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# Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Record of Decision and Approved Management Plan

Central Yukon Field Office and Anchorage Field Office, Alaska



# **Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Record of Decision**



# Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Record of Decision

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This Record of Decision (ROD) approves the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) proposal to manage public lands under the jurisdiction of the Central Yukon Field Office and the Anchorage Field Office as presented in the Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP). This RMP was described as Alternative D in the September 2007 Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Proposed RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS)(USDI-BLM 2007). 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 describes the decisions themselves.

The Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Planning Area generally encompasses the area included in the Northwest Arctic Borough, most of the Bering Straits Region, and the western edge of the North Slope Borough. The planning area is bounded on the west and south by the Chukchi and Bering seas and on the east by the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk-Valley National Park and Preserve, and the Yukon River watershed (Map 1). The area is remote with no road access to interior Alaska.

Of the approximately 30 million acres within the planning area, decisions in the Approved RMP will initially apply to 11.9 million acres of BLM-managed public lands. Acreages presented in the Approved RMP will change because BLM continues to transfer title to lands within the planning area. Lands covered by the Approved RMP are classified as follows:

- **BLM:** Lands that will most likely be retained in Federal ownership. They are not selected by the State or by Native corporations.
- **State-selected:** 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 outside of National Park system lands or National Wildlife Refuges will be managed by the BLM. ANILCA allowed for overselection by the State by up to 25% of the entitlement (sec. 906 (f)). Therefore, some State-selected lands will eventually be retained in Federal ownership.
- **Native-selected:** The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971 gave Alaska Natives an entitlement of 44 million acres. Some ANCSA corporations filed selections in excess of their entitlements, thus some Native-selected lands will be retained in Federal ownership.
- **Dual-selected:** Lands that have been selected by both the State and Alaska Natives.
- **Mineral estate:** All subsurface mineral estate lying beneath BLM lands is BLM-managed. On selected lands, the mineral estate goes to the State or the Native corporation upon conveyance. In addition, BLM manages an estimated 80,000 acres of subsurface mineral estate beneath private surface within the planning area.
- **Military lands:** Land under withdrawal to the military. If released and returned to BLM management during the life of the plan, direction contained in the Approved RMP would apply.

Decisions in the Approved RMP will not apply to State lands, village and regional Native corporation lands, National Park Service lands, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands, and private

lands. However, decisions in the Approved RMP will apply to BLM-managed subsurface mineral estate, including the subsurface beneath private surface within the planning area.

Development of this RMP was formally initiated with publication of a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register in January of 2004. Over the next three years, BLM conducted public outreach, and involved diverse interests as part of plan development. 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.

On May 5, 2006, the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft RMP/Final EIS was published in the Federal Register, starting the 90-day public review and comment period. In response to requests from the public and local government, the BLM extended the comment period until September 15, 2006. Substantive comments were compiled, with the responses, in the Response to Comments section (Appendix J of the PRMP/FEIS).

The PRMP/FEIS was published on September 28, 2007. The BLM completed the standard protest period of 30 days prior to approval of this ROD, as required by BLM planning regulations found in 43 CFR 1610.5-2. The protest period ended October 29, 2007.

**Table 1. Land Status within the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Planning Area**

Land Category	Acres	Percent of Planning Area
<b>BLM-managed lands</b>		
BLM public lands	5,271,000	17
State-selected	2,569,000	9
Native-selected	4,073,000	13
Dual-selected	80,000*	<1
<b>BLM-managed lands subtotal</b>	<b>11,913,000</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>National Park Service</b>	<b>4,090,000</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</b>	<b>2,327,000</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Military</b>	<b>5,000</b>	<b>&lt;1</b>
<b>State of Alaska</b>	<b>6,370,000</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Private**</b>	<b>5,713,000</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Total lands within the planning area</b>	<b>30,418,000</b>	<b>100</b>

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

\*Dual-selected acres are included in the State- and Native-selected totals, and are not included in the BLM-managed lands subtotal.

\*\*Private lands include ANCSA lands, Native allotments, and all other privately owned lands. The vast majority of this acreage is comprised of Native corporation land. Approximately 80,000 acres of these lands include BLM's subsurface mineral estate.

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

### A. Protests

A 30-day protest period was provided on the land use plan decisions in accordance with 43 CFR Part 1610.5-2. Six protest letters were received. Two of the protests were dismissed due to lack of standing.

The protesting parties with standing were:

- The Alaska Wilderness League
- The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group
- The Northwest Arctic Borough
- Ms. Sue Steinacher

The main points of each protest were as follows:

#### Alaska Wilderness League

- Failure to provide adequate protection of public land by recommending revocation of all ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals
- Insufficient analysis of future demands for mineral resources extraction and industrial activities
- Inadequate response to substantive public comment
- Insufficient range of alternatives
- Failure to maintain draft RMP/EIS preferred alternative Research Natural Area (RNA) designation and mineral withdrawal for Mount Osborn
- Failure to adequately justify re-designation and address public comment/support for RNA designation of Mount Osborn
- Inadequate protection for Mount Osborn Area
- Ambiguity regarding future development of an Off-Highway Vehicle Management plan for the Kigluaik Mountains and Mount Osborn
- Inadequate protection for special resources and habitat within the areas of critical environmental concern designated in the proposed RMP/FEIS
- Failure to comply with the Endangered Species Act
- Failure to adequately consider cumulative impacts

#### The Western Arctic Caribou Working Group

- Insufficient analysis of the effects of climate change on the Arctic ecosystem and caribou
- Insufficient cumulative impact analysis of resource development activities, particularly on caribou and subsistence
- Failure to incorporate Department of Interior policy on Adaptive Management into the Proposed RMP
- Revocation of ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals
- Insufficient protection of important caribou habitats including winter range, calving grounds, insect relief habitat, and migration routes
- Insufficient public process during development of the Proposed RMP

### The Northwest Arctic Borough

- Insufficient ANILCA Section 810 process including: insufficient notice for the Section 810 hearings, inadequate Section 810 analysis, BLM did not meet the “least impact possible” requirement of ANILCA, and the Proposed RMP does not minimize adverse impacts to subsistence use
- The interim management for the Squirrel River is not sufficient
- The three-year time frame for development of the Squirrel River Recreation Management Area Plan is too long
- Inconsistency in the group size reported in the Market Analysis table and the Classification Table for the Squirrel River Special Management Area
- Failure to provide adequate protections for subsistence and cultural interests by recommending revocation of ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals within the Northwest Arctic Borough specifically relating to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd calving and insect relief grounds, the Squirrel River Management Area and the Borough-designated Pah River Cultural Resource Protection Area

### Ms. Steinacher

- Insufficient analysis of the impacts of climate change on the Arctic ecosystem and failure to mitigate impacts of climate change
- Recommendation for revocation of all ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals violates BLM’s multiple-use mandate
- Inadequate protection for special resources and habitat within the areas of critical environmental concern designated in the proposed RMP/FEIS
- Failure to designate Mount Osborn as a Research Natural Area
- Insufficient public process during development of the RMP

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 Kobuk-Seward Peninsula PRMP/FEIS was published on September 28, 2007, and made available for State review at that time. The Governor’s Consistency Review, dated November 21, 2007, found the PRMP/FEIS to be consistent with state interests, plans, policies, and programs.



### III. DECISION

A decision is hereby made to approve the attached Resource Management Plan for the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula planning area for lands administered by the Central Yukon Field Office and the Anchorage Field Office of the BLM. Management decisions and guidance for public lands under the jurisdiction of the Central Yukon and Anchorage Field Offices are presented in the Approved RMP attached to this ROD in Section II, *Management Decisions*.

