gov/Northwest/nwplanning/index.html>). Additional data gaps identified by the public during scoping are listed below. Although it would be useful for planning, impact analysis, and future management, there is no commitment by BLM to obtain this data.

Additional data gaps were identified during scoping:

- Upstream limits of anadromous fish species for most rivers in the planning area
- Detailed subsistence use areas for some of the communities within the planning area
- Location of all navigable waters
- Location of all mineral occurrences within the planning area
- Location of all trails within the planning area
- The suitability of all coastal areas for port facilities.

Relevant available data was identified during scoping:

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game subsistence maps and harvest studies
- NANA subsistence maps and harvest information
- Eskimo Heritage Program information from Kawerak
- The State of Alaska identified numerous sources of additional available data in its letter dated April 29, 2004.

#### **V. SUMMARY OF FUTURE STEPS IN THE PLANNING PROCESS**

- a. Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS):** The Analysis of the Management Situation is the next step in the process after scoping. The AMS describes the current condition and trend of resources in the planning area, the way BLM currently manages those resources, and

opportunities to resolve issues identified during scoping. This analysis provides the baseline reference for development and evaluation of alternatives. The AMS for the KSP planning area will be developed during the summer and fall of 2004.

- b. Formulation of Alternatives:** Alternatives will be formulated by identifying a range of resource objectives and management practices that will address issues. This will include a no action alternative. Alternatives will be developed for the KSPRMP in the winter of 2005.
- c. Analysis of Effects:** Once the alternatives are developed, the effects of each alternative on the human environment will be analyzed using the NEPA process. BLM expects to begin this process in spring 2005.
- d. Publish the Draft RMP/EIS:** This step will begin with the release of the draft RMP/EIS for a 90-day public review period that will include public meetings. A notice of availability (NOA) will be published in the *Federal Register* around October 2005. The public comment period will extend for 90 days after publication of the NOA.
- e. Issue the Proposed Final RMP/EIS:** Based on the information contained in the draft RMP/EIS and public comment received, BLM will select a proposed RMP and present it to the public as the Final RMP/EIS. This step will include public notices of the document's availability, the distribution of the document, and a 30-day protest period on the final document. BLM will begin this step in July 2006 and expects to complete the project by October 2006.

**VI. APPENDIX A: SUMMARY OF SCOPING COMMENTS KOBUK-SEWARD PENINSULA RMP**

(\*Source of comments: comments from public scoping meetings are identified by the location of the meeting)

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Access	written	Access for mining needs to be assured. Is access to BLM lands for mining guaranteed? Should identify needed access routes to areas open to mining and make sure they are covered in the plan. Current OHV limitation of 2,000 pounds does not provide for movement of mining equipment
Access	written	Address potential airport expansion for both economic development and for runway expansion, as well as access roads to such existing and future facilities. Of particular importance are transportation corridors for resource development, rural airports, and harbors and docks.
Access	written	Aircraft landing areas on BLM lands commonly used by the public should be identified and, where not in conflict with land use designations, permitted by the plan.
Access	written	All 17B easements should be shown in the plan with their ID number/name.
Access	written	All roads, trails, and historic access routes should be shown and identified with BLM or State of Alaska ID numbers. These should include all trails, whether they qualify as RS 2477s or not.
Access	written	Alternative railroad routes should be defined between the coalfields near Point Lay to Norton Sound. The starting point in the north should be near Point Lay with at least two possible port alternatives on Norton Sound – at Nome and Cape Darby. Also a railroad route from Ambler Copper District to the two sites on Norton Sound should be defined.
Access	written	An appendix providing a comprehensive list of all trails of every type should be included.
Access	written	BLM should address any public easements that were not completed in its 2001 review of all public easements, including RS 2477 rights-of-way and ANCSA 17(b) cases, if any exist.
Access	Nome, written	BLM should consider State transportation planning policies and documents relevant to the KSP planning area including: Vision 2020, the Statewide Transportation Policy Plan, Northwest Alaska Transportation Plan, Community Transportation Analysis, February 11, 2004.
Access	written	BLM needs to collaborate/cooperate in transportation planning in adjacent areas, i.e., the planning area boundary cuts off in the middle of the Nulato Hills, while the routes proposed in the NW transportation plan go into adjacent areas such as the Anchorage FO and Central Yukon Mgmt. Area.
Access	Nome	BLM should consider transportation corridors to areas open to mining and coordination with the NW Transportation Plan. Also consider RS 2477 claims by the State.
Access	Anchorage	BLM should provide access to public lands that are adjacent to private lands.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Access	written	Consider development of utility corridors for the transportation of oil and gas and other mineral resources, as well as transportation corridors to support future economic growth in the KSP planning area.
Access	Kotzebue	Future development of roads is of concern, especially its effects on wildlife and subsistence.
Access	written	How will BLM plan for future impacts of regional access (i.e., Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Northwest Transportation Plan roads and corridors)?
Access	written	In the event that 17(b) easements are proposed for termination, the State requests that interested parties, including the State of Alaska, be given adequate public notice and opportunity to participate and comment.
Access	written	May want to have more road access to resources to balance family with economic development.
Access	Kiana	More roads may be needed to develop natural resources. Another person expressed the opinion that they did not need any additional roads.
Access	written	Plan needs to consider impacts of regional access. Proposed state roads are concern; is not in favor of increased road access.
Access	written	Roads fragment habitat and increase human access. This could have significant impacts on wildlife populations.
Access	written	RS 2477 rights-of-way can have adverse impacts on both private and public lands. These claims should be carefully evaluated for legitimacy. RS 2477 applicants should have adequate proof and meet strict standards for their claims to be considered. The RMP should determine these standards, as well as the procedure through a meaningful public process. The rights-of-way should be limited to the historic type of use, and the routes should be surveyed prior to processing.
Access	written	Surface access is a major issue and should be treated as such.
Access	written	The plan should include and integrate the State of Alaska land selections that were established for access wherever they exist in the planning area.
Access	written	The plan should recognize the state's need for future upgrading, realignment, and expansion of its transportation system.
Access	written	The RMP should articulate how the BLM will address RS 2477 claims.
Access	written	The State requests that all easements and rights-of-way be identified and recognized in this planning effort. We recognize that this does not constitute a final determination, but request that BLM work with the state to pursue a recordable disclaimer of interest on the part of BLM for the rights-of-way in this planning area. (Ref: Letter from Governor Murkowski to The Honorable Steve Griles, March 25, 2004)

