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East Alaska Resource Management Plan

Record of Decision
Approved Plan



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RECORD OF DECISION

I. INTRODUCTION

This Record of Decision (ROD) approves the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) proposal to manage the public lands within the Glennallen Field Office's jurisdiction as presented in the attached Resource Management Plan (RMP). This RMP was described as Alternative D in the June 2006 Proposed East Alaska Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDI-BLM 2006). This ROD provides the background on development of the plan and rationale for approving the proposed decisions contained in Alternative D, and describes clarifications and/or modifications made to address protests received on the plan. The attached RMP (referred to as the Approved Plan) describes the decisions themselves.

The planning area extends from the southern slopes of the Alaska Range to the Chugach Mountains, from the Talkeetna Mountains to the Wrangell Mountains, and includes an extensive area of coastline in Prince William Sound. The area is bisected by the Glenn, Richardson and Denali Highways, and is accessible by Alaska standards. The area is also bisected by the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, which runs north to south and roughly parallels the Richardson Highway.

Located at the core of the planning area, the Copper River Basin is rural in nature, with small communities and villages scattered throughout the area. The 2000 Census reported a population of 3,120 in the Copper River Basin. The larger communities of Cordova and Valdez are within the planning area on Prince William Sound. Cordova is located near the mouth of the Copper River. Residents of the cities of Anchorage, Palmer, Wasilla, and Fairbanks utilize the area heavily for recreation as well as for sport and subsistence hunting and fishing.

Of the approximately 30,908,000 acres within the planning area, decisions in the Approved Plan will apply to 7,056,000 acres, classified as follows:

- BLM: These are lands that will most likely be retained in long-term Federal ownership. They are not selected by the State or by Native corporations or villages. These lands constitute approximately 5 percent of the planning area.
- State-selected: These are formerly unappropriated and unreserved public lands that were selected by the State of Alaska as part of the Alaska Statehood Act of 1958 and Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. Until conveyance, State-selected lands not falling within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve or Chugach National Forest will continue to be managed by the Glennallen Field Office. ANILCA, which amended the Statehood Act,

allowed for overselection by the State by as much as 25 percent of the entitlement (sec. 906 (f)). Therefore, some State-selected lands may eventually be retained in long-term Federal ownership. State-selected lands constitute approximately 10 percent of the planning area.

- Native-selected: The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 gave Alaska Natives an entitlement of 44,000,000 acres to be selected from a pool of public lands specifically defined and withdrawn by the Act for that purpose. As ANILCA provided for overselection by the State, ANCSA provided for the Natives to overselect lands (sec. 12); some of these lands will therefore be retained in long-term Federal ownership. Native-selected lands constitute approximately 1 percent of the planning area.
- Dual-selected: These are lands that have been selected by both the State and Natives. Again, because of overselection, some of these lands could be retained in long-term Federal ownership. Dual-selected lands constitute approximately 7 percent of the planning area.
- Mineral estate: All subsurface mineral estate lying beneath BLM lands is BLM administered. In addition, BLM administers 12,874 acres of subsurface mineral estate beneath private surface within the planning area. No mineral development occurs on State or Native-selected lands until conveyance occurs. After conveyance, mineral estate goes to the State or the Native corporation.

Lands within the planning area to which decisions in the Approved Plan will not apply:

- State lands: These are lands that have already been conveyed to the State of Alaska. These lands constitute approximately 24 percent of the planning area.
- Native lands: These are lands already conveyed to Native allottees or village and regional corporations and are now private lands. These lands constitute approximately 4 percent of the planning area.
- National Park Service lands. These are lands within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve and Denali National Park and Preserve. These lands constitute approximately 40 percent of the planning area.
- USDA Forest Service: These are lands managed by the Chugach National Forest. These lands constitute approximately 7 percent of the planning area.
- Private lands: These lands are privately owned, aside from Native corporations or villages. Most are located along the highway corridors. These lands constitute approximately 2 percent of the planning area.

Table 1 summarizes land status within the East Alaska Planning Area.

Table 1. Land Status within the East Alaska Planning Area

Land Category	Acres
BLM-administered lands	
BLM public lands	1,572,000
State-selected	3,397,000
Native-selected	44,000
Dual-selected	2,100,000
Military	3,000
Total	7,116,000
National Park Service-administered lands	
National Park Service lands	11,630,000
State-selected	6,000
Native-selected	800,000
Total	12,436,000
State of Alaska lands	
State lands	7,022,000
Total	7,022,000
Forest Service-administered lands	
Forest Service lands	1,891,000
Native-selected	342,000
Total	2,234,000
Native-owned	2,036,000
Private	64,000
Total lands within planning area	30,908,000

Development of this RMP was formally initiated with publication of a Notice of Intent in the *Federal Register* in March of 2003. Over the next three years, BLM conducted extensive public outreach, and initiated a number of collaborative efforts involving diverse interests as part of plan development (these opportunities are summarized in the *Public Involvement* section below). BLM also provided standard public comment periods and an opportunity to protest the proposed decisions to the Director prior to approval of this ROD as required by the BLM planning regulations.

II. RESULTS OF PROTEST REVIEW AND GOVERNOR'S CONSISTENCY REVIEW

A. Protests

BLM received one protest letter during the 30-day protest period provided for the proposed land use plan decisions contained in the East Alaska RMP/Final EIS in accordance with 43 CFR Part 1610.5-2. This protest was filed by the Alaska Coalition. Two other protest letters were received, but not within the 30-day protest period. These two protests (from the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and the City

and Borough of Yakutat) were dismissed, but BLM responded to the points raised.

Main protest points of the Alaska Coalition protest pertained to inadequate resource protection to replace revocation of ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals; inadequate cumulative impacts analysis; BLM's failure to adopt specific ACECs, revocation of too many ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals; failure to assert sufficient proactive interim management on State and Native selected lands; inadequate range of alternatives; inadequate analysis of OHV impacts; inadequate analysis of climate change; and no consideration of new Wilderness Study Areas. The major points brought out by the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe and the City and Borough of Yakutat revolved around the recommended partial revocation of an existing ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawal within the Bering Glacier RNA and the effects of potential mining or resource development activity in that area.

The BLM Director addressed all protests without making significant changes to the Proposed Resource Management Plan, though minor adjustments and clarifications were made and have been explained in this ROD.

B. Governor's Consistency Review

BLM planning regulations in 43 CFR 1610.3-2 afford state Governors an opportunity to review an RMP/EIS to identify any known inconsistencies between the RMP and approved state or local plans, policies or programs. The East Alaska PRMP/FEIS was published on June 2, 2006, and made available for State review at that time. The Governor's Consistency Review (GCR), dated August 29, 2006, found the PRMP/FEIS to be inconsistent with state priorities, policies, and land use plans. This finding was based on the BLM's proposal to retain certain lands under Public Land Order 5150, which resulted in continued Federal management of portions of the pipeline/utility corridor.

The GCR recommend that the inconsistency be resolved as follows: "I request that PLO 5150 be revoked and State selections be made available for conveyance." In addition, the GCR requested clarification of certain technical and administrative points. BLM has clarified the technical and administrative points in a manner that meets the State's concerns (see **Clarifications**, pp. 9-10). However, BLM will maintain most of PLO 5150, as described on page 5 and in detail under **Specific Decisions and Management Considerations** on page 14. BLM responded to the GCR in a letter dated May 11, 2007, in which the State Director outlined the reasons for not accepting the State's recommendations regarding PLO 5150. The State has chosen not to appeal to the BLM Director.

III. DECISION

The decision is hereby made to approve the attached plan as the Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) for BLM-managed lands administered by the Glennallen Field Office. The Approved Plan replaces the Southcentral Management Framework Plan (MFP) approved in 1980 (USDI-BLM 1980).

This plan was prepared under the regulations (43 CFR Part 1600) implementing the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was prepared for this RMP in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Management decisions and guidance for public lands under the jurisdiction of the Glennallen Field Office are presented in the Approved Plan attached to this ROD in the section titled *Management Decisions*.

All decisions covered by this ROD are land use planning decisions which were protestable under the land use planning regulations (43 CFR Part 1610) **with the exception of the route designations for motorized wheeled travel in the planning area**. The route designation decisions are implementation decisions which may be appealed under the Department of Interior's appeal regulations (43 CFR Part 4). Information on how to appeal the route designation decisions can be found in the *Implementation Decisions* section below.

A. What the Decision/RMP Provides

Land use plan decisions include:

- Goals
- Objectives (Desired Future Conditions)
- Land Use Allocations
- Management Actions

Goals are the broad statements of desired outcomes, and are usually not quantifiable. **Objectives** are specific desired conditions, usually quantifiable and measurable, and may have timeframes for achievement. **Land use allocations** specify locations within the planning area that are available or not for certain uses. These include decisions such as what lands are available for mineral material use, oil and gas leasing, and locatable mineral development; what lands may be available for disposal via sale, what withdrawals to maintain and which to revoke or modify, and what lands are open, closed, or limited to motorized travel. **Management actions** include those provisions that help in meeting the established goals and objectives and include measures that will be applied to guide day-to-day activities on public lands, including but not limited to stipulations, guidelines, and required operating procedures.

The primary management decisions in the Approved Plan are to:

- Manage resources to protect and enhance vegetative communities, fish and wildlife resources, natural, cultural, and geological resources, and recreational opportunities.
- Manage uses to protect and prevent damage to public land resources, and to enhance those resources where feasible.
- Recommend revocation of 84% of the existing ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals.
- Recommend retention of 84% of PLO 5150 (the pipeline/utility corridor). BLM will recommend modification of PLO 5150 to allow 82,500 acres to be conveyed to the State of Alaska.
- Withdraw approximately 16,000 acres within the scenic portion of the Delta River Wild and Scenic river corridor from locatable mineral entry.
- Make approximately 5.6 million acres of public land available to mineral leasing, through revocation of existing ANCSA withdrawals. State-and Native-selected lands would not be open to mineral leasing until conveyance or relinquishment of selection.
- Make approximately 6.0 million acres of public land available to locatable mineral entry, through revocation of existing ANCSA withdrawals. State and Native selected lands would not be open to mineral entry until conveyance or relinquishment of selection.
- Land disposal would be used selectively in the Slana settlement area to resolve unauthorized use on failed claims.
- Isolated, unmanageable tracts resulting from highway realignment along the Richardson and Glenn Highways will be available for disposal.
- Designate 1,692,000 acres as “limited” to Off Highway Vehicles (OHVs), where trails will be designated. Specific trails will be designated under this RMP decision for the Gulkana and Delta Wild and Scenic River corridors and Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD). Other areas (such as the Bering Glacier and portions of the pipeline/utility corridor) will have specific trails designated through subsequent implementation-level planning.
- Designate 5,320,000 acres as “limited” to OHVs, where OHVs will be encouraged to stay on existing trails. These lands consist mostly of State-selected lands and this policy is consistent with existing State statute 11 AAC 96.025. Interim management will emphasize education but citations will be issued if deliberate violations of these conditions result in resource damage.
- In order to maintain an existing non-motorized winter recreation experience in rugged, glaciated terrain, 44,000 acres in the Delta Mountains would be closed to snowmachine use, though snowmachine access to subsistence resources would be allowed. Seasonal closure would begin on October 15 or when there is 12 inches average snowfall or 6 inches of frost. Seasonal closure would run until May 15.
- Designate five Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs): Delta River, Gulkana River, Delta Range, Tiekkel, and Denali Highway.

- Designate 827,000 acres as the Bering Glacier Research Natural Area, with objectives of protecting the unique ecological values associated with the glacier and continuing research activities in the area.
- Identify areas as a priority for habitat improvement through the use of wildland fire or mechanical treatment. Identify desired conditions for moose and caribou habitat.

This ROD serves as the final decision establishing the land use plan decisions outlined in the Approved Plan and is effective on the date it is signed. No further administrative remedies are available for these land use plan decisions.

B. What the Decision/RMP Does Not Provide

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

In addition, many decisions are not appropriate at this level of planning and are not included in the ROD. Examples of these types of decisions include:

Statutory requirements: The decision will not change the BLM's responsibility to comply with application laws and regulations.

National policy: The decision will not change the BLM's obligation to conform to current or future National policy.

Funding levels and budget allocations: These are determined annually at the National level and are beyond the control of the field office.

C. Implementation Decisions

While the designation of areas as open, closed, or limited to off-highway vehicle use is a land use planning decision, the proposed route designations for motorized travel in the planning area in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS are implementation decisions which are now appealable under the Department of Interior's appeal regulations (43 CFR Part 4). These procedures are summarized below.

The route designations described in the *Travel Management and OHV Use* section of the Approved RMP and identified on Maps 15 and 16 of the Approved Plan are effective upon issuance of this Record of Decision, unless a stay of the decision is granted. In accordance with 43 CFR Part 8342.3(b) public notice was provided with publication of a *Federal Register* Notice of Availability of the Proposed RMP/Final on June 30, 2006, and with publication of the *Federal*

Register notice announcing the availability of this Record of Decision and Approved Plan.

C-1: Appeal Procedures for Implementation Decisions

Any party adversely affected by the proposed route designations may appeal within 30 days of receipt of this decision in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Part 4.4. The publication of the Notice of Availability of the ROD/Approved Plan will be considered the date the decision is received. The appeal should state the specific route(s) on which the decision is being appealed. The appeal must be filed with the Field Manager, at the following address:

Bureau of Land Management
Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, Alaska 99588

You may include a statement of reasons when the notice of appeal is filed, or you may file the statement of reasons within 30 days after filing the appeal. A copy of the appeal, statement of reasons, and all other supporting documents must also be sent to the Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region, 4230 University Drive, Suite 300, Anchorage, Alaska 99508 – 4626.

If the statement of reasons is filed separately, it must be sent to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia, 22203. It is suggested that any appeal be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

C-2: Request for Stay

If you wish to request a stay of the decision pending the outcome of the appeal, the motion for stay must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at the time the appeal is filed and must show sufficient justification based on the following standards under 43 CRR Part 4.21:

- (1) The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- (2) The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- (3) The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
- (4) Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

D. Notice of Modifications

As a result of protests on the Proposed Plan and continued internal review, BLM made two modifications to the Proposed Plan. These modifications are as follows:

- ROP-Water-b-4 will have the following language added (see **bold** text):
Riparian areas located between a mined ore deposit and a water course will not be disturbed to serve as a buffer strip to protect integrity of stream banks, provide water temperature control, and provide filtration of sediment from surface runoff. All roads, bunkhouses, offices, equipment storage, and maintenance facilities will be sited in upland areas if possible. Overburden will be placed on the uplands if possible or on the upland side of the mine pit. Application of this ROP is not intended to preclude activities which, by nature, must occur within riparian areas, such as placer mining. **Exceptions to the ROP will need to be approved by the Authorized Officer, and any exceptions will be designed to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation.**
- Required Operating Procedures (ROPs) and lease stipulations (stips), as developed during the planning process, will be included in the attached Approved Plan as Appendix A. The following will be added under section A (1) as a second paragraph: **Through adaptive management, the BLM will be mindful of impacts from thinning ice, melting permafrost, or other conditions accompanying climate change that affect the safety and environmental integrity of commercial permitted operations as well as recreational activities in the planning area. The BLM will take these considerations into account in environmental analyses associated with such operations and activities and, where appropriate, will modify ROPs and stips to account for such changes.**

E. Clarifications

The following clarifications and minor corrections made to the information included in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS are reflected in the attached Approved Plan:

- The following has been added to the attached Approved Plan, under the Lands & Realty section/Access/Management Actions (Access)/#6 (page 25): “Section 1110 of ANILCA allows the use of snowmachines, motorboats, airplanes, and non-motorized surface transportation for traditional activities and for travel to and from villages and homesites.”
- The following language will be used in the attached Approved Plan, under the Travel Management and OHV Use section/Travel Management Area Prescriptions (OHVs and Roads)/(3)(a), page 48: “Designation of trails is necessary in this Wild and Scenic River corridor to comply with Title XI of ANILCA **and Executive Order 11644** (as implemented by 43 CFR 36.11(g)) and to ensure management to protect outstandingly remarkable values.”
- The following sentence has been added to the attached Approved Plan, under the Lands & Realty section/Land Use Authorizations/Management Actions/FLPMA leases (page 19): “FLPMA leases and occupancy type

permits for trapping cabins will be issued consistent with 43 CFR 2920.1-1.”

- The following sentence has been added to the attached Approved Plan, under the Subsistence section/Allocations (page 43): “The State of Alaska regulates State subsistence fisheries and hunts on private lands and all state lands and waters.”
- This clarification is in response to the following point made in the Governor’s Consistency Review (August 29, 2006): “Please clarify how the conclusion in Appendix E that actions taken under Alternative B would significantly affect access to subsistence resources by the 26 communities that have a customary and traditional use of resources in Unit 13 was reached.” This conclusion was reached based on the two paragraphs in Chapter 4 on page 568 of the East Alaska Proposed RMP/Final EIS. This analysis assumes that all or most of the 26 communities that have a customary and traditional use of resources in Unit 13 are represented in the 3,000 permits annually issued to Federally-qualified subsistence users.

IV. OVERVIEW OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Four alternatives, including a No Action Alternative were analyzed in detail in the Draft RMP/EIS (USDI-BLM 2005a) and in the Proposed RMP/FEIS (USDI-BLM 2006a). The alternatives were developed to address major planning issues and to provide direction for resource programs influencing land management. All management under any of the alternatives would comply with state and Federal regulations, laws, standards, and policies.

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

A. Alternative Description

Alternative A is the No Action Alternative. This alternative would continue present management practices based on the existing Southcentral Management Framework Plan and other management direction documents. Valid decisions contained in the Southcentral Management Framework Plan would be implemented if not already completed. Direction contained in existing laws, regulations, and policies would also continue to be implemented, sometimes

superseding provisions in the Southcentral plan. The current levels, methods, and mix of multiple use management of public lands in the planning area would continue, and resource values would receive attention at present levels. In general, most activities would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis and few uses would be limited or excluded as long as they were consistent with State and Federal laws.

Alternative B lays the groundwork for active management to facilitate resource development. In this alternative, constraints to protect resource values or habitat would be implemented in very specific geographic areas rather than across the planning area or in special designations. Most stipulations and guidelines would be developed on a site-specific basis. With the exception of the Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic River corridors, all ANCSA d(1) withdrawals would be revoked on lands retained in long-term Federal ownership. Public Land Order 5150, which withdrew lands for the transportation and utility corridor, would be revoked to allow for conveyance of the corridor to the State of Alaska. These actions would allow increased potential for mineral exploration and development. This alternative includes the highest level of forest and woodland treatments. Travel and trail restrictions would be maintained at the current levels. Recreation management would focus on development of facilities to handle increasing uses. Management of Native- and State-selected lands would be mostly custodial.

Alternative C emphasizes active measures to protect and enhance resource values. Production of minerals and services would be more constrained than under Alternative B or D, and, in some cases and in some areas, uses would be excluded to protect sensitive resources. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs), and a Research Natural Area (RNA) are identified, and specific measures are proposed to protect or enhance values within these areas. All areas would be designated as limited or closed to off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to protect habitat, soil and vegetation resources, and recreation experiences. Some ANCSA d(1) withdrawals would be revoked, but others would be maintained to protect or maintain resource values.

Alternative D emphasizes a moderate level of protection, use, and enhancement of resources and services. Constraints to protect resources would be implemented, but would be less restrictive than those implemented under Alternative C. This alternative would designate one RNA and five SRMAs, but measures to protect resource values would be applied to other geographical areas that are also identified under Alternative C. This alternative would revoke many ANCSA d(1) withdrawals but would retain some withdrawals in areas where strong resource protection is needed. It would retain most of PLO 5150, maintaining a viable Federal subsistence hunting unit. This alternative describes interim and long-term management strategies for lands selected by the State or Native or Village Corporations.

Public input received throughout the planning process was considered in the development of the alternatives. Alternative A, continuation of current management, is based on existing planning decisions that remain valid, and current direction and policy. The remaining alternatives were developed with input received during scoping, with expertise from the interdisciplinary planning team, and with input from local, State, Federal and tribal governments. Alternative D was identified as the agency preferred alternative in the Draft RMP/EIS. This same alternative became the proposed alternative in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, but was modified based on the consideration of public comment received on the Draft.

During the early stages of the planning process a number of alternatives were considered, but dropped from detailed analysis for a variety of reasons. The following alternatives were eliminated from detailed study because they did not meet the purpose and need of the proposal or were outside of the technical or legal constraints of developing a land use plan for public lands and resources.

- Eureka Special Recreation Management Area
- Stuart Creek non-motorized area
- Clearwater Mountains non-motorized area
- Transfer of BLM-managed lands in the Bering Glacier area to the National Park Service
- Denali Highway Area of Critical Environmental Concern

Additional information can be found in Chapter 2, *Alternatives*, of both the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

B. The Environmentally Preferred Alternative

Alternative D, the agency Preferred Alternative and Proposed Action is considered the environmentally preferable alternative when taking into consideration the human (social and economic) environment as well as the natural environment. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) has defined the environmentally preferable alternative as the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in Section 101 of the NEPA. This section lists six broad policy goals for all Federal plans, programs, and policies:

1. Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
2. Assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
3. Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.
4. Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity and variety of individual choice;

5. Achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
6. Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

Based on these criteria, identification of the environmentally preferable alternative(s) involves balancing current and potential resource uses with the need to protect resources, as well as consideration of the human environment. Alternative B could be viewed the least environmentally preferable alternative, as it offers the most intensive, active management for use of the area, which may negatively impact other resource values the most. However, this alternative would provide the most economic benefit to the economy in the short term. Alternative D would be less environmentally preferable than alternative C, but more preferable than Alternatives A or B. This alternative would provide a balance between sustainable economic benefits and resource protection. Alternative C would be more protective of natural and biological values than Alternatives A, B, or D, but would provide for fewer or restricted uses.

V. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS IN SELECTING THE APPROVED PLAN

The BLM is tasked with the job of multiple use management, as mandated under FLPMA and numerous other laws and regulations that govern the management of public lands for various purposes and values. Due to the diversity of community needs and stakeholders affected by management of BLM lands, there has been both support and opposition to certain components of Alternative D. BLM's objective in choosing Alternative D as the preferred alternative and proposed plan was to address these diverse needs and concerns in a fair manner and provide a practical and workable framework for management of BLM public lands. The BLM is ultimately responsible for preparing a plan consistent with its legal mandates that reflects its collective professional judgment, incorporating the best from competing viewpoints and ideas. The Approved Plan (Alternative D as modified in consideration of public and agency comments and internal review) provides a balance between those reasonable measures necessary to protect the existing resource values and the continued public need for use of the BLM public lands within the planning area.

The quickness with which resource objectives are met was a factor in comparing the alternatives, as was the flexibility the management options provided. Recommendations received from the Alaska Resource Advisory Council (BLM's official advisory council) also played a role as proposed management alternatives were considered. Approval of a plan that provides a balance to meet both resource concerns and social and economic concerns in the planning area was also a major factor. Alternative D was selected because it proposed management that will improve and sustain properly functioning resource conditions while considering needs and demands for existing or potential

resource commodities and values. In the end, resource use is managed by integrating ecological, economic, and social principles in a manner that safeguards the long term sustainability, diversity and productivity of the land.

A primary consideration throughout the planning process has been the management of State and Native-selected lands. These lands make up 75% of the lands that the Glennallen Field Office is currently tasked with managing. Every effort was made during the planning process to coordinate and consult with the State of Alaska and with Native and village corporations within the planning area. As a result, decisions made in the Approved Plan affecting selected lands represent an interim management strategy that is generally consistent with State or Native Corporation land use planning documents that cover the same area. In general, decisions for selected lands avoid a major commitment of resources and are custodial in nature. Designations such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or Special Recreation Management Areas are not made on selected lands, but site-specific measures are identified through Required Operating Procedures or stipulations that would protect resource values on selected lands.

A. Specific Decisions and Management Considerations

The Approved Plan recommends the Secretary of the Interior authorize the modification of PLO 5150 (the pipeline/utility corridor) to allow for conveyance to the State of approximately 82,500 acres. The remaining portions of the existing pipeline/utility corridor will be retained in Federal ownership for multiple resource management purposes including maintaining administration of the lands as Federal public lands and emphasizing their use as a transportation/utility corridor, as Special Recreation Management Areas, as a forestry emphasis area (for the Tielke block), and as an area available for subsistence.

Within the implementation period of this RMP, the BLM is committed to future negotiations with the State of Alaska regarding the pipeline/utility corridor. We will consider and recommend further modification of PLO 5150 to allow for the conveyance of additional lands within the pipeline/utility corridor as long as we are able to adequately meet our other management responsibilities, including management of the pipeline/utility corridor and subsistence resources and activities. Any recommended modifications subsequent to those described in this ROD would be subject to public participation and review, but a plan amendment would not be necessary. The views of those who use or rely on the lands within the withdrawal would be sought through public meetings in affected communities or villages.

The Approved Plan lays the groundwork for more intensive management of Off-Highway Vehicles. Within the Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic river corridors and the Tangle Lakes Archeological District, specific trails are designated for OHV use. In other areas of BLM public lands (unencumbered), specific trails will

be designated through implementation-level planning. Objectives of trail designation are and will continue to be to halt the unmanaged proliferation of unmanaged trails; to continue to provide access to public lands and resources; to minimize resource impacts; to comply with law and regulation; to maintain a diversity of recreation experiences; and to maintain access to subsistence opportunities and prevent impacts to subsistence resources. On State-selected lands or dual-selected lands, the Approved Plan implements management direction that encourages OHV users to utilize existing trails. Use of OHVs off of existing trails must not create resource impacts. Education regarding an existing State statute that is consistent with this management direction will be emphasized. These management strategies reflect a balance within a wide range of public opinion.

The Approved Plan provides for non-motorized opportunities by designating a specific area in the Delta Range as non-motorized during the winter months. This area is mountainous and glaciated terrain that has been traditionally utilized for backcountry mountaineering and skiing. This proposal was initiated through the Alaska Alpine Club and was supported throughout the planning process by public comment. It was also supported by the Alaska Resource Advisory Council. Additionally, non-motorized opportunities are available through management to maintain approximately 60 percent of the area in a primitive recreation opportunity spectrum class.

The Approved Plan recommends the revocation of ANCSA d(1) withdrawals on approximately 80 percent of the lands currently managed by BLM. The revocation of these withdrawals would potentially open them for mineral leasing or mineral entry. However, this would only apply on lands retained by BLM, not on State or Native-selected lands. This decision would replace large-scale prohibitions on these activities with site-specific Required Operating Procedures or stipulations to minimize resource impacts. Withdrawals are recommended for retention where strong resource protection is needed, such as the Bering Glacier Research Natural Area.

Concerns about specific resource values are addressed throughout the Approved Plan, and eliminated the need to designate some areas as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern since the proposed management provides adequate protection. Approximately 827,000 acres of the Bering glacier is designated as a Research Natural Area, in order to protect the unique ecological communities, wetlands, and subsistence resources associated with the glacier.

The Approved Plan specifies conditions for permitted activities such as communication uses, leases, permits, fluid mineral leasing, and other commercial uses as appropriate at the land use plan level to resolve concerns regarding impacts of commercial uses. Impacts on uses as a result of protective management were disclosed in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, and considered in conjunction with impacts to resource values, with Alternative D providing the best

balance in allowing for uses to occur while providing for protection of resource values and public health and safety.

The Approved Plan recognizes the role of fire in maintaining a diversity of community types and in maintaining desired conditions for wildlife habitat. It identifies 1.5 million acres of moose winter range for application of prescribed fire or wildland fire in order to rejuvenate late-seral stands of black spruce and encourage sprouting and younger age classes of willows and other browse. Existing proper functioning condition of riparian areas and excellent fisheries habitat is maintained through protective Required Operating Procedures. In addition, the Gulkana River, a major spawning river for Copper River sockeye and king salmon, will continue to be protected through management under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Consistency of the Approved Plan with other local, State, Tribal and Federal plans and policies (which sometimes conflict amongst themselves) was also considered as a factor in alternative selection. The Approved Plan is consistent with plans and policies of the Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management, other Federal agencies, state government, and local governments (where they exist) to the extent that the guidance and local plans are also consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of Federal law and regulation applicable to public lands.

VI. MITIGATION MEASURES

Measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm were built into the Approved Plan where practicable. Many of the standard management provisions will minimize impacts when applied to activities proposed in the planning area. Required Operating Procedures and oil and gas stipulations (Appendix A, Approved Plan) will be applied for all permitted uses including forest activities, placer mining, oil and gas development, and Special Recreation Permits. Additional measures to mitigate environmental impacts may also be developed during subsequent NEPA analysis at the activity level planning and project stages.

VII. PLAN MONITORING

Monitoring is the repeated measurement of activities and conditions over time. BLM planning regulations (43 CFR Part 1610.4-9) call for monitoring resource management plans on a continual basis and establishing intervals and standards based on the sensitivity of the resource to the decisions involved. CEQ regulations implementing NEPA state that agencies may provide for monitoring to assure that their decisions are carried out and should do so in important cases (40 CFR Part 1505.2(c)).

The BLM will monitor the Approved Plan to determine whether the objectives set forth in this document are being met and if applying the land use plan direction is effective. Monitoring for each program area is outlined in the *Management Decision* section of the Approved Plan. If monitoring shows land use plan actions or best management practices are not effective, the BLM may modify or adjust management without amending or revising the plan as long as assumptions and impacts disclosed in the analysis remain valid and broadscale goals and objectives are not changed. Where the BLM considers taking or approving actions which will alter or not conform to overall direction of the plan, the BLM will prepare a plan amendment or revision and environmental analysis of appropriate scope.

VIII. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

One of the BLM's primary objectives during development of the East Alaska RMP was to understand the views of various publics by providing opportunities for meaningful participation in the resource management planning process. To do this, the BLM went beyond the standard public involvement process required during preparation of an RMP and EIS.

During the scoping phase, the BLM conducted two public meetings in each town or village in the Copper Basin. The first meeting was used to identify issues and concerns with BLM management, the second was to explain how these issues would be addressed within the plan or if they were within the scope of the planning effort. We also conducted public meetings during alternative formulation to give the public a chance to review and comment on specific sets of proposed management actions and to suggest alternatives. During alternative development, meetings with specific user groups or village councils were held, as requested, in order to discuss specific issues in depth and solicit comments. The BLM also used newsletters, media news releases, and website postings to offer up-to-date information to groups, individuals and agencies. In-depth information on these efforts is included in both the Draft East Alaska RMP/EIS and East Alaska Proposed RMP/Final EIS in Chapter 5, *Consultation and Coordination*.

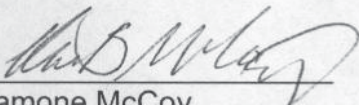
BLM will continue to actively seek the views of the public, using techniques such as news releases and mass mailings to ask for participation and inform the public of new and ongoing implementation planning, site-specific planning, and opportunities and timeframes for comment. Annual land use plan updates prepared to track and monitor progress of plan implementation will be made available to the public upon request. BLM will also continue to coordinate with the numerous state, Federal, tribal, and local agencies and officials interested and involved in the management of BLM lands in East Alaska.

IX. AVAILABILITY OF THE PLAN

Copies of the Record of Decision and the East Alaska Resource Management Plan are available by request from the following locations: BLM Glennallen Field Office, P.O. Box 147, Glennallen, Alaska 99588, (907) 822-3217, and on the Glennallen Field Office website at:
http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east_alaska.html

FIELD MANAGER RECOMMENDATION

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




Ramone McCoy
Glennallen Field Manager

Sept 7, 2007
Date

APPROVAL

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



Thomas P. Lonnie
State Director

9-7-07
Date

APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION

This Approved Plan replaces the Southcentral Management Framework Plan approved in 1980 and is now the base land use plan for public lands administered by the BLM's Glennallen Field Office. The Approved Plan adopts the management described in Alternative D and the Management Common to All Alternatives section presented in the Proposed East Alaska RMP/Final EIS (USDI-BLM 2006a), with adjustments as described in the *Notice of Modification and Clarification* sections of the ROD.