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.

The Approved RMP replaces the Northwest Management Framework Plan (MFP) approved in 1982 (USDI-BLM 1982).

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 requirement for transporters and air taxi operators to obtain a permit to operate on BLM-managed lands in the Squirrel River watershed.*** The transporter/air taxi permitting decision is an implementation decision which may be appealed under the Department of Interior's appeal regulations (43 CFR Part 4). Information on how to appeal this decision can be found in the *Implementation Decisions* section below.

#### A. Notice of Modifications

As a result of protests on the Proposed RMP the BLM incorporates the following modifications and clarifications in the Approved RMP.

The BLM clarified that the appropriate group size in the Squirrel River Special Recreation Management Area and Kigluaik Recreation Management Zone of the Salmon Lake-Kigluaik Mountains Special Recreation Management Area is 7-10 people. The Market Analysis Table (Table 9 in the Approved RMP) was corrected to change the group size in the prescribed setting character from 3-5 to 7-10 persons to be consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Table for Special Recreation Management Areas (Appendix B of the Approved RMP).

The BLM will develop an off-highway vehicle (OHV) activity plan for the Mount Osborn Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) once stable land status is realized. The OHV activity plan for the Mount Osborn ACEC will be included within the travel management plan for the Salmon Lake-Kigluaik Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The projected completion of these travel management/activity plans is five years from approval of the ROD for the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Final EIS, as recommended in BLM Handbook H-1601-1, Appendix C, Section II (D). In developing a travel management plan for these areas, the BLM will inventory current impacts to resources from OHV use and develop mitigation measures to prevent damage from OHV use. Table 10 in the Approved RMP, *Travel Management Areas and OHV Designations*, was modified to include the five-year time frame for the travel management plan.

As a result of consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the following requirement is incorporated into section II.J-1-c-9 of the Approved RMP:

BLM will not permit seismic surveys south of Point Hope until such activities are authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), which will require a concurrent Section 7 analysis to ensure survey actions do not violate Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA.

## **B. What the Decision/RMP Provides**

This ROD and Approved RMP provide overall direction for management of all resources found on BLM-managed lands within the boundary of the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula planning area, as well as federally-managed subsurface estate.

Decisions in the ROD and Approved RMP apply to all BLM-managed lands (11,913,000 acres), including selected lands (6,642,000 acres), until such time as title is transferred to the State or a Native corporation. Decisions also apply to BLM-managed subsurface mineral estate beneath private lands (approximately 80,000 acres). Acreages presented in the ROD and Approved RMP are approximate because BLM continues to transfer title to lands within the planning area.

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

## **C. What the Decision/RMP Does Not Provide**

The ROD and Approved RMP do not contain decisions for management of lands administered by the State of Alaska, the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, or the military.

The ROD and Approved RMP do not authorize any project, approve any application, or provide approval for any specific future action within the planning area. All future applications will be subject to a NEPA process, including additional public review, the identification of potential impacts resulting from the proposed action, the development and application of mitigating measures, and the assignment of Required Operating Procedures (ROPS) and Standard Stipulations as appropriate.

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

*Statutory requirements:* The decision will not change the BLM's responsibility to comply with applicable laws and regulations including, but not limited to the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the Endangered Species Act, or any other Federal law.

*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 RMP.

## D. Implementation Decisions

While designation of the Squirrel River as a special recreation management area is a land use planning decision, the requirement that transporters and air taxi operators obtain a Special Recreation Permit to operate on BLM lands in the Squirrel River (described in Section M-2-1-c of the Approved RMP) is an implementation decision. In accordance with 43 CFR Part 2932.11, BLM is publishing notification of this requirement to obtain a Special Recreation Permit in the *Federal Register* associated with publishing the Notice of Availability of this ROD.

### ***D-a: Appeal Procedures for Implementation Decisions***

Any party adversely affected by the proposed decision to require that transporters and air taxi operators obtain a Special Recreation Permit to operate on BLM land in the Squirrel River 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 RMP in the *Federal Register* will be considered the date the decision is received. The appeal should state the specific decision that is being appealed. The appeal must be filed with the Field Manager, at the following address:

Bureau of Land Management  
Central Yukon Field Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

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.

### ***D-b: 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 CFR 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.

## 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 RMP:

- The Market Analysis tables for the Squirrel River SRMA and the Salmon-Lake Kigluaik Mountains SRMA were moved from an Appendix to Section II of the Approved RMP.
- The requirement in Section E-1-a-9 to develop an activity-level plan outlining specific prescriptions for wildland fire use was removed to reflect pending changes to National wildland fire policy. Once policy changes are adopted by BLM, required follow-up actions including the development of an activity-level plan(s), will be implemented.
- Management Action J-4-c-6 has been reworded to change “successor agency” to “contract service providers” to clarify the role of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in the management of mineral material sites on certificated Native allotments. While the BIA retains overall trust responsibility, under the authority of Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (Public Law 93-638), the agency can contract with Tribal Governments and organizations to operate federal service programs.
- An additional goal of “Eliminate or remediate physical hazards from AML sites on public lands” was added to Section II, A-1-6 *Abandoned Mine Lands and Hazardous Materials Management*.
- Any reference to rivers determined suitable for inclusion as wild and scenic were removed from management actions as the ROD for the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP determines that no rivers are suitable for designation (Section VI *Land Use Management Decisions*). For example, the recreation monitoring section of the Proposed RMP identified suitable rivers as a priority for monitoring, since no rivers were determined to be suitable, this monitoring action was reworded.
- Management Action C-5-b-4 was reworded to clarify that the ACEC management plan for the Nulato Hills ACEC will include discussion of appropriate fire management actions to maintain an adequate acreage of lichen habitats.
- Management Action E-1-a-4 was reworded to clarify and to provide examples of avoidance areas for fire suppression activities.
- Management Action E-1-a-5 was reworded to clarify the meaning.
- A Management decision to implement the most current fire management plan was deleted because this is standard operating procedure.
- Fish Management Goal F-1-2 and Recreation Management Decision M-5-2 were reworded to clarify that they include subsistence use.
- Monitoring and Inventory decision F-4-a-4 was modified to include coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and collection of genetic samples of Dolly Varden and Arctic char, in addition to the salmon species that were originally identified.
- Monitoring and Inventory decision F-4-a-5 was modified to include Gold Run Lake as one of the primary indices for BLM sensitive species trend studies.
- Management Action G-3-1 was modified to include Title VIII of ANILCA as an authority for the harvest of personal use firewood and house logs by qualified subsistence users.
- Management Action H-2-a-5 was reworded to change “cabins” to “structures” in recognition of the fact that not all trespass structures are cabins.
- Management Action H-5-a-2 was reworded to clarify that PLO 6477 will be modified rather than revoked. Another sentence was added to reference mineral leasing setback requirements established in the Approved RMP.