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Access	written	There are many mineral prospects, operating mines, placer districts and coalfields located within the KSP planning area. The state requests that access for transportation and utility infrastructure to these mineralized areas be considered.
Access	Koyuk	There was opposition to the idea of BLM authorizing construction of airstrips to improve access to the area (Koyuk).
Access	Kiana	Trespass on Native corporation lands: How does BLM determine the mean high (OHW) water mark for the Squirrel River, and how will the public know where the OHW mark is and when they are in trespass? Where do the BLM lands begin on the edge of the Squirrel River? Can you assume that the edge of the vegetation is the mean water line?
Access	Kiana	What is the status of legal easements going up the Squirrel River? The original site of the easement was a boat landing. It consisted of a cat trail through NANA lands to BLM lands. NANA has been putting up no trespass signs. It is at the confluence of two creeks then goes north to Klery Creek mine area. EIN 8 is the easement in the Squirrel River to Klery Creek.
Air	Kivalina	Dust from Red Dog Mine is of concern.
Air	Kotzebue	Need to include pollution prevention in the plan. From all pollutant sources including garbage, toxic waste, and ATV emissions, etc. (2)
Climate	Kotzebue Kiana	Concerns with global warming: the caribou are migrating south later and later. Will BLM be doing climate research or impacts?
Cultural	Buckland	Buckland traditional village site is 40-50 miles up river. It is a special historic site and should be protected (might be on Native land).
Cultural	Kivalina	Cultural sites exist on the Kivalina River and may need special protection (old mud house cabins).
Cultural	Koyuk	Granite Mountain (Koyuk) Hot Springs is a cultural resource that should be protected.
Cultural	written	If archaeological or historical sites are identified through this planning process, the state requests that the State Historic Preservation Officer be notified. The State may request that recreational or commercial uses be precluded in order to protect archaeological and historic sites.
Cultural	written	In what way will BLM protect cultural resources for future generations? Past practices left much to be desired, with artifacts placed in museums thousands of miles away and digs left exposed without proper handling.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Cultural	Anchorage	Paleontological sites: Wrench Creek and Deering (location of oldest record of caribou for North America, 1.5 million years).
Cultural	written	The coast of Northwest Alaska contains some of the most significant archaeological sites in Alaska. Large settlements with an elaborate material culture were able to develop due to the relatively stable resource base of sea mammals and other marine resources. These prehistoric settlements are often at risk from impacts from modern development. The Seward Peninsula has had a long mining history starting with the Gold Rush in the late 1800s. Remains of historic mining camps, equipment, and features such as mining ditches and tailing piles are still evident today. Historic mining remains are often at risk from impacts from modern mining activities.
Cultural	Kiana	There are many cultural sites on the Squirrel River. Some may already be impacted. Many are probably undocumented.
Cultural	written	What has BLM done to identify cultural resources within the plan area?
Cultural	Kotzebue	Would like to see BLM identify cultural and paleontological resources on BLM lands.
Fire	written	Fire control plans should be reviewed, especially for the application of potentially toxic fire suppressant material and the role fire plays in healthy ecosystems.
Fire	Anchorage	Fire management as related to winter range and lichen for WACH. BLM should protect lichen habitats for caribou.
Fish	written, Shaktoolik	Beavers impact salmon. How will BLM address this issue?
Fish	written	BLM should collaborate with ADF&G to describe existing and desired populations and conditions on major habitat types for fish and wildlife.
Fish	written	BLM should collaborate with Native communities to identify protection measures to support fish and wildlife.
Fish	Shaktoolik	Dog (chum) salmon populations in the Shaktoolik River are declining.
Fish	Shaktoolik	Elders of Shaktoolik are taping a documentary on tribal laws. One is that beaver are not allowed in the home. In the past, beavers were not abundant. They are common now. They block rivers. How does this affect fish, and can the beaver dams be removed?
Fish	Buckland	Fish in the Buckland River are bigger and fatter than those in the Kobuk River.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Fish	Fairbanks	Fish River is a heat sink; the water warms up disproportionately fast compared to other rivers in southern Norton Sound. It is an important river but not higher in importance than some of the other rivers in this region.
Fish	written	Fish, wildlife, and vegetative habitats need to be preserved in their natural state.
Fish	Nome	In wild and scenic rivers there is a concern about catch and release of fish.
Fish	Fairbanks	Needed data: upstream limits of anadromous fish species for most rivers in the planning area.
Fish	Kivalina	Noticed a decline in fish numbers and quality over the years (Kivalina). One fish was so soft coming out of the net that it broke in half. This is attributed to poor water quality.
Fish	Buckland	Smelt fishery in the Buckland River is an important resource.
Fish	Fairbanks	Southern Norton Sound has many important subsistence rivers that support Dolly Varden, salmon, and whitefish. A few are Tubutulik, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Shaktoolik. This is not a full list; most of the rivers are important and deserve special management consideration.
Fish	written	Streams in the area are important to both resident and anadromous fish. In particular, the undeveloped streams in Norton Sound such as the Tubutulik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, Ungalik, and portions of the Koyuk, Agiapuk, and Fish rivers are all very important, as are their riparian zones. All of these drainages are important to salmon (chum, coho, pink and to some degree king), Dolly Varden, and Arctic grayling. Some sort of designation that would afford these drainages protection from development without going to the length of designation as a WSR would be desired. WSR designation only directs additional attention to drainages, and in some cases, this is not beneficial.
Fish	Fairbanks	The Kivalina River is very important for subsistence harvest of fish, Dolly Varden rearing and spawning.
Fish	Anchorage	The planning area includes important riverine habitats for fish species including Dolly Varden, Arctic char, Arctic grayling, chum salmon, sheefish, and other whitefish species.
Fish	written	The RMP should address salmon management in the planning area. The fisheries in the KSP planning area, such as the Tubutulik, Ungalik, Inglutalik, and Shaktoolik, are among the richest in the region. Salmon spawning habitat in the Kivilina and Ungalik watersheds, as well as in other watersheds identified as critical spawning habitat, should be recognized and protected. In addition, the Wulik and parts of the Noatak river systems are probably of international significance for maintaining and managing Dolly Varden populations.
Fish	Kotzebue	The Squirrel River contains important early spawning habitat for salmon. It needs to be protected.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Fish		The Wulik, Kivalina, and parts of the Noatak river systems are probably of international significance for maintaining and managing Dolly Varden populations
Fish	Fairbanks	What is BLM's primary goal for fisheries management? Subsistence or sport?
Fish	Fairbanks	Will BLM look at using egg boxes as a fisheries management tool?
Fish	Kiana	BLM should consider some kind of escapement strategy for caribou (like salmon). Let a certain number go through before allow hunting to begin in the fall.
Forestry	written	BLM should comply with Healthy Forest Initiatives in the plan area as needed.
Forestry	Buckland	House logs have been gathered upriver on the Buckland and South Fork of the Buckland.
Forestry	Kotzebue	No commercial logging should be allowed. Firewood harvest would be okay.
Forestry	Kivalina	Some harvest of logs from upriver during whaling. Most people use driftwood for firewood.
GIS	written	A map of all mineral occurrences should be included in the plan. This map should also identify all locations where mining has occurred in the past.
GIS	Kotzebue	Alaska Department of Fish and Game has subsistence maps and harvest studies. BLM should get this data.
GIS	written	All active state and federal claims should be shown on maps.
GIS	written	All federal withdrawals including public land orders (PLOs), secretarial orders, congressional acts, etc. should be identified on maps and the purpose of each included in the plan (2). Those withdrawals for which the defined purpose is no longer exists should be highlighted. The purpose for each withdrawal be noted either in annotation or in the map legend.
GIS	written	All roads, trails, and historic access routes should be shown and identified with BLM or State of Alaska ID numbers. These should include all trails, whether they qualify as RS 2477s or not.
GIS	written	All sedimentary basins onshore and offshore should be shown and identified for their petroleum potential.
GIS	written	BLM should build a good GIS data base and acquire adequate resource inventory data so that a regional Gap analysis can be accomplished for this area.
GIS	written	Navigable rivers should be shown on a map in the plan.
GIS	written	State and Native selections should be identified in the plan and shown on maps (2).
GIS	written	The State requests that 17(b) trail and site easements be recognized and mapped as part of this planning process so that the public is aware of their location. Include their ID number/name.
Minerals	written	A map of all mineral occurrences should be included in the plan. This map should also identify all locations where mining has occurred in the past.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Minerals	written	All active state and federal claims should be shown on maps.
Minerals	written	All sedimentary basins onshore and offshore should be shown and identified for their petroleum potential.
Minerals	Fairbanks	Are there coal reserves within the planning area?
Minerals	Nome	Bring DGGS data into the plan regarding oil and gas and coal bed methane. BLM land north of Council and Solomon should remain open to mineral entry. Oil, gas, and methane: are there any studies being done by the State or BLM?
Minerals	written	Coal bed methane may provide an economical source of energy for rural Alaska. While there are currently no leases planned in this area, the geology of portions of this planning area may provide gas content for rural use.
Minerals	written	Has the BIA issued any leases on Indian lands in the planning area where BLM may have handled the operational approvals and supervised the operations?
Minerals	Nome	High mineral values in the Kigluaik Mountains: graphite
Minerals	Kotzebue	How is BLM going to address the inherent conflict between subsistence resources and mineral development?
Minerals	written	It is important that State planning intent as specified for selected lands in existing management plans be considered as BLM develops planning recommendations for this area. The State is interested in encouraging exploration and development of mineral resources. Areas experiencing considerable mineral exploration and development include the following mines and placer districts: Rock Creek Mine Development, Nome Third Beach Placer Gold Project, Big Bar, Think Zinc and Rocky Mountain Exploration Projects, Ambler Volcanic Massive Sulfide Belt, Kougarok Placer Mining District.
Minerals	Kivalina	Kivalina Relocation – Massive amounts of gravel will be needed for the relocation.
Minerals	Kivalina	Lead and zinc in the road dust from the Red Dog Mine is covering vegetation that the caribou eat (lichen, etc.). During migration, caribou congregate along road and feed on dusty roadside vegetation. If mining is authorized on BLM land, we should learn from the Red Dog experience and avoid some of the problems.
Minerals	written	Material sites – Adequate material sites should be made available for existing and future State and local roads and airports.
Minerals	written	Mineral Objective #2 of the MFP, opening all federally managed BLM lands to oil and gas, should be re-evaluated. All BLM-administered lands should not be open to oil and gas leasing.
Minerals	Kivalina	Need better enforcement on mine effluent.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Minerals	written	Norton Bay is both locally important to subsistence and important on a large ecological scale to migrating birds and mammals. The BLM should address how offshore exploration and leasing in Norton Bay will impact BLM lands in the planning area (i.e., access, directional drilling, etc).
Minerals	written	Opposed to mineral development on lands surrounding ANSCA lands held by Shaktoolik. Under tribal laws governing mineral use, those minerals belong to the tribes who utilized the lands. Will traditional laws be upheld by the Department of Interior?
Minerals	Kiana	People have seen natural gas bubbling out of the ground, especially in the spring. There is concern about high cost of heating oil and shipping costs are high. If there is natural gas nearby, they should be able to use it in their community.
Minerals	Kotzebue	Question on coal bed methane research by BLM. Is BLM going to go to the people (Selawik) and ask their thoughts on energy leasing and development of energy minerals?
Minerals	written	Some State lands in the planning area are available for oil and gas exploration licensing.
Minerals	Kiana	Squirrel River may have high mineral potential. Mining could be developed on BLM lands. One person expressed the thought that they didn't need more mining in the area.
Minerals	written	The governor of any state with an approved regulatory program may request that the Secretary 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 (SMCRA) on federal lands. At present, Alaska has no such agreement in place. However, should coal operations be developed on federal lands in this area, such an agreement would likely be developed between the Office of Surface Mining (OSM) and the State. The agreement would set out the respective roles of the State and Interior relative to regulation of mining operations on federal lands (Ref: 30 CFR 745).
Minerals	written	The KSP planning area contains basins previously identified for Shallow Gas Leasing. Teck-Cominco has leased an area adjacent to the Red Dog mine and is pursuing the use of fractured shale as a potential gas source for mining operations.
Minerals	written	The plan should include an appendix with a bibliography of all known mineral reports for the planning area. This should include a compilation of all companies that have operated at each of the sites and reference to private data sources.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Minerals	written	The planning area has widespread, historic mineral activity and far greater mineral potential than most areas of the state, i.e., Red Dog, Ambler Copper District, Nome Mining District, Shungnak, Squirrel River, Fairhaven-Inmachuk, Candle, Serpentine, Port Clarence, Kougarok, Council-Solomon, and Koyuk Mining Districts, Tin City.
Minerals	written	The planning area is still largely unexplored for mineral potential.
Minerals	written	The primary focus of the plan should be on minerals
Minerals	written	The State is encouraging oil and gas development in the state and would appreciate the opportunity to specifically review and comment on any proposed actions that may limit or discourage exploration and development in this area. At this time there are no anticipated lease sales proposed for this area.
Minerals	Nome	There are existing claims/mineral deposits in the planning area. BLM needs to recognize prior existing rights.
Minerals	Kivalina	There has been a lot of interest in mineral exploration on the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers. These two rivers are very important to the people of Kivalina for fishing and drinking water.
Minerals	Shaktoolik	There is interest in oil and gas leasing in Norton Bay. Some people favor oil and gas development in Norton Bay.
Minerals	Kotzebue	There is probably high unexplored mineral potential in the Squirrel River. Mineral development is a good area to focus on. A better tax base is needed for the NW Arctic Borough. There is not much forestry or other resource development potential.
Minerals	Buckland	There may be coal resources upriver or on the uplands. The Elders speak of high mineral potential around Buckland.
Minerals	written	Under what authority does BLM oversee mining on Indian lands?
Minerals	written	What areas are currently open or closed to fluid mineral leasing?
Minerals	written	What has BLM done to identify open or closed areas to the operation of mining laws, mineral material disposal, and nonenergy leasing within the plan area?
Minerals	written	What laws, regulations, and policies exist that help BLM make the determination on what terms and conditions or other special considerations are needed to protect resource values in areas open to mineral entry?