A. Consideration of Other BLM Plans and Policies

This plan incorporates decisions contained in the following documents unless or until amended or replaced:

- Proposed Land Use Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment for Wildland Fire and Fuels Management for Alaska (USDI-BLM, 2004).
- River Management Plan for the Delta National Wild and Scenic River (USDI-BLM, 1983).
- Revised Management Plan for the Gulkana National Wild and Scenic River (USDI-BLM, 2006).
- Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards (USDI-BLM, 2004).

In the event there are inconsistencies or discrepancies between previously approved plans and this Approved Plan, the decisions contained in the Approved Plan will be followed.

The Glennallen Field office will continue to tier to statewide, national, and programmatic EISs and other NEPA and planning documents.

All future resource authorizations and actions will conform to, or be consistent with the decisions contained in the Approved Plan. All existing operations and activities authorized under permits, contracts, cooperative agreements or other authorizations will be modified, as necessary, to conform to this plan within a reasonable timeframe. However, this plan does not repeal valid existing rights on BLM managed lands. A valid existing right is a claim or authorization that takes precedence over the decisions developed in this plan. If such authorizations come up for review and can be modified, they will also be brought into conformance with the plan.

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

B. Plan Implementation

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

Immediate Decisions

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

One-Time Decisions and Implementation plans

These types of decisions include those that are implemented after additional site-specific analysis is completed or after procedural requirements are carried out. Examples are implementation of recommendations to revoke ANCSA d(1) withdrawals or development of an implementation-level plan (such as revision of Wild and Scenic River management plans or an implementation plan for a Special Recreation Management Area). One-time decisions usually require additional analysis and are prioritized as part of the BLM budget process.

Long-Term Guidance/Life of Plan Direction

These decisions include the goals, objectives, and management actions established by the plan that are applied during site-specific analyses and activity planning. This guidance is applied whether the action is initiated by the BLM or by a non-BLM project proponent. Long-term guidance and plan direction is incorporated into BLM management as implementation level planning and project analysis occurs.

Priorities for implementation of “one-time” RMP decisions will be based on several criteria, including:

- Current and projected resource needs and demands;
- National and Statewide BLM management direction and program emphasis, and
- Funding
- Land status (State or Native selected vs. BLM public lands)

C. General Implementation Schedule of “One-Time” Actions

Decisions in this plan will be implemented over a period of years depending on budget and staff availability. The schedule outlined in Table 1 below establishes tentative timeframes for completion of the “one-time” actions identified in the Approved Plan. Most of these actions require additional analysis and site-specific activity planning. This schedule does not include the decisions which are effective immediately upon approval of the plan, or the actions which describe the ongoing management that will be incorporated and applied as site-specific proposals are analyzed.

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

Table 1: Implementation plans

Implementation Plan	Scheduled FY Year	Comments
Gulkana SRMA	done	River management plan for the Gulkana WSR corridor.
Delta SRMA	Started FY07	River management plan for the Delta WSR corridor.
Bering Glacier RNA	FY 08	
Slana disposal	FY 08	Covers strategy and details for selective Slana disposal.
Delta Range SRMA	FY 09	Unencumbered lands.
Tiekel SRMA	FY 09	
Denali SRMA	FY 10	If lands are retained.
TLAD travel	FY 10	If lands are retained.
West Fork area travel	FY 11	If lands are retained.
Nelchina caribou calving area travel	FY 11	If lands are retained.
Chistochina/Cantwell area travel	FY 12	If lands are retained.

D. Maintaining the Plan

Land use plan decisions and supporting information can be maintained to reflect minor changes in data, but maintenance is limited to refining, documenting, and/or clarifying previously approved decisions. Some examples of maintenance actions include:

- Correcting minor data, typographical, mapping, or tabular data errors.
- Refining baseline information as a result of new inventory data.

The BLM expects that new information gathered from field inventories and assessments, research, other agency studies, and other sources will update baseline data and/or support new management techniques, required operating procedures, and scientific principles. Where monitoring shows land use plan actions or required operating procedures are not effective, modifications or adjustments may occur without amendment or revision of the plan as long as assumptions and impacts disclosed in the analysis remain valid and broadscale goals and objectives are not changed.

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

E. Changing the Plan

The Approved Plan may be changed, should conditions warrant, through a plan amendment or plan revision process. A plan amendment may become necessary if major changes are needed or to consider a proposal or action that is not in conformance with the plan. The results of monitoring, evaluation of new data, or policy changes and changing public needs might also provide the impetus for an amendment. Generally, an amendment is issue-specific. If several areas of the plan become outdated or otherwise obsolete, a plan revision may become necessary. Plan amendments and revisions are accomplished with public input and the appropriate level of environmental analysis.

F. Plan Evaluation

Evaluation is a process in which the plan and monitoring data are reviewed to see if management goals and objectives are being met and if management direction is sound. Land use plan evaluations determine if decisions are being implemented, whether Required Operating Procedures are satisfactory, whether there are significant changes in the related plans of other entities, whether there is new data of significance to the plan, and if decisions should be changed through amendment or revision. Monitoring data gathered over time is examined and used to draw conclusions on whether management actions are meeting stated objectives, and if not, why. Conclusions are then used to make recommendations on whether to continue current management or to identify what changes need to be made in management practices to meet objectives.

BLM will use land use plan evaluations to determine if the decisions in the RMP, supported by the accompanying NEPA analysis, are still valid in light of new information and monitoring data. Evaluation of the RMP will generally be

conducted every five years, unless unexpected actions, new information, or significant changes in other plans, legislation, land conveyances, or litigation triggers an evaluation.

The following estimated evaluation schedule will be followed for the East Alaska RMP:

- January 2011
- January 2016
- January 2021
- January 2026

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

II. MANAGEMENT DECISIONS

This section of the Approved Plan presents the goals and objectives, land use allocations, and management actions established for public lands managed by the BLM's Glennallen Field Office. These management decisions are presented by program area. Not all types of decisions were identified for each program. A *Monitoring* section is also included for each program to describe how the program decisions will be tracked to ensure implementation.

The Draft RMP/EIS and Proposed RMP/Final EIS identified *Desired Future Conditions* for several programs, which are included in the Approved Plan as *Objectives*. Most of the identified objectives are long range in nature and will not be achieved immediately, but rather are assumed to require a period of 20 to 50 years to achieve. Some of the sections from the Draft and Proposed RMPs have been combined or reorganized for ease in reference, but the content remains as contained in the Proposed RMP, except as described in the *Notice of Modifications* and *Clarifications* sections of the ROD.

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

Abandoned Mine Lands
Air Quality
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)
Cultural Resources
Fire and Fuels Management
Fish and Special Status Fish
Forest and Woodland Vegetation and Forest Products
Hazardous Materials
Lands and Realty
Minerals (Leasing)
Minerals (Locatable)
Minerals (Saleable/Mineral Materials)
Noxious Weeds, Invasive, and Non-Native Species
Paleontological Resources
Riparian and Wetland Vegetation
Recreation
Soils
Special Status Plants
Subsistence
Transportation and Facilities
Travel Management and OHV Use
Tribal Treaty Rights
Visual Resources
Water
Wild and Scenic Rivers
Wildlife and Special Status Birds and Mammals

Maps depicting the management decisions are provided at the back of the document for easy reference. Some management actions refer to specific Required Operating Procedures (ROPs) or stipulations. These ROPs and stipulations are shown in Appendix A.

A. ABANDONED MINE LANDS

A-1: Goal

Protect humans and the environment from exposure to abandoned mine lands while considering associated resource values such as historic resources.

A-2: Management Actions

1. Continue to update and refine the inventory of abandoned mine sites on BLM-managed lands in the planning area.
2. Prioritize reclamation of abandoned mine lands based on the degree of threat to human health, the environment, and public safety. Place emphasis on those areas that present serious threats to the environment, especially to water quality, and those that pose safety risks to the public. Conduct any reclamation in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, following project level planning and analysis under NEPA and other pertinent laws.

A-3: Monitoring

Reclamation and mitigation work done on abandoned mine sites will be monitored to ensure compliance with laws and regulations and with the terms of the work order or contract.

Clean-up sites will be monitored to protect and safeguard human health, prevent/restore environmental damage and to limit the BLM's liability. This monitoring includes such things as conducting periodic water and soil sampling, monitoring for revegetation of reclaimed areas, dust control, erosion and other signs of potential danger to human health and harm to the environment.

The number of clean-up efforts in progress on BLM lands in the planning area will be reported in the Annual Program Summary and Planning Update, as well as the number of acres inventoried to identify AML issues.

B. AIR QUALITY

B-1: Goal

Meet the National Ambient Air Quality Standards under the Clean Air Act (as amended in 1977), and prevent significant deterioration of air quality within the Glennallen Field Office area with all authorized actions.

B-2: Management Actions

1. Develop burn plans for all prescribed burn treatments that include incident and cumulative air quality considerations.
2. Require permits where necessary for stationary facilities.
3. Burn plans for all prescribed burn treatments will be consistent with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation's (ADEC) Enhanced Smoke Management Plan.

C. AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

C-1: Goal

Protect relevant and important values and apply special management where standard or routine management is not adequate to protect the values from risks or threats of damage/degradation or to provide for public safety from natural hazards.

C-2: Allocations

Designate approximately 827,000 acres in the Bering Glacier as a Research Natural Area (see Map 1, page 63). Other areas will not be designated as ACECs, but specific management actions will occur as described below for protection of resource values associated with that area.

C-3: BERING GLACIER RESEARCH NATURAL AREA

C-3-a: Objectives

1. Protect habitats associated with the glacial environment and the retreating glacier in order to continue to provide opportunities for research.
2. Protect wetlands that provide important habitat for migrating birds.
3. Manage to continue to provide a primitive recreation experience.
4. Conduct research activities in a manner that is least obtrusive to the area.
5. Manage to protect anadromous fisheries habitat to support continued, long term subsistence use.

C-3-b: Management Actions

1. **Off Highway Vehicles** will be limited to designated trails during snow-free months. Specific trails will be designated in implementation planning. No restrictions on snowmachines.
2. **New roads or airstrip construction** would be considered only if consistent with protection of the resource values described above.
3. The western 2/3 of the area would be closed to **locatable mineral entry and mineral leasing** through maintenance of PLO 5179. The eastern 1/3 would be open to locatable mineral entry and mineral leasing, subject to Required Operating Procedures and oil and gas stipulations.
4. No new **mineral material** sites would be permitted.

5. Construction of remote **public use cabins** may be considered, consistent with protection of resource values identified.
6. Appropriate use limits will be developed for **Special Recreation Permits** through **implementation-level planning**, consistent with management for a primitive recreation experience. No heli-skiing or helicopter supported commercial recreation activities would be permitted.
7. **R&PP and FLPMA leases** would be considered, consistent with protection of values identified.
8. **Permits:** Occupancy permits, such as trapping or fishing cabins, would be authorized under the following conditions: 1) No new structures within the RNA; 2) Existing structures would be authorized only if they can clearly be tied to a commercial enterprise, such as guiding or trapping. Other permits would be considered if consistent with protection of the values identified.
9. **Forestry** practices may be permitted if primary objective is enhancement of identified values (such as moose winter range). Contingent on utilizing temporary roads.

C-3-c: Monitoring

A long term monitoring program will be established for the Bering Glacier RNA during implementation planning. Monitoring will utilize existing baseline data collected through research that has occurred in the area for the last 15 years. Once baseline condition assessment information has been compiled for different resource values, the RNA will be monitored at least once every five years to identify any potential adverse impacts that might occur and identify trends in resource condition, and to determine whether any actions taking place in the area are causing detrimental changes to the relevant and important values.

C-4: OTHER AREAS CONSIDERED AS ACECs

Other areas were considered for potential ACEC designation in the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS (Nelchina caribou calving area, West Fork trumpeter swan area, and the Delta bison calving area). Because the areas are predominantly State-selected, they will not be designated as ACECs. However, specific management actions were developed for resource values present in these areas. Please see the **Wildlife** portion of this Approved Plan (page 59) for a description of these management actions.

D. CULTURAL RESOURCES

D-1: Goal

Protect and preserve important cultural resources. Expand opportunities for scientific and educational uses of these resources.

D-2-a: Objective (Inventory)

Reduce imminent threats from natural or human-caused deterioration, or potential conflict with other resource uses, by identifying priority geographic areas for new field inventory, based upon a probability for unrecorded significant resources.

D-2-b: Management Actions (Inventory)

1. Inventories needed on selected high probability areas that respond to planned management activities, including: a) Holocene shorelines of Lake Ahtna; b) Gulkana and Delta River corridors; c) historic properties associated with Valdez trail; d) areas identified as “limited” for OHV use, with first priority on unencumbered BLM lands; e) the Bering Glacier RNA; f) proposed prescribed burns; g) any trail reroutes or construction; and h) lands identified for disposal.
2. Systematic (Section 110) surveys needed for most of the large blocks of land that BLM manages. Prioritized based on the list described under Section B on page 2.
3. Archeological testing/excavation to fill gaps about prehistory in the Copper River Basin.

D-2-c: Monitoring (Inventory)

A periodic review of the cultural resource program will be conducted to ensure that the program is meeting the established parameters for proactive cultural resources inventory under Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

D-3-a: Objective (Protection)

Ensure that all authorizations for land and resource use avoid inadvertent damage to Federal and non-Federal cultural resources in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

D-3-b: Management Actions (Protection)

1. Comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for all Federal undertakings.
2. Avoid impacts to significant cultural resources (resources considered eligible for the National Register) by project redesign, project abandonment, and/or mitigation of adverse impacts through recovery/alternative means as a last resort.
3. The following Required Operating Procedures will be applied to all permitted activities, as necessary: ROP-Cultural-a-2 and ROP-Cultural-a-3.
4. Assist recreation/trails management with re-location of trails to protect cultural resources. Priorities for this activity are TLAD and unencumbered BLM lands.

D-3-c: Monitoring (Protection)

Where inventory has been conducted and baseline information obtained on site condition, a representative number of sites will be monitored on an annual basis to identify any potential adverse impacts that might occur and identify trends in resource condition and/or deterioration, and to determine whether any actions taking place in the area are causing detrimental changes to the cultural values.

D-4-a: Objective (Education)

Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of cultural resources through educational and public outreach programs in accordance with the BLM Heritage Education program.

D-4-b: Management Action (Education)

1. Coordinate with recreation on placement of education/interpretive materials regarding cultural resources in the following areas: 1) Denali Highway (cultural values in TLAD); 2) Richardson Highway, Tielke planning region (Valdez Trail, WAMCATS trail); 3) ANCSA 17(b) easements; and 4) cultural/traditional areas as identified by Native villages and corporations.
2. Identify opportunities for historic cabin restoration, maintenance on lands to be retained by BLM.

D-4-c: Monitoring (Education): None.

D-5-a: Objective (Consultation)

Continue consultation with Native and village corporations and village councils regarding protection of cultural values that may be affected by BLM authorizations or actions.

D-5-b: Management Actions (Consultation):

1. Maintain existing MOUs with Ahtna, Inc., Native Village of Tazlina, Cheesh'Na Tribal Council, Native Village of Chitina, Native Village of Chickaloon, Gulkana Village, and Gakona Village. Maintenance includes annual coordination regarding upcoming BLM projects and potential impacts on traditional/cultural areas or sites.
2. Utilize James Kari report and Ahtna place names data, along with annual and semi-annual MOU meetings, to identify important traditional/cultural sites or areas that could be impacted by BLM proposed projects.

D-5-c: Monitoring (Consultation)

The number of consultation and coordination meetings will be reported.

E. FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT

E-1: Goals

- Protect human life and property.
- Use wildland fire and fuel treatments to meet land use and resource objectives.
- Reduce risk and cost of uncontrolled wildland fire through wildland fire use, prescribed fire, manual or mechanical treatment.
- Reduce adverse effects of fire management activities.
- Continue interagency collaboration and cooperation.

Within the planning area, fires are classified as wildland fires that are managed under the 1998 Alaska Interagency Wildland Fire Management Plan, or prescribed fires, which are ignited to accomplish land and resources objectives, and are managed under agency policies and procedures.

E-2: WILDLAND FIRE

E-2-a: Allocations (Wildland Fire)

Within the planning area fire management has been and will continue to be conducted by agreements executed on an interagency, landscape-scale basis. This standardizes policies and procedures among land managing agencies in Alaska. Four wildland fire suppression management options (Critical, Full, Modified, and Limited) are utilized statewide by all Federal, State, and Native land managers. Each management option is defined by objectives, management constraints, and values to be protected. Management options can be changed based on RMP or other land use planning objectives.

The following suppression management classes will be applied as shown on Map 2, page 64.

Critical (22,000 acres): Highest priority for allocation of initial attack suppression forces. The objective is to protect human life, populated areas, inhabited property, designated physical developments, and structural resources designated as National Historic Landmarks. The appropriate response to fires that occur in this option is aggressive and continuing actions to provide complete protection of specifically-identified sites from fire.

Full (1,260,000 acres): Second priority for assignment of available initial attack suppression resources. Full is assigned to cultural and historical sites, uninhabited private property, natural resource high-value areas, and other high-value areas that do not involve the protection of human life and inhabited property. The appropriate response to fires occurring in this designation is aggressive initial attack dependent upon the availability of suppression resources

to minimize resource damage and suppress fires at the smallest reasonably possible number of acres.

Modified (2,189,000 acres): Third priority for assignment of available initial attack suppression resources. The goal is to balance acres burned with suppression costs, and, when appropriate, to use wildland fire to accomplish land and resource objectives. This option provides flexibility in the selection of suppression strategies. When risks are high, the response is analogous to Full; when risks are low, the appropriate response is analogous to Limited.

Limited (11,011,000 acres): This option acknowledges fire as a vital component of Alaskan ecosystems. Wildland fire is used as a management tool to maintain, enhance, and improve ecological condition. Under this option, wildland fires will be allowed to burn under the influence of natural forces within predetermined areas, while human life and site-specific values continue to be protected. This option is also assigned to areas where the cost of suppression exceeds the value of the resources to be protected or the environmental impacts on the than the effects of fire. This designation receives the lowest priority for allocation of initial attack resources. The appropriate response is routing surveillance to observe fire activity and to determine if site-specific values or adjacent higher priority management option areas are compromised.

E-2-b: Management Actions (Wildland Fire)

1. Initial attack and suppression strategies will be based on procedures described in the 1998 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan (AIWFMP). These strategies rely heavily on the use of the suppression management classes listed above.
2. Changes to the suppression management classes described can be initiated by the land manager. These changes can be based on changing conditions (such as increased development, remote facility development, or new sites discovered) or on resource objectives or desired conditions, such as those described in the following section (under Prescribed Fire). Changes should be suggested between September 30 and March 1 to be incorporated for the next fire season.
3. Fire Suppression Constraints are described in the AIWFMP. Additional constraints on the use of suppression tools are at the discretion of the land manager and are documented in a Wildland Fire Situation Analysis (WFSA).
4. Use wildland fire to achieve desired conditions for caribou and moose habitat as described below. On Nelchina caribou winter range manage for less than 10 percent of range to be burned every decade, to maintain mixed age classes of lichen. If large wildfires occur where this standard is exceeded, consider changing suppression management classes to full or modified for the following season.

5. Wildland fire rehabilitation, if needed, will be conducted consistent with the BLM-Alaska *Programmatic Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation Plan EA*, October, 2006; and with ROP-Veg-b-7.

E-2-c: Monitoring (Wildland Fire)

Monitoring will determine whether fire management strategies, practices, and activities are meeting resource management objectives and concerns. Fire management plans and policies will be updated as needed to keep current with national and state fire management direction. Scheduled program reviews (post season fire review) will be conducted to evaluate fire management effectiveness in meeting goals and to re-assess program direction.

E-3: PRESCRIBED FIRE and FUELS REDUCTION

Prescribed fire is any fire ignited by management action to meet specific objectives. A written, approved prescribed fire plan must exist, and NEPA requirements must be met, prior to ignition.

E-3-a: Objectives/Desired Conditions (Prescribed Fire)

1. Moose habitat: Use wildland fire or prescribed burning to achieve the following desired condition: A mosaic pattern of upland spruce woodland cover types interspersed with a lower seral expression dominated by alder and willow. Upland woodland cover types are mixed with stream terraces and flood plains dominated by sedge and mixed age classes of alder and willow.
2. Caribou habitat: Within portions of the Nelchina caribou summer range, utilize wildland and prescribed fire to create a mosaic of burned and unburned areas. Desired condition for caribou summer range is similar to the description for moose habitat. For caribou winter range, desired condition is uplands spruce woodland cover type where lichen and various herbs dominate the ground layer.
3. Bison habitat (Delta River floodplain): Utilize prescribed fire to improve Delta bison calving range to increase forage productivity and maintain grass dominated vegetation communities. Desired condition is grass-dominated plant communities interspersed with scattered pockets of cottonwood, white spruce, and balsam poplar.
4. Dall sheep: Where tree or shrub encroachment is occurring, utilize prescribed fire to maintain open high elevation grass and forb-dominated plant communities.

E-3-b: Management Actions (Prescribed Fire)

1. Utilize wildland or prescribed fire to achieve desired conditions for moose habitat on moose winter range shown on Map 3, page 65. Priority for treatment will be as follows: a) Completion of Alphabet Hills prescribed burn; b) winter range on unencumbered BLM land; c) projects on State or

Native-selected land where the selecting entity is a partner and contributor (resources or money).

2. Utilize prescribed fire to achieve desired conditions for caribou only if it is not being achieved through wildland fire or by prescribed burning to improve moose habitat as described under #1. This is second priority to moose habitat improvement listed above.
3. Utilize prescribed burning to improve Delta bison calving range and achieve desired conditions listed above over 15,000 acres in the area.
4. Utilize prescribed burning to improve Dall sheep habitat as described above. This would be based on on-going inventory and delineation of these ranges and encroachment of shrubs.
5. Prescribed burn plans will apply the following Required Operating Procedures, as applicable: ROP-Veg-a-4, ROP-Veg-a-2, ROP-Veg-a-1, and ROP-F&W-a-10.
6. The prescribed burn plans will address air quality and smoke management. Appropriate contacts and written approval will be obtained from ADEC.

E-3-c: Management Actions (Fuels Reduction)

1. Fuels reduction projects will be considered in areas of urban interface, such as Slana or Native or State-selected lands adjacent to villages. First priority will go to areas where fuels reduction can be achieved while meeting other objectives, such as habitat improvement or providing for personal use firewood.

E-3-d: Monitoring (Prescribed Fire)

Pre-fire condition and post fire effects will be determined by monitoring vegetation response to treatments and progress towards meeting objectives. Monitoring methods may include fuels and vegetation transects, photo points, density, cover and frequency plots, and ocular estimates. When available, applicable remote sensing data will also be incorporated into ecological condition monitoring.

F. FISH AND SPECIAL STATUS FISH

F-1: Goal

Maintain and protect fish habitat on BLM-managed lands and provide for the habitat needs of fish resources necessary to maintain or enhance such populations and to ensure the continued public use, economic and subsistence benefits of such resources. Maintain wild stocks of salmon and steelhead.

F-2: Objectives (Desired Conditions)

Manage to maintain streams in proper functioning condition, in order to provide the following:

- A diversity of instream habitat structure is present.

- Composition and quantity of streambed materials are appropriate for site potential.
- Riparian vegetation and stream channel morphology contribute to maintaining appropriate water temperatures.

F-3: Management Actions

1. Continue the Gulkana fish counting tower operations. This cooperative effort with ADF&G provides the best Chinook salmon escapement data available for the Gulkana River.
2. Continue inventorying for anadromous fish spawning habitat, particularly outside the Gulkana River.
3. Continue to conduct Production Habitat inventory.
4. Continue to support work or studies to provide information on distribution and abundance of steelhead trout in the Gulkana River as well as other watersheds in the planning area.
5. Where OHV trails are designated, continue to coordinate with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) on permitted crossings across anadromous streams.
6. Continue to cooperate with ADF&G on increasing the population of steelhead and rainbow trout in the Gulkana River by habitat manipulation and other enhancement techniques.
7. Provide educational information through the Gulkana website regarding waterflow levels and potential rafting and boating impacts to spawning beds.
8. Cooperate with other BLM programs in identifying the need for re-location, closure, or maintenance of OHV trails to avoid crucial habitat features.
9. For the protection of fish and fish habitat, the following Required Operating Procedures will be used for permitted activities, as applicable: ROP-F&W-a-2, ROP-F&W-a-3, ROP-F&W-a-4, ROP-F&W-a-5, ROP-F&W-a-6, ROP-F&W-a-7, ROP-F&W-a-8, ROP-F&W-a-9, ROP-F&W-a-10, ROP-Water-a-1, ROP-water-a-2, ROP-Water-c-1, ROP-Water-c-2, ROP-Water-c-3, ROP-Water-c-6, and ROP-Water-c-7.

F-4: Monitoring

1. Support continued monitoring and assessment of riparian areas. Use this information as a baseline to support maintenance and enhancement projects.
2. Continue cooperative efforts with ADF&G to conduct creel surveys, focusing on the Gulkana river.

G. FOREST AND WOODLAND VEGETATION, AND FOREST PRODUCTS

G-1: Goals

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

G-2: Objectives (Desired Conditions)

- **Timber stands managed for commercial production of white spruce:** These stands occur on floodplains and alluvial terraces on well-drained soils. Where accessible, these stands would be managed to maintain white spruce as the dominant tree species, which may require thinning to minimize early seral competition from other species. Beetle-kill trees within these stands would be salvaged where possible as firewood or house logs. This desired condition would be an objective for a maximum of 10 percent of the approximately 144,000 acres in the area considered suitable for commercial harvest.
- **Timber stands managed for improvement of wildlife habitat:** In mixed white spruce-aspen/poplar/birch stands where wildlife habitat improvement is the primary objective, desired condition would be maintenance of white spruce with a component of aspen, balsam poplar, or paper birch. These stands would consist of shrub-dominated early seral stages after either harvest, wildland or prescribed fire, or mechanical treatment of mature or bark beetle-kill white spruce. This would be the desired condition for the majority of the 144,000 acres in the area considered suitable for harvest.

In addition, the following objectives were identified for the approximately 144,000 acres identified as suitable for timber harvest (see Map 4, page 66):

- Increase access for personal and commercial wood products.
- Improve forest health through salvage of bark beetle-kill spruce.
- Consider potential for commercial harvest.
- Benefit wildlife habitat.
- Manage for desired conditions described above.
- Reduce hazardous fuels.

G-3: Management Actions

1. In cooperation with State (DNR-forestry) or Village councils, identify areas for personal firewood and house log gathering. Clearly mark access to areas and boundaries to prevent unintentional trespass. Provide for secondary objectives such as fuels reduction and habitat improvement. Priority for this and management action number 4 below is on unencumbered BLM lands.

2. Within the Gulkana National Wild River corridor, personal use firewood gathering is allowed consistent with the revised Gulkana River management plan. Consideration will be given to meeting Class I VRM objectives.
3. Forestry practices are allowed within Special Recreation Management Areas. Where possible, access will be through temporary roads, with consideration to retain roads where a roaded-natural experience is being managed for. Cutting units would be designed to meet VRM objectives for the area.
4. Consider providing access to the general public to firewood by working with ADOT to provide pull-outs or gravel ramps off main highways. Temporary roads utilized for commercial harvest may be retained for use by the public for firewood gathering.
5. Provide wood products as a benefit of forest and woodland treatments when feasible and in consideration of other resource concerns.
6. Consider the utilization of black spruce for biomass projects to achieve wildlife habitat desired conditions described under **Fire and Fuels Management**.
7. The following Required Operating Procedures will be applied to forest treatments, as applicable: ROP-Veg-a, ROP-Veg-a-1, ROP-Veg-a-2, ROP-Veg-a-3, ROP-Veg-a-5, ROP-Veg-a-7, ROP-Veg-b-1, ROP-Veg-b-3, ROP-Veg-b-4, ROP-F&W-a-9, and ROP-F&W-a-3.

G-4: Monitoring

Pre-treatment: Estimated volume per acre or biomass tons per acre will be obtained, if applicable, in stands that will be treated. In commercial and non-commercial treatment units, photo points will be established to show approximate percent cover, habitat types, and occurrence of insect infestations/diseases.

Post-treatment: Measurements as described above will be obtained within two years after project implementation on any given unit to evaluate if stand objectives were reached. Representative sample of established photo points will be revisited on a 10 year cycle to document longer term trends.

H. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

H-1: Goal

Protect humans and the environment from exposure to hazardous materials.

H-2: Management Actions

1. Comply with all appropriate laws and regulations regarding hazardous materials.
2. Do not permit unauthorized storage, treatment, or disposal of hazardous waste on public lands.

3. Apply special stipulations to comply with appropriate law, regulation, and policy when the use or storage of hazardous materials is authorized. See Required Operating Procedures ROP-Haz-a-1 through ROP-Haz-c-9.
4. Conduct cleanup and reclamation in accordance with the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

H-3: Monitoring

Site clean-ups will be monitored to protect and safeguard human health, prevent/restore environmental damage and to limit the BLM's liability. The performance of the clean-up contractor for all release on public lands will be monitored to ensure full compliance and damaged land restoration. HAZMAT monitoring data will be kept in monitoring files. All data will be collected at the time and place of the incident or until the cleanup is completed and there is no future threat to human health or environment.

I. LANDS AND REALTY

I-1: Goals

- Support the BLM-Alaska State Office in the Alaska Conveyances which involve the survey and conveyance of lands to the State of Alaska, Native Corporations, Native Allottees, and other inholders.
- Provide a balance between land use (rights-of-way, land use permits, leases and sales) and resource protection that best serves the public at large.
- Provide support to other BLM programs to protect and enhance resources.

I-2: Land Use Authorizations

Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM lands such as right-of-way grants, road, temporary use permits under several different authorities; leases, permits, and easements under section 302 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA); airport leases under the Act of May 24, 1928; and Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases.

I-2-a: Management Actions (Land Use Authorizations)

1. **FLPMA leases:** All FLPMA leases would be at fair market value. No lease would be issued for the Delta or Gulkana Wild and Scenic River corridors, unless for a purpose to maintain or enhance the outstandingly remarkable values. Cabins or permanent structures used for private recreation cannot be authorized under this authority. FLPMA lease proposals on selected lands would require the views from the Native Corporation to be considered on Native selected land and concurrence

- from the State on State selected lands. Proposals for leases for cabins for uses such as guiding or trapping would be subject to the following criteria: a) Proximity to other private property or existing authorized structures; b) proximity to existing transportation routes or systems, and c) documentation of customary lifestyle and need. All FLPMA leases and occupancy type permits for trapping cabins will be issued consistent with 43 CFR 2920.1-1.
2. **R&PP Leases:** Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) leases would not be issued for sanitary landfill purposes. Existing leases for sanitary landfill purposes may be converted to patents without a reverter clause. No lease would be issued for the Wild and Scenic River corridors. R&PP lease proposals on selected lands would require the views from the Native Corporation to be considered on Native selected land and concurrence from the State on State selected lands.
 3. **Permits:** Permits cover occupancy, use, or development of a site. Specific exclusion areas are described in the narrative below. In general:
 - Cabin or permanent structure permits cannot be issued for private recreation purposes, and
 - Trapping shelters would be authorized by short-term (three years maximum) Section 302 permits renewable at the discretion of BLM and tied to the applicant's customary lifestyle and need. Guide shelters would only be authorized in conjunction with Special Recreation Permits issued under FLPMA authority. Criteria for consideration of issuance of such permits is the same as described above for cabin leases.

Regarding permits, selected lands would be treated as follows:

Native-selected: Prior to the issuance of a use authorization the views of the Native Corporation shall be obtained and considered. Monies received for any use authorization on Native-selected lands would go into an escrow account.

State-selected: In accordance with 906(k) of ANILCA, the BLM must receive a letter of concurrence prior to issuance of any use authorization. The BLM may then incorporate comments in the terms and conditions of the use authorization if in compliance with Federal laws and regulations. If the State objects, the BLM would not issue the use authorization. If the proposal is on land that has been top-filed by the State, pursuant to 906(e) of ANILCA, a letter of concurrence is not required.