- Table 5 of the Approved RMP was modified to include recommendations to maintain Hot Springs and PSC withdrawals. No recommendation on these withdrawals was included in the Proposed RMP.
- Management Action J-3-c-3 was reworded to clarify that either a mining plan of operations or a notice of operations will be required, depending upon the location and size of the exploration activity. According to 43 CFR 3809.11 a Plan of Operation is required when the area exceeds five acres or involves bulk sampling of over 1,000 tons of ore. If exploration occurs in a designated ACEC, a plan of operations is required regardless of size.
- Monitoring of mined areas for water quality and proper function condition was added under J-3-d, Locatable Minerals, and J-4-c, Mineral Materials.
- Management Action J-4-c-2 was reworded to clarify that mining plans for mineral materials sales will consider the location of special status species, essential fish habitat and other sensitive resources in relation to the proposed operation, consistent with the Required Operating Procedures in Appendix A.
- Table 8, *Salmon Lake Campground Recreation Management Zone (Prescribed Setting Character)* was reworded to clarify that on a seasonal basis, the number of visitors may range from 11-20 persons in a group.
- Management Decision M-3-3 was reworded to clarify that public use shelters will be considered in both the special recreation management areas and the extensive recreation management area.
- Two additional Recreation monitoring actions, M-5-4 and M-5-5, were identified, consistent with BLM's Benefits Based Management Program.

## IV. OVERVIEW OF THE ALTERNATIVES

Four alternatives, including a No Action Alternative were analyzed in detail in both the Draft RMP/EIS (May 2006) and the Proposed RMP/FEIS (September 2007). 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 represents a complete and reasonable set of objectives, actions and allocations that would guide future management of lands and resources in the planning area.

### A. Alternative Description

**Alternative A** is the No Action Alternative. It would continue present management practices and present levels of resource use based on the existing Northwest Management Framework Plan (MFP) (BLM 1982) and other management decision documents. Valid decisions contained in the MFP would be implemented if not already completed. Direction contained in existing laws, regulation, and policy would also continue to be implemented, sometimes superseding provisions in the MFP. The current levels, methods, and mix of multiple-use management of public land 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. Fire would be managed consistent with the Alaska Land Use Plan Amendment for Wildland Fire and Fuels Management (BLM 2004b, 2005c).



**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. All Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) withdrawals [pursuant to Section 17(d)(1)] would be revoked on lands retained in long-term Federal ownership, increasing the potential for mineral exploration and development. Seasonal stipulations for oil and gas leasing in caribou habitat and several area based Required Operating Procedures would not apply under this alternative (Appendix A). Travel and trail restrictions would be minimized. One Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) would be identified in the Squirrel River to focus management on recreational use. In other areas, recreation management would focus on dispersed recreation and management of permits.

**Alternative C** emphasizes active measures to protect and enhance resource values. Production of minerals and services would be more constrained than in Alternative B or D, and in some areas, uses would be excluded to protect sensitive resources. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) and SRMAs are identified, and specific measures proposed to protect or enhance values within these areas. Several rivers are recommended suitable for designation under the Wild and Scenic River Act. Limited areas are proposed for off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to protect habitat, soil and vegetation resources. Most ANCSA withdrawals [pursuant to Section 17(d)(1)] are revoked but some would be replaced with new withdrawals to protect resource values. Most Required Operating Procedures outlined in Appendix A would apply. Most anadromous streams and all ACECs would be closed to mineral entry and location. Areas suitable for mineral material disposal would be limited. This alternative treats lands selected by the State and by Native or village corporations as if these lands were to be retained in long-term Federal ownership.

**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 under Alternative C. This alternative would designate six ACECs and identify two SRMAs. No rivers would be recommended as suitable for designation under the Wild and Scenic River Act. This alternative would revoke all remaining ANCSA withdrawals [pursuant to Section 17(d)(1)], leaving the majority of the planning area available for mineral leasing, entry and location. All oil and gas leasing stipulations and Required Operating Procedures would be implemented to protect resource values. This alternative describes interim and long-term management strategies for lands selected by the State, or Native regional or village corporations.

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 and internal agency 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, did not involve BLM-managed land, or were outside of the technical or legal constraints of developing a land use plan for public lands and resources:

- Transfer of BLM-managed lands near the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve to the National Park Service
- Proposed Clear Creek Hot Springs RNA
- Proposed Camp Haven Gap RNA
- Proposed Windy Cove RNA

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 is considered the environmentally preferred alternative when taking into consideration the human (social and economic) environment as well as the natural environment, and considering the BLM's mission and changing land ownership patterns. 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 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 will provide the most economic benefit to the economy in the short term. Alternative D will provide a better balance between sustainable economic benefits and resource protection than Alternatives A or B. Alternative C would be more protective of natural and biological values than Alternatives A, B, or D, but would allow for fewer or restricted uses.

## **V. MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS IN SELECTING THE APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT 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. Alternative D was developed to address the diverse resource uses in a fair manner and provide a practical and "workable" framework for management of the lands within the planning area.

The BLM is responsible for preparing a plan consistent with its legal mandates that reflects its collective professional judgment, while incorporating varying viewpoints and ideas. 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 Approved RMP 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. Approval of a plan which provided a balance of resource uses and the flexibility of management options to meet the concerns for the resources and the socio-economic need was a major factor. Alternative D was selected because it provides management direction that will maintain and improve the quality of the resources, while considering needs and demands for potential resource development and use. 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 which make up 22% of the lands within the planning area. Efforts were 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 RMP affecting selected lands represent an interim management strategy that is generally consistent with State or Native Corporation land use planning documents. In general, decisions for selected lands avoid a major commitment of resources and are custodial in nature. Site-specific measures are identified through Required Operating Procedures or stipulations that will protect resource values on selected lands.

## **VI. LAND USE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS**

Specific management decisions are presented in the attached Resource Management Plan. The primary management decisions in the Approved RMP are:

### **Resource Management**

The Approved RMP includes measures to manage and monitor resources to protect and enhance vegetative communities, fish and wildlife, natural and cultural resources, and recreational opportunities. Uses will be managed to protect and prevent damage to public land resources through adoption of Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations and Required Operating

Procedures (ROPS) described in Appendix A and development of additional resource protection measures as appropriate for site-specific activities.

### **Withdrawal Management**

The Approved RMP recommends revocation of all ANCSA Section 17(d)(1) withdrawals. Withdrawal revocation requires additional work and approval by the Secretary before withdrawals are actually removed. The revocation of these withdrawals would open unencumbered lands for mineral leasing or mineral entry. However, State and Native-selected lands would remain segregated from mineral entry until they are either conveyed out of BLM ownership or the selections are relinquished. Revocation of withdrawals would replace large-scale prohibitions on these activities with site-specific Required Operating Procedures and lease stipulations.

### **Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs)**

The Approved RMP identifies two Special Recreation Management areas (SRMAs): the Squirrel River SRMA and the Salmon Lake-Kigluaik Mountains SRMA (Approved RMP Maps 14 and 15). The BLM will develop Special Recreation Management Plans (implementation plans) to address conflicts and manage the BLM lands in these areas. The Approved RMP responds to the user conflict issue in the Squirrel River by designating it as a SRMA, requiring development of a Recreation Area Management Plan within three years, and implementing interim management for the area until these conflicts can be resolved through additional planning and coordination with the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State of Alaska, the Northwest Arctic Borough, NANA Regional Corporation, Native Tribal Governments, local residents and private interests.

### **Off-highway Vehicle Management**

The Approved RMP designates 11.9 million acres as “limited” to Off-highway Vehicles (OHVs) with a limitation of 2,000 pounds gross vehicle weight rating. On State and Native-selected lands, the Approved RMP implements management direction that encourages OHV users to utilize existing trails. Use of OHVs off of existing trails must not create resource impacts. This management direction is consistent with existing State statutes (11 AAC 96.020 and 96.025).