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Misc.	written	All areas where a water depth of 45 feet that could be accessed within either 1)1000 feet of mean high tide line, 2) 2000 feet of mean high tide line, 3) or 3000 feet of mean high tide line should be identified on maps.
Misc.	written	All coastal areas should be evaluated and categorized for their suitability for use as a port or transfer point.
Misc.	Shaktoolik	BLM should protect Norton Bay, specifically Reindeer Cove.
Monitoring	written	BLM should monitor development projects that may negatively impact local uses and the habitat on which those uses depend, including transportation corridors, communication infrastructure, OHV use, and major disturbances to waterways such as mining, bridges, and pollution sources.
OHV	Kiana	Access to mining claims requires carrying a letter stating that the GVW is less than 2000 lbs. Want this restriction evenly applied to hunters and other users.
OHV	written	An ORV trails inventory would identify “hot spots,” such as the Squirrel River watershed, where ORV use is degrading the landscape. The RMP should utilize data such as this specific inventory to define zones of use.
OHV	Kiana	ATV use in the Squirrel River is tearing up the vegetation.
OHV	written	BLM should consider limiting ORV use to designated routes. Limited areas are much more favorable than open areas because it allows the BLM to control ORV use. BLM should set weight limits for vehicles on off-road trails taking into account the impact and potential disturbance to the soils and vegetation.
OHV	Kiana	Clarify what permits, if any, would be necessary to take a jet boat up to the North Fork of the Squirrel River, drop off a four-wheeler and go hunt sheep. If this becomes a common request, does BLM foresee problems with jet boats? Jet boat use is an emerging issue.
OHV	Koyuk	Concern about OHVs: They are getting larger and more powerful, allowing people to go farther and into areas they couldn’t get into before. Given this situation, will any OHV designations that we come up with in the plan still be effective after 10-15 years? OHV might not be an issue now, but could be before the new plan is outdated in another 15 years.
OHV	Koyuk	Four-wheelers are becoming more of a problem/issue. They destroy the berries. More of a problem on Native corporation lands near the village than on BLM land.
OHV	Buckland	Locals use mostly boats in the summer and snowmachines in the winter to get around. There is some local summer use of ATVs close to the village.
OHV	Kotzebue	NANA may have maps of existing trails within the planning area.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
OHV	Koyuk	Not in favor of restricting four-wheeler use: “We might want to use four-wheelers to go and get a moose sometime.”
OHV	Anchorage	OHV designations: There are many trails in the northwest area that have been used by the people who live there for hundreds or thousands of years.
OHV	Kiana	Recreation and OHV management: If zoning is done, need to set a limit on the number of users that would be allowed in the Squirrel River. Should be some type of ATV zoning – a restriction on how many are allowed. Could BLM require a permit for hunters using four-wheelers on BLM lands? How would trails be designated for four-wheeler use? The local residents should have a say in what trails are designated.
OHV	written	Recreational OHV use is around towns and villages. Non-recreational use is berry picking, hauling trash, or hunting.
OHV	Kotzebue	Should consider closing the Squirrel River to ATVs. Local people don’t use them much for hunting in that area. Concerns with ATVs include: tearing up the country, bringing more people, trash left behind, and pollution.
OHV	written	The Bureau must develop the plan in accordance with the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA, P.L. 96-487). Provisions of ANILCA important to the Department include Sections 811, 1110(a), and 1316(a), among others.
OHV	written	The National Management Strategy for Motorized Off-Highway Vehicle Use on the Public Lands is too vague for management of ORV use. BLM should articulate a more defined management strategy in the RMP.
OHV	written	Until BLM can provide the public with a description of OHV use on their lands, it is difficult to determine which areas should be open, closed, or limited.
OHV	Fairbanks	What are the existing OHV designations and how will new designations be determined?
OHV	written	While recognizing that ATVs are an important tool to the rural subsistence lifestyle, they should be allowed only on designated routes. The appropriate routes should be researched and established by the BLM with input and cooperation from the public.
Planning	Koyuk	“If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it.”
Planning	written	At least one geologist from the USGS AK Science Tech Center should be on the planning team.
Planning	written	Available data seems to be lacking.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Planning	written	BLM should carefully review the Northwest Area Plan, which includes decisions on how State-selected lands are to be managed after conveyance. Especially look at State-selected lands that have been identified as a high priority for conveyance and are likely to be conveyed. Consistent with 43 CFR 1610.3-2, the management intent for these parcels outlined in the KSPRMP/EIS should not deviate significantly from existing DNR land use plans.
Planning	written	BLM needs to use collaborative planning because of the checkerboard land ownership in the planning area. Need to coordinate planning with all land managers.
Planning	Kiana	BLM should bring a state representative to planning meetings so they could answer some of the questions and hear the concerns related to State lands.
Planning	Koyuk	BLM should come back and have another meeting in Koyuk when the draft plan is available.
Planning	written	BLM should consider approved coastal management plans and policies when developing recommendations for BLM lands within a coastal zone area. It should be noted that coastal zone management plans are being revised to comply with new regulations; currency of documents should be verified.
Planning	written	BLM should fully recognize the State's authorities that overlay BLM's land management responsibilities.
Planning	written, Nome, Kotzebue	BLM should integrate planning and management with other agencies and governments.
Planning	Koyuk	BLM should support the findings of the Bering Straits Coastal Resource Service Area Board and not make any changes. The Board found that subsistence was the most important use of the area.
planning	Kotzebue	Concerned that during the 20-year lifespan of the plan, BLM will not be able to forecast or adequately address impacts of future roads, pipelines, etc. Plan needs to consider impacts of regional access. Proposed state roads are a concern; is not in favor of increased road access.
Planning	Kiana	Concerned that the RMP covers a very large area and impacts many communities. BLM should make an effort to go to more communities because the impacts to villages further from the BLM lands are significant. Selawik is 30 miles south but activities and regulations in the Squirrel River highly impact their lifestyle. Even things happening on the North Slope affect the villages further south.
Planning	written	Do not allow hunting, trapping, OHVs, logging, mining, or grazing.
Planning	written	In order to provide comment, the public needs to know what was in the MFP.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Planning	Koyuk	Keep the BLM lands the same as they are now.
Planning	written	Resource development, levels of use, and restrictions on BLM lands should adhere to existing protocols identified in other federal, State, and local lands.
Planning	Kotzebue	Should just do one plan for the entire NW area for all agencies. The resources, issues, and conflicts cut across jurisdictions.
Planning	Kotzebue	Should make the plan broad enough to be responsive to future changes.
Planning	Kotzebue	TEPA – Tribal Environmental Policy Act. TEPA will be done soon on NANA lands. BLM should honor this effort, now in a very initial development stage. Maniilaq is collaborating with member villages.
Planning	Koyuk	The backgrounds of the people writing the plan should be made available so people know how much experience they have.
Planning	written	The BLM should commit to management of State- and Native-selected lands as BLM-administered lands until conveyed. This includes protective or special status and appropriate conservation measures for lands that qualify, regardless of over-selection. We request that this is explicitly addressed in the RMP.
Planning	written	The minerals and access data should be incorporated into the first phase of planning and will then provide a base map for all other work and assist to minimize future conflicts.
Planning	written	The outcome of the plan should be for future generations to have the same opportunities to enjoy public land that the current generation has.
Planning	written	The plan needs to contain EISs on all proposed development within the plan area in compliance with NEPA.
Planning	written	The planning team should include an experienced geologist or mining engineer.
Planning	written	The State requests that the appropriate Native corporation and/or the State of Alaska be contacted, and their views considered, prior to implementing a more specific management program or issuing a permit involving selected lands.
Planning	written	The State requests that the planning process avoid making decisions that unnecessarily encumber State-selected lands.
Planning	written	Under what authority is BLM developing this RMP and managing natural resources and uses of public land?
Planning	written	Will the Department of Interior honor the tribe's potential benefits if these laws (tribal minerals laws) are recognized and utilized?

