



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT NEWS RELEASE
BLM Anchorage Field Office**Release Date:** 12/13/12**Contacts:** Molly Cobbs, 907-267-1246, mcobbs@blm.gov

BLM Releases Haines Planning Area Draft Amendment to the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan for Public Comment

ANCHORAGE – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the release of the Ring of Fire Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) Haines Planning Area Amendment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for a 90-day public review and comment period.

The decisions to be made through this planning effort include:

- Whether to retain the Special Recreation Management Area designation;
- Whether any part of the Planning Area meets the criteria for an Area of Critical Environmental Concern designation;
- Whether to retain the Monitoring and Control Area (closed to helicopter landings) for wildlife studies; and
- Establishing a maximum number of authorized annual helicopter landings.

The Planning Area is located in Southeast Alaska. Approximately 320,000 acres of BLM-managed public lands are located in two main blocks or parcels: the north block is located northwest of Skagway along the United States-Canada border and the south block is located southwest of the City of Haines along the boundary of Glacier Bay National Park. The planning area encompasses the cities of Haines and Skagway.

The Draft RMP Amendment / DEIS considers four management alternatives, which are designed to address resource concerns and issues in varying ways.

The public is invited to review and comment on the Draft RMP Amendment / DEIS. Public comments will be most helpful if they relate to specific concerns or conflicts that are within the legal responsibilities of the BLM and can be resolved in this planning process.

The BLM will accept public comments from **Dec. 14, 2012, through March 14, 2013**. Written comments should be mailed or hand delivered to the BLM Anchorage Field Office, Attention – Haines Amendment, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, AK 99507. Comments may also be sent via email to: BLM_AK_AFO_ROF_AMEND@blm.gov. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The BLM will announce future meetings or hearings and any other public involvement activities at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

Copies of the Draft Ring of Fire RMP - Haines Planning Area Amendment and DEIS are available at the Anchorage Field Office at the above address; or, on the Anchorage Field Office's planning website: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning.html>.

For more information, contact Molly Cobbs, Anchorage District Planning and Environmental Coordinator, (907) 267-1221, mcobbs@blm.gov, or in writing at the address above.

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated \$4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.

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