### **Designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)**

The Approved RMP designates six ACECs (Map 17 of the Approved RMP) including: Nulato Hills ACEC (1,080,000 acres), Shaktoolik River ACEC (234,000 acres), Ungalik River ACEC (264,000 acres), Inglutalik ACEC (466,000 acres), Western Arctic Caribou Insect Relief ACEC (1,529,000 acres) and the Mount Osborn ACEC (82,000 acres). All ACECs are open to locatable and leasable mineral entry with restrictions as described in the Approved RMP. Acreage of ACECs is approximate (based on land conveyance prior to October 2006). The final size of the ACECs is dependant upon results of final land conveyances.

### **Minerals Management**

The Approved RMP will make up to 11.9 million acres of BLM-managed surficial lands, as well as the mineral estate, available to mineral leasing and locatable mineral entry. Currently, approximately six million acres are not withdrawn from locatable mineral entry and four million acres are not withdrawn from mineral leasing. However, some of these lands are unavailable to entry or leasing due to their status as selected land. State-and Native-selected lands will not be open to mineral leasing or entry until relinquishment of selection. Of those lands available for mineral leasing, approximately 52,000 acres are available subject to no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulations.

**Rights-of-way**

The Approved RMP establishes a right-of-way avoidance area in the Nulato Hills ACEC.

**Wild and Scenic River Suitability Determination**

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS reviewed the suitability of eleven eligible river segments for designation as components of the national wild and scenic rivers system. Based on the analysis of impacts, comments from the public and other agencies, and the criteria in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, it was determined that none were suitable for designation.

**Fire and Vegetation Management**

The Approved RMP recognizes the importance of caribou to the region, the importance of lichen habitat for caribou, and the effect of fire on lichen habitats.

## **VII. MITIGATION MEASURES**

Measures to avoid or minimize environmental harm were built into the Approved RMP where practicable. Many of the standard management provisions will minimize impacts when applied to activities proposed in the planning area. Required Operating Procedures (Appendix A, Approved RMP) will be applied for all permitted uses including placer mining, realty permits, and special recreation permits. In addition, Standard oil and gas lease terms and oil and gas leasing stipulations will be applied to fluid mineral leases (Appendix A, Approved RMP). Additional measures to mitigate environmental impacts will also be developed during subsequent NEPA analysis at the activity level planning and project stages.

## **VIII. 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 RMP to determine whether the objectives set forth in this document are being met and if applying the land use plan direction is effective. If monitoring shows land use plan actions or ROPS 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 broad goals and objectives are not changed.



## IX. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND CONSULTATION

### Public Involvement

One of the BLM's objectives during development of the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP was to understand the views of various publics by providing opportunities for participation in the resource management planning process. 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 Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP/EIS and Kobuk-Seward Peninsula 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 mailings to request participation and inform the public of new and ongoing project proposals, site-specific planning, and opportunities and timeframes for comment. The BLM will continue to coordinate with the numerous state, Federal, tribal, and local agencies and officials interested and involved in the management of BLM lands in northwestern Alaska.

### Section 7 Consultation

Three species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) occur in the planning area: spectacled eider (*Somateria fischeri*), Steller's eider (*Polysticta stelleri*), and the South Beaufort /Chukchi Sea stock of polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*).

The planning area is adjacent to two offshore areas designated as critical habitat for spectacled eiders (Ledyard Bay and Eastern Norton Sound). These offshore areas are not, however, under the jurisdiction of BLM. The shoreline in proximity to both offshore critical habitat units is Native or State selected or owned.

During development of the Proposed RMP/FEIS, the BLM initiated informal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) under Section 7 of the ESA to determine effects to spectacled and Steller's eiders; the FWS issued a memo (October 3, 2007) affirming that the RMP is unlikely to adversely affect either listed eider species. FWS's memo also clarified that future Federal actions in the planning area would be subject to Section 7 consultation. Project-specific impacts to listed species would be considered at the time future actions are planned.

In addition to informal consultation, BLM also conferred with FWS to determine effects to polar bear (in accordance with 50 CFR 402.10). The FWS issued a conference opinion on polar bears on October 3, 2007 that concluded the Proposed RMP will not result in jeopardy for the species.

On May 15, 2008 the polar bear was listed as a threatened species under the ESA (Federal Register 2008). Following listing of the polar bear, the BLM informally consulted with FWS requesting a review of their October 2007 conference opinion to determine if the opinion remained valid in light of the new listing. In a memo from BLM to FWS, dated June 30, 2008, the BLM modified the RMP's Proposed Action to address seismic surveys south of Point Hope.

The FWS reviewed their October 2007 conference opinion and issued a new memo on July 7, 2008. The July 2008 memo confirmed the initial conclusions from their October 2007 conference opinion remain valid since the BLM will not permit seismic surveys south of Point

Hope until the activities are authorized under the MMPA, which will require a concurrent Section 7 analysis to ensure the activities do not violate Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA. Additionally, FWS found seismic surveys north of Point Hope in compliance with the ESA and the MMPA.

## **X. IMPLEMENTATION**

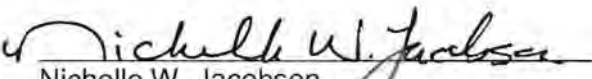
Implementation of the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP will begin upon the signing of this Record of Decision and public notification via the Notice of Availability published in the *Federal Register*. RMP implementation will occur according to implementation plans to be developed by the Central Yukon and Anchorage field offices after this ROD is signed. The implementation plans will serve as a link between the BLM's planning and budgeting processes and will assist the BLM in establishing priorities, timeframes, budget proposals and tracking the progress of RMP implementation.

## **XI. AVAILABILITY OF THE PLAN**

Copies of the Record of Decision and the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan are available by request from the following locations: BLM Fairbanks District Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709 (907) 474-2200, and on the Fairbanks District Office website at [www.blm.gov/ak](http://www.blm.gov/ak) (online availability subject to change).

## XII. FIELD MANAGER RECOMMENDATION

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

  
Nichelle W. Jacobson  
Central Yukon Field Manager


7/17/08  
Date

  
Gary Reimer  
Anchorage District Manager

7/25/08  
Date

## APPROVAL

In consideration of the foregoing, I approve the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan.

  
Thomas P. Lonnie  
State Director

09/04/08  
Date



# **Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Approved Resource Management Plan**





# **Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Approved Resource Management Plan**

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# KOBUK-SEWARD PENINSULA APPROVED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## I. INTRODUCTION

This Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP) replaces the Northwest Management Framework Plan (MFP) approved in 1982 and is now the base land use plan for public lands in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula planning area managed by the BLM's Central Yukon Field Office and Anchorage Field Office. The Approved RMP adopts the management described in Alternative D and Management Common to All Alternatives, the Stipulations and Required Operating Procedures outlined in Appendix A, and Tables applicable to Alternative D from Appendix I as presented in the Proposed Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP/Final EIS (PRMP/FEIS) (USDI-BLM 2007), with adjustments as described in the *Notice of Modifications and Clarifications* sections of the Record of Decision (ROD).

### A. Purpose and Need

This Approved RMP summarizes the information found in the PRMP/FEIS and provides the BLM with a comprehensive framework for managing BLM lands within the planning area. It also provides a public document that specifies management policies and actions for BLM-managed lands. This RMP replaces the Northwest MFP and provides a plan which is consistent with evolving law, regulations, and policy. In addition, the Approved RMP meets the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) Section 202 requirement for consistency with multiple use and sustained yield objectives.