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Range	Buckland Shaktoolik	Bison grazing is not a good idea. Introduction of muskoxen created a problem. Don't do the same thing with bison. Don't want bison (buffalo) or similar big game introduced in Nulato Hills (2).
Range	Anchorage	BLM policy should prohibit reintroduction of any non-indigenous species (comment made in relation to authorizing other types of livestock besides reindeer).
Range	Nome	BLM should allow for reindeer grazing in other areas, not just the Seward Peninsula. The reindeer industry wants/needs to expand. There are highs and lows with reindeer and caribou herds, and herders need the flexibility to deal with this cyclical nature of the industry.
Range	Nome	BLM should consider authorizing buffalo as an alternative form of livestock.
Range	Shaktoolik	BLM should look into allowing reindeer cooperatives again. Reindeer provide economic benefits and employment opportunities to the village. Shaktoolik would like to see reindeer grazing an option in their area.
Range	Koyuk	Concern about feasibility of grazing by bison: How much would they eat and is there enough forage available? Would they become a problem like the muskoxen? People prefer to eat caribou and moose.
Range	written	If a permit for the introduction of buffalo is submitted, BLM should carefully consider the potentially devastating effect buffalo could have on local ungulates and vegetation. These potential adverse impacts probably would outweigh the small economic gain that the introduction of buffalo may add to the region.
Range	Buckland	It is difficult to keep reindeer from mixing with caribou.
Range	Koyuk	Recommend no change in the reindeer grazing program. Herders have enough problems with caribou without BLM restricting the areas they can use.
Range	written	Reindeer grazing could cause degrading impacts on the resources of the area. Detailed and consistent goals and standards for reindeer herding should be developed in the RMP. Detailed allotment management plans are important to the sustainable future of this activity. BLM should balance the impacts of grazing with the need for grazing on federally administered lands. If some areas have been over-grazed, the BLM should consider permit closure. Areas such as the upper Kuzitrin Valley and McCarty's Marsh may qualify for such closures. The BLM should commit to a long-term inventory and monitoring system specific to reindeer grazing in the planning area. Special attention should be given to the impacts of reindeer grazing on caribou populations and migratory patterns.
Range	Nome	Reindeer grazing leases: Leases should be for at least 10 years (20-30 years if possible) to allow herders more opportunity to develop a stable business and get loans.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Realty	written	All federal withdrawals including PLOs, secretarial orders, congressional acts, etc. should be identified on maps and the purpose of each included in the plan. Those withdrawals for which the defined purpose is no longer exists should be highlighted.
Realty	written	All navigable waters should be defined in the plan and identified on maps.
Realty	written	Any fees collected for special use or right-of-way permits should be held in escrow until the selected lands are conveyed or relinquished, consistent with ANILCA Sec. 906(k)(2).
Realty	Kiana	Are the gravel bars in the Squirrel River State land or Native corporation lands? BLM needs to clarify mean high water and land status in RMP including status of sand bars. The sand bars are large and can be used to land planes. Four-wheelers can take off from there.
Realty	Buckland	BLM should explore the possibility of authorizing subsistence use cabins.
Realty	Shaktoolik	BLM should not convey the following lands, T.11S., R.11S., sections 31-36, KM, to the State of Alaska because they are traditional tribal lands. How will the people of Shaktoolik be compensated for the loss of traditionally held lands if conveyance to the State of Alaska occurs?
Realty	Buckland	BLM should protect Elephant Point (keep it available for use) for beluga hunting (near Buckland).
Realty	written	BLM should work with the State on specific water bodies to resolve issues concerning ownership and use of rivers, lakes, and streams within BLM-owned lands where management conflicts arise. Cooperative management agreements between the BLM, the State of Alaska, and other landowners may be developed when needed for specific waterways within the planning area.
Realty	Kiana	Can a semi-permanent seasonal tent/camp be set up for a traditional trapping operation? Could past use of a site for traditional hunting and trapping result in allowance for some sort of subsistence use of a site? BLM should consider authorization of subsistence camps on the Squirrel River.
Realty	Koyuk	Concern about land disposal: Would not want outsiders coming in and buying land near the village. They would be interested if land sales could be limited to local residents.
Realty	written	Consider the following lands for inclusion in the National Park System: Bering Land Bridge: several townships just above the deltas of the Nuluk and Pinuk rivers south of the preserve; uplands and headwaters of Boston Creek, Niukluk, and Koyuk rivers adjacent to SE boundary of preserve. Notatak Preserve: Headwaters of the north fork of the Squirrel and Omar rivers southwest of the preserve.
Realty	Shaktoolik	Land disposal: Shaktoolik would like additional BLM lands in the Nulato Hills.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Realty	Kotzebue	NANA region has traditionally been against land disposal. They fear sale of property to private individuals who might develop lodges and then bring in clients. These clients would compete with subsistence users (2).
Realty	written	State and Native selections should be identified in the plan and shown on maps (2).
Realty	written	State land sales are generally directed toward areas identified in the Northwest Area Plan for Settlement. The state has several types of disposal programs. At present two are being utilized. The first is a land sale program that initially makes state land available for sale through auction. Then, if not sold, parcels become available over the counter for public purchase by Alaska residents. Remote recreational cabin sites are also available through a staking program.
Realty	Nome	The accelerated land conveyance program should be addressed in the plan.
Realty	written	The implications and impacts of lifting the 1008 Seward Peninsula Study should be explicitly explained in the draft RMP and made clear to the public. Lifting the withdrawals of mineral entry in the Seward Peninsula should include a separate NEPA process.
Realty	written	The RMP planning effort presents an appropriate opportunity for BLM to review all PLOs and withdrawals and remove those where the intended purposes are no longer present, particularly in areas where resource development could potentially occur.
Realty	Koyuk	There are not enough Native corporation lands around Koyuk. Koyuk should have gotten a reservation.
Realty	written	To identify where and when land use authorizations and land use permits should be granted, BLM should review its land use and disposition policies. Whatever BLM proposes should then be brought forward for public review and comment.
Realty	written	What has BLM done to identify tracts for disposal, acquisition, and withdrawal?
Realty	Shaktoolik	What in ANSCA and its provisions allowed Bering Straits Native Corporation's selection on Shaktoolik's traditionally held lands at Diamond Creek, at the base of Christmas Mountain?
Realty	written	Where does one find information on the number of acres of subsurface mineral estate the BLM manages in the planning area?
Realty	written	Which lands in the planning area are withdrawn from mineral leasing and development?
Realty	Nome	Who gets priority on the Salmon Lake selections? Individual use (Native allotment applicants) predates other use of the area and should have priority.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Realty and access	written	If detailed land status identifies any areas where BLM owns the subsurface estate and a different entity owns the surface estate, the State would like to know where these areas are before making final comments, particularly with respect to access.
Recreation	Kiana	Air traffic from guides and transporters over Selawik has affected the number of caribou and is affecting their migration. Not all air traffic is from Kotzebue; some is directly from Anchorage.
Recreation	written	Appropriate levels of use by guides, transporters, and air taxi should be determined and implemented.
Recreation	Nome	BLM lands are important for public, recreational, and commercial uses. These uses need to be considered, and BLM should keep the lands open for these types of use. Nome would like to see the BLM lands remain open to tours. They do not want too many restrictions.
Recreation	Kiana	BLM needs to do better enforcement to ensure compliance on the stipulations in the guiding permits, i.e., human waste disposal, caching of equipment, tent frames, burning of trash. The NPS comes in and checks camps after the guides leave. Burying trash is not a good idea.
Recreation	written	BLM should address the resolution of conflicts between local hunters and recreational users.
Recreation	Anchorage	BLM should allocate the number of commercial operators and assign them to certain areas as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service do. Need to set recreational carrying capacity in the Squirrel River.
Recreation	Nome	BLM should consider more facilities such as trails, campgrounds, and shelter cabins. Teller Road was one area mentioned for a possible campground. BLM could cooperate with local groups to maintain facilities.
Recreation	Nome	BLM should consider the upper Kuzitrin drainage as an access corridor to Bering Land Bridge NP. This would provide access from a public road across BLM into the NP. A coordinated trail system with shelter cabins could be developed between the NPS and BLM land.
Recreation	Nome	BLM should develop maps or brochures with suggested routes of travel and likely camping spots that avoid private property. Many people would enjoy hiking or snowmachining in the area but are intimidated because of the lack of information, trails, etc.
Recreation	Kiana	BLM should look into assigning guides exclusive use areas that would limit them to a certain area.
Recreation	Kotzebue	BLM should make the Squirrel River a special management area so the agency can better manage recreational use.
Recreation	Kiana	BLM should set a time frame when hunting guides are allowed in the Squirrel River such that it does not affect migration of caribou.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Recreation	written	BLM should specifically address the conflicts between sport hunting and other users in the planning area.
Recreation	Nome	Can BLM permit recreational cabins? There seems to be general support for recreational use cabins
Recreation	Kiana	Concerned that the big game hunters may be harvesting a lot of fish on the Squirrel River and the tributaries to it. BLM may want to set limits on the numbers of fish allowed per day through the guide permits.
Recreation	Kiana	Educate sport hunters to respect local people and resources.
Recreation	Kotzebue	Follow the lead of National Park Service (NPS) regarding commercial services. NPS Draft Commercial Services Plan for Northwest Parks will be out soon. When NPS begins limiting commercial uses in the parks and preserves, this will put additional pressure on BLM lands. NPS public scoping meetings show that concerns are primarily about transporters. Guides are of lesser concern because they can only bring in a limited number of hunters.
Recreation	Nome	Guides and outfitters: Competition with local subsistence users is an issue. If we set limits of acceptable use and allocate the number of guide/outfitter permits, there should be preference given to local resident guides over non-residents. If changes to guiding permits/regulations are proposed, the guides would appreciate a phone call as it affects their livelihood.
Recreation	Buckland	In 2003 the fly-in hunters affected the fall hunting. They diverted the caribou upriver, where it is shallow and not boat-accessible. There were many hunters going through the airport. Planes were flying in and out at all hours of the day (Buckland).
Recreation	Kiana	Need better law enforcement on guides and transporters. Waste and meat spoilage is a problem people have observed. People are trophy hunting and are not concerned about bringing the meat out in good condition. Make hunters take the meat all the way home with them instead of leaving it in Alaska. BLM needs to do something to insure that the meat is not wasted.
Recreation	Nome	Nome developed a comprehensive plan last year. It focuses on bird-watching and snowmachine use as potential tourist draws to the area. Bird-watching is a major tourist draw to Nome and is expected to double in the next 20 years.
Recreation	Kivalina	Noticing a lot of guide activity on the Wulik River. People are flown in from Kotzebue. When the plane leaves, all their trash is there. There are problems with the trash and also less moose.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Recreation	Kotzebue	Other uses are affecting subsistence and caribou migration routes, and people in Noorvik and Kiana are not seeing as many caribou as they should. People are happy to hear that BLM will attempt to address the user conflict issue especially in the Squirrel River. Caribou come through the Squirrel River when sport hunters are there; this shifts migration further east. Noorvik, Kiana, and Kotzebue have to go further to find caribou
Recreation	Kivalina	People in rafts and canoes float the rivers. They are dropped off by plane. They take out near Kivalina and then fly out. They float right to the airport and leave. There could be some economic opportunity for the village if people stopped there for a time before leaving.
Recreation		People who live adjacent to BLM lands use it primarily for the fish and wildlife it provides.
Recreation	Shaktoolik	People would like to see a shelter cabin in Agaanuk area (Shaktoolik River). There used to be a cabin up there.
Recreation	written	Recreational objectives in the RMP should include a full spectrum of recreational opportunity including the classification of primitive. Recreation Objective #2 should include OHV designation of limited, closed, and open status. The BLM should also set limits of acceptable use and allocation of the number of guide/outfitter permits in the planning area. The user conflicts on the Squirrel River should be specifically addressed. We support a management methodology based on the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) model. A carrying capacity must be established for the Squirrel River.
Recreation	written	Recreational uses should be focused in areas that do not have significant mineral potential.
Recreation	Kotzebue	Sport hunters and guides are leaving trash behind in the Squirrel River.
Recreation	Shaktoolik	Sport hunting and guides are an emerging issue in the Shaktoolik River where people can fly in. They have no problems with guides taking hunters in to get bears. They do have concerns about guides bringing in moose or caribou hunters.
Recreation	Kotzebue	Sport hunting in the Squirrel River: BLM should limit the number of transporters/guides and/or the number of clients per guide. NANA Purcell Security counted 75 tents (not camps) in one day in the Squirrel River.
Recreation	Fairbanks	Squirrel River is important for both subsistence use and recreational use.
Recreation	Kiana Nome	State guide system is a closed system. You cannot get a guide license unless the other registered guides want you to. Registered guides from other states fill up Alaska. It is better to encourage local guides to get into the business. Could there be some preference for local guides?