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

cabins include: a) removal of the structure; b) relinquishment to the U.S. Government for management purposes, and c) authorization by lease or permit for legitimate uses if consistent with identified area objectives.

- Under b and c above, the criteria listed above for cabins under lease and permits would be used.

I-2-b: Allocations (Land Use Authorizations)

The following Table summarizes the constraints applied to Land Use Authorizations in special management areas:

Table 2: Land Use Authorization constraints

Management Action	Management Area				
	Bering Glacier RNA	Nelchina calving area	West Fork Gulkana watershed	Delta bison calving area	Gulkana and Delta W&S Rivers
FLPMA, R&PP leases	OK, but must be consistent with protection of identified values.	OK, consider potential impacts to caribou calving.	OK, with application of ROPs to protect swan nesting, wetlands.	OK, with application of ROP-F&W-b-2.	Could be considered in rec and scenic portions of Delta, consistent with protection of ORVs. None in the Gulkana.
FLPMA 302 permits	Occupancy: no new structures. Existing structures OK if they meet criteria identified above and are consistent with RNA objectives. Other permits OK if consistent with protection of resource values.	Occupancy: no new structures. Existing structures OK if they meet the criteria identified above. Other permits OK, subject to timing constraints to protect calving caribou.	Occupancy: no new structures considered if they meet the criteria identified above for cabins. Other permits considered, subject to ROPs identified for protection of trumpeter swan nesting and moose winter range.	Occupancy: no new structures. Existing structures OK if they meet the criteria identified above. Other non-occupancy permits allowed with application of ROP-F&W-b-2.	No occupancy permits for either Gulkana or Delta. Non-occupancy considered if consistent with protection of ORVs.
Rights-of-way	Avoidance area.	OK, with mitigation (no activity 5/1 to 6/15, utilize underground powerlines or pipelines whenever possible.	Overhead powerlines will be avoided.	OK, with application of ROP-F&W-b-2. Utilize underground pipelines or powerlines whenever possible.	Delta: OK in rec portion, with measures to protect visual resources. Avoid in scenic and wild portions. Avoid in Gulkana.
Communication sites	OK if consistent with RNA objectives.	OK, but no construction 5/1 to 6/15.	None within ¼ mile of lakes, ponds, or marshes with trumpeter swan nests.	OK, with application of ROP F&W-b-2.	None in either.

I-2-c: Monitoring (Land Use Authorizations)

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

I-3: Disposal

I-3-a: Management Actions (Disposal)

1. Provide support in the implementation and conveyance of lands pursuant to legislative mandates. These mandates include the Alaska Statehood Act, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the 1906 Native Allotment Act.
2. Public lands meeting one or more of the following criteria could be disposed of through FLPMA section 203: a) A tract that was acquired for a specific purpose and is no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose; b) A tract whose disposal would serve important public objectives, including but not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development that cannot be achieved prudently or feasibly on other than public lands and that outweigh other public objectives and values, including but not limited to, recreation and scenic values, which would be maintaining such a tract in Federal ownership; and c) Such tract, because of its location or other characteristics is difficult and uneconomic to manage as part of the public lands and is not suitable for management by another Federal department or agency.
3. The following lands would not be disposed of: a) lands withdrawn from the public land laws or segregated by State or Native selection; b) Lands with mining claims of record under section 314 of FLPMA unless BLM policy is changed in the future to allow for their disposal; and c) lands within the Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic River corridors.
4. **Other Disposals:** Lands identified for disposal under this authority that are selected by either the State or Native corporations would have to be fully adjudicated before the BLM would entertain a sale. In most instances, the BLM would first lease lands under this act and only convey the lands after the project is constructed in compliance with an approved development and management plan. An important exception to this would be tracts proposed as sanitary landfills, which would always be sold; they would not be leased. Application for tracts to be used as a sanitary landfill would only be conveyed with a clause that would prohibit reversion to the Federal government. Existing leases shall be converted to patents if the lands are used for sanitary landfills.
5. **Act of August 1, 1956 Public Land Order (PLO 1613 Sales):** The BLM would continue to convey PLO 1613 lots to qualified applicants. PLO 1613 lots only exist along the Glenn, Richardson, and Tok Cut-off Highways.
6. **Airport and Airway Improvement Act of September 3, 1982:** Process airport conveyances as requested by the Federal Aviation Administration

(FAA). Each conveyance shall contain appropriate covenants and reservation requested by the FAA. As a condition to each conveyance, the property interest conveyed shall revert to the Federal government in the event the lands are not developed for airport or airway purposes or are used in a manner inconsistent with the terms of the conveyance.

7. An implementation level plan will be done for the Slana area to address: a) resolution of unauthorized claims in the area through disposal; b) access and rights-of-ways; c) determination of fair market value for disposals; d) resolution of other unauthorized use in the area; e) strategy for clean-up of hazardous materials; and f) surveys of homesite parcels.

I-3-b: Allocations (Disposals)

1. All lands within the Slana settlement area (approximately 10,000 acres) would be available for FLPMA Section 203 disposal, under the following priority:
 - Lands would be sold non-competitively to the claimant where the lands contain improvements that are still owned, occupied, or used by the claimant.
 - Lands may be sold with a preference right to a failed claimant where improvements exist that are owned but no longer used by the failed claimant.
 - The remaining lands may be disposed of at the discretion of the Glennallen Field Office, in close consultation with the community of Slana and Ahtna, Inc. Further disposals would be used to consolidate land patterns or provide lands for community infrastructure. Disposal to the general public at large by competitive or modified competitive bid will not be considered.
2. **Other disposals:** Consistent with the criteria listed above (under Management Actions for disposals), isolated, unmanageable tracts resulting from highway realignment along the Richardson and Glenn Highways would be made available for disposal.

I-4: Acquisitions

I-4-a: Management Actions (Acquisitions)

1. Acquire private lands through purchase or exchange with willing owners within areas identified for long-term Federal management and retention and to further the programs of the Secretary, including access. When feasible, the BLM would acquire less than fee title to property if management goals could not be achieved.

I-4-b: Allocations (Acquisitions)

1. The following are identified as emphasis areas for acquisitions: a) Delta River SRMA; b) Gulkana River SRMA; and c) Bering Glacier RNA.

I-5: Exchanges

I-5-a: Management Actions (Exchanges)

1. The BLM would strive to process mutually benefiting public interest land exchanges. Exchanges are authorized in Alaska by FLPMA, ANCSA, and ANILCA. When consolidating public interest, full consideration shall be given to efficient management of public lands and to secure important objectives including: protection of fish and wildlife, cultural resource, wilderness and aesthetic values, enhancement of recreational opportunities, consolidation of mineral and timber holdings for more logical and efficient management expansion of communities, promotion of multiple use values, and fulfillment of public needs. Exchanges would not be actively sought out until State and Native entitlements are fulfilled.

I-5-b: Allocations (Exchanges)

1. No exchanges would take place until all Native and State entitlements are met. Afterwards, exchanges would be considered in the Chistochina/Slana, Tiekkel, and Denali planning regions. Exchanges would be considered to consolidate scattered parcels to facilitate Federal subsistence management.

I-5-c: Monitoring (Disposals, Acquisitions, Exchanges)

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

I-6: Access

I-6-a: Goal

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

I-6-b: Management Actions (Access)

1. The BLM will continue to review and reserve ANCSA 17(b) easements under the law and regulations to ensure legal access to publicly owned lands as the remainder of the ANCSA corporation's land entitlements are conveyed. Realignment of reserved 17(b) easements will be considered on a case-by-case basis to resolve on-the-ground issues.
2. BLM will work with the land owner, State and other Federal agencies and subject to availability of funds, personnel and approval, BLM will locate, mark and monitor easements and help educate easement users to

understand the rights reserved to the U.S. and the rights of the private land owner with priority based on:

- Easements accessing lands that are permanently managed by the BLM or are important to BLM programs.
 - Easements receiving high use.
 - Easements required to implement an activity or implementation plan.
 - Easements where land owners support the activity allowed by the easement.
 - Easements where maintenance or education would mitigate environmental damage to the easement or BLM-managed lands.
3. The U.S. has a non-possessory interest in a reserved 17(b) easement, which is the right to use the land for a specified purpose. This does not allow BLM to take civil or criminal action against uses, such as wandering from the easement, camping more than 24 hours or fishing from the easement, when the uses do not interfere with the reserved uses of the easement.
 4. Land use planning decisions do not affect valid R.S. 2477 rights or future assertions; however, if a route should be recognized, the BLM would consider it as a designated or existing trail where it crosses BLM-managed lands.
 5. All proposals for OHV management will be consistent with section 811 of ANILCA, which allows for “appropriate use for subsistence purposes of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents, subject to reasonable regulation.” The following would be employed in implementation-level planning to ensure consistency with section 811:
 - Distinction (by area) between recreational and subsistence uses.
 - Allowances in areas “limited” to OHVs for subsistence use, which may include: a) travel off existing or designated trails for game retrieval; b) use of classes of vehicles otherwise restricted for recreational use, and c) lifting of seasonal restrictions during subsistence hunting seasons.
 6. Decisions made within this RMP and in implementation-level planning will be consistent with Title XI of ANILCA, which addresses access into Conservation System Units, in this case the Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic River corridors. The BLM, under any alternative, would consider application for Transportation and Utility System right-of-ways across the Wild and Scenic River corridors. Applications would be subject to NEPA analysis and Section 7 (WSRA) analysis. Analysis would need to consider impacts to the outstandingly remarkable values and the free-flowing nature of the rivers and would need to consider feasible alternative routes. Title XI also allows for access to inholdings, recognizes valid existing rights, and allows the use of snowmachines, motorboats, airplanes, and non-motorized surface transportation for traditional activities and for travel to and from villages and homesites.

I-6-c: Monitoring (Access)

Periodic monitoring of easements will occur to accomplish the following:

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

I-7: Withdrawal Review

I-7-a: Management Actions (ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals)

1. The following withdrawals would be recommended for maintenance:
 - a) Scenic and recreational portions of the Delta Wild and Scenic river corridor (portions of PLOs 5180 and 5150); b) the western 2/3 of the Bering Glacier RNA (see Map 5, page 67); and c) existing withdrawals in the Slana settlement area.
2. Transportation and Utility Corridor withdrawals (PLO 5150):
Recommend modification of PLO 5150 to allow for 82,500 acres to be conveyed to the State. These lands include the Gunn Creek segment which is northeast of Paxson, and approximately 59,000 acres north of Paxson and west of the Delta river (see Map 6, page 68).
3. Note: ANILCA withdrawals within the wild portions of the Delta and Gulkana would remain in place. This does not take any management action.
4. The following new withdrawal will be recommended: 16,000 acres within the scenic portion of the Delta Wild and Scenic river corridor to prohibit mineral entry under the mining laws.
5. Recommend modification of PLO 6329 to allow for locatable mineral entry in approximately 700,000 acres in the area around the Alphabet Hills. This area is currently State selected, so the modification would have no effect unless the State selections were relinquished.
6. All ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals not mentioned in numbers 1-5 above would be recommended for revocation.
7. The Glennallen Field Office and the Alaska State Office would work together on an implementation strategy to list and prioritize all withdrawal actions listed above.

I-7-b: Management Actions (other withdrawals)

Table 3 displays existing withdrawals, segregative effect, and BLM's recommendation for each.

Table 3. Summary of Withdrawals and Recommendations.

Withdrawal Type	Acres Withdrawn	Department	Segregative Effect	Recommendation
Lighthouse Reserves	3,286	US Coast Guard	Closed to settlement, location, sale, entry, or other disposition.	Maintain until administration can be transferred to another agency.
Air Navigation Sites	1,402	BLM & FAA	Closed to settlement, location, sale, entry or other disposition, including State selection.	Maintain until FAA deems them no longer necessary.
Administrative Site	48	BLM	Closed to public land laws including State selection, the mining laws and mineral entry	Maintain.
Recreational Withdrawals	4,413	BLM	Closed to all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including mining, but not the mineral leasing laws.	Maintain withdrawals.
Recreational Withdrawal	15	DOD	Withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, mining, but not the mineral leasing laws nor disposal of materials under the act of July 31, 1947.	Maintain withdrawals.
Military Withdrawal (Black Rapids Training Sites)	2,795	DOD	Withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, mining, but not the mineral leasing laws nor disposal of materials under the act of July 31, 1947.	Maintain.
AK Railroad Withdrawals	5,006	AKRR	Closed to public land laws including State selection, the mining laws and mineral leasing laws.	Maintain.
Power Site Classifications (PSC)	105,225	BLM	Closed to public land laws, including State selection but not ANCSA entitlement; open to mineral location (subject to regulations in 43 CFR 3731); and open to mineral leasing.	Maintain.
Power Projects	42,112	AEA & FERC	Power Project W/D are Closed to public land laws, including State selection and open to mineral location (subject to regulation in 43 CFR 3731), in the application State. Upon issuance of a preliminary permit or license by FERC they are closed to mineral location. It is open to mineral leasing throughout.	Maintain.

I-7-c: Monitoring (Withdrawals)

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

I-8: Unauthorized Use

The Glennallen Field Office has a large case load of unauthorized and trespass use.

I-8-a: Management Actions (Unauthorized Use)

1. Trespass cabins may become the property of the U.S. Government and be managed as administrative sites, as emergency shelters, or as public use cabins. Possible management actions on trespass cabins include:
 - Removal of the structure.
 - Relinquishment to the U.S. Government for management purposes, and
 - Authorization by lease or permit for legitimate uses if consistent with identified area objectives.
2. Criteria for prioritizing unauthorized cases are as follows:
 - Situations involving new trespass, public safety, or public complaints.
 - Selected lands on which resources are being removed without authorization or where resource damage is occurring.
 - Other selected lands, and
 - Areas identified for long-term Federal management.

I-8-b: Monitoring (Unauthorized Use)

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

J. MINERALS

J-1: Leasables, including Oil and Gas, Coal, Oil Shale, and Phosphate

J-1-a: Goal

Maintain or enhance opportunities for mineral exploration and development while maintaining other resource values.

J-1-b: Allocations

1. Lands currently under selection by the State and Native corporations are segregated from mineral leasing to avoid potential encumbrances on selected lands prior to conveyance. These lands comprise approximately 5.5 million acres out of the 7.1 million acres currently managed by BLM. Therefore decisions made within this land use planning effort to “open” areas for mineral leasing by revoking withdrawals would not go into effect unless lands are retained long-term in Federal ownership.
2. Make approximately 5,593,000 acres of Federal mineral estate in the planning area available for leasing, subject to the stipulations specified in Appendix A or under Standard Lease Terms. All but 93,000 of this is currently State or Native selected, so would not immediately be available for leasing, as explained under Section #1. Most of the remaining 93,000 acres is currently withdrawn from mineral leasing. This RMP recommends revocation of these withdrawals, but until this process is actually carried out, most of these lands would not immediately be available for leasing. Map 7 portrays the lands that would immediately be available for leasing.
 - Areas open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form: 3,863,000 acres, 3.8 million acres of which are State- or Native-selected.
 - Areas open to leasing, subject to minor constraints such as seasonal restrictions: 1,730,000 acres, 1.7 million acres of which are State- or Native-selected. These lands include a) moose winter range; b) caribou and bison calving areas; c) areas within ¼ mile of bald eagle nests; d) swan nesting habitat; and e) areas greater than 25 percent slope. Specific stipulations related to these areas or resource concerns are described in *Oil and Gas Stipulations* in Appendix A. Pending the actions described under 1 and 2 above, none of these areas are immediately available for leasing.
 - Areas open to leasing, subject to major constraints such as No Surface Occupancy: none.
 - Maintain approximately 1,463,000 acres as closed to leasing. These lands include: a) all segments of the Wild and Scenic Rivers; b) the western 2/3 of the Bering Glacier RNA; and c) lands within the transportation and utility corridor (PLO 5150).

J-1-c: Management Actions

1. Lands will not be offered as available for oil and gas leasing until: a) withdrawals currently in place are revoked; or b) State or Native selections are relinquished **and** any underlying withdrawals have been revoked.
2. Upon completion of either of the above, offer public lands available for oil and gas leasing first by competitive bid at an oral auction. Apply lease notices and stipulations at the time of leasing as summarized in Appendix A. Consider waivers, exceptions, and modifications in accordance with the provisions in Appendix A and provide for a 30-day public review if the grant of a waiver, exception, or modification is determined to be a substantial change.
3. All BLM-administered lands within the planning area subject to leasing are open to coal exploration and study. The coal screening process (as identified by 43 CFR 3420.1-4) has not been conducted in this planning area. Interest in exploration or leasing of Federal coal would be handled on a case-by-case basis. If an application for a coal lease should be received in the future, an appropriate land use and environmental analysis, including the coal screening process, would be conducted to determine whether or not the coal areas are acceptable for development and for leasing under 43 CFR 3425. The East Alaska RMP would be amended as necessary.
4. Prepare a site-specific environmental analysis if interest is expressed in exploring for or developing geothermal resources in the planning area. Apply oil and gas stipulations to any geothermal lease if appropriate. Geothermal exploration and production activity is sufficiently different from oil and gas that the stipulations developed for oil and gas may not be appropriate and can be modified, and additional mitigating measures over and above the oil and gas lease stipulations can be required.
5. Solid leasable minerals include chlorides, sulfates, carbonates, borates, silicates or nitrates of potassium or sodium and related products; sulphur on all acquired lands; phosphate, including associated and related minerals; oil shale, and gilsonite (including all vein-type solid hydrocarbons). Deposits of these minerals are unlikely to occur on BLM-managed lands in the planning area. If deposits were discovered, subsequent leasing, exploration, and development would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

J-1-d: Monitoring

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

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

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

J-2: Locatable Minerals

J-2-a: Goal

Maintain or enhance opportunities for mineral exploration and development while maintaining other resource values.

J-2-b: Allocations

1. This RMP recommends revocation of withdrawals to open a total of 5,988,000 acres to mineral location. However, 5,500,000 of these acres are State or Native selected. These decisions will have no immediate effect on those lands because of the segregation against mineral entry on all selected lands. Map 8, page 70, shows the lands that would be open to mineral entry at the signing of the Record of Decision.
2. Approximately 1,068,000 acres will remain closed to mineral entry. These include the following: a) all portions of the Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic River (this would require recommended withdrawal of 16,000 acres in the scenic portion of the Delta); b) Slana settlement area; c) inner corridor of the transportation/utility corridor (PLO 5150); and d) the western 2/3 of the Bering Research Natural Area.

J-2-c: Management Actions

1. Mining of locatable minerals would be subject to the surface management regulations found in 43 CFR 3809. Surface occupancy under the mining laws would be limited to uses incident to the mining operation. Bonding would be required in accordance with BLM policy. Specific measures that would be utilized to minimize surface impacts and to facilitate rehabilitation and revegetation of mined areas can be found in Required Operating Procedures in Appendix A.
2. All operations must file a Plan of Operations with the BLM. The Plan must be approved prior to commencement of on-the-ground activities. Areas withdrawn from mineral location in which valid existing rights are being exercised require the filing of a Plan of Operations.
3. Conduct at a minimum annual compliance inspections on each active notice and plan of operation.

J-2-d: Monitoring

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

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

J-3: Salable Minerals (Mineral Materials)

J-3-a: Allocations

1. Areas closed to mineral material sale: a) The scenic and wild portions of the Delta Wild and Scenic River; b) the Gulkana National Wild River corridor; c) the Bering Glacier RNA.
2. Areas open, subject to seasonal constraints: a) the Delta bison calving area; b) the Nelchina caribou calving area; and c) the West Fork Gulkana area.
3. The Denali Highway viewshed is an avoidance area. If no alternatives exist, mineral material development could occur with mitigation for visual resource impacts.
4. The recreational portion of the Delta Wild and Scenic River is an avoidance area. If no alternatives exist, mineral material development could occur with mitigation for visual resource impacts.
5. All other areas are open, subject to Required Operation Procedures described in Appendix A.

J-3-b: Management Actions

1. Maintain current mineral material sites until material is exhausted or other circumstances warrant closure.
2. Encourage extraction of mineral materials from previously disturbed sites rather than opening new sites.
3. Do not authorize mineral material disposal from any valid existing mining claim without the consent of the claimant.

J-3-c: Monitoring

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

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

K. NOXIOUS WEEDS, INVASIVE AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES

K-1: Goal

Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive and noxious plants.

K-2: Objective (Desired Future Condition)

New infestations of noxious weeds are not common across the landscape, and existing infestations are declining.

K-3: Management Actions

1. Participate in education and awareness programs for staff, cooperators, and the public. Continue participation in any interagency cooperative weed management working groups.
2. Work with the State, local NPS, NRDC, and Soil and Water Conservation District to develop a list of noxious weeds and invasive species in this area, listed according to priority for treatment. Priority should be based on economic threat, ecological threat, and effectiveness of treatment.
3. Continue inventory of public lands for noxious and invasive species. Focus inventory on top species from #2 list.
4. Control noxious and invasive species by various methods that include chemical, cultural, physical, mechanical, and biological treatments. Chemical and biological treatments will only be conducted after site-specific analysis in a Glennallen Field Office or State-wide programmatic EA.
5. Ensure that applicable Required Operating Procedures are being applied to control the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species.

K-4: Monitoring

Once treatment begins on BLM-managed lands, a sample of known noxious weed sites identified for treatment will be visited each year and evaluated for effectiveness of control.

L. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

L-1: Goal

Protect and preserve important paleontological resources. Expand opportunities for scientific and educational uses of these resources.

L-2: Actions

1. Require permits for individuals or institutions conducting paleontological investigations for vertebrate fossils on public lands and insure that fossils remain in Federal ownership.
2. Conduct paleontological inventory for Talkeetna Mountains, Alaska Range, and Chugach Range. We need a revised paleontological review, could be a cooperative effort between BLM and the University of Alaska-Fairbanks (UAF). Inventory will be prioritized based on expected long-term retention of lands.
3. Avoid impacts to paleontological remains through project redesign, project abandonment, and/or mitigation of adverse impacts through scientific recovery and analysis.
4. Encourage scientific use of paleontological resources by university field schools.

L-3: Monitoring

Very little paleontological inventory currently exists for the Glennallen Field Office. If and when inventory occurs, a long term monitoring program will consist of the visitation of a representative sample of paleontological localities to establish a baseline condition assessment. Once the baseline condition assessment information has been compiled, a minimum of one site will be monitored on an annual basis to identify if any adverse impacts are occurring.

M. RECREATION

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

M-1: Goal

Manage recreation to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities.

M-2: Allocations

Manage the following five areas as designated Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) and manage them according to the specified recreational emphasis outlined below. Allowable uses or limitations not described below (such as those for Lands and Realty) can be found in the tables in Appendix A of the East Alaska Proposed RMP/Final EIS or in the Lands and Realty section of this Approved Plan.

1. Delta Wild and Scenic River Corridor Area: See Map 9, page 71. This area, consisting of 44,000 acres of unencumbered BLM land, would be designated as an SRMA, with **objectives** to maintain existing recreation opportunities (primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural), with emphasis on managing for a primitive experience in the portion of the Wild and Scenic River Corridor classified as wild. Another objective in this SRMA is managing to protect the VRM Class I viewshed. **OHVs** would be restricted to designated trails (Top of the World Trail, Rainy Creek Trail) from May 15 to October 16 or when there is an average of 12 inches of snow or 6 inches frost. Snowmachine use will not be limited at this time. Consistent with the 1983 River Management Plan for the Delta National Wild and Scenic River, BLM will recommend to the State of Alaska limitations on motorized use on the Tangle Lakes. No **public use cabins** would be considered. General **visitor use and commercial use limits** would be established in implementation-level planning, consistent with objectives identified above. The Tangle Lakes Campground will be renovated, and the river take-out at mile 212 on the Richardson Highway would have increased signage. If the opportunity presents itself, acquisition of one of the area lodges for a visitor center would be considered.

2. Gulkana Wild and Scenic River Corridor Area: See Map 10, page 72. This area would be designated as an SRMA, including 105,000 acres, 95 percent of which is unencumbered BLM land. Management will be consistent with the recently revised Gulkana River Management Plan, which directs management to maintain primitive, semi-primitive motorized, and developed recreation experiences within the corridor. The revised plan **establishes general visitor use limits** through monitoring of camp encounters and takes appropriate management actions if standards are not met. In addition, it sets standards for campsite impacts, litter, and human waste, and takes appropriate management actions to address these impacts.

3. Denali Highway Area: See Map 11, page 73. This area consists of the middleground and foreground viewshed off the Denali Highway. This is predominantly State-selected land. This section describes two management scenarios: *interim* describes management of State and Native selected lands in the area until conveyance occurs, and *long-term* describes management of lands if they are retained in long-term Federal ownership.

Interim Management (Denali Highway area):

No SRMA would be designated. Interim **objectives** would be to manage for roaded natural, semi-primitive non-motorized, and semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences, to mitigate impacts to the viewshed, and to provide education and interpretive opportunities. The area would be **managed as “limited” for OHVs**, consistent with State Statute 11 AAC 96.025, which limits OHVs to existing trails whenever possible. OHVs using areas within Tangle Lakes Archeological District (TLAD) in this area would be required to stay on designated trails from May 15 to October 16 or when there is an average of 12 inches snow or 6 inches frost. Snowmachine use would require adequate snow cover, but **snowmachines would not be restricted to designated trails**. There would be **no mineral development on State or Native selected lands** because of segregation due to selection. **No public use cabins** would be developed. On State or Native selected lands, **no new recreational facilities would be considered until land status is resolved**. Development of facilities may be considered on BLM recreational withdrawals along the highway, as described below. **Education and interpretive sites** would be consistent with direction in the Interpretive Master Plan for the Denali Highway (BUCY Associates 1999), with special consideration within TLAD given to protection of artifacts. Applications for **commercial recreation activities** would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Long-term management (Denali Highway area):

SRMA designation would be considered if lands retained in Federal ownership are in large contiguous blocks. **Objectives** would be to manage to maintain the existing recreation opportunities, including primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural. The area would be **designated as “limited” to OHVs**, with implementation-level consideration of designated trails, maintenance of some non-motorized trails, and construction of day-hike and motorized trail loops, particularly associated with waysides and rest areas. Designated trails for snowmachines may be considered in future if winter trail densities and encounters are exceeding user tolerances, as determined through user surveys. The area would be **open for locatable mineral entry and for leasable minerals**. **Public cabins would be considered** in the area, in particular the Welsh cabin on the Maclaren River. **Visitor use limits** would be developed for commercial uses along the highway, consistent with management objectives and long-term development of recreational facilities. The following **facilities** would be developed if maintained in long-term Federal ownership or in association with BLM recreational withdrawals:

1. Day-use waysides at 39-mile (Maclaren River), 56-mile (Clearwater Creek), and 80-mile (Susitna River).
2. Possible boat launch at Susitna River.
3. Upgrade trailheads and use for presentation of education/interpretive material.

4. Develop education/interpretive sites to highlight the area's wildlife, scenic, cultural, and geologic features, as outlined in the Interpretive Master Plan for the Denali Highway (BUCY Associates 1999).

4. Tielkel Area

See Map 12, page 74. This area consists predominantly of State-selected lands, although there is some Native-selected land as well. This section describes two management scenarios: *interim* describes management of State- and Native-selected lands in the area until conveyance occurs, and *long-term* describes management of the lands if they are retained in long-term Federal ownership.

Interim Management (Tielkel Area)

Under interim management, **only the unencumbered** BLM lands in the Tielkel corridor would be designated as an **SRMA**. Objectives would be to manage for roaded natural, semi-primitive non-motorized, and semi-primitive motorized recreation experiences within the corridor. **OHVs would be “limited”** to designated trails on unencumbered BLM lands. Implementation-level considerations would include maintenance of specific trails as non-motorized (including snowmachines), construction of both non-motorized and motorized trail loops, and vehicle class restrictions (such as weight limitations) on specific trails. Where these designations affect trails on State-selected lands, the BLM would work with the State of Alaska on designations. **Existing withdrawals** against mineral leasing and locatable mineral entry within the transportation and utility corridor would remain in place. This area would be considered **a priority area for forest management**. This SRMA would not preclude timber management activities, but proposed timber sales would consider impacts to recreational facilities, experiences, and viewsheds. Temporary roads utilized for forestry access may be considered for retention if they are within areas managed for a roaded natural recreation experience. This SRMA is within the transportation and utility corridor; this would remain the area's primary purpose.

Visitor use limits would be determined for **helicopter-supported commercial** uses, consistent with existing ROS classes. **Recreational facilities** would include updating and development of selected trailheads, construction of one wayside, and consideration of a bike trail utilizing the old Richardson Highway. The Egan cabin would be **considered for public use**.

Long-term Management (Tielkel Area)

If large contiguous blocks within this area are retained in Federal ownership, they would be considered for inclusion into the SRMA, with objectives (for lands outside the transportation and utility corridor) emphasizing maintenance of primitive and semi-primitive recreation. **OHVs would be “limited”** to designated trails, with some trails designated non-motorized (including snowmachines). If contiguous blocks are retained in the southern portion of the Tonsina sub-unit, they would be closed year-round to all motor vehicles, including helicopter-

supported recreational activities. Within the entire SRMA, minimal or no development will be considered at trailheads that access areas managed for a primitive or semi-primitive recreation experience. **Existing withdrawals** associated with the transportation and utility corridor would be **maintained**, but other areas would be **open to leasable and locatable mineral entry**. **Public use cabins would be considered**, and **visitor use limits for commercial heli-ski** operations would be established based on maintenance of existing ROS classes. Consideration would be given to not authorizing heli-skiing in some areas managed for a primitive recreation experience.

5. Delta Range Area

See Map 13, page 75. This area would be **designated a SRMA** encompassing 276,000 acres, most of which are unencumbered BLM lands. **Objectives** for the area would be to maintain the existing ROS classes, which include primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural. The area would be designated as “**limited**” to **OHVs**, with implementation-level consideration given to designated trails and maintenance of some non-motorized trails. **BLM-managed portions of the Fels, Canwell, Castner, and McCallum Creek glaciers and drainages would be designated as closed to snowmachines (see Delta Mountains Sub-units on Map 13) from 10/15 – 5/15.** Snowmachines in these areas would be permitted to access subsistence hunting. The existing withdrawal against leasable mineral entry would be maintained but the area would be open for locatable mineral entry except within the inner corridor of the transportation and utility corridor. **Public cabins** would be considered in the Jarvis Creek area. **Recreational facilities** would include development of some trailheads and some improvement of dispersed camping sites in the Jarvis Creek area. Minimal or no development will be considered at trailheads that access areas managed for a primitive or semi-primitive recreation experience. **No helicopter-supported commercial activities** would be permitted in areas managed for a primitive recreation experience. The area would be managed under VRM Classes II and III. Most of this SRMA is within the transportation and utility corridor; this would remain the area’s primary purpose.

6. Other Areas

Areas outside those identified above would be managed as Extensive Recreation Management Areas, with recreation management based on maintenance of existing ROS classes in the areas. Inventory and monitoring could occur and standards may be identified for trail density in these areas based on monitoring and inventory information. Some education/interpretation at trailheads may occur, particularly at 17(b) easement trailheads within these areas.

M-3: Management Actions

1. Public use cabins would be considered consistent with objectives described in each SRMA. In general, existing structures would be considered for public use cabins before the construction of new cabins. Land status would need to be resolved before major investment occurs in a public cabin system. Outside of SRMAs, the following have been identified for potential public use cabins: Tyone cabin, Monsoon Lake cabin, and Welsh cabin on the Maclaren River.
2. Authorize special recreation permits in accordance with Special Recreation Permit Handbook 2930-1.
3. Manage special recreation permits in accordance with Federal regulations, special stipulations, and established terms and conditions.