### B. Consideration of Other BLM Plans and Policies

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

- Bureau of Land Management, Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards (USDI-BLM, 2004)
- Final Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

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

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

## C. Plan Implementation

Plan implementation is a continuous and active process. The BLM will develop an implementation plan for the Approved RMP as required by BLM Instruction Memorandum (IM) 2008-041 Guidance for Establishing Implementation Priorities for Land Use Plans (12/10/2007). Decisions in this plan will be implemented over a period of years depending on budget and staff availability. Decisions presented in the *Management Decisions* section of this Approved RMP are of three types: Immediate, One-time, and Long-Term.

### Immediate Decisions

These decisions go into effect upon signature of the ROD. These include decisions such as the allocation of lands as available or unavailable for mineral leasing or mineral material disposal, ACEC designation, and OHV designations (open, limited or closed). Immediate decisions require no additional analysis and provide the framework for any subsequent activities proposed in the planning area.

### ***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 17(d)(1) withdrawals or development of an implementation-level plan, such as development a Recreation Area Management Plan for the Squirrel River. 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; funding; and land status (State- or Native-selected vs. BLM public lands).

As stated in Section M-2-1-b of the Approved RMP, the BLM will strive to complete a management plan for the Squirrel River Special Recreation Management Area within three years of approval of the ROD. Additionally within five years, the BLM will develop a travel management plan for the Salmon Lake-Kigluaik Special Recreation Management Area. Revocation of ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals in the planning area will be completed in accordance with statewide priorities for withdrawal revocation.

Intergovernmental and inter-agency collaboration will continue on a case-by-case basis as required and directed by BLM’s national policy. Tribal relationships will be maintained through the execution of agreements to coordinate Tribal involvement in the management of the lands and associated resources within the planning area.

Other stakeholder relationships are driven by the public process including the public comment processes required by proposals being evaluated using the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), ANCSA, the Statehood Act, ANILCA and other laws and directives. BLM will continue to contact, coordinate and consult with parties having an interest in lands within the planning area as determined by the specific project. This coordination will provide stakeholders with a meaningful opportunity to provide input and comment on BLM's management of the public lands within the planning area.

## **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, monitoring, 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, policy changes, or 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.

The 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 necessitates an evaluation. The Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP will be evaluated in 2013 and approximately every five years thereafter for the life of the plan. 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 in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula planning area managed by the BLM's Central Yukon Field Office and Anchorage Field Office. Management decisions are presented by program area, where appropriate inventory and/or monitoring decisions for specific program areas are included.

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 more than 20 years to achieve. Some of the sections from the Draft and Proposed RMPs have been combined or reorganized for ease in reference. The content remains consistent with 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:

- A. **Abandoned Mine Lands and Hazardous Materials**
- B. **Air Quality, Soil and Water Resources**
- C. **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)**
- D. **Cultural Resources**
- E. **Fire and Fuels Management**
- F. **Fish and Special Status Fish**
- G. **Forest and Woodland Vegetation and Forest Products**
- H. **Lands and Realty**
- I. **Livestock Grazing**
- J. **Minerals**
- K. **Noxious and Invasive Weeds**
- L. **Paleontological Resources**
- M. **Recreation**
- N. **Renewable Energy**
- O. **Subsistence**
- P. **Travel Management (OHV and Access)**
- Q. **Vegetation and Special Status Species**
- R. **Visual Resources**
- S. **Wild and Scenic Rivers**
- T. **Wildlife and Special Status Species**

Maps depicting the management decisions are provided in Appendix H. 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 and Hazardous Materials Management**

### **A-1: Goals**

1. Protect public health and safety and environmental resources by minimizing environmental contamination from chemical, biological and radiological sources on public lands and BLM-owned or -operated facilities.
2. Comply with Federal and State oil and hazardous materials management laws and regulations.
3. Maintain the health of ecosystems through location, assessment, cleanup, and restoration of contaminated sites.
4. Manage oil and hazardous materials related risks, costs and liabilities.
5. Integrate environmental protection and compliance with all environmental statutes into all BLM activities.
6. Eliminate or remediate physical hazards from AML sites on public lands.

### **A-2: Management Actions**

1. Work cooperatively with other Federal and State governmental agencies, Tribal governments, general public, Native corporations, industry, and advocacy groups to protect public health and safety and environmental resources.
2. Prioritize known sites for cleanup, making sites on lands awaiting conveyance a high priority.
3. Conduct remediation actions on identified sites in accordance with applicable laws and policy.
4. Comply with all appropriate laws and regulations regarding hazardous materials.
5. Do not permit unauthorized storage, treatment, or disposal of hazardous waste on public lands.
6. Respond to hazardous materials incidents and sites using standard operating procedures.
7. Develop appropriate stipulations and required operating procedures for BLM-permitted activities to minimize the probability of contamination of public lands with hazardous materials

## **B. Air Quality, Soil and Water Resources**

### **B-1: Goals**

1. Air quality should meet or exceed local, State and Federal requirements.
2. Ensure that watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, a properly functioning physical condition that includes stream banks, wetlands, and water quality.
3. Minimize negative impacts to soils and vegetation and prevent soil erosion.
4. Maintain desired ecological conditions as defined by the BLM-Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards.

### **B-2: Management Actions**

1. In cooperation with the appropriate Federal, State, local, or tribal requirements, identify area-wide use restrictions, or other protective measures, including the Clean Air and Water Acts, Federal wetlands and floodplain requirements.
2. In order to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act and protect the quality and quantity of drinking water, the BLM will consult with owners/operators of potentially affected,

Federally-regulated public water supply systems when proposing management actions in State-designated Source Water Protection Areas. The locations of public water supply systems and Source Water Protection Areas are available from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Drinking Water and Wastewater Program.

3. File for water rights under State law to secure water needed for BLM-managed uses.
4. Resource protection will be applied on a site-specific basis for permitted activities and uses that affect soil, water, and air based on guidelines provided in the Required Operating Procedures, as described in Appendix A. Oil and gas leases will be subject to the Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations also listed in Appendix A.

### ***B-3: Inventory and Monitoring***

1. Support monitoring and assessment of riparian areas for proper functioning condition, as defined in the BLM Manual Technical Reference 1737-3. Use this information to develop maintenance and restoration projects. Priority areas will include designated ACECs, areas known to be in need of restoration, and riparian areas within anticipated or ongoing mining activity.
2. Inventory and monitoring data will be collected according to a Quality Assurance Project Plan.” Development of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that meets the elements of the state and/or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirements listed on the following websites will help ensure the quality of collected data, and that other resource agencies, as well as the public, can utilize that data. ADEC Quality Assurance Project Plan elements;  
<http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/wqsar/pdfs/qappelements.pdf>. EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/offices/oea/epaqar5.pdf>
3. Develop a water quality database for selected aquatic habitats and important recreation use areas to establish baseline values. After initial assessment, monitor water quality in these areas.
4. Contract soil surveys in areas of high resource value or proposed development as needed.
5. Assess impacts from OHV trails, especially in high-use areas where riparian and wetland resources are at risk.
6. Develop a water-quality monitoring plan for eligible river areas (Table 3-35 of the PRMP/FEIS “Eligible Rivers within the Planning Area”) which will provide additional information that can be used to protect water quality in these areas.

## **C. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

### ***C-1: Goal***

Highlight areas where special management attention is needed to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural, and scenic values, fish or wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes through designation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

### ***C-2: Allocations***

Designate approximately 3.7 million acres as ACECs in six separate areas (Map 2-17 and Table 1).