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Recreation	written	State-selected lands should be managed consistent with DNR policies as outlined in the DNR fact sheet “Generally Allowed Uses on State Land.”
Recreation	Anchorage	Subsistence and recreational use conflicts are an important issue in some parts of the planning area and need to be addressed for the long term, especially on the Squirrel and upper Kobuk Rivers. This will require an integrated effort on the part of all agencies and land owners.
Recreation	written	Survival cabins are an appropriate regional safety and recreational improvement. They only need to be built to standards of similar local cabins. A hut with a metal roof, plywood bunks, and Yukon stove is sufficient and proper.
Recreation	written	The BLM should consider the National Park Service (NPS) Draft Commercial Services Plan Northwest Parks (when this document is released). There may be an increase in commercial services on BLM lands should NPS limit commercial uses in the adjacent parks and preserves. In anticipation of increased commercial activity over the next several decades, the appropriate levels of use by guides, transporters, and air taxis should be determined and implemented by the BLM.
Recreation	Kotzebue	The Buckland/Selawik area is starting to see a higher number of sport hunters, especially in the past year.
Recreation	Kiana	The dates when big game hunters are allowed in the Squirrel River has impacted the migration route of caribou, especially in the last three to four years. Traditional knowledge says to allow the first group of migrating caribou to pass through the area before hunting. Outside hunters do not honor this.
Recreation	Anchorage	The fee for commercial guides is too high.
Recreation		The Iditarod is an important existing trail that is used for local travel between communities.
Recreation	Kotzebue	The most important issue to address in the plan is user conflict over access to game resources. There is a continuing increase in the number of sport hunters, guides, and transporters in the region.
Recreation	Kiana	The smoke from non-emergency campfires alerts the caribou in the fall and causes less successful hunts. Campers should be encouraged to use primus stoves rather than big campfires during the caribou migration.
Recreation	Buckland	The sport hunting season is early in the year when it is still warm. People are concerned about spoilage of meat that occurs when people hunt too early in the season.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Recreation	written	The State is concerned about protecting continued access to State-owned land and water, BLM should also consider management options that protect federal land from significant impacts from OHV use in sensitive areas, such as wetlands, stream crossings, and important wildlife habitat. BLM should work with the ADF&G and DNR to determine traditional routes of access and protect sensitive areas.
Recreation	written	The State's primary recreational interest in BLM lands or State-selected BLM lands is continued recreational access, both motorized and non-motorized. Equally important is management of these lands so that the land is not subject to disruptive and destructive use by the public.
Recreation	Kiana	There is no State limit on the number of guides and transporters now in NW Alaska.; we currently have about 60 operators in NW Alaska. We need help from state legislators.
Recreation	Koyuk	Tourism: If tourism would benefit Koyuk, then some people are in favor of non-consumptive type uses like bird-watching or floaters. Others at the meeting were opposed to increasing tourism in the area.
Recreation	written	User conflicts on the Squirrel River and other rivers that do not qualify for wild and scenic river status may necessitate a specific plan that addresses OHV use and VRM and/or a LAC plan that will minimize user conflict. These areas, such as the Squirrel River, may warrant Special Recreational Management Area (SRMA) status.
Recreation	Kiana	We are experiencing later arrival of bull caribou in the fall in Selawik. This may or may not be attributable to the number of Squirrel River hunters during the same time. As a control factor, we request that BLM assess whether to implement mid-September as start dates for "commercial drop offs," guiding, etc. as a policy for a few years (three to four years).
Recreation	Kiana	What is the upper limit of recreation users/guides on the Squirrel River? BLM should limit the number of hunters in the Squirrel River.
Recreation	Nome	What types of recreational development are anticipated? (campgrounds, etc).
Special designations	written	ACEC might be a good classification for rivers and their associated riparian zones. The Kigluaik Mountains with their unique cirque lakes and associated fish populations would be great candidate for inclusion as an ACEC.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Special designations	written	Additional wild and scenic river assessment done for the KSPRMP must consider the potential land ownership pattern following completion of conveyances. Virtually all of the rivers previously identified as eligible for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System by BLM in 1990 are in areas that are State- or ANCSA-selected. Therefore, it is unlikely that any rivers in the planning area are suitable for wild and scenic river designation.
Special designations	Kotzebue	Areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC): What types of areas will BLM consider for ACECs? Can a Hazmat site be considered for an ACEC? The entire earth should be considered an ACEC.
Special designations	Kotzebue	BLM should consider making the entire plan area an ACEC until such time as they identify specific areas with features consistent with ACEC designation.
Special designations	written	BLM should undertake a thorough inventory to identify potential lands for wilderness and other special designations such as ACECs and RNAs. This also includes an evaluation of these lands for other special land use designations.
Special designations	Kotzebue	Do not designate any rivers as wild and scenic.
Special designations	written	Dr. Glenn Juday recommends four biologically unique areas within the KSP planning area for RNA status: Windy Cove, Mt. Osborne, Camp Haven Gap, and Clear Creek Hot Springs. BLM should consider new information that might affect the designation of these areas, such as land ownership of the planning area and additional biological research that may augment his recommendations. For example, populations of genetically isolated Arctic char have been identified in the Kigluik Mountains suggesting that there may be a need for extending boundaries for the original RNA suggestions, or for additional RNAs.
Special designations	written	Gale Norton instructed the BLM on April 11, 2003 to cease wilderness reviews in its resource management planning in Alaska and consider wilderness only where it is broadly supported by elected Alaska officials. ANILCA authorizes the Secretary to consider and recommend wilderness on BLM lands in Alaska. While her action implies agreement with that authority, her decision amounts to a de facto “no more wilderness.”
Special designations	Fairbanks	Many rivers in the planning area probably qualify as wild and scenic.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Special designations	Kivalina	Might look at special designation to protect the Kivalina and Wulik Rivers. The Kivalina River is about six miles away. Leave it alone – It is wild and scenic now. There is a nice canyon upriver that opens up into a nice wide valley, very scenic.
Special designations	written	No areas should be studied for further land management restrictions including wilderness designation, wild and scenic rivers, etc.
Special designations	written	Nominees for WSR designation: North Fork, Old Woman, and North rivers of the Unalakleet; to provide consistent management within the drainage. Both are very scenic and contain important spawning and rearing areas for fish, probably as important as the mainstem Unalakleet, which is already in the system.
Special designations	written Fairbanks	Streams in the area are important to both resident and anadromous fish. In particular, the undeveloped streams in Norton Sound such as the Tubutulik, Inglutalik, Shaktoolik, Ungalik, and portions of the Koyuk, Agiapuk, and Fish rivers are all very important as are their riparian zones. All of these drainages are important to salmon (chum, coho, pink and to some degree king) Dolly Varden and Arctic grayling. Some sort of designation that would afford these drainages protection from development without going to the length of designation as a WSR would be desired. WSR designation only directs additional attention to drainages that in some cases is not beneficial.
Special designations	written	The BLM should extend the three designated ACECs focused on critical salmon habitat in the Central Yukon RMP that are adjacent to the KSP planning area. The areas include the Ungalik River Watershed ACEC, the Inglutalik River Watershed ACEC, and the Shaktoolik River Watershed ACEC. The RMP should use watershed boundaries when delineating areas such as RNAs and ACECs.
Special designations	written	The Northern Field Office should conduct a suitability study for potential wild and scenic rivers. The Kivalina and Wulik Rivers should be included in the evaluation
Special designations	written	The planning process should include a thorough wilderness review and inventory of the planning area. The EIS must include a reasonable range of alternatives that include recommendations to Congress for new wilderness designations.
Special designations	written	The WACH wintering habitat should be identified and evaluated for special protection such as ACEC or other special status.
Special designations	Shaktoolik	Wild and scenic rivers: how would designation affect ability to manage beaver and fish populations? Would designation of a river as wild and scenic prevent or assist in management of beaver dams (i.e., destruction of dams that are degrading fish habitat).