M-4: Implementation planning

1. Implementation plans will be done for each SRMA. These plans will describe specific objectives for each area, based on the objectives outlined above as well as benefits-based analysis conducted for each area. Implementation plans will be done first for areas of unencumbered BLM lands (Delta, Gulkana, and Delta Range) followed by the Denali Highway and Tielkel areas. The Gulkana plan is already done.
2. Implementation plans will include travel management and describe specific trail limitations and designations.
3. Implementation plans will include facility maintenance and construction plans, based on guidance described above.
4. Implementation plans, where necessary and as described above, will determine general visitor use or commercial limits. These will be based on achievement of SRMA objectives. If necessary, assessment of visitor recreation experiences, tolerance for impacts, and benefits will be conducted through user surveys or benefits-based analysis.
5. Implementation planning for the Tielkel area will include determination of a limit on commercial heli-ski operators (or their activities) on BLM-managed lands. Limitations will be based on achieving objectives, safety considerations, minimizing conflicts with other users, and other factors.

M-5: Monitoring:

Monitoring of recreation resources will continue to occur throughout the planning area with emphasis placed on developed recreation sites and SRMAs. Monitoring will include regular patrols to check on signing, visitor use, recreation use-related impacts, and user conflicts. Monitoring will also emphasize identification of areas where there may be problems with compliance with rules and regulations resulting in user conflicts or resource damage. Actual visitor and/or vehicle counts will be documented at all developed sites as sites are visited or based on campground host reports or

campground fee payments. These numbers will then be used to validate recreation use trends.

Monitoring on the Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic Rivers will be described in the revised river management plans for those rivers. Monitoring is critical on the rivers and will be used to determine whether standards are being met. Monitoring will include litter, human waste, fire rings, camp encounters, campsite condition and trend, and water quality. Visitor use on the rivers will be monitored through the use of boat-launch registers, river overflights, the Gulkana fish-tower counts, and observations at the Paxson portal.

Monitoring of Special Recreation Permits will be conducted for compliance with terms, conditions, and special stipulations, as well as annual monitoring and evaluation of compliance with administrative requirements. Periodic assessments will be made to ensure that uses in SRMAs are consistent with their prescribed recreation opportunity classes.

Average visitor numbers at developed recreation sites and on the Delta and Gulkana rivers will be reported in the annual Program Summary and Planning Update to track visitor use and recreation use trends over time. The number of recreation management plans prepared and special recreation permits issued will also be reported in the annual Program Summary and Planning Update.

N. RENEWABLE ENERGY

N-1: Goal

Provide opportunities for the development of renewable energy resources from sources such as wind, biomass, solar while minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values.

N-2: Management Actions

1. Analyze proposals for the development of renewable energy resources on a case-by-case basis. Although no areas would be specifically designated for renewable energy development, opportunities for such development would be provided to the extent consistent with other goals, objectives, and requirements of the land use plan.
2. Consider designated right-of-way avoidance and exclusion areas as well as designated right-of-way corridors and use areas in those situations in which a renewable energy project would require a right-of-way.

3. Manage rights-of-way proposals for renewable energy consistent with the provisions in the “Land Use Authorizations” portion of the *Lands and Realty* section of this plan.
4. Adopt Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to renewable energy development, including but not limited to those proposed in BLM’s Programmatic Wind Energy EIS, and apply when and where applicable.

N-3: Monitoring

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

O. RIPARIAN AND WETLAND VEGETATION

O-1: Goal

Maintain riparian areas in proper functioning condition.

O-2: Objectives (Desired Condition)

Ongoing assessments have determined that riparian/wetland vegetation within the planning area is in good condition. The desired condition for riparian and wetland vegetation within the planning area is to maintain the current situation, specifically for the following traits:

- Diverse age-class distribution and composition.
- Species are present that indicate maintenance of riparian/wetland soil moisture characteristics.
- Deep-rooted riparian species.
- Vigorous riparian vegetation.
- Adequate vegetative cover to protect streambanks and dissipate energy during high flows.
- Plant communities with an adequate source of coarse and/or large woody material.

O-3: Management Actions

1. Continue assessment of riparian areas, using proper functioning condition assessment methodology. Priority areas include wild and scenic river corridors (Delta and Gulkana), the Bering Glacier RNA, other unencumbered BLM lands, and riparian areas within anticipated or ongoing mining areas.
2. Apply Required Operating Procedures and stipulations for protection of riparian vegetation to permitted activities.
3. Focus and prioritize OHV trail management and hardening on stream crossings or trails that parallel or approach riparian areas or wetlands, in order to minimize impacts to riparian areas.

O-4: Monitoring

Riparian assessments will be used as a baseline for future monitoring. Monitoring will be focused on areas where potential exists for areas currently in proper functioning condition to fall into a functioning-at-risk or non-functioning condition. In general, these would be areas with high visitation, such as the Delta and Gulkana wild and scenic river corridors, or riparian areas with a high density of OHV trails. Monitoring will also be directed at areas with large scale proposed development, such as placer mining or mineral material development, which have potential for altering riparian function.

P. SOILS

P-1: Goal

Maintain or improve soil health, prevent or minimize soil erosion and compaction, and reduce the possibility of mass wasting on unstable soils.

P-2: Management Actions

1. Consider soil conditions and types and their influence during activity level planning. Utilize existing soil surveys where they exist, particularly for trails management in the Gulkana and Delta wild and scenic river corridors.
2. Give greatest consideration to soils susceptible to compaction and erosion when assessing proposed activities. Trail re-location should include an assessment of soil types prior to relocation.
3. Implement Required Operating Procedures and stipulations at the site-specific project level to maintain or improve the soil resource.
4. Consider the intensity of the disturbance when addressing activities proposed in slump or unstable areas. Require detailed engineering design, geologic analysis, and mitigation plans for surface-disturbing projects proposed in areas of suspected instability or where permafrost is present.
5. Continue soil surveys, with first priority to unencumbered BLM lands within the Bering and Tielke planning sub-regions. Second priority is other unencumbered BLM lands and those designated as "limited" for OHVs.

P-3: Monitoring

A sample of ground-disturbing projects with the potential to affect soil resources will be evaluated on a periodic basis to determine if required operating procedures were followed and if they were effective.

Q. SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES—PLANTS

Q-1: Goal

Increase knowledge of sensitive status plant species location through continued inventory. Manage to conserve known populations of sensitive species.

Q-2: Management Actions

1. Conduct a baseline inventory for sensitive plant species. Utilize existing documentation from Wrangell/St.Elias National Park and Preserve or Alaska Natural Heritage Program to focus inventory on specific habitat or community types.
2. Enhance, restore and/or maintain habitat conditions and availability for special status species and prevent all avoidable loss of habitat.
3. Consider the potential for adverse effects on BLM sensitive plants during project level planning and recommend mitigation measures.
4. Conduct field inspections to identify special status plant species prior to authorizing surface disturbing activities. Grant waivers for on-the-ground inventory on projects where no suitable habitat is known to exist.
5. Once sensitive species populations are known, adopt or develop habitat management plans and conservation strategies for BLM special status species and habitats that occur on public land.
6. Ensure that all required operating procedures applicable to vegetation and particularly ROP-Veg-a-7 are applied to permitted activities.

Q-3: Monitoring

Surveys will be conducted to determine the distribution, resource conditions, and trends of special status plant species and representative habitats. Once specific populations are located, plant composition at the site will be determined and the site(s) will be monitored for localized disturbances (OHV use, recreational use, etc.) Monitoring methods will include establishing photo points and doing periodic ocular surveillance.

R. SUBSISTENCE

R-1: Goals

1. Conserve healthy populations through management and protection of habitat and Federal subsistence harvest permitting and regulations.
2. Provide reasonable access to subsistence resources.
3. Maintain a viable and accessible Federal subsistence unit in Unit 13 in order to provide a rural preference to the residents of the Copper Basin.

R-2: Allocations

The Federal subsistence hunting unit administered by the Glennallen Field Office will consist of the BLM public (unencumbered) lands in GMU 13.

The State of Alaska regulates State subsistence fisheries and hunts on private lands and all state lands and waters.

BLM is committed to providing a Federal subsistence unit within GMU 13 that provides a rural priority. BLM's standard is to maintain enough total acres in the Federal unit to maintain the current annual average harvest for moose and caribou. Data used to monitor this standard will be based on records of past and current Federal subsistence harvest data. Within the implementation period of this RMP, BLM would be willing to recommend further modification of PLO 5150 to allow for conveyance of lands within the pipeline/utility corridor to the State of Alaska, as long as rural subsistence use priorities are provided. Any recommended modifications subsequent to those described in this ROD would be subject to ANILCA section 810 analysis and public participation and review.

R-3: Management Actions

1. Involve subsistence users in issues identification: Ten Regional Advisory Councils were established in Section 100.22 of the Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska as an administrative structure to provide a "meaningful voice" for subsistence users in the management process. BLM field staff members, along with those of other agencies, meet twice each year with the Regional Councils to identify emerging issues in conservation, allocation, and appropriate regulation of subsistence harvests.
2. Manage Land/Habitat, Assess Impacts to Subsistence: ANILCA Section 810 establishes a distinct set of requirements for assessment of potential impacts to subsistence from Federal land decisions. These supplement the discussion of potential impacts to subsistence resources and uses found as part of conventional NEPA environmental reviews.
3. Monitor Resource Populations Used for Subsistence Purposes: When these monitoring efforts are focused on key subsistence resources, they are a major contribution to the quality of subsistence management efforts.
4. Develop Interagency Subsistence Management Regulations and Policies: With heavy reliance on Regional Council input and interagency coordination, the development of subsistence regulations is a multi-step process.
5. Manage Subsistence Harvests: Although regulatory authority for subsistence management rests with the Federal Subsistence Board, implementation of Federal subsistence hunting and fishing opportunities rests largely on local Federal agency field staff. Tasks include distribution of Federal regulation booklets, responding to questions, issuing Federal subsistence permits, contacting hunters in the field, and assisting in tallying permit and harvest reports.

R-4: Monitoring

Glennallen Field Office staff issue Federal subsistence permits to rural residents. As harvest reports are turned in, the information into a data base maintained by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This information can be accessed to determine current harvest levels and average levels of harvest by area. BLM law enforcement at GFO work with Alaska State Troopers to ensure compliance with Federal harvest regulations.

S. TRANSPORTATION AND FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

S-1: Goal

Manage facilities, including trails and roads, to provide for public access or administrative needs, while maintaining or protecting resource values and in coordination with other Federal and state agencies and private landowners.

S-2: Management Actions

1. Roads: BLM is currently responsible for very little road maintenance...approximately 7 miles associated with six campgrounds and waysides. Maintenance is conducted annually in-house or through contract.
2. Trails (non-17(b) easements): Maintenance will be prioritized based on the following order: 1) where public safety concerns exist; 2) where serious resource problems occur, particularly related to stream crossings, multiple trails paralleling streams, runoff or erosion from trails contributing to sedimentation into waterways, or damage to wetlands (first priority within this category would be unencumbered BLM lands); 3) State- or Native-selected lands where funding exists to conduct maintenance based on protection of resource values (such as TLAD); and 4) other BLM-managed trails. Implementation-level planning for SRMAs or the Bering Glacier RNA or TLAD will include trail maintenance prioritization.
3. Trails (17(b) easements): Generally, maintenance will not be conducted on 17(b) easements, unless they access unencumbered BLM lands. Maintenance on 17(b) easements might also be considered if it is a public safety concern or if cooperative funding is obtained from the State or from the Native corporation.
4. Maintain other facilities such as boat ramps, communication facilities, etc. according to Bureau standards and to meet public health and safety requirements.
5. Analyze new road, trail, or facility construction on a case-by-case basis, consistent with allowable uses and constraints described elsewhere in this Approved Plan.

6. New roads determined by BLM to be necessary on a temporary basis will be constructed to the minimum standard necessary for the activity proposed, and closed or reclaimed when use is over.
7. New roads determined by BLM to be necessary for permanent or long-term use as part of BLM's transportation system will be constructed in consideration of the type of use and level of road necessary and in accordance with standards and guidelines in BLM Handbook 9113.

S-3: Monitoring

The condition of BLM facilities will be assessed in accordance with procedures under development by the BLM National Condition Assessment Program. Comprehensive condition assessments (CCA) will be completed at recreation sites and administrative sites on a five year schedule, with periodic inspections (PIs) at least every three years. CCAs are detailed, formal inspections to verify and update the inventory and condition data in the Facility Asset Management System (FAMS). PIs are a quick walk through review to verify existing FAMS data on inventory and condition. With all facilities, informal inspection and discovery will be a major part of the condition monitoring program. Information provided by BLM employees and the public on problems or concerns as a result of storms, vandalism, river break-up, and/or normal wear and tear to facilities will also be used to monitor the condition of BLM facilities.

T. TRAVEL MANAGEMENT AND OHV USE

T-1: Goals (OHVs)

- Manage trails to provide access to public lands, recreation, and subsistence opportunities.
- Manage trails to provide a diversity of recreation experiences and opportunities, including motorized and non-motorized.
- Manage trails to minimize resource impacts and reduce user conflicts.
- Manage trails with an emphasis on education where appropriate.
- Manage OHV use associated with permitted and development activities to provide for access while protecting resources.

T-2: Allocations (OHVs)

1. Manage no areas as "open" under the regulations at 43 CFR Part 8340-8342.
2. Manage 1,692,000 acres as "limited" to designated routes for OHV use. Specific designated routes are listed under the travel area descriptions below.
3. Manage 5,320,000 acres of State and Native selected lands as "limited" to existing trails, under the following criteria:
 - Highway vehicles with a curb weight of less than 10,000 pounds and off-road or all-terrain vehicles with a curb weight of less than 1,500 pounds will utilize existing trails, whenever possible.

- If necessary (game retrieval, etc.), travel off existing trails will be conducted in a manner that minimizes: a) disturbance of vegetation, soil stability, or drainage systems; b) changing the character of, polluting, or introducing silt and sediment into streams, lakes, ponds, water holes, seeps, and marshes; and c) disturbance of fish and wildlife resources.
 - Interim management will emphasize education but citations could be issued if deliberate violations of these conditions result in significant resource damage.
 - More intensive OHV management, such as designated trails, may be implemented in cooperation with the selecting entity, based on specific management concerns.
4. Manage 44,000 acres in the Delta Range area as closed to snowmachines. See specific travel management area description below.

T-3: Implementation-level Planning (OHVs):

Each area designated as “limited” or “closed” to OHVs would have an implementation-level plan completed (see schedule, Table 1). This plan would show a complete inventory of trails in the area, describe specific resource concerns or conflicts, and describe specific designated trails and conditions of limitations (seasonal, weight, or vehicle class, etc). These planning processes would include public, State, and Native coordination. These plans would describe tools necessary for implementation (method of signing specific trails, trailhead development, education/interpretation, map production, and law enforcement). These plans would identify and prioritize specific maintenance needs, as well as opportunities for trail development or loops, both motorized and non-motorized. Priority for implementation-level planning would be BLM public lands (unencumbered). Implementation-level planning for these lands would occur within five years of the signing of the Record of Decision for this RMP.

T-4: Travel Management Area Prescriptions (OHVs and Roads):

These areas are shown on Map 14, page 76.

(1) West Fork Area

(a) RMP Decisions (West Fork Area)

OHVs would be “limited” to existing trails, subject to criteria described above. The need for limitations is based on protection of wetlands and trumpeter swan breeding and nesting habitat and management of OHV trails to prevent unmanaged proliferation. This area consists of predominantly State-selected lands. BLM interim management of trails in the area would consist of inventory of trails in the area, definition of “existing” trails through mapping, and education regarding staying on existing trails. Under interim management there would be no snowmachine restrictions. Road construction

would be considered if necessary for resource development, consistent with the measures described in *Required Operating Procedures* and *Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations*.

(b) Implementation-level Considerations (West Fork Area)

If any lands in the area are retained in long-term Federal ownership, trails would be designated, with designation based on avoidance of trumpeter swan breeding and nesting habitat and wetlands. Long-term, designated trails for snowmachines may be considered in the future if research shows definitive impacts to quality of moose winter range or significant impacts to predator/prey relationships with increased use.

(2) Nelchina Caribou Calving Area

(a) RMP Decisions (Nelchina Caribou Calving Area)

OHVs would be “limited” to existing trails, consistent with criteria described above. While the area currently has few trails, future OHV trail management is necessary in this area to prevent potential unmanaged proliferation of trails that might adversely impact caribou calving habitat or disturb calving caribou. This area consists of predominantly State-selected lands. BLM interim management of trails in the area would consist of inventory of trails in the area, definition of “existing” trails through mapping, and education regarding staying on existing trails. There would be no snowmachine restrictions. Road construction would be permitted for resource development, subject to seasonal restrictions from May 1 to June 15.

(b) Implementation-level Considerations (Nelchina calving)

If any lands in the area are retained in long-term Federal ownership, trails would be designated, based on avoidance of caribou calving areas.

(3) Delta WSR Corridor Area

(a) RMP Decisions (Delta WSR Corridor Area)

This area would be designated as “limited” to OHVs. Designation of trails is necessary in this Wild and Scenic River corridor to comply with Title XI of ANILCA and Executive Order 11644 (as implemented by 43 CFR 36.11(g)) and to ensure management to protect outstandingly remarkable values. OHVs would be restricted to designated trails (Top of the World Trail, Rainy Creek Trail) from May 15 to October 16 or when there is an average of 12 inches snow or 6 inches frost. These trails are shown on Map 15, page 77. These are existing routes and will not limit access into the area for subsistence hunting or access to mining claims. Snowmachine use will not be limited at this time. There are other existing trails in the corridor (portage

trail, trails out of Tangle Lakes Campground) that will be managed as non-motorized trails. This decision does not preclude future consideration of development of motorized or non-motorized trails, if consistent with protection of the outstandingly remarkable values of the river corridor.

Road construction would be avoided in all segments of the river, but overland transportation systems within or across the river corridor may be authorized if it is determined that there are no economically feasible and prudent alternative routes. This is consistent with ANILCA, section 1105. Any road crossings of the river would be subject to evaluation consistent with section 7 of the Wild and Scenic River Act.

(b) Implementation-level Considerations (Delta WSR Corridor)

OHVs have been limited to designated trails by the RMP decisions listed above. If additional trails are considered for designation in the future, they would be located to minimize resource damage, maintain primitive and semi-primitive recreation experience, and facilitate maintenance of designated trails. Some trails would be designated as non-motorized and a non-motorized trail system out of Tangle Lakes Campground would be developed. Snowmachines may be limited to designated trails seasonally to minimize disturbance to heavy concentrations of wintering moose within the Wild and Scenic River corridor, subject to closure procedures in 43 CFR Part 36.11.

(4) Delta Range Area (including Delta Mountains Sub-unit)

(a) RMP Decisions (Delta Range)

This area would be designated as “limited” to OHVs. Limitations will be considered in order to prevent unmanaged proliferation of OHV trails and to maintain existing recreation experiences in the area. In order to maintain an existing non-motorized winter recreation experience in rugged, glaciated terrain, the Delta Mountains Sub-unit (labeled A on Map 13) would be closed to snowmachine use, though access to subsistence resources would be allowed. Seasonal closure would begin on October 15 or when there is 12 inches average snowfall or 6 inches of frost. Seasonal closure would run until May 15. Snowmachine use outside those defined sub-units would be unrestricted. OHV use for resource development will be permitted consistent with Required Operating Procedures. New road construction would be permitted in the transportation utility corridor and for resource development. Retention of temporary roads would be considered in areas managed for a roaded natural recreation experience.

(b) Implementation-level Considerations (Delta Range)

OHV use would be limited to designated trails, which would be located to minimize resource damage; maintain primitive, semi-primitive, and roaded

natural recreation experience; and facilitate maintenance of designated trails. Non-motorized hiking trails may be considered off the Richardson Highway or in the Jarvis Creek area.

(5) Denali Highway Area

(a) RMP Decisions (Denali Highway area)

OHVs would be “limited” to existing trails, consistent with criteria described above. OHV limitations will be considered in order to prevent unmanaged proliferation of OHV trails, to maintain existing recreation experiences and a diversity of dispersed and backcountry experiences, and to prevent visual impacts from unmanaged OHV use within the viewshed of the highway. This area is predominantly State-selected. BLM interim management of trails in the area would consist of inventory of trails in the area, definition of “existing” trails through mapping, and education regarding the importance of staying on existing trails. There would be no immediate snowmachine restrictions. Road construction would be permitted for resource development, utilizing guidelines for maintenance of VRM Class II and III viewsheds.

(b) Implementation-level Considerations (Denali Highway)

If any lands in the area are retained in long-term Federal ownership, trails would be designated to minimize resource damage, minimize impacts to the viewshed, and maintain a diversity of recreation experiences. Development of non-motorized loop trails would be considered on BLM recreational withdrawals located along the Denali Highway. Designated trails for snowmachines may be considered in the future (on lands retained in Federal ownership) if winter trail density and encounters are exceeding user tolerances, as determined through user surveys.

(6) Gulkana WSR Corridor Area

(a) RMP Decisions (Gulkana WSR)

BLM’s management intent under this alternative, consistent with management under a wild classification, is no new road construction. This area would be designated as “limited” to OHVs. Designated trails are necessary in this Wild and Scenic River corridor to comply with Title XI of ANILCA and to ensure management to protect outstandingly remarkable values. As identified through the Gulkana implementation planning process, use of OHVs would be limited to the following designated trails: Swede Lake Trail, Hungry Hollow Trail, Middle Fork Trail, Haggard Creek Trail, Dickey Lake Trail, Twelve Mile Creek Trail, South Middle Fork Trail, Northeast Middle Fork Trail, Northwest Middle Fork trail, West Fork Trail, and Fish Lake Trail. These trails are shown on Map 16, page 78. Seasonal closure may be considered on Haggard Creek to minimize use during wet trail conditions, but access to subsistence

resources would be allowed. Within the Wild and Scenic River corridor, there would be a 1,500 pound GVW limit on vehicles used for recreational purposes. There would be no snowmachine restrictions.

(7) Tiekel Area (including Tonsina Sub-units)

(a) RMP Decisions (Tiekel Area)

This area would be designated as “limited” to OHVs. Limitations will be considered in order to maintain existing backcountry and dispersed recreation experiences and to prevent unmanaged proliferation of OHV trails. If lands adjacent to the existing corridor are retained in long-term Federal ownership, management of OHVs would also be designated as “limited,” including some consideration of area closures for snowmachines consistent with the description under Alternative C for the Tonsina sub-unit (both North and South sub-units, labeled B and C, respectively, on Map 12), as described under the *Tiekel Area (Including Tonsina Sub-units)* section of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Road construction would be permitted within the transportation and utility corridor for resource development or transportation and utility maintenance, consistent with measures identified in *Appendix A*. Use of temporary or winter roads would still be encouraged, but retention of roads may be considered if consistent with management for a roaded natural experience. If lands adjacent to the transportation and utility corridor are retained in long-term Federal ownership, new roads would not be permitted in areas being managed for a primitive recreation experience.

(b) Implementation-level Considerations (Tiekel Area)

Within this area, OHVs would be limited to designated trails. Trails would be designated to minimize resource damage, to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities, and to minimize impacts to the viewshed. Some specific trails would be designated non-motorized. Construction of both non-motorized and motorized loops would be considered. Some vehicle class restrictions (such as weight limitations) would apply on specific trails. Snowmachines would not be permitted on specific trails managed for non-motorized use.

(8) Bering Glacier Area

(a) RMP Decisions (Bering Glacier)

This area would be designated as “limited” to OHVs to prevent unmanaged proliferation of trails and to protect unique ecological values associated with this glacial environment. Road construction would be permitted for resource development only if consistent with protection of resource values identified for the area. There would be no snowmachine restrictions.

(b) Implementation-level Considerations (Bering Glacier)

OHVs would be limited to designated trails. Trails would be designated to avoid nunataks, sensitive waterfowl areas, and to prevent unmanaged proliferation of trails.

(9) Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD) Area

(a) RMP Decisions (TLAD)

Management of this area would continue as presently managed with designated trails in order to protect the high-density occurrence of archeological sites in the area. OHVs would be restricted to designated trails (Swede Lake Trail, South Landmark Gap Trail, Osar Lake Trail, Dickey Lake Trail, and Alphabet Hills Trail) from May 15 to October 16 or when there is an average of 12 inches snow or 6 inches frost. Trails would be designated to avoid cultural resources in the area and to prevent the unmanaged proliferation of trails. Road construction would be permitted if necessary for resource development. Proposed routes would be subject to compliance with requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act before potential authorization.

(b) Implementation-level Considerations (TLAD)

Consideration would be given to class restrictions such as weight limits on specific trails. Consideration would be given to designation of new trails (including non-motorized), consistent with recreation or subsistence management objectives for the area. New trails must be routed to avoid cultural resources.

(10) Chistochina-Cantwell Area

(a) RMP Decisions (Chistochina-Cantwell)

OHV use within this area would be “limited” to existing trails subject to criteria listed above. The area will be limited in order to provide more intensive and proactive OHV management, as requested by Ahtna, Inc, the selecting entity. Where immediate concern exists regarding protection of traditional and cultural areas or sites, the BLM would work with the Native or village corporations to inventory, designate, and post trails to avoid negatively impacting such sites. Road construction would be considered on a case-by-case basis, consistent with section 906(k) of ANILCA and consistent with existing 17(b) easement limitations.

(b) Implementation-level Considerations (Chistochina-Cantwell)

Consideration would be given to rerouting trails to avoid culturally sensitive sites, to maintaining some trails as non-motorized, and to education/interpretation at trailheads. Vehicle class restrictions (such as weight limitations) may be considered if necessary to minimize impacts. Where long-term traditional use is documented, consideration may be given to limiting some specific trails to recreational snowmachine use to allow for traditional trapping.

(11) Other State- and Native-selected Lands

(a) RMP Decisions (Other selected lands)

Within these areas (3,311,000 acres), OHVs use would be limited to existing trails. OHVs must use existing roads and trails; activities must be conducted in a manner that minimizes disturbance of vegetation, soil stability, or drainage systems, and minimizes disturbance of fish and wildlife resources. Road construction would be permitted on a case-by-case basis, utilizing measures described in *Appendix A: Required Operating Procedures*.

(12) Other Unencumbered BLM Lands

(a) RMP Decisions (Other unencumbered BLM lands)

Within these areas (222,000 acres), OHVs would be “limited” to existing trails. On-the-ground management would consist of identification, posting, and education regarding existing trails. Road construction would be permitted, consistent with measures identified in *Appendix A: Required Operating Procedures*.

T-5: Management Actions (OHVs and Roads)

1. Trail inventory and assessment work will continue, with an emphasis on BLM public lands (unencumbered) designated as “limited” to OHVs. Inventory and assessment will be necessary in these areas to identify all existing trails and assess trail density and resource impacts. This information will be used in implementation-level designation of specific trails. Inventory and assessment information will also be used to prioritize trail maintenance needs.
2. Through contract and survey, characterize trail users, their perception of resource impacts associated with trails (summer and winter), their tolerance of such impacts, user displacement, and tolerance of trail management actions or regulations. Use this information in site-specific implementation decisions regarding identification, construction, or closure of trails. Priority for this work would be Delta Wild and Scenic River, followed by proposed Bering Glacier RNA, followed by any proposed SRMAs.

3. Permitted activities and uses that involve OHV use would contain stipulations stating that OHV use would be consistent with management in limited and closed areas. If necessary, permitted cross-country travel would be stipulated in a manner that minimizes impacts (i.e., winter use or low ground pressure tires). Specific operating procedures related to OHVs can be found in Appendix A: *Required Operating Procedures*.
4. Current BLM policy is to defer any processing of R.S. 2477 assertions except where there is a demonstrated and compelling need to make a determination. Land use planning decisions do not affect valid R.S. 2477 rights or future assertions; however, if a route should be recognized, the BLM would consider it as a designated or existing trail where it crosses BLM-managed lands.
5. All OHV management considered in implementation planning will be consistent with section 811 of ANILCA, which allows for “appropriate use for subsistence purposes of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents, subject to reasonable regulation.” The following would be employed in implementation-level planning to ensure consistency with section 811: a) Distinction (by area) between recreational and subsistence uses; and b) Allowances in areas limited to OHVs for subsistence use, which may include travel off existing or designated trails for game retrieval, use of classes of vehicles otherwise restricted, and lifting of seasonal restrictions during subsistence hunting seasons.
6. Decisions made within this Approved Plan and in implementation-level planning will be consistent with Title XI of ANILCA, which addresses access into Conservation System Units, in this case the Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic River corridors. The BLM will consider application for Transportation and Utility System right-of-ways across the Wild and Scenic River corridors. Applications would be subject to NEPA analysis and Section 7 (WSRA) analysis. Analysis would need to consider impacts to the outstandingly remarkable values and the free-flowing nature of the rivers and would need to consider feasible alternative routes. Title XI also allows for access to inholdings and recognizes valid existing rights.

T-6: Monitoring (OHVs and Roads)

Trail inventory and assessment work will continue, as described above. Currently, approximately 1,000 out of an anticipated 1,200 miles of trail have been GPS'ed. This data will be used as a baseline for future monitoring purposes and to determine future trends in trail proliferation and density.

Travel management and OHV use monitoring within the planning area will focus on compliance with specific route and area designation and restrictions, with primary emphasis on those routes or areas causing the highest levels of user conflicts or adverse impacts to resources. The secondary focus will be to establish trends in trail proliferation and density, as discussed above. Various

methods of monitoring may be employed including aerial monitoring, ground patrol, and appropriate methods of remote surveillance such as traffic counters, etc. Route or area closures will be regularly monitored for compliance.

U. TRIBAL TREATY RIGHTS

U-1: Goal

Accommodate treaty and legal rights of appropriate Native American groups in management of public lands.

U-2: Management Actions:

1. Continue to notify and consult with Native American tribes on BLM authorized actions. Conduct consultation and coordination on a government-to-government basis with Federally recognized tribes.
2. Maintain current MOUs with Native villages of Cheesh'Na, Chickaloon, Chitina, Gakona, Eyak, Tazlina, Yakutat, Gulkana, and Mentasta.

U-3: Monitoring

A minimum of one “face-to-face” general consultation and project coordination meeting will be held on an annual basis with the villages where BLM has MOUs. Specifics of the frequency and location of meetings are described in each specific MOU.

Dates of consultation meetings and other tribal contacts will be reported in the Annual Program Summary and Planning Update.

V. VISUAL RESOURCES

V-1: Goal

Manage scenic values in accordance with the objectives established for VRM classes as presented in Table 4:

Table 4: Visual Resource Management Class Objectives

<p>Class I</p> <p>Preservation of the landscape is the primary management goal in Class I areas. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.</p>
<p>Class II</p> <p>The objective of this class is to retain the existing character of the landscape. Activities or modifications of the environment should not be evident or attract the attention of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements of form, line, color and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.</p>
<p>Class III</p> <p>The objective of this class is to partially retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention, but should not detract from the existing landscape.</p>
<p>Class IV</p> <p>Class IV VRM objective is to provide for management activities which require major modification of the existing character of the landscape. Changes may attract attention and be dominant landscape features but should reflect the basic elements of the existing landscape. Class IV rating is generally reserved for areas where the visual intrusions dominate the viewshed but are in character with the landscape.</p>

V-2: Allocations

Map 17, page 79, depicts the location of the VRM classes across the planning area.

V-3: Management Actions

1. Use the visual resource contrast rating system during project level planning to determine whether or not proposed activities will meet VRM objectives. Identify mitigation measures to reduce visual contrasts and prepare rehabilitation plans to address landscape modifications on a case-by-case basis.

V-4: Monitoring

Any project design features or mitigation measures identified to address visual resource management concerns will be monitored to ensure compliance with established VRM classes. Where appropriate, monitoring will include the use of the visual contrast rating system, described in BLM Manual 8400 during project review and upon project completion to assess the effectiveness of project design features and any mitigating measures.

W. WATER

W-1: Goal

Maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the waters in the Glennallen Field Office to protect beneficial uses. Prevent water quality degradation, and maintain or improve watershed function throughout the planning area.