**Table 1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern**

<b>Area of Critical Environmental Concern</b>
Designate the Mount Osborn ACEC (approximately 82,000 acres) to protect genetically unique Kigluaik Arctic char. If State-selected lands within the ACEC boundary shown on Map 4 are conveyed, the ACEC management prescription will not attach to conveyed lands.
Designate the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) Insect Relief Habitat as an ACEC (1,529,000 acres) to protect the important insect relief habitats.
Designate the Nulato Hills as an ACEC (1,080,000 acres) to protect core winter range for the Western Arctic caribou herd.
Designate the Shaktoolik River ACEC (234,000 acres) to protect anadromous fish habitat.
Designate the Ungalik River ACEC (264,000 acres) to protect anadromous fish habitat.
Designate the Inglutalik River ACEC (466,000 acres) to protect anadromous fish habitat.

**C-2a: Management common to all ACECs**

1. Designation of an ACEC does not encumber selected lands within the proposed boundary. Selected lands will be managed to maintain the resource values of the lands until conveyance. The ACEC management prescription will not attach to conveyed lands. Following adjudication of all selections, special management area boundaries may need to be adjusted.
2. Additional site-specific actions or monitoring needed to manage ACECs will be made through ACEC-specific activity planning.
3. A mining Plan of Operations will be required on any mining activity within an ACEC.
4. Once conveyances are complete, ACECs will be retained in Federal ownership.
5. Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP) and FLPMA leases will be considered, consistent with protection of values identified for each ACEC.
6. Designate all ACECs as “limited” off-highway vehicle (OHV) designation.

**C-3: Mount Osborn ACEC**

**C-3-a: Objective**

Designate the Mount Osborn ACEC (approximately 82,000 acres) to protect genetically unique Kigluaik Arctic char. If State-selected lands within the ACEC boundary shown on Map 4 are conveyed, the ACEC management prescription will not attach to conveyed lands.

**C-3-b: Management Actions**

1. Designate the Mount Osborn ACEC as “limited” off-highway vehicle (OHV) designation. Until conveyances are completed, manage OHV use consistent with the State’s generally allowed uses (Appendix C).
2. Develop an OHV activity plan for the Mount Osborn ACEC once stable land status is realized. The OHV activity plan for the Mount Osborn ACEC will be included within the OHV management plan for the Salmon Lake-Kigluaik Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA). The projected completion of these OHV management/activity plans is five years from approval of the ROD. In developing an OHV plan for these areas, inventory

current impacts to resources from OHV use and develop mitigation measures to prevent damage from OHV use.

3. The area will be open to locatable mineral entry subject to required operating procedures and a mining plan of operations.
4. Communication site rights-of-way will be allowed on a case-by-case basis consistent with the management objectives of the area.
5. ROP SS-4a-d will apply to any mining activity within the watersheds of lakes supporting BLM Sensitive Species Kigluaik arctic char (Appendix A).

#### ***C-4: Western Arctic Caribou Herd Insect Relief Habitat***

##### ***C-4-a: Objective***

Designate the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Insect Relief ACEC (approximately 1,529,000 acres) to protect important insect relief habitat for caribou (Map 5).

##### ***C-4-b: Management Actions***

1. Initially, limit OHVs to 2,000 pounds Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR). Additional or different OHV limits may be developed through activity level planning.
2. The ACEC will be open to leasable mineral entry subject to seasonal restrictions and additional stipulations that will be developed through activity-level planning.
3. Develop an ACEC management plan to include more specific measures and leasing stipulations to protect caribou and their habitat from future development activities, such as Right-of-Way (ROW) and leasable mineral exploration and development. This plan will be developed through a public process and provide opportunity for public input into proposed management actions.
4. Close the ACEC to grazing.
5. ROPs FW-3a, 3c, and 3d apply to the Western Arctic Caribou Herd insect relief and calving areas (Appendix A).

#### ***C-5: Nulato Hills ACEC***

##### ***C-5-a: Objective***

Designate the Nulato Hills ACEC (approximately 1,080,000 acres) to protect core winter range for the Western Arctic caribou herd (Map 6).

##### ***C-5-b: Management Actions***

1. Initially, limit OHVs to 2,000 pounds GVWR. Additional or different OHV limits may be developed through activity level planning.
2. The ACEC will be open to fluid leasable mineral entry subject to stipulations that will be developed through activity-level planning.
3. Lands not within existing grazing allotments will be closed to grazing
4. Develop an ACEC management plan to include more specific measures to protect caribou and their habitat. This plan will also include fire management actions to maintain adequate acreage of lichen habitat.
5. Designate the ACEC as a ROW avoidance area.
6. Allow mineral exploration and prospecting subject to ROP FW-3e.



### ***C-6: Ungalik River ACEC***

#### ***C-6-a: Objective***

Designate approximately 264,000 acres as the Ungalik River ACEC to protect anadromous fish habitat and winter range for the Western Arctic caribou herd (Map 6).

#### ***C-6-b: Management Actions***

1. Initially, limit OHVs to 2,000 pounds GVWR. Additional or different OHV limits may be developed through activity level planning.
2. A 300-foot setback along the Ungalik River will be subject to ROP FW-7a.
3. Establish a 300-foot No Surface Occupancy (NSO) setback for leasable minerals on both sides of the river and its tributaries.
4. Close the part of the ACEC not within an existing grazing allotment to grazing.

### ***C-7: Inglutalik River ACEC***

#### ***C-7-a: Objective***

Designate approximately 466,000 acres as the Inglutalik River ACEC to protect anadromous fish habitat and winter range for the Western Arctic caribou herd (Map 6).

#### ***C-7-b: Management Actions***

1. Initially, limit OHVs to 2,000 pounds GVWR. Additional or different OHV limits may be developed through activity level planning.
2. Close the part of the ACEC not within an existing grazing allotment to grazing.
3. Establish a 300-foot no surface occupancy setback for leasable minerals on both sides of the river and its tributaries.

### ***C-8: Shaktoolik River ACEC***

#### ***C-8-a: Objective***

Designate approximately 234,000 acres as the Shaktoolik River ACEC to protect anadromous fish habitat and winter range for the Western Arctic caribou herd (Map 6).

#### ***C-8-b: Management Actions***

1. Initially, limit OHVs to 2,000 pounds GVWR. Additional or different OHV limits may be developed through activity level planning.
2. Close the part of ACEC not within an existing grazing allotment to grazing.
3. Establish a 300-foot NSO setback for leasable minerals on both sides of the river and its tributaries.

## **D. Cultural Resources**

### ***D-1: Goals***

1. Identify, preserve, and protect significant cultural resources on public lands.
2. Manage cultural resources for a variety of uses, including scientific use, conservation for future use, public use, traditional use, and experimental use.
3. Preserve important cultural resource values through stabilization and data recovery.

**D-2-a: Management Actions**

1. Ensure adequate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for all BLM undertakings.
2. Increase our understanding of the resource base through inventory and data recovery.
3. Provide resources for current and future research needs.
4. Provide resources for public uses.

**D-2-b: Inventory and Monitoring**

1. Continue to conduct inventory mandated by Section 110 of NHPA as funds are available.
2. Monitor cultural resource sites in danger of alteration or destruction from natural or human-made causes.
3. Develop partnerships to achieve mutual goals.
4. Stabilize and perform data recovery on significant cultural resources, as needed on a case-by-case basis.