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Special designations	Anchorage	Wild and scenic rivers: many rivers in the planning area would probably qualify as wild and scenic. The Kivalina River was mentioned as one that might be eligible. Values include Arctic char and post-calving caribou aggregations. Red Dog Mine is at the headwaters of the Wulik River.
Special designations	Koyuk	Wild and scenic rivers: Would designation of a river as wild and scenic put restrictions on subsistence use such as motorized boats? Would it stop the State from putting roads across the rivers? Would uses be curtailed?
Special designations	Anchorage	Would it be appropriate to designate the WACH calving grounds, insect relief corridors, and major migration routes as ACECs?
Special designations	Buckland	Would not want the Buckland River designated as wild and scenic.
Special designations wilderness	written	BLM should adhere to the policy set forth in the Memorandum from Secretary of the Interior, Gale A. Norton to the Director of BLM dated April 11, 2003 and not consider wilderness in the plan. In the event that any such proposal is considered, the State requests that there be additional consultations with the State and that any areas proposed for wilderness designation be managed consistent with the special provisions of ANILCA that amend the Wilderness Act of 1964.
Special status species	written	BLM should collaborate with researchers to identify special status plants and animals on its lands.
Special status species	Fairbanks	How will BLM manage for endangered species such as eiders?
Special status species	written	Special status species should be specifically addressed in the RMP. Some species that may qualify for special status, such as Arctic char, should also be identified.
Special status species	written	Populations of genetically isolated Arctic char have been identified in the Kigluik Mountains suggesting there may be a need to extend boundaries of original RNA suggestions or additional RNAs.
Subsistence	Koyuk	“Local people are tied to the fish and wildlife”
Subsistence	Koyuk	“What are we going to eat if recreational hunters take all the moose?”