W-2: Objectives (Desired Future Conditions)

All water sources provide water quality and quantity sufficient to meet Alaska State standards and to protect beneficial uses.

Stream channels display the dimensions, pattern and profile that are representative of site potential to allow flood plain aquifer recharge, moderate stream flows and buffer the effects of flooding.

W-3: Management Actions

1. Develop water quality data base in priority fish habitats and important recreation use areas to establish baseline for monitoring. In heavy use recreation rivers, include fecal coliform monitoring. First priority is Gulkana and Delta Wild and Scenic River corridors.
2. Continue assessment of riparian areas, using proper functioning condition assessment methodology. Priority areas include Wild and Scenic River corridors, ACECs, and riparian areas within anticipated or ongoing mining areas.
3. Continue to monitor water flows and develop web-accessed information for the Gulkana and Delta Wild and Scenic Rivers.
4. Water rights application for the Gulkana River has been submitted to the State of Alaska. Complete instream flow needs assessment documentation and obtain water rights for the Delta Wild and Scenic River. In addition (second priority) any streams, lakes, or other riparian areas found to support a quality of fish habitat, recreation, or extractive resources, should be considered as a candidate for an instream flow reservation.
5. Use Required Operating Procedures (see Appendix C, FEIS, particularly ROPs-Water and ROPs-Wetlands) to prevent non point source water pollution when implementing projects.
6. Obtain appropriate permits pertaining to projects affecting water quality, wetlands, and/or streams prior to implementing BLM projects.
7. Require outside applicants to provide copies of pertinent permits prior to BLM authorizations.

W-4: Monitoring

A sample of ground-disturbing projects with the potential to affect water resources will be evaluated on a periodic basis to determine if Required Operating Procedures or identified mitigation measures were followed and if they were effective.

X. WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

X-1: Goal

Manage Gulkana and Delta Wild and Scenic River corridors to protect the outstandingly remarkable values.

X-2: Allocations

The Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic River corridors will continue to be managed consistent with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended by ANILCA. Specific management prescriptions for these rivers are described below under ***Management Actions***.

Through the land use planning process, it was determined that 15 rivers in the planning area are eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. These rivers are: 1) Brushkana Creek; 2) Clearwater Creek; 3) headwaters of the Duktoth River; 4) Hungry Hollow Creek; 5) headwaters of the Kulthieth River; 6) Kosakuts River; 7) Liberty Creek; 8) Maclaren River; 9) Monsoon Creek and Lake; 10) headwaters of the Nenana River; 11) headwaters of the Susitna River; 12) Tonsina River system; 13) Twelvemile Creek; 14) Victor Creek; and 15) West Fork of the Gulkana River, south branch. Maps of the eligible segments, outstandingly remarkable values, tentative classification, and interim protective measures for all listed eligible rivers are described in Appendix I of the East Alaska FEIS.

A suitability determination for these eligible rivers will be deferred until ANCSA and State entitlements are met and land status has been stabilized.

X-3: Management Actions

Gulkana River: The Gulkana will be managed as a Special Recreation Management Area. An implementation-level plan was recently completed, revising the 1983 Gulkana River Management Plan. The new (revised) plan is consistent with this RMP and manages the river to protect outstandingly remarkable values.

Delta River: This Wild and Scenic River corridor will be designated as an SRMA, with objectives to maintain existing recreation opportunities (primitive, semi-primitive non-motorized, semi-primitive motorized, and roaded natural), with emphasis on managing for a primitive experience in the portion of the corridor classified as wild. Another objective in this SRMA is managing to protect the VRM Class I viewshed. The area will be designated as “limited” to OHVs, with specific trails designated to minimize unmanaged proliferation of trails, to reduce user conflicts, to continue to provide access to recreation and subsistence activities, and to maintain primitive and semi-primitive motorized experiences. Designated trails for OHVs will be Top of the World trail and Rainy Creek trail.

Consistent with the 1983 River Management Plan for the Delta National Wild and Scenic River and during implementation-level planning, BLM would recommend to the State of Alaska limitations on motorized use on the Tangle Lakes. No

public use cabins will be considered. General visitor use and commercial use limits will be established in implementation-level planning, consistent with objectives identified above. The Tangle Lakes Campground will be renovated, and the river take-out at mile 212 on the Richardson Highway will have increased signage. If the opportunity presents itself, acquisition of one of the area lodges for a visitor center will be considered.

Current withdrawals against leasable mineral entry will be maintained in the scenic and recreational portions of the river corridor (existing under PLO 5150), and a withdrawal from locatable mineral location will be recommended for the scenic and recreational portions (approximately 16,000 acres). Access to exiting mining operations will be permitted in a manner that minimizes disturbance to the river and scenic resources. Consistent with section 1110 of ANILCA, new road construction in the scenic and recreational portions of the river corridor may be authorized if it is determined that there are no economically feasible and prudent alternative routes and a determination is made that construction would be compatible with values for which the river was established.

X-4: Monitoring

Specific monitoring to measure impacts and initiate management actions is described for the Gulkana River corridor in the 2006 Gulkana River Management Plan. The same will be done for the Delta river, with a plan revision due out in 2007.

Monitoring will be conducted for the eligible rivers listed above to see that interim protective measures described are effective.

Y. WILDLIFE including SPECIAL STATUS BIRDS AND MAMMALS

Y-1: Goals

1. In cooperation with ADF&G, ensure optimum populations and a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife resources, including those species that are considered BLM sensitive status species.
2. Perpetuate a diversity and abundance of waterfowl and wetland habitat.

Y-2: Objectives (Desired Future Conditions)

1. A full spectrum of biological communities, habitats, and their ecological processes is present.
2. Wetland habitats support a healthy diversity and abundance of dependent wildlife species, with emphasis on special status species needs.
3. Habitat is in suitable condition to allow wildlife movement between large blocks of habitat and seasonal and special habitats on a localized and landscape scale.

4. *Moose habitat:* Desired condition is a mosaic pattern of upland spruce woodland cover types interspersed with a lower seral expression dominated by alder and willow. Upland woodland cover types are mixed with stream terraces and flood plains dominated by sedge and mixed age classes of willow.
5. *Caribou habitat:* Summer range would be similar to the description for moose habitat. For caribou winter range, desired condition is uplands spruce woodland cover type where lichen and various herbs dominate the ground layer.
6. *Bison calving area:* Delta floodplain, grass-dominated plant communities interspersed with scattered pockets of cottonwood, white spruce, and balsam poplar.
7. *Dall sheep and mountain goat habitat:* Open high elevation grass and forb-dominated plant communities with a minor shrub or tree component.

Y-3: Management Actions

1. **Bison:** Wildland fire and prescribed burning would be used to improve Delta bison calving range on over 15,000 acres. Objectives would be to increase forage productivity and maintain grass dominated vegetation communities.
2. **Caribou:** Wildland and prescribed fire would be utilized within portions of the Nelchina caribou summer range to create a mosaic of burned and unburned areas. To maintain mixed age classes of lichen on Nelchina caribou traditional winter range, less than 10 percent of the range would be burned every decade. If large wildfires occur on or adjacent to winter range, changing the suppression class to full or modified would be considered.
3. **Dall Sheep:** Based on inventory, areas for maintenance or enhancement of Dall sheep range would be identified. Fuels treatment projects and wildland fire would be used to achieve objectives.
4. **Moose:** The BLM will use wildland fire and pursue vegetation treatment such as prescribed burning, mechanical treatment, or logging to improved moose habitat and achieve desired condition described above. The first priority for such projects is critical winter range (see Map 3) on BLM public lands (unencumbered). The second priority is critical winter range on State or Native selected lands. Combined, there are an estimated 1,450,000 acres of moose winter range on BLM-managed lands in the planning area. Wherever possible, wildlife objectives would be combined with fuels reduction in forestry objectives.
5. Ensure that impacts to wildlife habitat are minimized by application of Required Operating Procedures and stipulations. Particularly applicable to wildlife habitat and sensitive species are the ROP-F&W required operating procedures.
6. A cooperative Habitat Management Plan will be developed with ADF&G for the Delta bison calving area. In addition, the following measures will

apply to this area: 1) OHVs will be limited to designated trails from May 1 to June 15; 2) road construction will be permitted for resource development, but activity would be restricted from May 1 to June 15; and 3) maintain existing withdrawals against mineral leasing and locatable mineral entry (a portion of the area is currently open to locatable entry and would remain open).

7. Nelchina calving area: Within defined calving areas, the following uses would not be permitted from May 1 to June 15: a) surface disturbing activities; b) FLPMA leases or permits that exceed 14 days of activity; or c) mining exploration. Aircraft associated with permitted activities would maintain an altitude of at least 1,000 feet. No oil and gas exploration or development activities may occur from May 1 to June 15.
8. Moose winter range: Within defined moose winter range, the following use would not be permitted from October 15 to March 31: a) surface disturbing activities; or b) FLPMA lease or permits that exceed 14 days of activity. Aircraft associated with permitted activities would maintain an altitude of 1,000 feet. For oil and gas activities, these areas would be closed to drilling, pipeline construction, road construction, or construction of permanent facilities from October 15 to March 31. Exceptions may be granted for mining activities where no feasible alternative exists and for other activities based on actual occupancy of the area by wintering moose.
9. Raptor Nests: Within ¼ mile of bald eagle nests, the following would not be permitted from April 1 to August 31: a) surface disturbing activities; or b) FLPMA leases or permits. Aircraft associated with permitted activities would maintain an altitude of 1,000 feet within one-half mile of documented eagle nests. Appropriate buffers around other raptor nest will be determined based on site-specific analysis. For oil and gas activities, areas within ¼ mile of bald eagle nests will be closed to drilling, pipeline construction, road construction, or construction of permanent facilities from April 1 to August 31.
10. Mountain Goats and Dall Sheep: In critical mountain goat and Dall sheep habitat, helicopters used in support of permitted activities would maintain one-half mile horizontal and 1,500 foot vertical distance from goats or sheep. Heli-ski landings or skiing is not permitted in mountain goat or Dall sheep critical ranges, as identified based on ADF&G maps and refined by monitoring.
11. Trumpeter swans: Within ¼ mile of the shores of waterbodies that contain trumpeter swan nests, the following uses would not be permitted from May 1 to August 31: a) ground disturbance or surface use exceeding 14 days; b) FLPMA leases, c) FLPMA permits where surface use exceeds 14 days; or d) overland access to permitted activities. Exceptions may be granted for mining operations on a site specific bases where no feasible alternative exists and where mitigation measures can be identified to minimize impacts. The same areas

would be closed to oil and gas drilling, pipeline construction, road construction, or construction of permanent facilities.

12. Coordinate vegetation treatment projects and management activities that influence wildlife habitat with ADF&G.

Y-4: Inventory and Monitoring

First priority for the following activities is on BLM public lands (unencumbered) or low-priority State selections. Inventories may be conducted on State or Native selected lands if cooperatively funded by the State or Native Corporation.

- Conduct detailed condition assessments of critical moose habitats, especially in areas of intensive motorized use and/or mining operations.
- Work cooperatively with ADF&G to research effects of winter and summer OHV use on moose in critical habitat areas.
- Identify critical Dall sheep and mountain goat ranges in areas of current or potential high-level recreational activities (helicopter or snowcat-supported skiing) and within areas with high potential for mineral development.
- Identify critical habitat for high-profile furbearer species (wolverines, Canada lynx).
- Identify critical habitat for harbor seals in Vitus Lake/Bering Glacier area.
- Continue tri-annual bald eagle monitoring in Gulkana River watershed; conduct thorough analysis of existing data.
- Monitor effects of human disturbances on breeding, nesting, brood-rearing behavior of adult and young trumpeter swans.
- Resume annual monitoring of dusky Canada geese within the Bering Glacier area.
- Document usage/habitat preferences of Tule white-fronted geese and Vancouver Canada geese within the Bering Glacier area.
- Identify and document red-throated loons usage in Bering Glacier/Vitus Lake area.
- Establish and monitor breeding bird survey transects. Develop and participate in research partnership efforts to gain better understanding of sensitive status bird occurrence and habitat in the planning area. Monitor effects of fire (prescribed and natural) on breeding bird habitat and preference.

Bering Glacier Research Natural Area Map 1

Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office



East Alaska Resource
Management Plan (EARMP)

EARM Planning Area

Bering Glacier RNA

***General Land Status**

BLM, Unencumbered

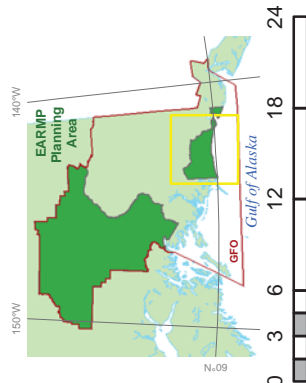
Native

BLM, Native-selected

State

BLM, State-selected

BLM, Dual-selected

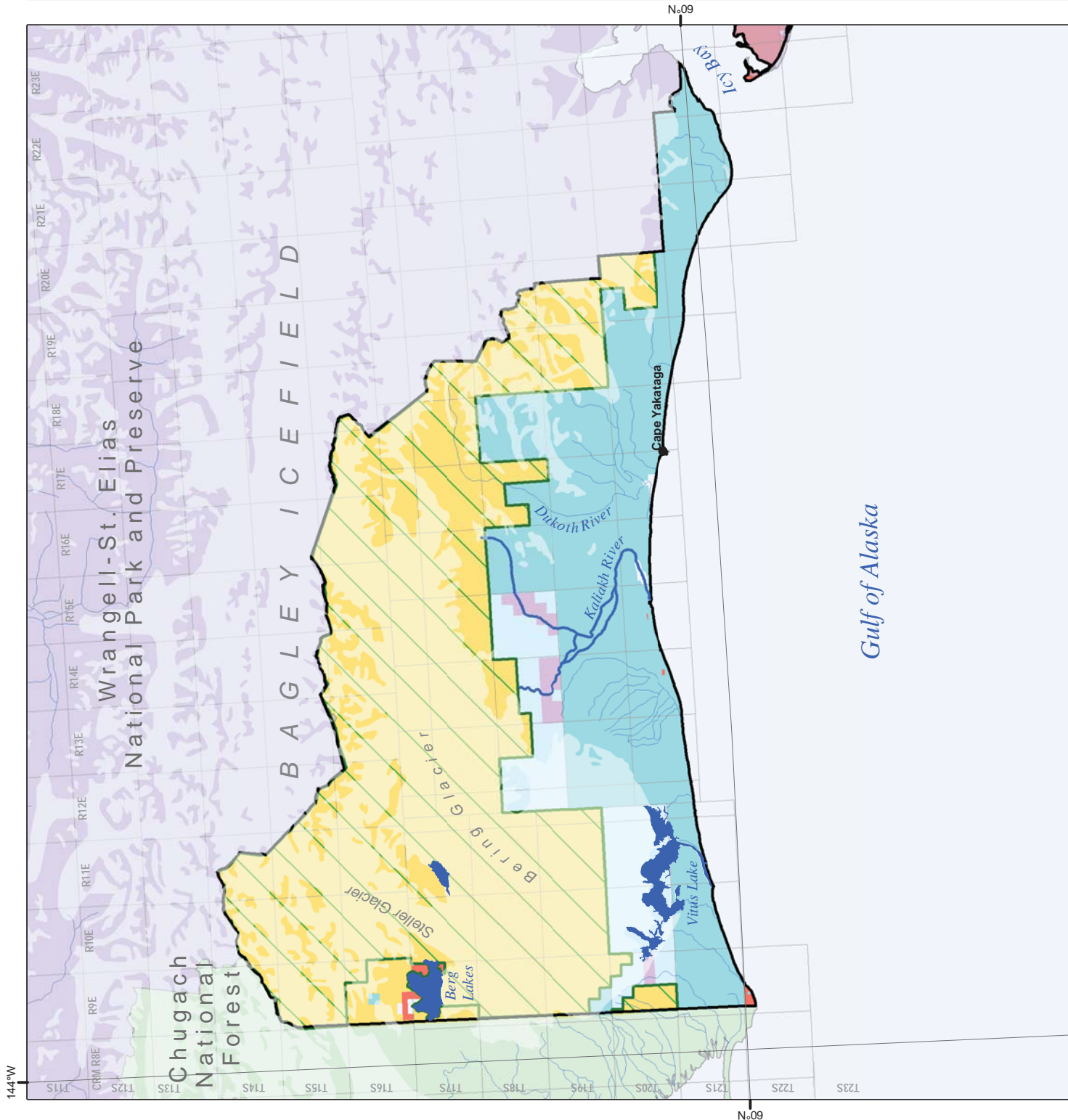


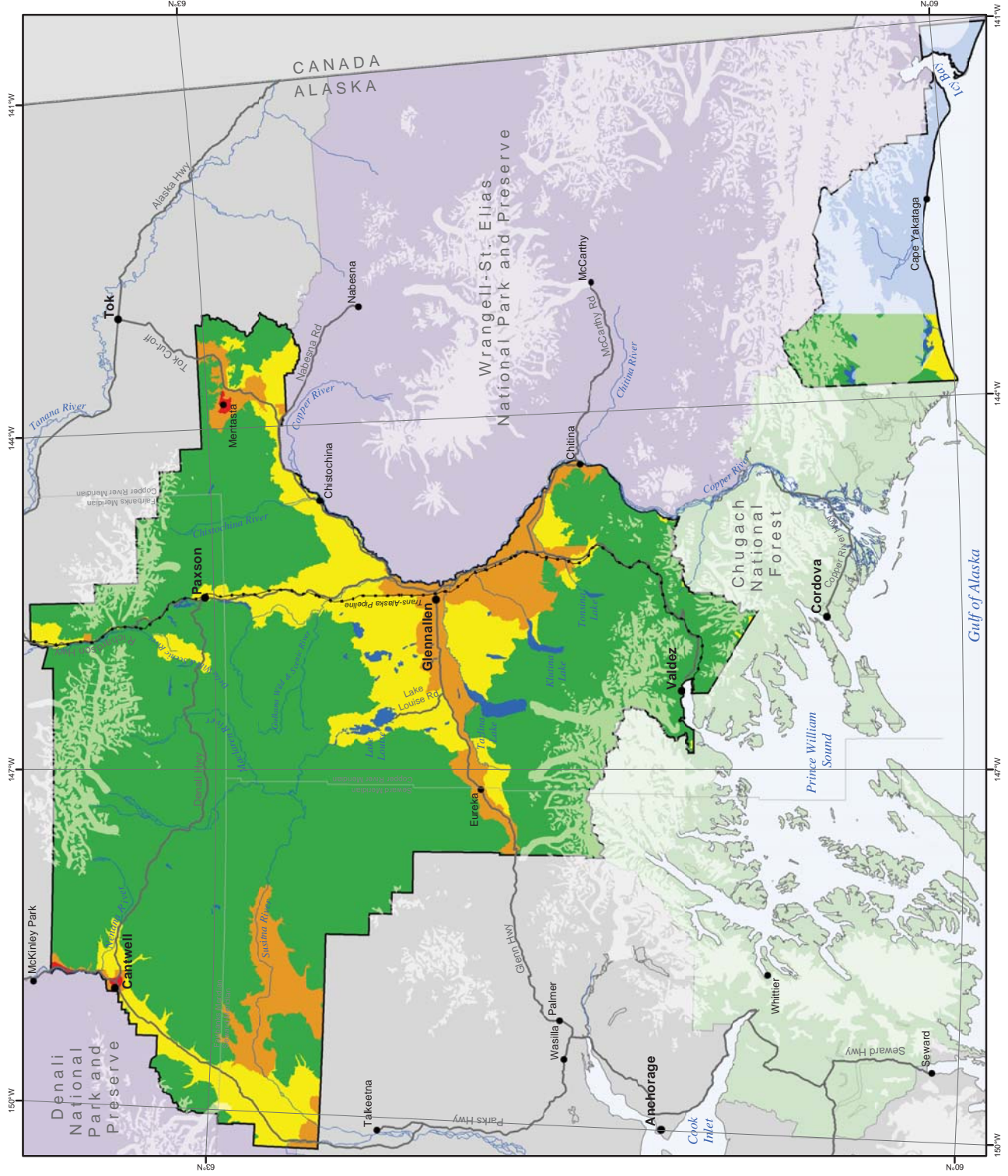
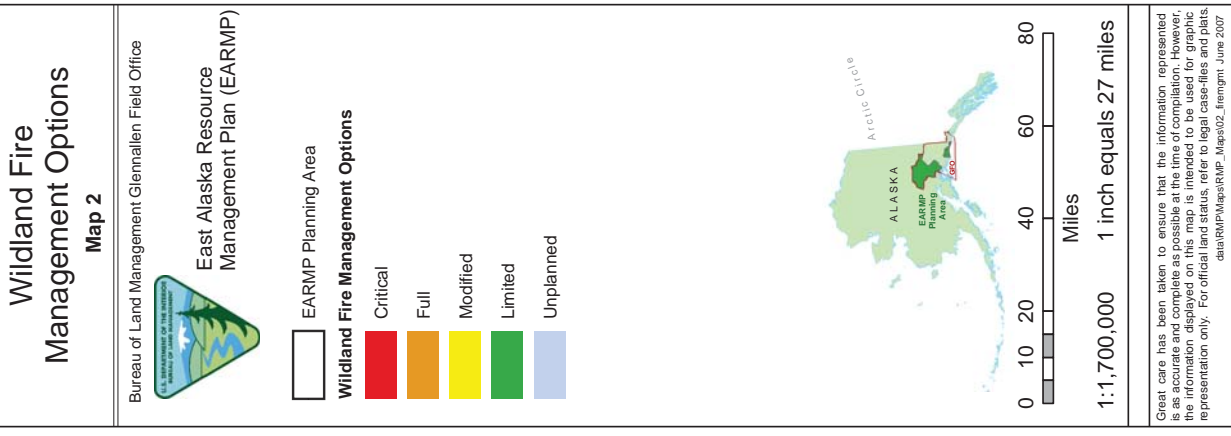
1:800,000
Miles
1 inch equals 13 miles

*Land status is only depicted inside the planning area.

Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case-files and plats.

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Moose Habitat

Map 3

Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office



East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP)

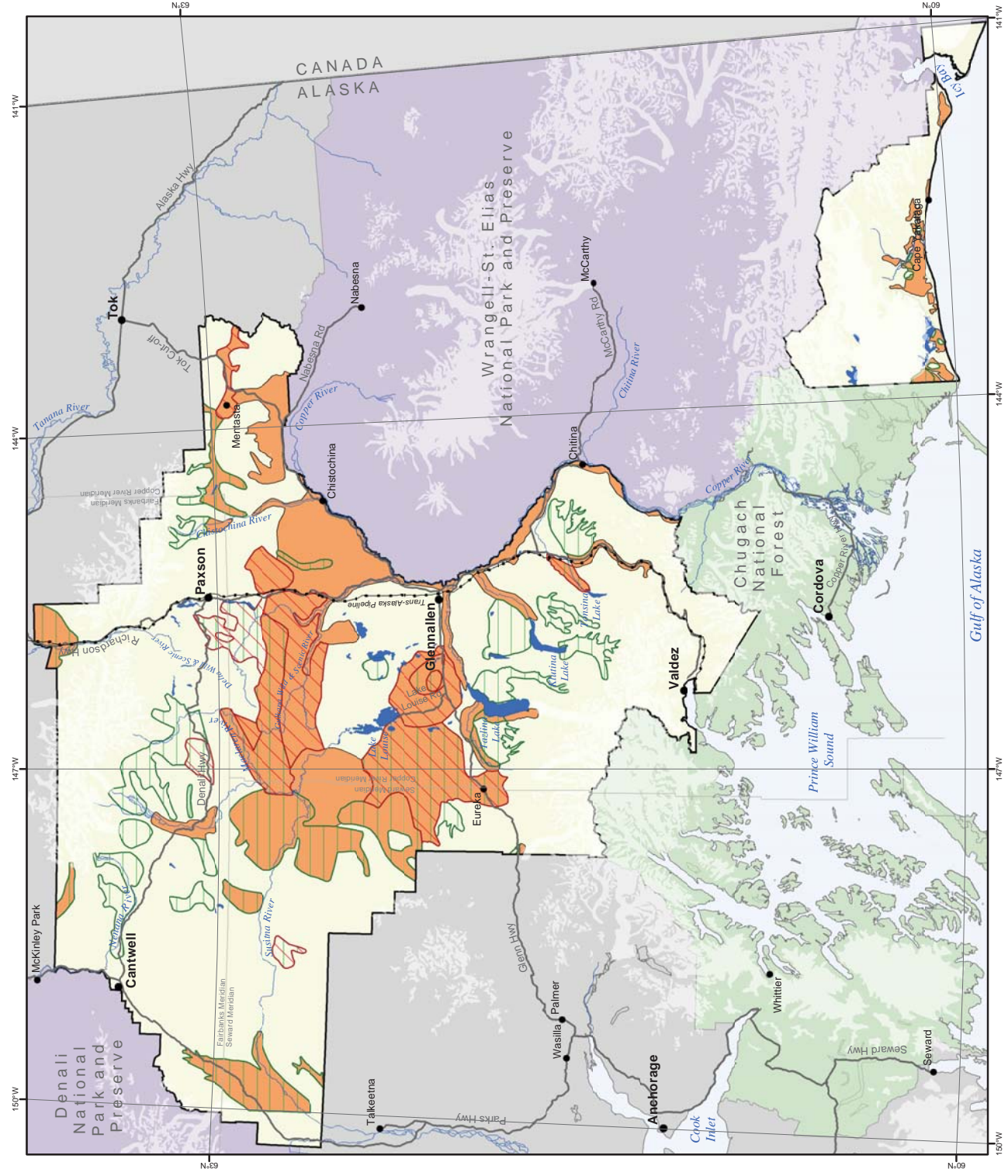
- EARM Planning Area
- Moose Winter Habitat
- Moose Rutting Habitat
- Moose Calving Habitat

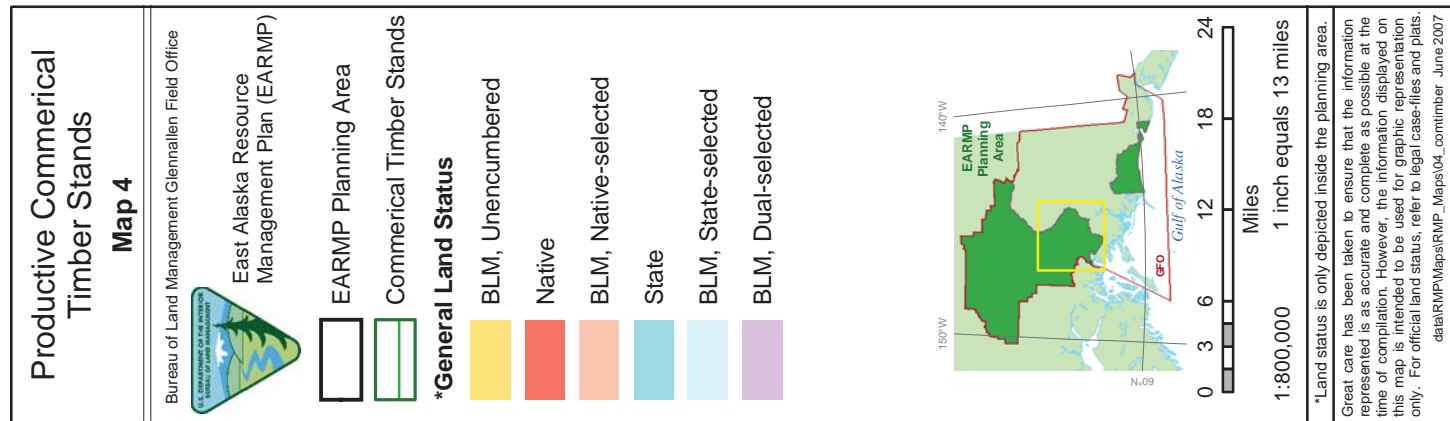


0 10 20 40 60 80
Miles
1:1,700,000 1 inch equals 27 miles

Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of completion. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, related legal cases and parts of the map, please refer to the official map.

EastAlaskaRMP_Map03.mxd June 2007





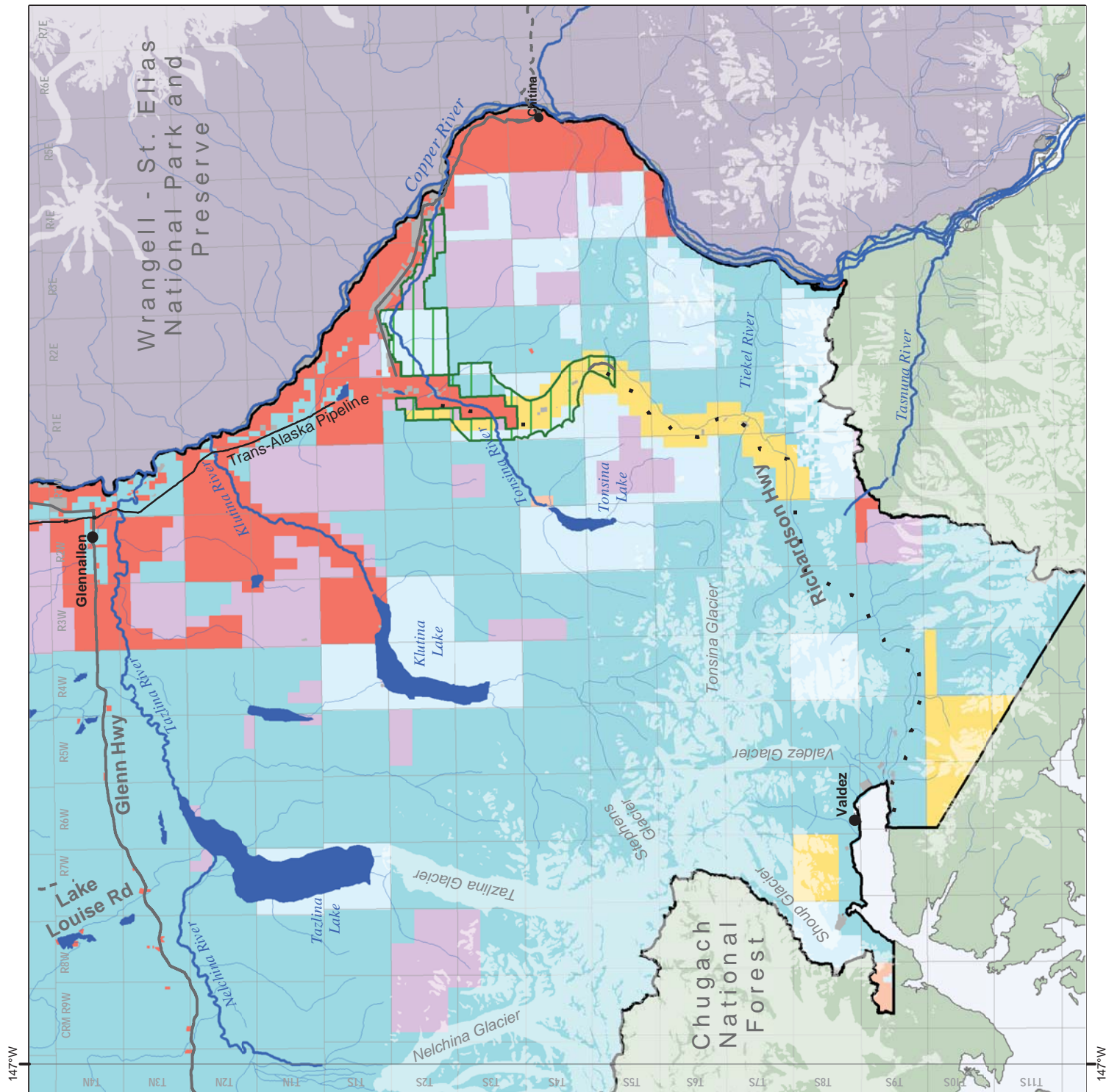
Miles

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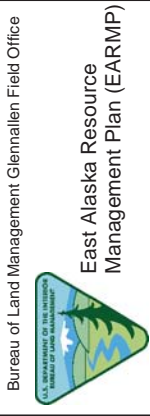
1:800,000 1 inch equals 13 miles

*Land status is only depicted inside the planning area.
Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case-files and plats.