**Table 2. Cultural Resource Management Decisions**

Objective	Management Action
Avoid or mitigate impacts to significant cultural resources resulting from Bureau undertakings.	Decide between avoidance and other forms of mitigation by weighing the relative value of cultural resources and the effects on development interests.
Prioritize areas for non-Section 106 inventory, i.e., NHPA sec. 110 inventories.	Assign priorities for inventory based on a combination of expected development activities and resource values.
Determine the extent and nature of data recovery efforts.	Minimize destructive data recovery. Conduct non-destructive data recovery based on a combination of management needs and resource values.
Designate sites on public lands as suitable for scientific use and for conservation for future use.	Designate most sites for scientific use. Reserve a representative sample for conservation for future use.
Designate sites on public lands as suitable for public and traditional use.	Designate suitable sites for public use in areas having general public access. Designate sites for traditional use as they are made known to us.

**E. Fire Management and Ecology**

**E-1: Goals**

1. Provide appropriate management response on all wildland fires, with an emphasis on firefighter and public safety, and ensure that costs are commensurate with the values to be protected.
2. Use wildland fire, prescribed fire, and other treatments to maintain or restore ecological systems and to meet land use and resource management objectives.
3. Prevent human-caused fires.
4. Reduce risk and costs of uncontrolled wildland fire through wildland fire use, prescribed fire, manual or mechanical treatments.
5. Reduce adverse effects of fire management activities.
6. Continue interagency collaboration and cooperation.

### ***E-1-a: Management Actions***

BLM will continue to cooperate and collaborate with other Federal, State, and Native land managers, and with other suppression organizations to address issues and concerns related to wildland fire management in Alaska and to implement operational decisions. Fire Management programs will emphasize the protection of human life and site-specific values while recognizing fire as an essential ecological process and natural agent of change to ecosystems.

1. Use the appropriate mix of Fire Management Options and update as needed.
2. Identify sensitive areas where special restrictions may be needed for fire monitoring and suppression activities.
3. Identify and prioritize values at risk.
4. Flight patterns and suppression activities will be prohibited around areas such as important calving grounds, nesting sites, areas containing Threatened and Endangered species or BLM sensitive species. Such sites will be noted as avoidance areas on BLM's Fire Map Atlas.
5. Track the number of human-caused fires and determine if there is a need to establish and implement an appropriate prevention program which addresses identified problems.
6. Use wildland fire and fuels treatments to meet desired future conditions.
7. The Required Operating Procedures in Appendix A will be implemented during fire management activities.
8. Implement the current BLM policy for Structure Protection.
9. Allow wildland fire use.
10. Develop fuels management and prevention programs as warranted.

### ***E-1-b: Monitoring***

1. Monitor the number and size of wildland fires for cumulative impacts on wildlife habitat, particularly caribou winter range.
2. Monitor vegetative communities for cumulative effects of wildland fire, suppression actions, and as funding permits, the effects of excluding fire from the landscape to evaluate best management practices.

## **F. Fish and Special Status Fish**

### ***F-1: Goal***

1. In cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), maintain and restore important migratory and resident fisheries habitat, including the maintenance of existing habitat improvements.
2. Work with ADF&G to maintain and/or restore the fisheries potential of anadromous fish streams to support the public use and enjoyment of the resource and to promote subsistence use and economic stability to communities within the planning area by managing for healthy wild populations of anadromous stocks.
3. Manage habitat in a condition that will support resident species that spend all or part of their life cycles on public lands and waters and that are of high economic, social, or scientific value to local communities or the nation.
4. Maintain and protect subsistence opportunities.
5. Determine how the management actions, guidelines, and allowable uses prescribed in response to the other issues will affect subsistence opportunities and resources, as well as the social and economic environment.

### ***F-2: Essential Fish Habitat***

Comply with provisions of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to protect Essential Fish Habitat. If Land Use activities are likely to adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), consult with the Secretary of Commerce through the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to mitigate these effects. Adverse effect is defined in 50 CFR 600.910(a) as any impact that reduces the quality and/or quantity of EFH. Adverse effects may include direct or indirect physical, chemical, or biological alterations of the waters or substrate and loss of, or injury to, benthic organisms, prey species and their habitat, and other ecosystem components, if such modifications reduce the quality and/or quantity of EFH.

### ***F-3-a: Management Actions (Fish)***

1. Use the NEPA review process to mitigate adverse effects on fisheries resources from actions permitted on public lands to ensure that habitats are maintained or restored to a condition that will support desired populations of resident and anadromous species.
2. Enter into cooperative restoration projects with private, State and other Federal agencies to implement the priority restoration work identified in BLM's Norton Sound Aquatic Habitat Management Plan, the Norton Sound/Bering Strait Regional Comprehensive Salmon Plan, and in this RMP.
3. Assure land use decisions are managed in compliance with State water quality standards.
4. Increase habitat productivity in streams/lakes currently utilized by anadromous fish but producing below potential.
5. Incorporate the mitigation measures outlined in Required Operating Procedures in Appendix A for avoiding potential impacts to aquatic life from use of fire retardant and fire suppression foams.

### ***F-3-b: Management Actions (Special Status Fish)***

1. Work with ADF&G and the State Board of Fisheries to protect the populations of Kigluaik arctic char through fishing regulations, if warranted.
2. Cooperate with State and other Federal agencies in the development and implementation of recovery plans, management plans, conservation strategies, or assessments for Special Status fish species that occur on BLM-managed lands.

### ***F-4-a: Inventory and Monitoring (Fish)***

1. Work cooperatively with ADF&G, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Park Service (NPS), local Native corporations, and private nonprofit corporations to inventory habitats and populations to help identify streams that contain anadromous and resident fish species on Federal public lands.
2. Conduct habitat inventories in upper river drainages on BLM lands to extend coverage of the anadromous stream catalog. Inventory Shaktoolik, Ungalik, Inglutalik, Koyuk, Tubutulik, Kuzitrin, Agiapuk, Buckland, Kivalina, Pah, Pick, Kukpowruk, Ipewik, and Nilik rivers; and Kiklovilik Creek (upper Selawik River).
3. Determine upstream limits of Dolly Varden on public lands where data gaps exist. In particular, determine the upstream extent of Dolly Varden spawning in the Kivalina River drainage. Survey suspected spawning grounds associated with fresh water springs in the upper watershed.
4. In cooperation with the ADF&G and the USFWS, collect genetic samples to characterize Dolly Varden, arctic char, and Chinook, coho, and chum salmon stocks throughout the planning area.

5. Monitor water quality in priority watersheds to assess compliance with Alaska Land Health Standards.

***F-4-b: Inventory and Monitoring (Special Status Fish)***

1. In cooperation with ADF&G, inventory habitat for Special Status fish species, and monitor population trends according to direction provided in BLM Manual 6840.
2. Initiate population trend studies on BLM Sensitive Species arctic char and Dolly Varden found in the Kigluaik Mountain lakes. Establish Fall Creek Lake, Crater Lake, and Gold Run Lake fish population monitoring as the primary indices for the trend study.
3. Conduct inventories of other habitats suspected of containing unique arctic char populations. In particular, assess fish presence in other Kigluaik Mountain lakes, and lakes in the upper Kuzitrin River drainage.

**G. Forest and Woodland Vegetation and Forest Products**

***G-1: Goals***

1. Manage forests and woodlands to sustain their health, productivity, and biological diversity.
2. Consistent with other resource values, provide forest products for local consumption and opportunities for commercial harvests.