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Subsistence		Alaska Department of Fish and Game has subsistence maps and harvest studies. BLM should get this data.
Subsistence	Koyuk	As transportation improves, more people from other villages in the region come to the Koyuk area to hunt. The area is very important to more than just the residents of Koyuk. The area is important to the entire Bering Straits region.
Subsistence	Kotzebue	BLM should ask NANA for access to resource and subsistence data they have collected.
Subsistence	Shaktoolik	BLM should check with Kawerak on their subsistence use area database (Eskimo Heritage Program).
Subsistence	Kotzebue	BLM should incorporate traditional knowledge into the plan. How do they plan to do this?
Subsistence	Koyuk	BLM should support the findings of the Bering Straits Coastal Resource Service Area Board and not make any changes. The Board found that subsistence was the most important use of the area.
Subsistence	written	How is BLM going to address the inherent conflict between subsistence resources and mineral development?
Subsistence	written	How will the BLM address and prioritize subsistence resources in the RMP?
Subsistence	Koyuk	Norton Bay is a very important area for subsistence and supporting wildlife/fisheries populations. The area supports fish/wildlife resources that migrate to other areas of the State. The area is important on a State-wide level.
Subsistence	Shaktoolik Kiana Koyuk	Protection of subsistence resources should be a priority and is the most important issue for the plan (3).
Subsistence	Koyuk	The headwaters of the rivers around Koyuk are very important for subsistence (Koyuk, Ungalik, and Inglutalik).
Subsistence	Shaktoolik	The Nulato Hills are an important subsistence area (federal lands outside Native corporation boundaries). Highest subsistence use areas were selected by the Native corporations to protect those lands.
Subsistence	written	The plan should document and describe subsistence use patterns in those communities located near BLM lands, including but not limited to Kivalina, Point Hope, Kotzebue, Noatak, Kiana, Shungnak, Wales, Teller, Buckland, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, White Mountain, and Elim. Subsistence activities by several communities located outside of, but near the planning area could be affected by planning decisions made for lands within the planning area, including but not necessarily limited to Unalakleet, Kaltag, Nulato, Koyukuk, and Hughes.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Subsistence	Koyuk	The Tribes should be asked first what they want. They have hunted first before any others. They are interested in co-management.
Subsistence	Nome	There should be state and federal cooperation to align the regulations on state and federal land, e.g., cooperative state/federal hunts so that hunters don't have to worry about land status. The animals don't recognize land status.
Trespass	Kiana Kotzebue	BLM needs to clean up the trespass site on headwaters fork of Squirrel River- on the low hill on the west side of the drainage. There are blue tarps and signs of prospecting activity (2).
Trespass	Koyuk	There was some bulldozer work done about ten years ago at head of Ungalik and Shaktoolik Rivers. They scraped off the top of a hill. Did BLM authorize this and has it been restored? It was in the Traverse Peak area (between Ungalik and Inglutalik Rivers). Erosion into the rivers is of concern. (T1S, R5W?)
Trespass	Buckland	Trash in the Selawik Hills needs cleaning up. There are hundreds of feet of wire and barrels.
Vegetation	Fairbanks	All riparian areas need special protection.
Vegetation	Kiana	ATV use in the Squirrel River is tearing up the vegetation.
Vegetation	Buckland	BLM needs to protect lichen all around Buckland for caribou.
Vegetation	written	BLM should collaborate with ADF&G to describe existing and desired populations and conditions on major habitat types for fish and wildlife.
Vegetation	written	BLM should not assume that vegetation is in good condition but should go out and map current conditions.
Vegetation	written	BLM should take measures to prevent the spread of noxious and invasive plant species.
Vegetation	written	Fish, wildlife, and vegetative habitats need to be preserved in their natural state.
Vegetation	Buckland	Grass baskets are made locally. Grass is gathered from Elephant Point (beach rye grass?) and the edge of the river.
Vegetation	written	What has BLM done to identify vegetation within the plan area?
VRM	Nome	BLM should be careful about limitations on development for VRM. NPS and FWS lands are already tied up and protected. BLM and State lands need to remain open for development and access.
VRM	written	The Visual Resources Plan should be completed for the RMP.
VRM	Nome	Visual resources are very important especially in the Nome area. BLM needs to preserve the scenic quality of the land for tourism.
Water	Kivalina	Kivalina needs a mechanism to check water quality in-house to protect the people who drink the water.