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Areas Open to Mineral Entry
and Oil and Gas Leasing
Alternative D - Bering Glacier RNA
Map 5



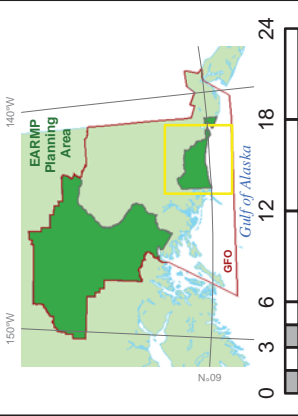
- EARM Planning Area**
- Outlined areas open to mineral entry and oil and gas leasing
 - Closed to mineral entry and oil and gas leasing

***General Land Status**

- BLM, Unencumbered
- BLM, Native-selected
- BLM, State-selected
- BLM, Dual-selected

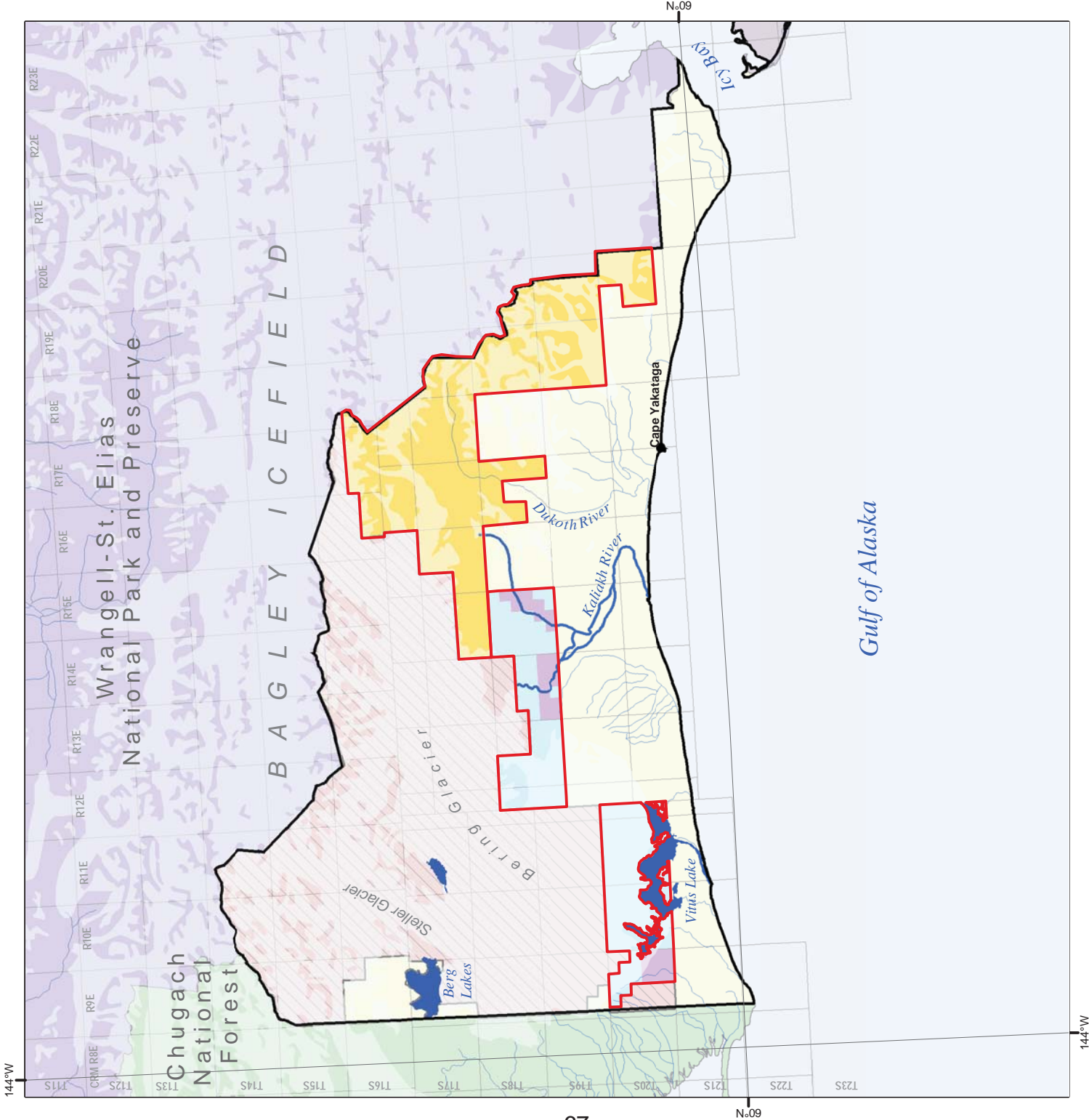
Selected lands have a segregation against mineral entry and oil and gas leasing and would only be open if retained in long-term Federal ownership.

This map does not show the status of mineral entry or oil and gas leasing on State or Native corporation lands.



Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case-files and plats.

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Revocation of Portions of PLO 5150

Map 6

Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office

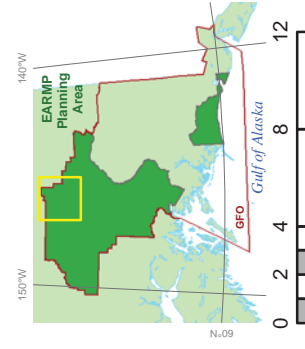


East Alaska Resource Management Plan

- EARM Planning Area
- Wild and Scenic River Corridor
- Current Boundary of PLO 5150
- Portion of PLO 5150 revoked under this RMP

The portion of PLO 5150 being revoked under this RMP would be available for conveyance to the State of Alaska. It would also make the land unavailable for subsistence hunting under the Federal system.

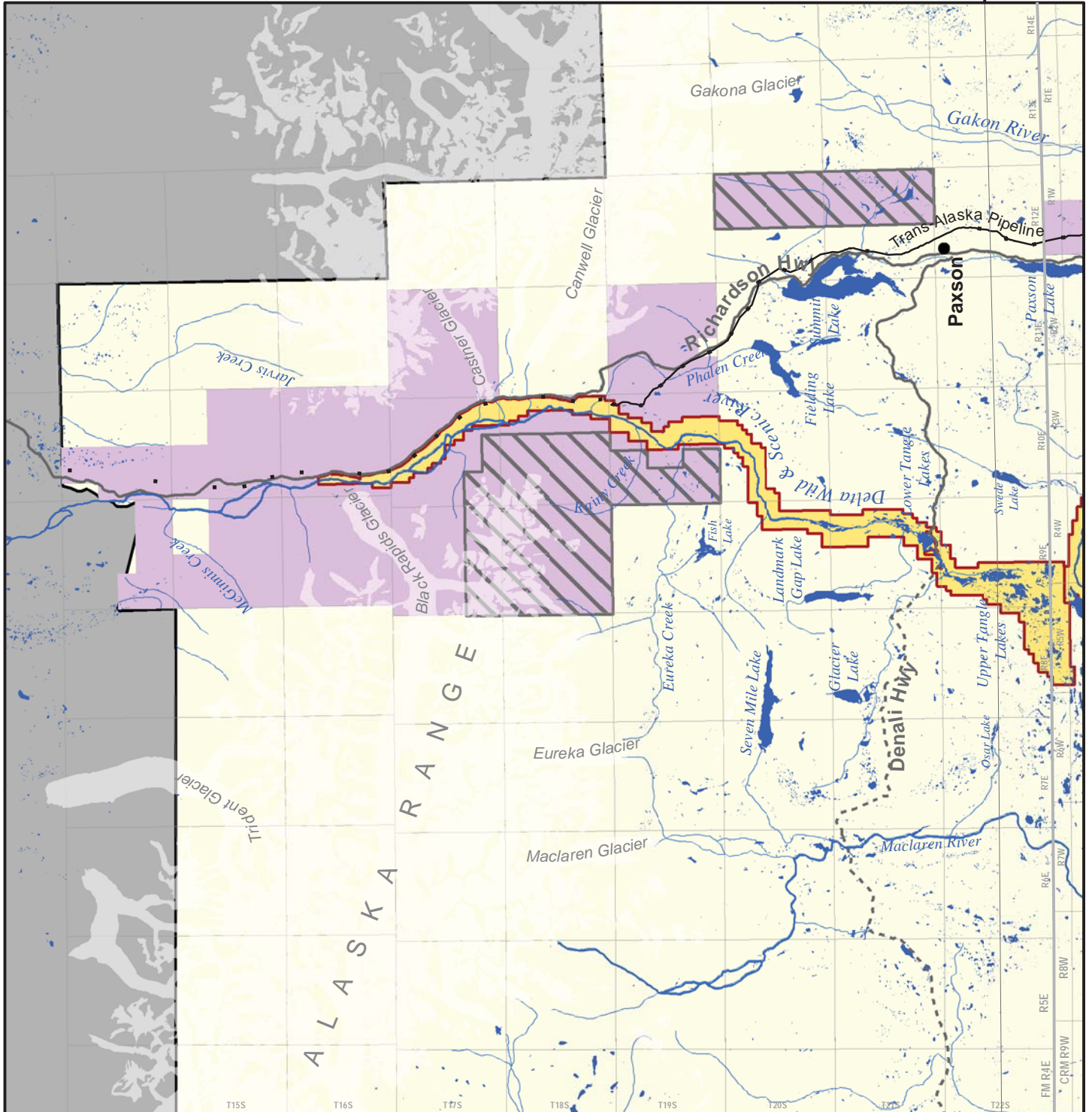
This map does not display the entire PLO 5150 boundary, only that portion affected by this RMP.



1:500,000
1 inch equals 8 miles

*Land status is only depicted inside the planning area. Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case-files and plats.

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Areas Open to Oil and Gas Leasing

Map 7

Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office



East Alaska Resource
Management Plan (EARMP)

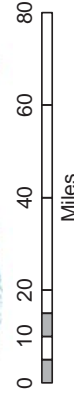


EARM Planning Area



Areas Open to Oil and Gas Leasing

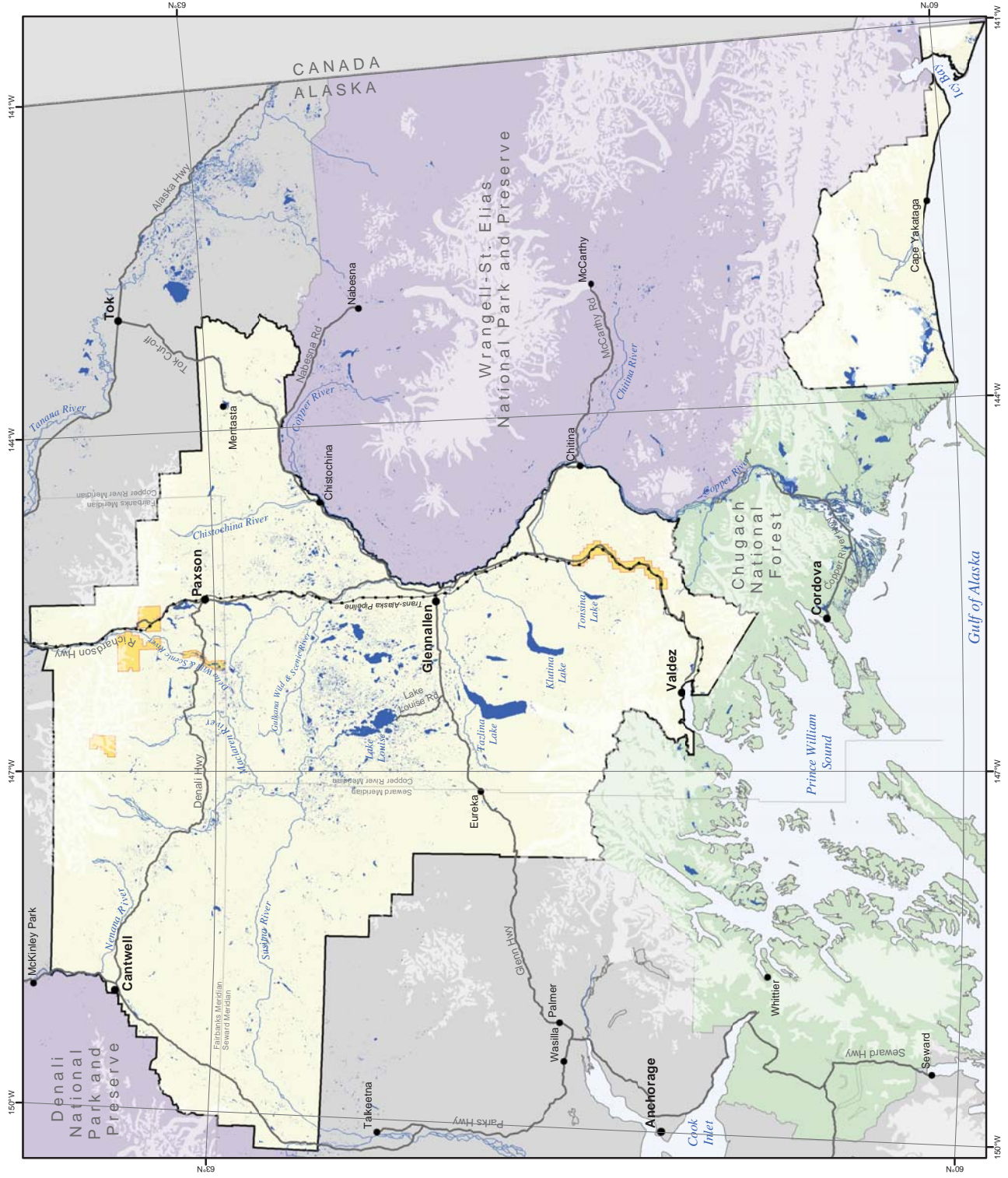
All other BLM-managed lands within the EARMP planning area would not have immediate mineral leasing occur due to segregation from withdrawal or State or Native selection.

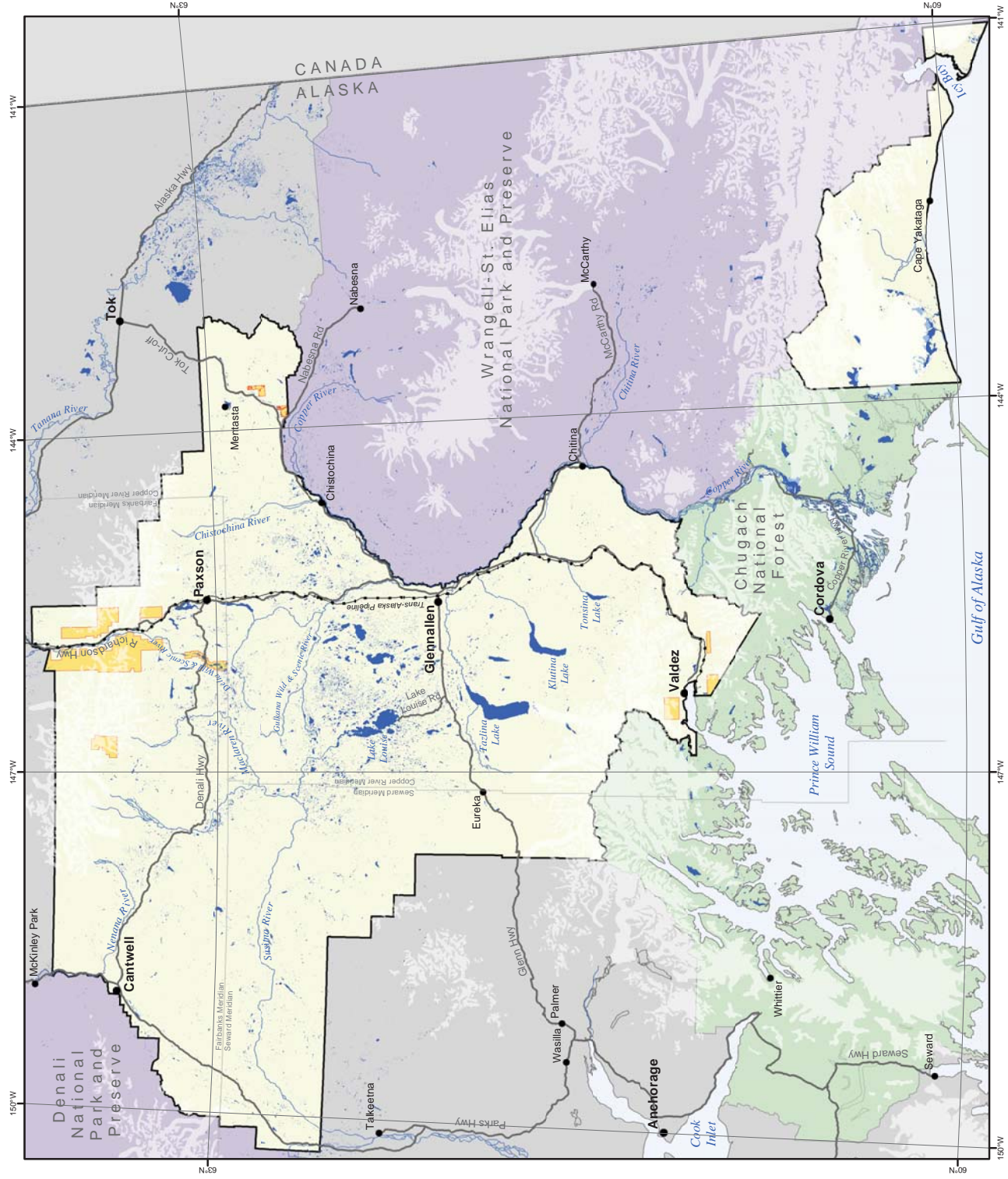


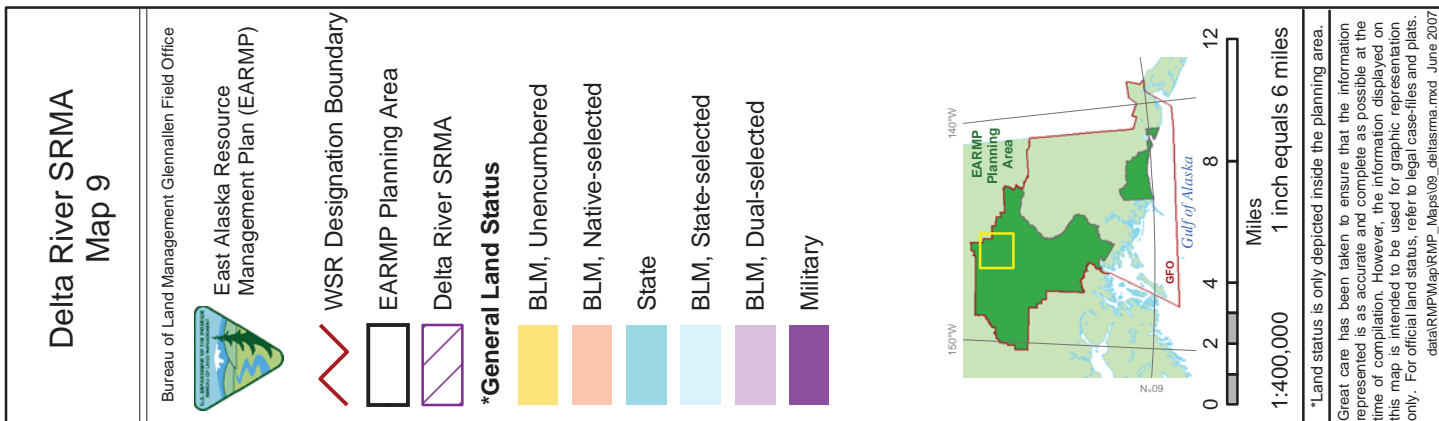
1:1,700,000 1 inch equals 27 miles

Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official decisions refer to legal case-files and plans.

06/01/2007








Gulkana River SRMA

Map 10

Bureau of Land Management
Glenallen Field Office

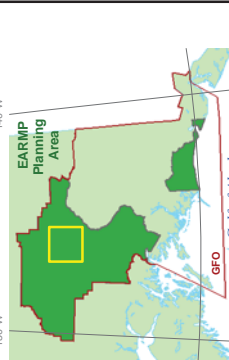
East Alaska Resource
Management Plan (EARMP)



Gulkana River SRMA

***General Land Status**

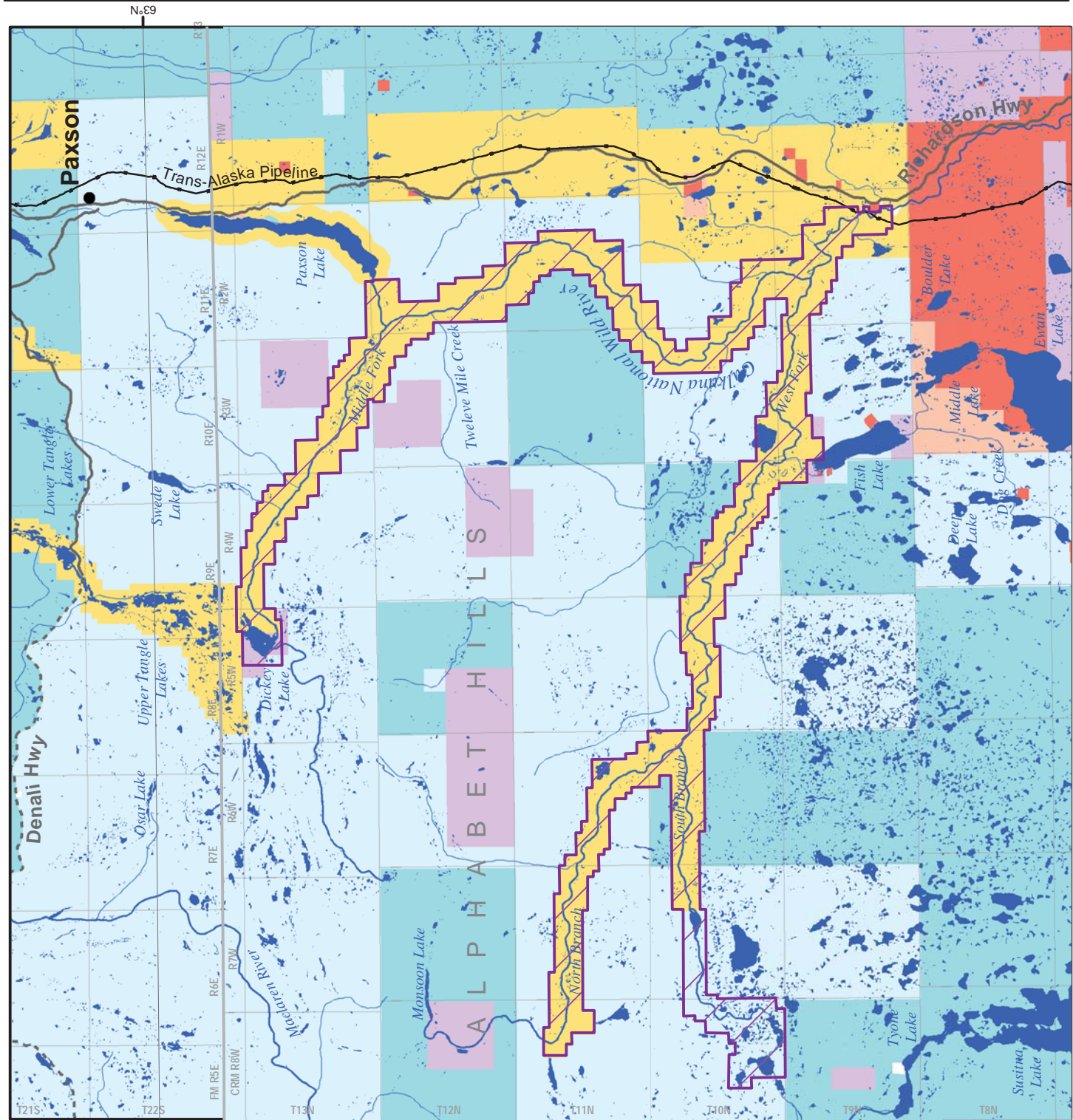
- BLM, Unencumbered
- Native
- BLM, Native-selected
- State
- BLM, State-selected
- BLM, Dual-selected

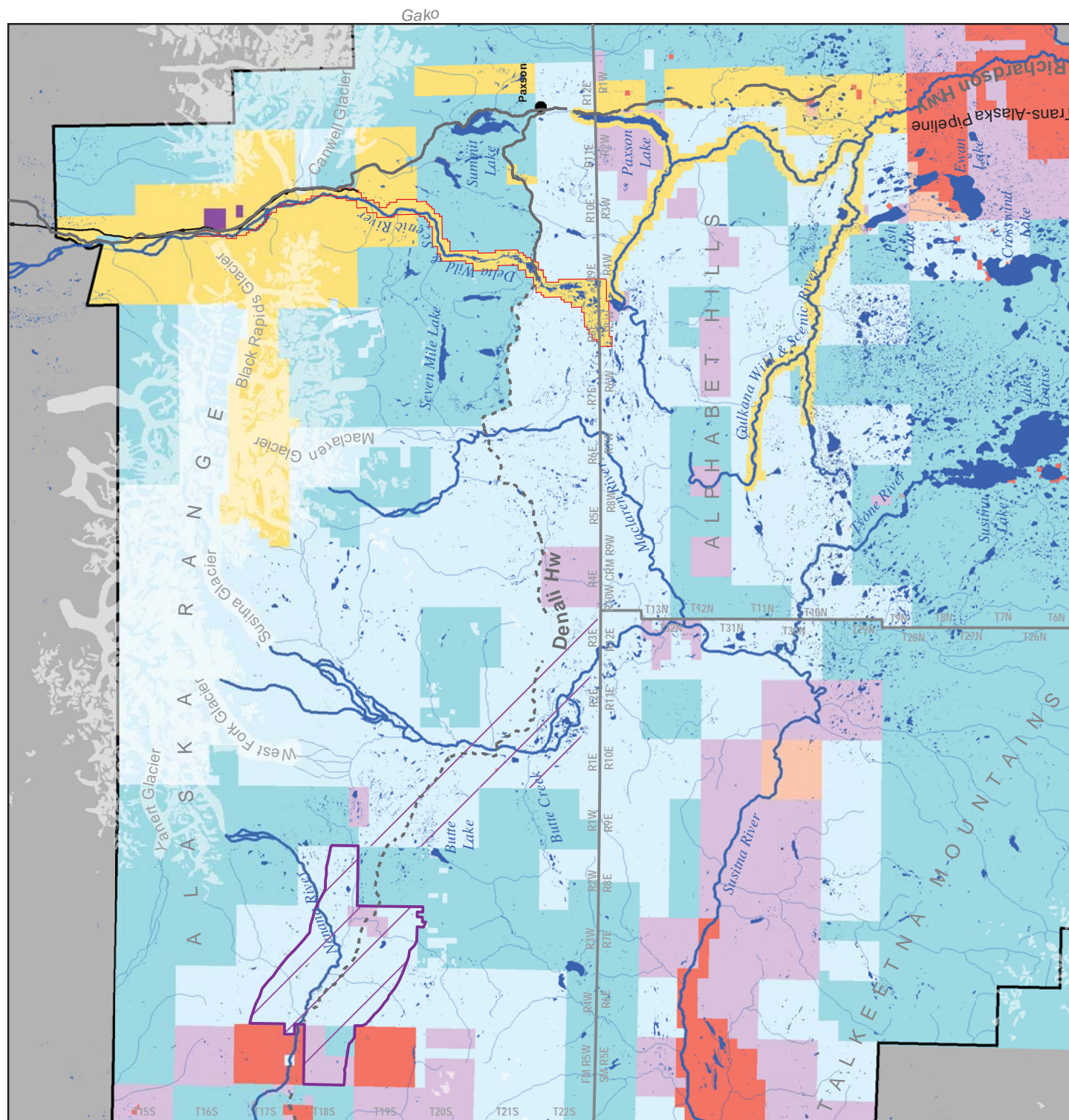
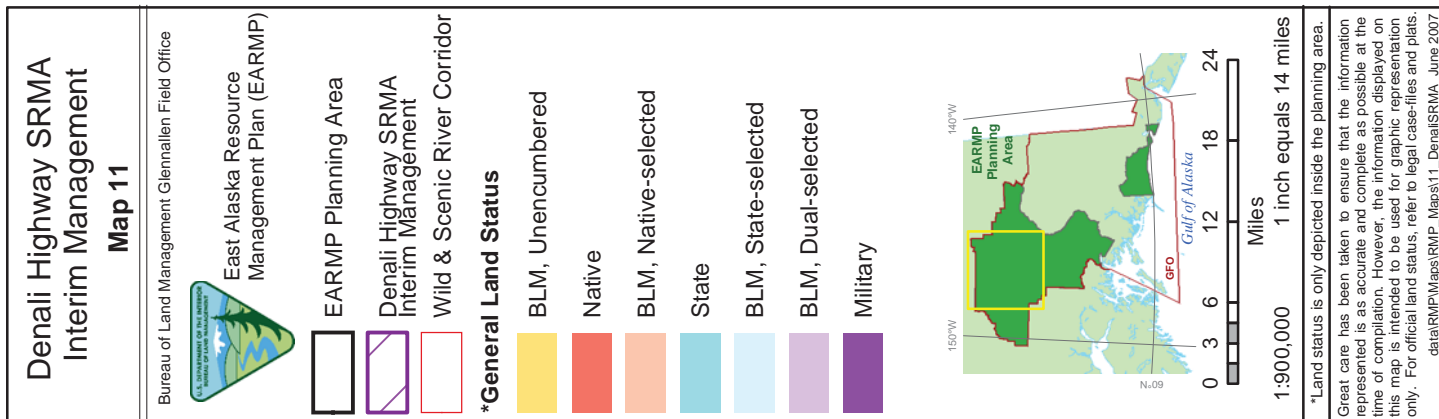


1:400,000
1 inch equals 6 miles

Miles
0 2 4 8 12

*Land status is only depicted inside the planning area.
Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case-files and plats.
data\RMP\Maps\RMP_Maps\10_GulkanaSRMA June 2007





Tiekel SRMA Interim and Long-term Mgmt Map 12

Bureau of Land Management
Glennallen Field Office

East Alaska Resource
Management Plan (EARMP)

EARMP Planning Area

Tiekel SRMA - Long-term

Tiekel SRMA - Interim

Interim lands will only be managed as an SRMA if retained by BLM. They are currently State or Native-selected.

***General Land Status**

BLM, Unencumbered

Native

BLM, Native-selected

State

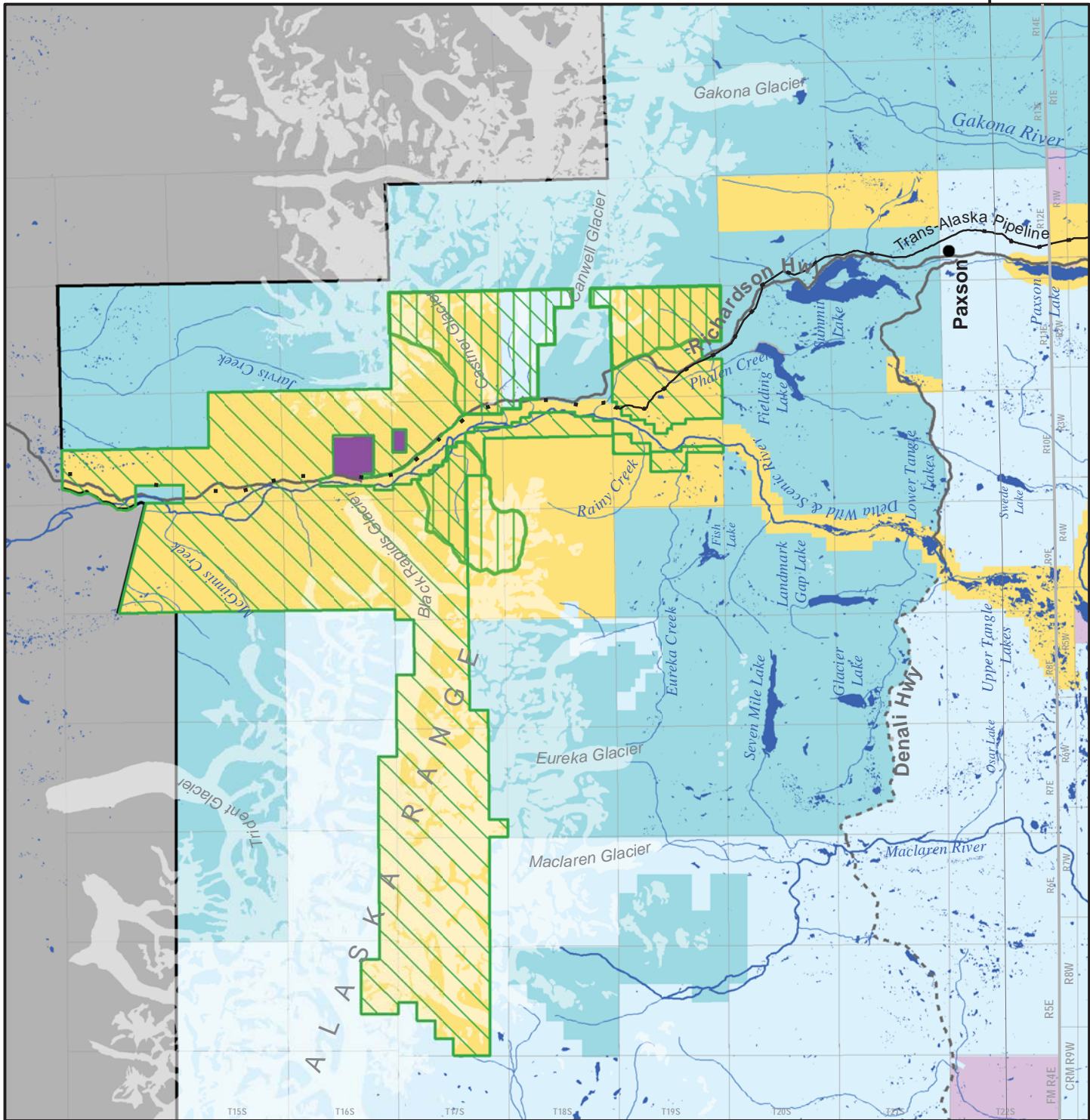
BLM, State-selected

BLM, Dual-selected

Miles
1:800,000 1 inch equals 13 miles

*Land status is only depicted inside the planning area.
Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case-files and plats.
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74



Travel Management Areas

Map 14

Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office



East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP)

*GPSed Trails

EARMP Planning Area

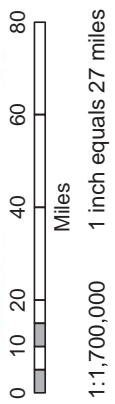
Travel Management Areas

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|
| | West Fork Area | | Gulkana WSR Corridor Area |
| | Delta Bison Calving Area | | Tielkel Area |
| | Nelchina Caribou Calving Area | | Bering Glacier Area |
| | Delta WSR Corridor Area | | TLAD Area |
| | Delta Range Area | | Chistochina-Cantwell Area |
| | Denali Highway Area | | Remaining Selected Lands |
| | | | Remaining Unnumbered Lands |

Sub-unit Names

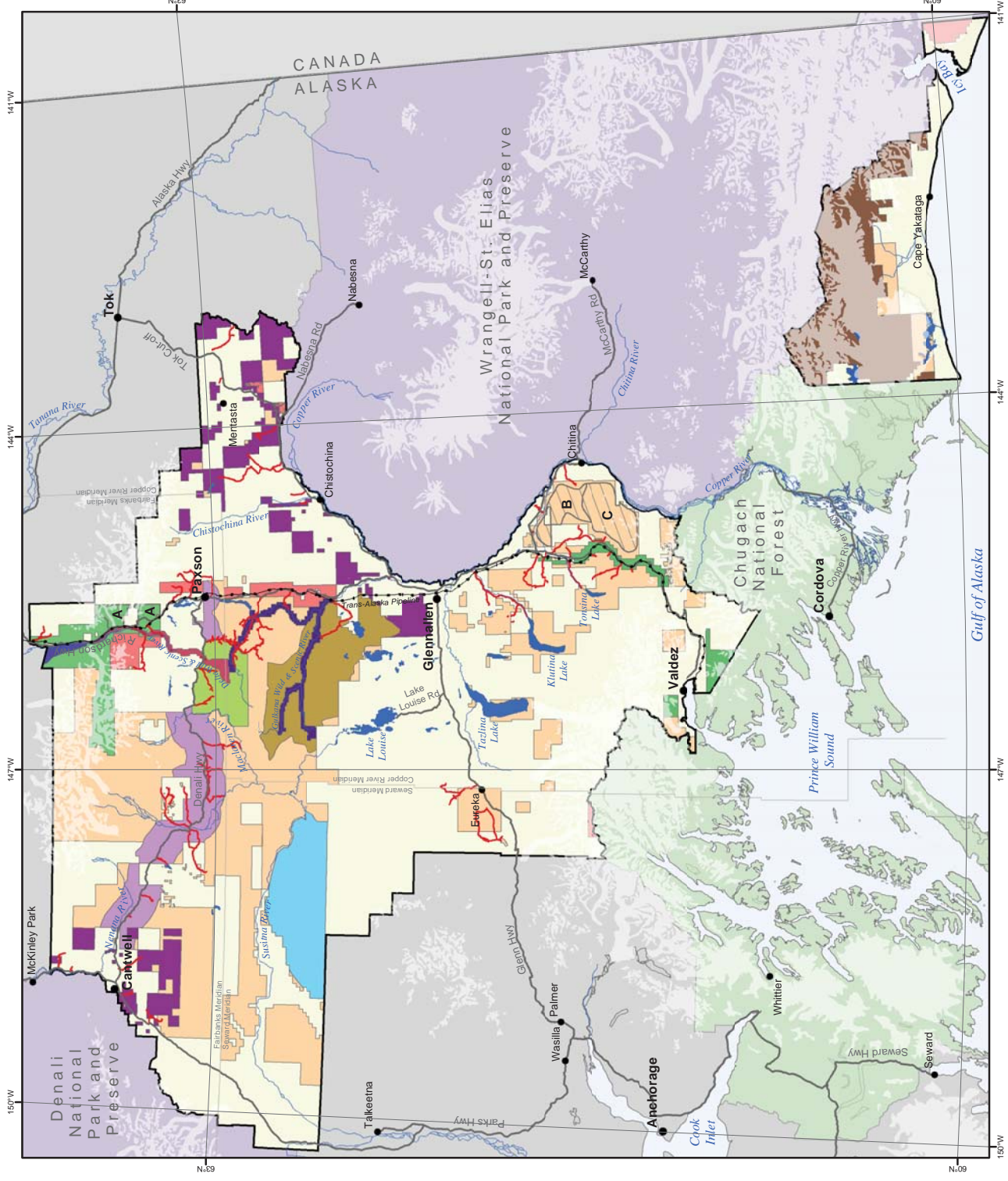
- A: Delta Mountains Sub-unit
B: Torsina North Sub-unit
C: Torsina South Sub-unit

*Map does not show legal status or use of trails, only documented general location.



Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of completion. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case files and plans.

data:EARMP/Map/EARMP_Map14_Traffic.mxd June 2007



Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office

East Alaska Resource
Management Plan (EARMP)



Designated Trail

Existing Trail

EARM Planning Area

***General Land Status**

BLM, Unencumbered

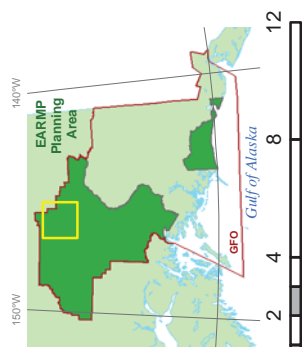
BLM, Native-selected

State

BLM. State-selected

BLM, Dual-selected

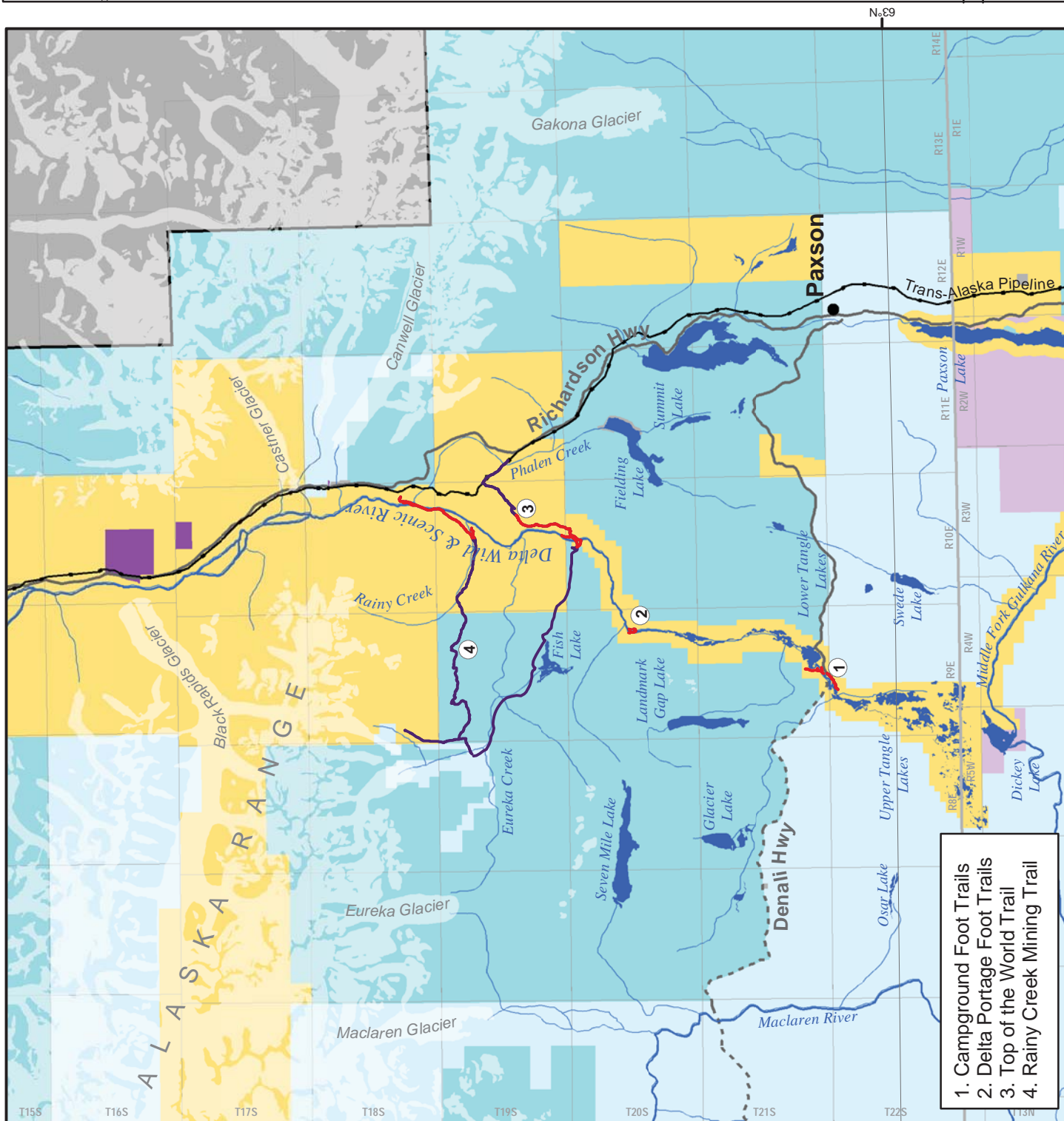
Military

1:414,502
1 inch equals 7 miles

^aLand status is only depicted inside the planning area.

Great care has been taken to ensure that the information presented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case-files and plat maps.

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1. Campground Foot Trails
2. Delta Portage Foot Trails
3. Top of the World Trail
4. Rainy Creek Mining Trail

Gulkana River Designated Trails Map 16

Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office

East Alaska Resource
Management Plan (EARMP)

Designated Trail Segment

— Designated Trail Segment

— Existing Trail

***General Land Status**

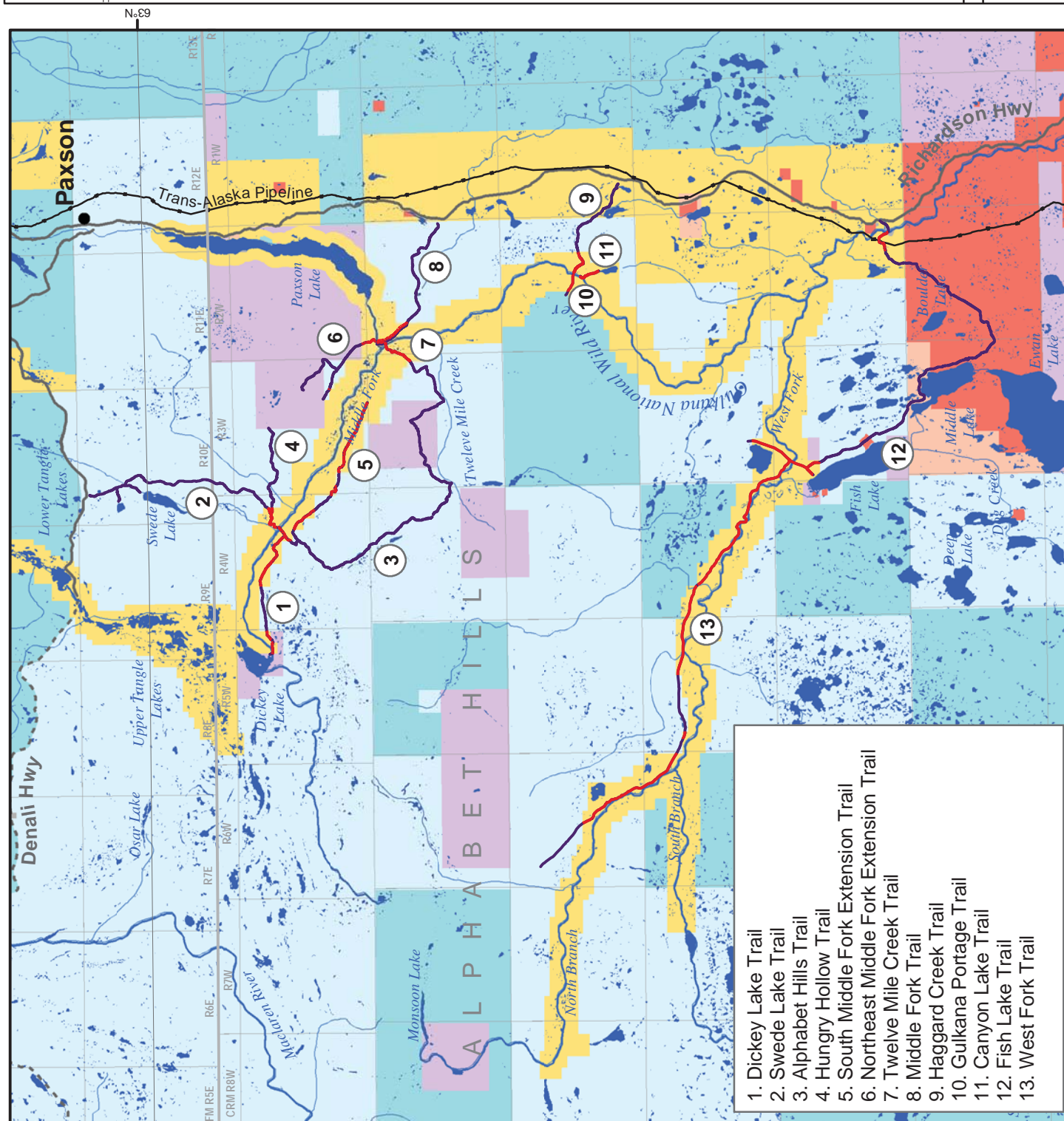
	BLM, Unencumbered
	Native
	BLM, Native-selected
	State
	BLM, State-selected
	BLM, Dual-selected

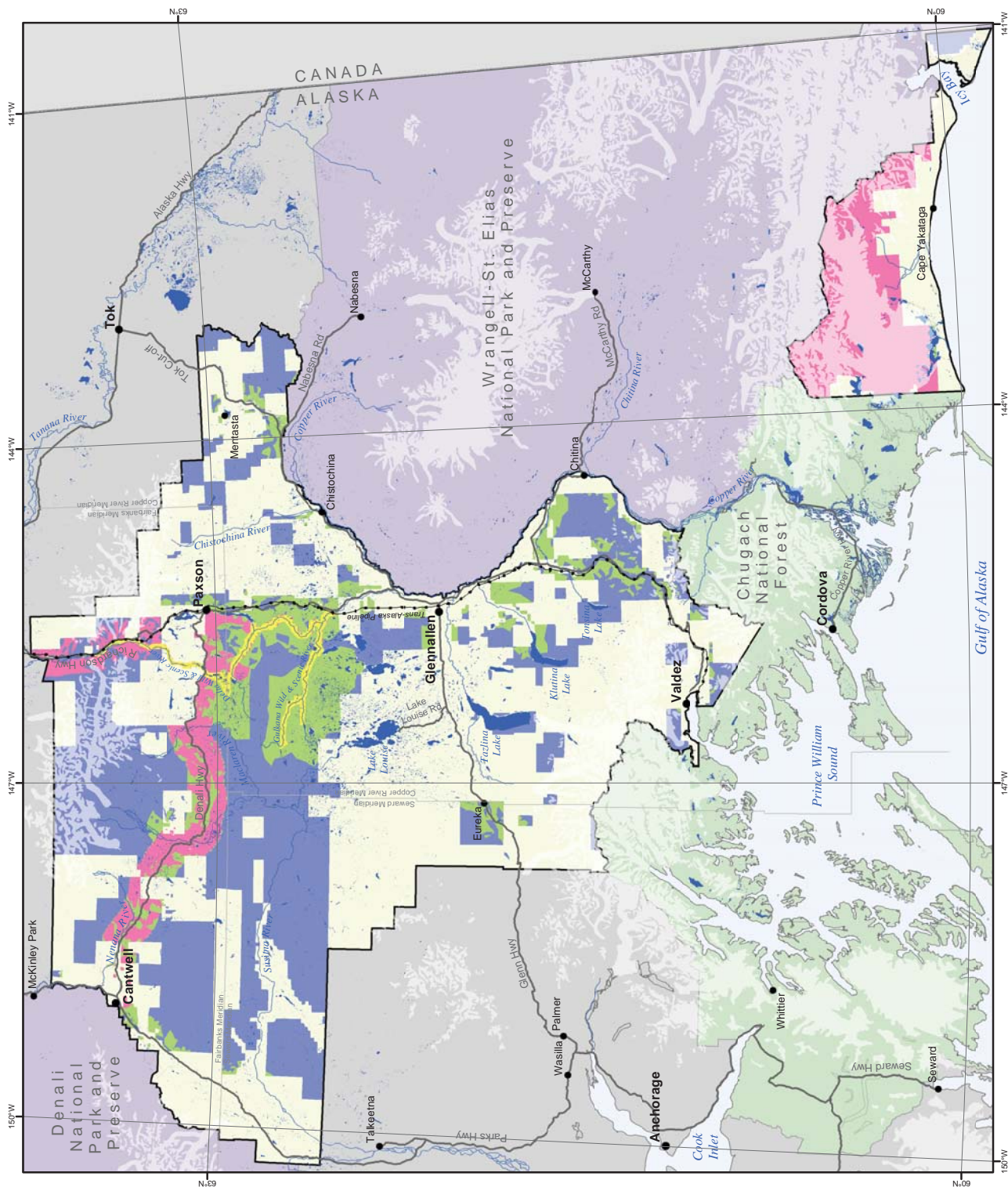
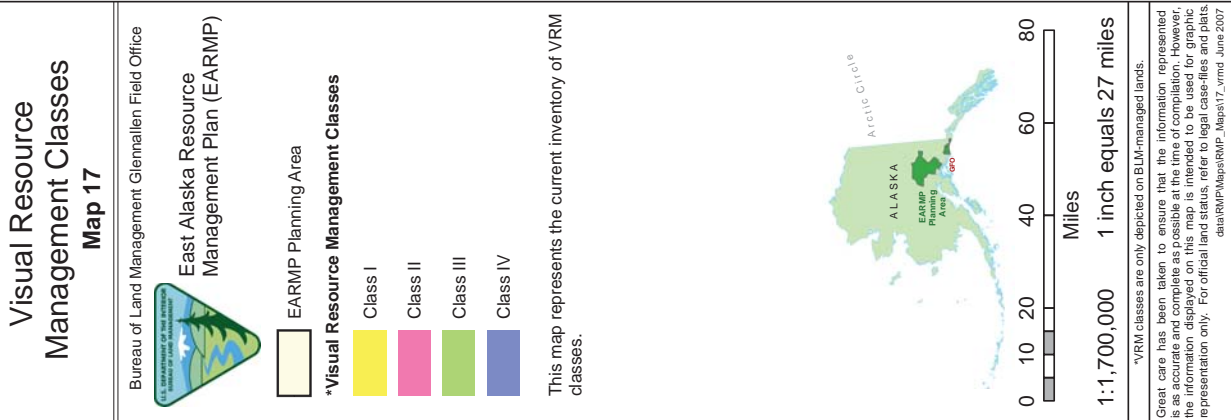
1:400,000

1 inch equals 6 miles

0 2 4 8 12
Miles

*Land status is only depicted inside the planning area.
Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case-files and plats.
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Appendix A: Required Operating Procedures (ROPs), Stipulations (Stips), and Standard Lease Terms

A. Introduction

These Required Operating Procedures (ROPs) and Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations (Stips) were developed through the EIS process. They are based on knowledge of the resources of the planning area and current industry practices, and are consistent with existing policies and laws.

1. Required Operating Procedures

ROPs are requirements, procedures, management practices, or design features that the BLM adopts as operational requirements. They would apply to the action alternatives (Alternatives B, C, and D). ROPs would apply to all permitted activities, including FLPMA leases and permits, special recreation permits, oil and gas operations, mining Plans of Operation, and Right-of-Way authorizations. All vegetation management practices would be conducted consistent with these guidelines. Obviously, not all ROPs would apply to all permitted activities. ROPs have been developed to ensure that objectives identified within the Alaska Land Health Standards are met in carrying out permitted activities and management practices.

ROPs are selected as part of the site-specific analysis that occurs during activity level planning. They are applied as stipulations to permits. The Authorized Officer (AO) or his/her representative is responsible for seeing that the permittee is complying with stipulations of the permit. Non-compliance is documented on a Compliance Review form and sent to the permittee, along with corrective actions and a time frame in which to complete them. If corrective actions are not taken, the Authorized Officer has the discretion to cancel or suspend the permit.

Through adaptive management, the BLM will be mindful of impacts from thinning ice, melting permafrost, or other conditions accompanying climate change that affect the safety and environmental integrity of commercial permitted operations as well as recreational activities in the planning area. The BLM will take these considerations into account in environmental analyses associated with such operations and activities and, where appropriate, will modify ROPs and stips to account for such changes.

2. Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations

Stipulations are specific to oil and gas exploration, development, and production. They constitute significant restrictions on the conduct of operations under a lease. For example, a stipulation that does not allow permanent facilities within one-fourth mile of a bird nest could result in a well being located far enough from the (lessee's) optimum site to prevent an oil reservoir from being fully developed. Such restrictions must be attached to the lease. As part of a lease contract, lease stipulations are specific to the lessee. All oil and gas activity permits subsequently issued to a lessee would comply with the lease stipulations appropriate to the activity under review.

The AO may add additional or more-restrictive stipulations as determined necessary through further NEPA analysis and as developed through consultation with other Federal and State regulatory and resource agencies. Laws or regulations may require other Federal, State, and local government permits for an oil and gas project to proceed. Specific State permits are required when the State has authority, under federal or State law or regulation, to enforce provision in question. Specific permits issued by Federal agencies other than BLM may include permit conditions that are more stringent than those included in this appendix.

Compliance with stipulations is monitored by the AO or his/her representative. Non-compliance is documented in an Incident of Non-Compliance. Based on the nature of the non-compliance, a time-frame may be established to correct the problem. If the non-compliance is not corrected, the AO has discretion on penalties, dependent on the nature of the problem. Non-compliance can result in monetary fines or operation shut-down.

a) Exceptions, Modifications, and Waivers

Surface stipulations could be excepted, modified, or waived by the AO. An exception exempts the holder of the land use authorization document from the stipulation on a one-time basis. A modification changes the language or provisions of a surface stipulation, either temporarily or for the term of the lease. A waiver permanently exempts the surface stipulation. Substantial modification or waiver subsequent to lease issuance is subject to public review for at least a 30-day period in accordance with the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Reform Act of 1987.

The environmental analysis document prepared for oil and gas development (e.g., Applications for Permit to Drill [APD] or sundry notices) would also address proposals to exempt, modify, or waive a surface stipulation. To exempt, modify, or waive a stipulation, the environmental analysis document would need to show that: 1) the circumstances or relative resource values in the area had changed following issuance of the lease; 2) less restrictive requirements could be developed to protect the resource of concern; 3) operations could be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts; and 4) the resource value of concern does not occur within the lease area. The environmental analysis document would also determine the need for an RMP amendment.

3. Standard Lease Terms

The Standard Lease Terms are contained in Form 3100-11, Offer to Lease and Lease for Oil and Gas, United States Department of the Interior, BLM, October 1992 or later addition (BLM 1992). The Standard Lease Terms provide the lessee the right to use the leased land as needed to explore for, drill for, extract, remove, and dispose of oil and gas deposits located under the leased lands. Operations must be conducted in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the land, air, water, cultural, biological, and visual elements of the environment, as well as other land uses or users. Federal environmental protection laws such as the Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and Historic Preservation Act will be applied to all lands and operations and are included in the Standard Lease Terms. If threatened or endangered species; objects of historic, cultural, or scientific value; or substantial unanticipated environmental effects are encountered during construction, all work affecting the resource will stop and the land management agency will be contacted.

Standard Lease Terms provide for reasonable measures to minimize adverse impacts to surface resources. These include, but are not limited to, modifications to the siting or design of facilities, timing of operations, and specifications of interim and final reclamation measures. Standard Lease Terms may not require the lessee to relocate drilling rigs or supporting facilities by more than 600 feet, require that operations be sited off the leasehold, or prohibit new surface-disturbing operations for more than 60 days each year (43 CFR part 3101.1-2).

Form 3100-11 is standard nationwide and is applied to every lease issued by the BLM.

B. Required Operating Procedures

1. Soils

Objective

ROP-Soils-a Minimize soil erosion by stabilizing disturbed soil as soon as possible. Where permitted operations result in surface disturbance, land is returned as closely as possible to its pre-disturbed condition.

Requirements

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| ROP-Soils-a-1 | Ditch roadways on the uphill side and install culverts or low water crossings at suitable intervals. Spacing of drainage devices will be dependent on road gradient and soil erodibility. |
| ROP-Soils-a-2 | Design roads for minimal disruption of natural drainage patterns. |
| ROP-Soils-a-3 | Roads shall avoid areas with unstable or fragile soils. |
| ROP-Soils-a-4 | Place water bars across reclaimed roads having grades in excess of 2 percent. Spacing will be dependent on road gradient and soil erodibility. |
| ROP-Soils-a-5 | Save all organic material for future use in an area separate from overburden. |
| ROP-Soils-a-6 | Stockpile and save all overburden for resspreading over tailings. |
| ROP-Soils-a-7 | Shape and stabilize all overburden piles to prevent erosion. |
| ROP-Soils-a-8 | Final shape of resspread tailing and overburden will approximate the shape of the surrounding terrain. |
| ROP-Soils-a-9 | Recontour and revegetated roads, well pads, and other disturbed areas as per an approved reclamation plan or Plan of Operations. Revegetation will occur through seeding of native seed or by providing for soil conditions that allow the site to revegetate naturally, whichever provides the most effective means of reestablishing ground cover and minimizing erosion. Scarify the final land surface to provide seed traps and erosion control. |

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| ROP-Soils-a-10 | Seed and plant with native species. Where native species are not available in sufficient quantities or where they are incapable of maintaining or achieving the objective, or where non-native species are essential to the functional integrity of the site, non-native vegetation may be used with specific approval from the AO. |
| ROP-Soils-a-11 | Respread vegetation removed during pipeline installation to provide protection, nutrient recycling, and seed source. |
| ROP-Soils-a-12 | Operators will prevent and control noxious weed infestations. Noxious weeds in Alaska are listed under Alaska Statute 11 AAC 34.020. |

Objective

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| ROP-Soils-b | Minimize soil disturbance and compaction associated with overland moves, forestry operations, and seismic exploration. |
|-------------|--|

Requirements

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| ROP-Soils-b-1 | Whenever possible, overland moves that are part of permitted operations will occur when frost and snow cover is sufficient to minimize soil disturbance and compaction. For proposed operations during snow-free months, permittee will work with the AO on specifying vehicle types and methods to minimize vegetation and soil disturbance, such as use of air or water craft, utilizing existing roads or trails, or use of low ground pressure vehicles. |
| ROP-Soils-b-2 | Bulldozing of tundra mat and vegetation is prohibited unless project objectives call for scarification of the site to improve sprouting or seeding success. In situations where pipeline or electric line requires burial, use equipment designed specifically for trenching that minimizes disturbance of vegetation mat. |
| ROP-Soils-b-3 | Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use associated with permitted activities will comply with trail limitations in the area. The use of OHVs associated with permitted activities will be allowed under appropriate stipulations as approved by the AO. |

2. Fish and Wildlife Habitat

Objective

ROP-F&W-a Maintain and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public lands, and provide the habitat needs of fish and wildlife resources necessary to maintain or enhance such populations.

Requirements

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| ROP-F&W-a-1 | Utilize existing roads and trails whenever possible. [REDACTED] |
| ROP-F&W-a-2 | No road crossings are permitted in crucial spawning habitat unless no feasible alternative exists and it can be demonstrated that no adverse effects will occur. |
| ROP-F&W-a-3 | Avoid stream crossings. When a stream must be crossed, make the crossing as close as possible to a 90 degree angle to the stream. Make stream crossings at stable sections in the stream channel. |
| ROP-F&W-a-4 | Bridges and culverts will be large enough, or will be positioned, to 1) avoid altering the direction and velocity of stream flow and 2) avoid interfering with migrating, rearing or spawning activities of fish and wildlife. Bridges and culverts should span the entire non-vegetated stream channel. |
| ROP-F&W-a-5 | Recontour and revegetated disturbed stream banks, or take other protective measures to prevent soil erosion into adjacent waters. |
| ROP-F&W-a-6 | Roads, well pads, and other oil and gas facilities will not be allowed within 500 feet of fish-bearing rivers and lakes unless the lessee can demonstrate (through a site-specific analysis that considers species of fish present, slope, vegetation, and other conditions) that the impacts to fish habitat are minimal.
[REDACTED] |
| ROP-F&W-a-7 | Travel up and down stream beds is prohibited. |
| ROP-F&W-a-8 | Water intakes will be screened and designed to prevent fish intake. |

- ROP-F&W-a-9 Timber sales will provide buffers to prevent disturbance of fish habitat and possible sedimentation into streams. Buffer widths will be dependent on harvest method, season of harvest, equipment used, slope, vegetation, and soil type. Winter operations will be encouraged in order to minimize impacts to riparian areas.
- ROP-F&W-a-10 Prescribed burn ignition patterns will allow for stream buffers. Lighting at stream's edge will be avoided.
- ROP-F&W-a-11 Overhead powerline construction will be avoided in primary trumpeter swan breeding habitat.
- ROP-F&W-a-12 Recreational developments, permits, or leases on lakes or lakeshores with historically active trumpeter swan nest sites or staging areas will be allowed
- ROP-F&W-a-13 , operations that require vegetation removal will avoid the migratory bird nesting period of April 15 to July 15; If no feasible alternatives exist, an assessment will be conducted to determine bird species present, significance of potential impacts, and possible mitigation measures.