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Water	Kiana	Squirrel River mineralization (i.e., naturally occurring arsenic) may be leaching out into the water.
Water	Buckland	The Buckland River is the primary source of drinking water for Buckland. People are concerned about past mining activity on Quartz Creek (tributary of the Buckland River) affecting water quality. The water was black.
Water	written	The Department of Natural Resources shall determine and adjudicate rights in the water of the State, and its appropriation and distribution.
Water	Buckland	The river (Buckland) is shallower than it used to be. It is filling in with gravel.
Water	Kivalina	There has been a lot of interest in mineral exploration on the Wulik and Kivalina Rivers. These two rivers are very important to the people of Kivalina for fishing and drinking water.
Water	Kivalina	There have been numerous (maybe 3000+) documented water quality violations on the Wulik River since the Red Dog Mine began. The mine turns its water quality results over to the city of Kivalina since it is their primary source of drinking water.
Water	Koyuk	Water pollution caused by abandoned boats and off-road vehicles that still have fuel and oil in the engine should be addressed in the EIS. There are many abandoned motors and vehicles lying around along the rivers.
Water, air, soil	written	BLM should not assume that soil, water, and air are in good condition but should go out and map current conditions.
Wildlife	Anchorage	An ecosystem approach to managing these caribou is strongly recommended.
Wildlife	Anchorage	Bird-watching is becoming an increasingly popular activity in western Alaska, especially on the Seward Peninsula road system. Habitats for certain upland species like bristle-thighed curlew, lesser golden plover, bluethroat, Arctic warbler, and gray-headed chickadee may require special management consideration by BLM.
Wildlife	Kiana	BLM could cooperate with local government for law enforcement. Would like to know what the procedure would be for co-management of the Squirrel River between BLM and the Traditional Council. Give them some authority—they can patrol. They know their own people. Work with tribal authority.
Wildlife	Anchorage	BLM needs to monitor caribou habitat on the summer and calving grounds for the Western Arctic herd.
Wildlife	Buckland	BLM needs to protect lichen all around Buckland for caribou.
Wildlife	Anchorage	BLM policy should prohibit introduction of any non-indigenous species (comment made in relation to authorizing other types of livestock besides reindeer).

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Wildlife	written	BLM should collaborate with ADF&G to describe existing and desired populations and conditions on major habitat types for fish and wildlife.
Wildlife	written	BLM should collaborate with Native communities to identify protection measures to support fish and wildlife.
Wildlife	Anchorage	BLM should maintain a continued close working relationship with the Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH) Working Group and seek to integrate the WACH Management Plan into the RMP.
Wildlife	written	Fish, wildlife, and vegetative habitats need to be preserved in their natural state.
Wildlife	Koyuk	Furbearer populations cycle from low to high and no one can manage that; it is a natural process.
Wildlife	Anchorage	Given the patchwork nature of land ownership in the planning area, it is very important that management approaches for fish and wildlife be integrated and complimentary to the greatest degree possible. An ecosystem management approach is highly desirable, especially for caribou.
Wildlife	Anchorage	Impacts of industrial development on caribou habitats, caribou movements, and subsistence lifestyles are an issue of increasing importance in this area. Of particular interest are transportation corridors associated with industrial development.
Wildlife	written	Migratory birds: The RMP should follow the consultation and coordination put forth in EO 13186.
Wildlife	Koyuk	Moose populations are declining in the area. It is more difficult to get moose.
Wildlife	Kivalina	Need special consideration of caribou migration routes and calving areas. Caribou from the Western Arctic herd aggregate near the Kivalina River after calving. There have been caribou die-offs in the past north of Kivalina.
Wildlife	Kotzebue	Need to identify important mineral licks and manage them for the benefit of all the animals.
Wildlife	written	Norton Bay is both locally important to subsistence and important on a large ecological scale to migrating birds and mammals. The BLM should address how off-shore exploration and leasing in Norton Bay will impact BLM lands in the planning area (i.e. access, directional drilling, etc).
Wildlife	Fairbanks	Nuclear contamination from Chernobyl and effects on caribou.
Wildlife	Koyuk	People caribou hunt in the headwaters of the Ungalik River and East Fork. All the headwaters are important.
Wildlife	Anchorage	Reindeer-caribou management conflicts will be an issue on or near the Seward Peninsula.
Wildlife	written	The BLM should identify a conservation strategy for the habitat of important raptors like gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, rough-legged hawks, and some golden eagles

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Source*</b>	<b>Issues/Questions/Concerns:</b>
Wildlife	Anchorage	The planning area encompasses important habitats for certain charismatic raptors like gyrfalcons, peregrine falcons, rough-legged hawks, and some golden eagles.
Wildlife	Anchorage	The planning area includes much of the known range and crucial habitats for the Western Arctic caribou herd, including part of the calving grounds, insect relief, winter summer migratory routes, and wintering areas.
Wildlife	written	The State requests that BLM recognize existing state authorities relative to fish and wildlife management.
Wildlife	written	The Western Arctic caribou herd wintering habitat should be identified and evaluated for special protection such as ACEC or other special status.
Wildlife	Kiana	There have been big changes in location and migration of caribou in the past 20 years. Caribou are going to the Squirrel River and Selawik later and later in the fall. When people have extra money they can follow and find caribou by boat, but can't do that if they don't have extra cash . So it is important that the caribou migrate close to Kiana, Selawik, and other communities.
Wildlife	Anchorage	This plan needs to address caribou management and human uses like subsistence that are dependent on caribou. The plan area includes most of the villages that depend on the Western Arctic caribou herd.
Wildlife	written	Transportation planning will be a key issue in terms of the WACH and other wildlife, particularly large carnivore conservation. Roads fragment habitat and increase human access, which could have significant impacts on wildlife populations.
Wildlife	Koyuk	When economic development starts affecting the caribou migration, people will start objecting to it. Development needs to be done in a controlled manner so that it does not negatively affect subsistence resources and access.
Wildlife, vegetation	Kivalina	Caribou from the Kobuk Valley have a lot more of a red color to the meat compared to the meat from caribou around Kivalina. Caribou meat from Kivalina area is greyer and not as tasty. Is there better forage upriver?

## **VII. Appendix B: ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT**

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish & Game
AMS	Analysis of the Management Situation
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
ATV	All-Terrain Vehicle
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
DNR	Alaska Department of Natural Resources
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
GIS	Geographic Information System
IRA	Indian Reorganization Act
KSPRMP	Kobuk – Seward Peninsula Regional Management Plan
LAC	Limits of Acceptable Change
MFP	Management Framework Plan
NPS	National Park Service
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
OHW	Ordinary High Water
ORV	Off-Road Vehicle
PLO	Public Land Order
ROS	Recreation Opportunity Spectrum
RMP	Regional Management Plan
RNA	Research Natural Area
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WACH	Western Arctic Caribou Herd
WSR	Wild & Scenic River