Objective

ROP-F&W-b Avoid activities in sensitive wildlife and plant habitats.

Requirements

- ROP-F&W-b-1 Within one-fourth mile of lakes, ponds, or marshes with trumpeter swan nests, the following uses will not be permitted from May 1 to August 31: a) ground disturbance or surface use exceeding 14 days; b) FLPMA leases; c) FLPMA permits where surface use exceeds 14 days; or d) overland access to permitted activities. Stipulations regarding oil and gas exploration, development, and production are described in the *Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations* section beginning on page C-23. Exceptions to this ROP may be granted for mining operations where no feasible alternative exists and where mitigation measures can be identified to minimize impacts.

- ROP-F&W-b-2 Within defined caribou and bison calving areas, the following uses will not be permitted from May 1 to June 15: a) surface disturbing activities; b) FLPMA leases or permits that exceed 14 days of activity; or c) mining exploration. Aircraft associated with permitted activities will maintain an altitude of at least 1,000 feet. Exceptions to this ROP may be granted for mining operations where no feasible alternative exists and where mitigation measures can be identified to minimize impacts. Stipulations regarding oil and gas exploration, development, and production are described in the *Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations* section beginning on page C-23.
- ROP-F&W-b-3 Within defined moose winter range, the following uses will not be permitted from October 15 to March 31: a) surface disturbing activities; or b) FLPMA leases or permits that exceed 14 days of activity. Aircraft associated with permitted activities will maintain an altitude of 1,000 feet. Exceptions to this ROP may be granted for mining operations where no feasible alternative exists and where mitigation measures can be identified to minimize impacts. Exceptions may also be granted for other activities based on site-specific analysis and documented non-occupancy of the specific area by moose. Stipulations regarding oil and gas exploration, development, and production are described in the *Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations* section beginning on page C-23.
- ROP-F&W-b-4 Within one-fourth mile of bald eagle nests, the following uses will not be permitted from April 1 to August 31: a) surface disturbing activities; or b) FLPMA leases or permits. Aircraft associated with permitted activities will maintain an altitude of 1,000 feet within one-half mile of documented eagle nests. Exemptions to this ROP may be granted for mining operations where no feasible alternative exists and where mitigation measures can be identified to minimize impacts. Appropriate buffers around other raptor nests will be determined based on site-specific analysis. Stipulations regarding oil and gas exploration, development, and production are described in the *Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations* section beginning on page C-23.
- ROP-F&W-b- In critical Dall sheep and mountain goat habitat, helicopters used in support of permitted activities will maintain one-half mile horizontal and 1,500 foot vertical distance from goats and sheep. , are not permitted in Dall sheep or goat critical ranges, as identified based on ADF&G maps and refined by monitoring.

Objective

ROP-F&W-c Manage fish and wildlife resources and habitat to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to ensure progress towards recovery of listed threatened and endangered species.

Requirements

ROP-F&W-c-1 The planning area may now or hereafter contain plants or animals (or their habitats) identified as threatened, endangered, or Sensitive Status Species. The BLM may recommend modifications to proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid any BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. The BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activities that are likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed threatened or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. The BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activities that may affect any such species or critical habitat until the BLM completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the ESA, including completion of any required procedures for conference or consultation.

3. Riparian Areas and Water Quality

Objective

ROP-Water-a Locate new structures away from riparian or wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian or wetland function. Existing structures are used so as not to conflict with riparian or wetland functions, or they are relocated or modified when incompatible.

Requirements

ROP-Water-a-1 The design and location of permanent oil and gas facilities within 500 feet of fish-bearing waterbodies or within 100 feet of non fish-bearing waterbodies will only be approved on a case-by-case basis if the lessee can demonstrate that impacts to fish, water quality, and aquatic and riparian habitats are minimal.

ROP-Water-a-2 New road construction within floodplains will be avoided. Where necessary, roads will cross riparian areas perpendicular to the main channel.

Objective

ROP-Water-b Minimize disturbance to riparian areas and facilitate rehabilitation of riparian areas associated with mining activities.

Requirements

- ROP-Water-b-1 Streams will be diverted around mining operations using an appropriately-sized bypass channel.
- ROP-Water-b-2 All process waters and any groundwaters seeping into the operating area will be diverted into the settling pond system for treatment prior to reentering the natural water system.
- ROP-Water-b-3 Settling ponds will be cleaned out and maintained at appropriate intervals to comply with water quality standards. Fine sediment captured in settling ponds will be protected from washout and left in a stable condition at the end of each mining season to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation to the environment during periods of non-operation.
- ROP-Water-b-4 Riparian areas located between a mined ore deposit and a water course will not be disturbed to serve as a buffer strip to protect integrity of stream banks, provide water temperature control, and provide filtration of sediment from surface runoff. All roads, bunkhouses, offices, equipment storage, and maintenance facilities will be sited in upland areas if possible. Overburden will be placed on the uplands if possible or on the upland side of the mine pit. Application of this ROP is not intended to preclude activities which, by nature, must occur within riparian areas, such as placer mining. Exceptions to the ROP will need to be approved by the Authorized Officer, and any exceptions will be designed to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation.
- ROP-Water-b-5 Projects will be designed to protect water quality and comply with State and Federal water quality standards.

- ROP-Water-b-6 Streams that have been altered by channeling, diversion, or damming will be restored to a condition that will allow for proper functioning condition. Active streams will be returned to the natural water course or a new channel will be created at its lowest energy state (valley bottom) that approximates the old natural channel in shape, gradient, and meander frequency using a stable channel design. The new channel will be designed consistent with the capabilities of the reclaimed site.
- ROP-Water-b-7 Riparian vegetation, if removed during operations, will be reestablished.

Objective

- ROP-Water-c Provide for maintenance of proper functioning condition in riparian areas and protection of water quality by minimizing impacts of other permitted activities and vegetation treatments.

Requirements

- ROP-Water-c-1 Structural and vegetative treatments in riparian and wetland areas will be compatible with the capability of the site, including the system's hydrologic regime, and will contribute to the maintenance or restoration of proper functioning condition. Riparian vegetation, if removed during operations, will be reestablished.
- ROP-Water-c-2 Refueling of equipment will not be conducted in riparian areas or within 500 feet of the active floodplain of any fish-bearing waterbody or within 100 feet from non-fish bearing waterbodies. The AO may allow storage and operations at areas closer than the stated distance () if properly designed to account for local hydrologic conditions.
- ROP-Water-c-3 Water withdrawal from lakes may be authorized on a site-specific basis depending on size, water volume, depth, fish population, and species diversification.
- ROP-Water-c-4 If operations occur in winter, crossing of waterway courses will be made using a low-angle approach. Snow and ice bridges will be removed, breached, or slotted before spring break-up. Ramps and bridges will be substantially free of soil and debris.

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| ROP-Water-c-5 | All permitted operations will be conducted in such a manner as to not block any stream or drainage system, and to comply with State and Federal water quality standards. Application of this ROP is not intended to preclude activities which, by nature, must occur within riparian areas, such as hydropower dams or placer mining. |
| ROP-Water-c-6 | Human use will be managed to meet and maintain water quality standards and avoid management problems and water quality impacts. Specific management practices will include education, construction of toilet facilities where appropriate, and encouragement in the use of portable toilet systems. |
| ROP-Water-c-7 | Use of aerial fire retardant near lakes, wetlands, streams, rivers, sources of human water consumption, and areas adjacent to water sources will be avoided to protect fish habitat and water quality. If feasible, use of water rather than retardant is preferred in these areas. |

Objective

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| ROP-Water-d | Minimize disturbance to riparian areas from development of mineral materials sites. |
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Requirements

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| ROP-Water-d-1 | When responding to a request for a material sale or identifying a source for materials on public lands, the highest priority shall be given to using existing upland material sources. Using materials from wetlands, lakes, and active or inactive floodplains will be avoided unless no feasible public upland alternative exists. Sales or permits for gravel extraction will not be permitted in known fish spawning or rearing areas. |
| ROP-Water-d-2 | Where possible, braided or split stream types will be selected for material extraction. Meandering, sinuous, and straight stream channel types should be avoided. |
| ROP-Water-d-3 | Generally, the largest river feasible should be selected for a gravel operation in a given area. Larger rivers have higher volumes of gravel and a wider floodplain more forgiving to in-channel disturbance. The proportionately smaller disturbance in large river systems will reduce the overall effect of gravel removal. |
| ROP-Water-d-4 | Mining gravel from active channels will be avoided to reduce detrimental effects on water quality, aquatic habitat, and biota. |

ROP-Water-d-5	When possible, avoid vegetated habitats.
ROP-Water-d-6	When scraping gravel in active or inactive floodplains, maintain buffers that will constrain active channels to their original locations and configurations.
ROP-Water-d-7	Material pits will be designed with high shorelines, water depth diversity, and islands.
ROP-Water-d-8	If mining in vegetated areas, all overburden, vegetative slash, and debris will be saved for use during site reclamation to facilitate vegetative recovery. This material should be piled or broadcast so that it will not be washed away.

4. Wetlands

Objective

ROP-Wetlands-a	Direct land management practices to avoid or minimize adverse impacts upon the hydrological, habitat, subsistence, and recreational values of public wetlands.
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Requirements

ROP-Wetlands-a-1	Activities in wetlands will comply with Federal and State permit requirements for alteration of wetlands.
ROP-Wetlands-a-2	Utilize winter access whenever possible and avoid road or trail construction in wetlands.
ROP-Wetlands-a-3	In snow-free months, if wetlands cannot be avoided, low ground pressure vehicles will be used wherever possible.

5. Vegetation

Objective

ROP-Veg-a	Treatments to alter the vegetative composition of a site, such as prescribed burning, seeding, or planting, will be based on the potential of the site and will: a) retain or promote infiltration, permeability, and soil moisture storage; b) contribute to nutrient cycling and energy flow; c) protect water quality; d) help prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds; e) contribute to the diversity of plant communities and plant community composition and structure; f) maintain proper functioning condition; and g) support the conservation of threatened and endangered, Sensitive Status Species, and species of local importance.
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Requirements

ROP-Veg-a-1	Vegetation treatments will be designed to achieve desired conditions clearly described in individual burn plans or timber sales. Desired conditions will be based on the ecological capability of a given site and will be expressed as cover types or seral stages within cover types, based on management objectives.
ROP-Veg-a-2	Vegetation treatments will be designed to prevent introduction of noxious weeds. Prescribed burn plans will contain a segment on known occurrence of noxious weeds within planned burning areas and strategies for post-burn monitoring or treatment.
ROP-Veg-a-3	Machinery used in timber sales will be inspected for noxious weed seeds, especially if it is brought in from outside the Copper Basin.
ROP-Veg-a-4	Burn plans for large burns will prescribe conditions that result in a mosaic of burned or unburned areas within the burn unit. Smaller burns may not require a mosaic, dependent on objectives.
ROP-Veg-a-5	Timber sales will rely, to the extent possible, on natural regeneration through proper site preparation.
ROP-Veg-a-6	Permitted livestock grazing will be conducted in a manner that maintains long-term productivity of vegetation. Animals will not be picketed in riparian areas. In areas of low grass production, operators will pack in weed-free hay or concentrated feed.
ROP-Veg-a-7	Currently there is known habitat in the planning area for Sensitive Status plant species. However, no specific population locations are known. If specific populations or individual Sensitive Status species are located, measures will be taken to protect these populations or individuals through site-specific buffers or management prescriptions.

Objective

ROP-Veg-b Minimize vegetation disturbance from permitted activities.

Requirements

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| ROP-Veg-b-1 | Conduct ground operations during frozen conditions when possible (12 inches frost or 6 inches average snow cover). |
| ROP-Veg-b-2 | Bulldozing of tundra mat or vegetation is prohibited unless there is no feasible alternative (lode mining), as approved by the AO. If trenching is required, utilize equipment that minimizes trench width. |
| ROP-Veg-b-3 | Location of winter trails will be designed to minimize breakage or compaction of vegetation. |
| ROP-Veg-b-4 | When ground operations are required in snow-free months, select routes that utilize naturally hardened sites and avoid the need for trail braiding. |
| ROP-Veg-b-5 | Use of tracked or off-highway vehicles in fire suppression or management activities will be conducted in a manner that does not cause erosion, damage to riparian areas, degradation of water quality or fish habitat, or contribution to stream channel sedimentation. |
| ROP-Veg-b-6 | Permanent oil and gas facilities will be designed and located to minimize the development footprint. |
| ROP-Veg-b-7 | Rehabilitate firelines and bulldozer lines by spreading original soil and vegetation on the disturbed ground. In extreme cases where seeding or plugging may be necessary, use native vegetation and seeds. A rehabilitation plan should be developed by the suppression forces working with Field Office wildlife biologists and botanists. |

6. Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Objective

ROP-Cultural-a Consider protection and conservation of known cultural resources, including historical and pre-historic sites in management practices.

Requirements

- ROP-Cultural-a-1 For oil and gas activities, cultural resource protection is covered under the standard lease terms.
- ROP-Cultural-a-2 For other non-oil and gas permitted activities, cultural resource protection and conservation will be consistent with a) Sections 106, 110, and 101d of the Historic Preservation Act, b) procedures under BLM's 1997 Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 compliance, and c) the BLM's 1998 Implementing Protocol in Alaska between the BLM and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer.
- ROP-Cultural-a-3 If necessary, mitigation measures will be implemented according to a mitigation plan approved by the AO. Such plans are usually prepared by the land use applicant's contract archaeologist according to BLM specifications. Mitigation plans will be reviewed as part of Section 106 consultation for National Register eligible or listed properties. The extent and nature of recommended mitigation will be commensurate with the significance of the cultural resource involved and the anticipated extent of the damage. Reasonable costs for mitigation will be borne by the land use applicant. Mitigation will be cost-effective and realistic.

Objective

- ROP-Cultural-b Avoid damage to significant paleontological resources where possible, and mitigate unavoidable damage.

Requirements

- ROP-Cultural-b-1 For all actions, evaluate the impacts of proposed actions to known resources and avoid damage to already-identified significant paleontological resources by avoidance.
- ROP-Cultural-b-2 If avoidance is not possible, perform scientific examination of the to-be-impacted significant resources followed by appropriate mitigation, which may include the professional collection and analysis of significant specimens by scientists.

7. Visual Resources

Objective

- ROP-VRM-a Manage oil and gas, mining, and other permitted activities to meet the Visual Resource Management class objectives described below and shown on Map 16.
- Class I: Natural ecological changes and very limited management activity are allowed. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention. This classification is applied, within this planning area, to Wild and Scenic rivers.
 - Class II: The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
 - Class III: The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be moderate. Management activities may attract attention but should not dominate the view of the casual observer. Changes should repeat the basic elements found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.
 - Class IV: The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high. These management activities may dominate the view and be the major focus of viewer attention. However, every attempt should be made to minimize the impact of these activities through careful location, minimal disturbance, and repeating the basic elements.

Requirements

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| ROP-VRM-a-1 | To the extent practicable, all permanent facilities will be located away from roadsides, rivers, or trails, thereby using distance to reduce the facility's visual impact. |
| ROP-VRM-a-2 | Access roads and permanent facilities will be designed to meet the visual resource objective using such methods as minimizing vegetation clearing and using landforms to screen roads and facilities. |
| ROP-VRM-a-3 | Permanent facilities will be designed to be screened behind trees or landforms if feasible so they will blend with the natural surroundings. |
| ROP-VRM-a-4 | The modification or disturbance of landforms and vegetative cover will be minimized. |

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| ROP-VRM-a-5 | Permanent facilities will be designed so their shapes, sizes, and colors harmonize with the scale and character of the surrounding landscape. |
| ROP-VRM-a-6 | In open, exposed landscapes, development will be located in the opposite direction from the primary scenic views, if feasible. |

8. Hazardous Materials and Waste Handling

Objective

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| ROP-Haz-a | Protect the health and safety of permittees, lessees, miners, oil field workers, and the general public by avoiding the disposal of solid waste and garbage near areas of human activity. |
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Requirement

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| ROP-Haz-a-1 | Areas of operation will be left clean of all debris. |
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Objective

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| ROP-Haz-b | Minimize impacts on the environment from non-hazardous waste generation. |
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Requirements

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| ROP-Haz-b-1 | All feasible precautions will be taken to avoid attracting wildlife to food and garbage. |
| ROP-Haz-b-2 | Current requirements prohibit the burial of putrescible waste. All putrescible waste will be incinerated, backhauled, or composted in a manner approved by the AO. All solid waste, including incinerator ash, will be disposed of in an approved waste-disposal facility in accordance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) regulations and procedures. |

ROP-Haz-b-3	For oil and gas operations, all pumpable solid, liquid, and sludge waste will be disposed by injection in accordance with EPA, ADEC, and the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) regulations and procedures. The AO may permit alternate disposal if the lessee demonstrates that subsurface disposal is not feasible or prudent and the alternative method will not result in adverse environmental effects.
ROP-Haz-b-4	For oil and gas operations, produced water will be disposed of into injection wells as approved by the AOGCC under EPA regulations and the UICC program. The AO may permit alternate disposal methods if the lessee demonstrates that subsurface disposal is not feasible or prudent and the alternative method will not result in adverse environmental effects.
ROP-Haz-b-5	No disposal of domestic wastewater is allowed into bodies of fresh, estuarine, and marine water, including wetlands, unless authorized by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) or State permit.

Objective

ROP-Haz-c	Minimize the impacts to fish, wildlife, and the environment from hazardous materials, oil spills, and other chemical spills.
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Requirements

ROP-Haz-c-1	For oil and gas operations and mining Plans of Operation, a Hazardous Materials Emergency Contingency Plan will be prepared and implemented before transportation, storage, or use of fuel or hazardous substances. The plan will include a set of procedures to ensure prompt response, notification, and cleanup in the event of a hazardous substance spill or threat of a release. The plan will include a list of resources available for response (e.g., heavy-equipment operators, spill-cleanup materials or companies), and names and phone numbers of Federal and State contacts.
ROP-Haz-c-2	A Plan of Operations will include a disclosure of the components in any hydraulic fracturing materials to be used, the volume and depths at which such materials are expected to be used, and the volume capacity of the vessels to be used to store such materials.
ROP-Haz-c-3	For oil and gas operations and Mining Plans of Operation, the operator will maintain Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) information on all hazardous substances used by the operator.

ROP-Haz-c-4	Before initiating any oil and gas or related activity or operation, including field research and surveys and/or seismic operations, lessees/permittees will develop a comprehensive spill prevention and response contingency plan per 40 CFR 112.
ROP-Haz-c-5	For oil and gas operations, mining operations, and other leases and permits, sufficient oil-spill cleanup materials (absorbents, containment devices, etc.) will be stored at all fueling points and vehicle-maintenance areas and will be carried by field crews on all overland moves, seismic work trains, and similar overland moves by heavy equipment.
ROP-Haz-c-6	Fuel and other petroleum products will be stored at a location approved by the AO and within an impermeable lined and diked area capable of containing 110 percent of the stored volume or within approved alternate storage containers.
ROP-Haz-c-7	Fuel storage will not occur closer than 100 feet from any river, lake, stream, or wetland. [REDACTED]
ROP-Haz-c-8	Liner material will be compatible with the stored product and will be capable of remaining impermeable during typical weather extremes expected throughout the storage period.
ROP-Haz-c-9	All fuel containers, including barrels and propane tanks, will be marked with the responsible party's name, product type, and year filled and purchased.

Objective

ROP-Haz-d	Minimize the impact on fish, wildlife, and the environment from contaminants associated with the exploratory drilling process.
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Requirements

ROP-Haz-d-1	Surface discharge of reserve-pit fluids and produced water is prohibited unless authorized by applicable NPDES and ADEC and approved by the AO.
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C. Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations

Table 52. Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations

Objective	Stipulation	Areas Where Stipulations Apply	Exception, Modification, Waiver
Minimize disturbance to nesting trumpeter swans and their habitat.	Stip-1: Closed to drilling (exploration or development), pipeline construction, road construction, or location of permanent facilities May 1 to August 31. Allows off-season exploration activities or pipeline construction.	Area within one-fourth mile of trumpeter swan nesting or staging ponds, marshes, or lakes.	Exception: FWS 5-year census data will be used to accurately identify nest sites that are used repeatedly. Upon site-specific review and monitoring, the AO may grant exceptions based on non-occupancy of specific nests. Modification: Season may be adjusted based on documented season of occupancy of specific nest sites. Waiver: None if nests are present in the lease area.
Maintain high value moose habitat and minimize disturbance in areas of winter concentration.	Stip-2: Closed to drilling (exploratory and development), pipeline construction, and road construction activities October 15 to March 31. Open during this period to production activities. Open in off-season to all activities, subject to other stipulated areas.	Moose winter range. See Map 37.	Exception: Upon review and monitoring, the AO may grant exceptions based on actual moose use of site-specific area. Exceptions granted for work-over rigs on a case-by-case basis based on duration of activity and actual moose occupancy of area. Modification: Season may be adjusted depending on climatic conditions, severity of winter, and documented occupancy of the area. Waiver: None if moose winter range is present in the lease area.
Protect active bald eagle nests.	Stip-3: Closed to drilling (exploration or development), pipeline construction, road construction, or location of permanent facilities April 1 to August 31. Allows off-season exploration activities or pipeline construction.	One-fourth mile buffer from historically active bald eagle nests. See Map 38.	Exception: Where data exists, AO may grant exceptions based on review of eagle nest monitoring data. Nests unoccupied for three consecutive years may be considered for exception. Modification: Season may be adjusted based on actual nest occupancy. Waiver: None if bald eagle nests are present in area.

Objective	Stipulation	Areas Where Stipulations Apply	Exception, Modification, Waiver
Minimize disturbance to calving caribou and bison.	Stip-4: No exploration or development activities May 1 to June 15. Production activities may occur (no work-over rigs).	Nelchina caribou calving and Delta bison calving areas. See Maps 34 and 33.	Exception: AO may grant exception if review indicates that calving caribou or bison no longer occupy site-specific area. Modification: Season may be extended based on actual occupancy of the area. Monitoring (for Nelchina caribou) provided by annual ADF&G aerial counts. Waiver: This stipulation may be waived if caribou or bison migratory patterns change and the areas are no longer used for calving.
Minimize soil erosion.	Stip-5: Surface disturbing proposals involving construction on slopes greater than 25% would include an approved erosion control strategy, topsoil segregation/restoration plan, be properly surveyed and designed by a certified engineer, and approved by BLM prior to construction and maintenance.	All slopes greater than 25% within the planning area.	Exception: If after an environmental analysis the AO determines that it would cause undue or unnecessary degradation to pursue other placement alternatives, occupancy in the NSO area may be authorized. Modification: May be granted if a more detailed analysis (Order I soil survey) finds that surface disturbance could occur without accelerated erosion. Waivers: None.
Minimize impact on the human environment.	Stip-6: The operator will construct drill pads at least 500 feet and compressor stations at least 1,500 feet from occupied structures.		Exception: The AO may grant an exception if the operator obtains the consent of the owner of the structure. Modification: None. Waivers: None.

Objective	Stipulation	Areas Where Stipulations Apply	Exception, Modification, Waiver
Protect threatened, endangered, or Sensitive Status Species and their habitats.	Stip-7: The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or Sensitive Status Species. The BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activities that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. The BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activities that are likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed or listed TES species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat.	All BLM-managed lands.	Exception: None. Modification: None. Waiver: None.

D. Standard Lease Terms (BLM Form 3100-11)

Section 1. Rentals

Rentals shall be paid to proper office of lessor in advance of each lease year. Annual rental rates per acre or fraction thereof are:

- (a) Noncompetitive lease, \$1.50 for the first 5 years; thereafter \$2.00;
- (b) Competitive lease, \$1.50, for the first 5 years; thereafter \$2.00;
- (c) Other, see attachment,

or as specified in regulations at the time this lease is issued.

If this lease or a portion thereof is committed to an approved cooperative or unit plan which includes a well capable of producing leased resources, and the plan contains a provision for allocation of production, royalties shall be paid on the production allocated to this lease. However, annual rentals shall continue to be due at the rate specified in (a), (b), or (c) for those lands not within a participating area.

Failure to pay annual rental, if due, on or before the anniversary date of this lease (or next official working day if office is closed) shall automatically terminate this lease by operation of law. Rentals may be waived, reduced, or suspended by the Secretary upon a sufficient showing by lessee.

Section 2. Royalties

Royalties shall be paid to proper office of lessor. Royalties shall be computed in accordance with regulations on production removed or sold. Royalty rates are:

- (a) Noncompetitive lease, 12 1/2 %;
- (b) Competitive lease, 12 1/2 %;
- (c) Other, see attachment; or

as specified in regulations at the time this lease is issued.

Lessor reserves the right to specify whether royalty is to be paid in value or in kind, and the right to establish reasonable minimum values on products after giving lessee notice and an opportunity to be heard. When paid in value, royalties shall be due and payable on the last day of the month following the month in which production occurred. When paid in kind, production shall be delivered, unless otherwise agreed to by lessor, in merchantable condition on the premises where produced without cost to lessor. Lessee shall not be required to hold such production in storage beyond the last day of the month following the month in which production occurred, nor shall lessee be held liable for loss or destruction of royalty oil or other products in storage from causes beyond the reasonable control of lessee.

Minimum royalty in lieu of rental of not less than the rental which otherwise would be required for that lease year shall be payable at the end of each lease year beginning on

or after a discovery in paying quantities. This minimum royalty may be waived, suspended, or reduced, and the above royalty rates may be reduced, for all or portions of this lease if the Secretary determines that such action is necessary to encourage the greatest ultimate recovery of the leased resources, or is otherwise justified.

An interest charge shall be assessed on late royalty payments or underpayments in accordance with the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act of 1982 (FOGRMA) (30 U.S.C. 1701). Lessee shall be liable for royalty payments on oil and gas lost or wasted from a lease site when such loss or waste is due to negligence on the part of the operator, or due to the failure to comply with any rule, regulation, order, or citation issued under FOGRMA or the leasing authority.

Section 3. Bonds

A bond shall be filed and maintained for lease operations as required under regulations.

Section 4. Diligence, rate of development, unitization, and drainage

Lessee shall exercise reasonable diligence in developing and producing, and shall prevent unnecessary damage to, loss of, or waste of leased resources. Lessor reserves right to specify rates of development and production in the public interest and to require lessee to subscribe to a cooperative or unit plan, within 30 days of notice, if seemed necessary for proper development and operation of area, field, or pool embracing these leased lands. Lessee shall drill and produce wells necessary to protect leased lands from drainage or pay compensatory royalty for drainage in amount determined by lessor.

Section 5. Documents, evidence, and inspection

Lessee shall file with proper office of lessor, not later than 30 days after effective date thereof, any contract or evidence of other arrangement for sale or disposal of production. At such times and in such form as lessor may prescribe, lessee shall furnish detailed statements showing amounts and quality of all products removed and sold, proceeds therefrom, and amount used for production purposes or unavoidably lost. Lessee may be required to provide plats and schematic diagrams showing development work and improvements and reports with respect to parties in interest, expenditures, and depreciation costs. In the form prescribed by lessor, lessee shall keep a daily drilling record, a log, information on well surveys and tests, and a record of subsurface investigations and furnish copies to lessor when required. Lessee shall keep open at all reasonable times for inspection by any authorized officer of lessor, the leased premises and all wells, improvements, machinery, and fixtures thereon, and all books, accounts, maps, and records relative to operations, surveys, or investigations on or in the leased lands. Lessee shall maintain copies of all contracts, sales agreements, accounting records, and documentation such as billings, invoices, or similar documentation that supports costs claimed as manufacturing, preparation, and/or transportation costs. All such records shall be maintained in lessee's accounting offices

for future audit by lessor. Lessee shall maintain required records for 6 years after they are generated or, if an audit or investigation is underway, until released of the obligation to maintain such records by lessor.

During existence of this lease, information obtained under this section shall be closed to inspection by the public in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).

Section 6. Conduct of operations

Lessee shall conduct operations in a manner that minimizes adverse impacts to the land, air, and water, to cultural, biological, visual, and other resources, and to other land uses or users. Lessee shall take reasonable measures deemed necessary by lessor to accomplish the intent of this section. To the extent consistent with lease rights granted, such measures may include, but are not limited to, modification to siting or design of facilities, timing of operations, and specification of interim and final reclamation measures. Lessor reserves the right to continue existing uses and to authorize future uses upon or in the leased lands, including the approval of easements or rights-of-way. Such uses shall be conditioned so as to prevent unnecessary or unreasonable interference with rights of lessee.

Prior to disturbing the surface of the leased lands, lessee shall contact lessor to be apprised of procedures to be followed and modifications or reclamation measures that may be necessary. Areas to be disturbed may require inventories or special studies to determine the extent of impacts to other resources. Lessee may be required to complete minor inventories or short term special studies under guidelines provided by lessor. If in the conduct of operations, threatened or endangered species, objects of historic or scientific interest, or substantial unanticipated environmental effects are observed, lessee shall immediately contact lessor. Lessee shall cease any operations that would result in the destruction of such species or objects.

Section 7. Mining operations

To the extent that impacts from mining operations would be substantially different or greater than those associated with normal drilling operations, lessor reserves the right to deny approval of such operations.

Section 8. Extraction of helium

Lessor reserves the option of extracting or having extracted helium from gas production in a manner specified and by means provided by lessor at no expense or loss to lessee or owner of the gas. Lessee shall include in any contract of sale of gas the provisions of this section.

Section 9. Damages to property

Lessee shall pay lessor for damage to lessor's improvements, and shall save and hold lessor harmless from all claims for damage or harm to persons or property as a result of lease operations.

Section 10. Protection of diverse interests and equal opportunity

Lessee shall: pay when due all taxes legally assessed and levied under laws of the State or the United States; accord all employees complete freedom of purchase; pay all wages at least twice each month in lawful money of the United States; maintain a safe working environment in accordance with standard industry practices; and take measures necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

Lessor reserves the right to ensure that production is sold at reasonable prices; and to prevent monopoly. If lessee operates a pipeline, or owns controlling interest in a pipeline or a company operating a pipeline, which may be operated accessible to oil derived from these leased lands, lessee shall comply with section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920.

Lessee shall comply with Executive Order No. 11246 of September 24, 1965, as amended, and regulations and relevant orders of the Secretary of Labor issued pursuant thereto. Neither lessee, nor lessee's subcontractors shall maintain segregated facilities.

Section 11. Transfer of lease interests and relinquishment of lease

As required by regulations, lessee shall file with lessor any assignment or other transfer of an interest in this lease. Lessee may relinquish this lease or any legal subdivision by filing in the proper office a written relinquishment, which shall be effective as of the date of filing, subject to the continued obligation of the lessee and surety to pay all accrued rentals and royalties.

Section 12. Delivery of premises

At such time as all or portions of this lease are returned to lessor, lessee shall place affected wells in condition for suspension or abandonment, reclaim the land as specified by lessor and, within a reasonable period of time, remove equipment and improvements not deemed necessary by lessor for preservation of producible wells.

Section 13. Proceedings in case of default

If lessee fails to comply with any provisions of this lease, and the noncompliance continues for 30 days after written notice thereof, this lease shall be subject to cancellation unless or until the leasehold contains a well capable of production of oil or gas in paying quantities, or the lease is committed to an approved cooperative or unit

plan or communitization agreement which contains a well capable of production of unitized substances in paying quantities. This provision shall not be construed to prevent the exercise by lessor of any other legal and equitable remedy, including waiver of the default. Any such remedy or waiver shall not prevent later cancellation for the same default occurring at any other time. Lessee shall be subject to applicable provisions and penalties of FOGPMA (30 U.S.C. 1701).

Section 14. Heirs and successors-in-interest

Each obligation of this lease shall extend to and be binding upon, and every benefit hereof shall inure to the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, beneficiaries, or assignees of the respective parties hereto.