***G-2: Objectives (Desired Conditions)***

1. Manage lands to maintain or achieve the following desired conditions for forest and woodlands:
  - **Open/Closed White Spruce Forest:** Occupy approximate historic range, recognizing range shifts may occur due to global climate change, and are in stable or improving condition.
  - **Open/Closed Black Spruce Forest:** Occupy approximate historic range, recognizing range shifts may occur due to global climate change, and are in stable or improving condition.
  - **Black Spruce Woodland:** Occupy approximate historic range, recognizing range shifts may occur due to global climate change, and are in stable or improving condition.
2. Approximately 8% of BLM-managed lands within the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP planning area are forested. Much of this forest and woodland will not be aggressively managed because of lack of access, low productivity due to harsh climate, and little public demand. In areas where access, productivity, and public interest in forestlands support more focused management, the following guidelines will be applied:
  - **Timber stands managed for commercial production of white spruce:** These stands occur on floodplains and alluvial terraces on well-drained soils. They will be managed to maintain white spruce as the dominant tree species. This may require thinning to minimize early seral competition from other species. Beetle-killed trees within these stands will be salvaged where possible.
  - **Timber stands managed for improvement of wildlife habitat:** In mixed white spruce-paper birch/balsam poplar stands where wildlife habitat improvement is the primary objective, desired condition will be maintenance of white spruce with a component of paper birch or balsam poplar. These stands would have shrub-dominated early seral stages after harvest and/or wildland or prescribed fire, or after mechanical treatment of mature or beetle-killed white spruce. Timber stands of this

type would be expected to return to late seral stage of mixed white spruce-paper birch/balsam poplar after these types of disturbances.

- **Moose habitat:** Desired condition is a mosaic pattern of upland spruce woodland cover types interspersed with a earlier seral expression dominated by alder and willow. Upland woodland cover types are mixed with stream terraces and floodplains dominated by sedges and grasses and mixed age classes of alder and willow.
- **Caribou habitat:** For summer range, similar to description for moose habitat. For caribou winter range, desired condition is uplands spruce woodland cover type where lichen plus various forbs and graminoids dominate the ground layer.
- **Dall Sheep habitat:** Open high-elevation grass and forb-dominated plant communities with a minor shrub or tree component.

### **G-3: Management Actions**

1. Issue permits to authorize harvest of personal use firewood and house logs consistent with Title VIII of ANILCA and 43 CFR 5400 and 5500 on a case-by-case basis.
2. Issue free use permits to harvest vegetative products for personal use consistent with 43 CFR 5500 on a case-by-case basis.
3. Manage lands to maintain or achieve desired conditions for forest and woodlands.
4. Compare benefits/risks of salvage logging with prescribed fire or wildland fire in localized areas of beetle-killed white spruce timber on a case-by-case basis.
5. After baseline forest inventory, assess feasibility of commercial logging in selected areas. If feasible, limited commercial logging and firewood sales will be considered.
6. Permit small sales vegetative contracts (e.g., commercial harvest of mushrooms, Christmas trees, spruce cones, etc.).

### **G-4: Monitoring**

1. Conduct baseline forest inventory of plan area to determine location of both commercial and non-commercial timber, as well as old growth stands. A comprehensive baseline inventory of forest resources in the plan area is needed to provide the location of timber stands, the age and size classes, and current health.
2. Coordinate with USDA Forest Service to conduct forest health inventory in the planning area to assess the extent and type of insect and disease outbreaks.

**Table 3. Forest Products—Constraints on Specific Areas**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Management Direction</b>
Squirrel River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider free use permits to authorize harvest of personal use firewood and house logs consistent with the management objectives for the SRMA.</li> <li>• Consider free use permits to harvest vegetative products for personal use consistent with management objectives for the SRMA.</li> <li>• No commercial logging or firewood sales permitted.</li> </ul>
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider free use permits to authorize harvest of personal use firewood and house logs consistent with management objectives for the ACEC.</li> <li>• Consider free use permits to harvest vegetative products for personal use consistent with management objectives for ACEC.</li> </ul>



## H. Lands and Realty

### ***H-1: Goals***

1. Meet public needs for use authorizations such as ROW, leases, and permits while minimizing adverse impacts to other resource values.
2. Retain public lands with high resource values in public ownership.
3. Adjust land ownership to consolidate public land holdings, acquire lands with high public resource values, and meet public and community needs.

### ***H-2: Land Use Authorizations***

Land use authorizations include various authorizations and agreements to use BLM lands such as right-of-way grants, 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.

#### ***H-2-a: Management Actions (Land Use Authorizations)***

1. **FLPMA leases:** All FLPMA leases will be at fair market value. Cabins or permanent structures used for private recreation could not be authorized under this authority. Proposals to lease cabins used for commercial uses (such as guiding or trapping) will be subject to the following criteria:
  - Proximity to other private property or existing authorized structures
  - Proximity to existing transportation routes or systems
  - Documentation of the profitability of the guiding or trapping operation
2. **Hot Springs Leases:** Hot springs leases are prohibited.
3. **R&PP Leases:** R&PP leases will not be issued for sanitary landfill purposes. Existing leases for sanitary landfill purposes could be converted to patents without a reverter clause.
4. **Permits:** Permits cover occupancy, use, or development of a site. Specific exclusion areas are listed in Table 2-19 on page 2-113 of the PRMP/FEIS.
  - In General: Cabin or permanent structure permits could not be issued for private recreation uses. Trapping shelters will be authorized by short-term (three years maximum) Section 302 permits renewable at the discretion of the BLM and tied to the applicant's ability to show actual use for profitable trapping purposes.
  - Guide shelters will only be authorized in conjunction with Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) issued under FLPMA authority. The same criteria described above for cabin leases will be used during consideration of issuance of such permits.
  - Military maneuver permits will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
5. **Unauthorized Use, Occupancy, or Development:** Criteria for prioritizing cases of unauthorized use, occupancy or development are as follows:
  - Situations involving new trespass, public safety, public complaints
  - Areas identified for long-term Federal management: highest priority, or other unencumbered lands

- Selected lands on which resources are being removed without authorization or where resource damage is occurring
- Other selected lands

When trespass structures are involved, the structures 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 structures include:

- a. Removal of the structure
- b. Relinquishment to the United States for management purposes
- c. Authorization by lease or permit for legitimate uses if consistent with identified area goals and objectives

#### 6. **Rights-of-way**

- Rights-of-way (ROWs) will be located near other ROWs or on already disturbed areas to the extent practical.
- Communication site ROWs shall be co-located when feasible.
- Public use cabins may be constructed under a ROW reservation.

#### 7. **Selected Lands**

Regarding use authorizations, selected lands will be treated as follows:

**Native-selected:** Prior to issuance of a use authorization, the applicant will be required to obtain the non-objection of the Native corporation. If the corporation objects to the proposal, BLM will proceed with issuance only if the State Director deems the proposal to be in the public good.

**State-selected:** In accordance with 906(k) of ANILCA, the BLM will request concurrence from the State prior to issuance of any use authorization. The BLM can then incorporate comments in the terms and condition of the use authorization if such comments comply with Federal laws and regulations. If the State objects, the BLM will not issue the use authorization. If the proposal is on land which is not available within the meaning of the Statehood Act but which has been top-filed by the State pursuant to 906 (e) of ANILCA, a letter of concurrence will not be required.

#### 8. **Required Operating Procedures**

Land use authorizations are subject to applicable measures identified in the Required Operating Procedures in Appendix A.

### ***H-2-b: Allocations (Rights-of-way)***

The Nulato Hills ACEC is a ROW avoidance area.

### ***H-3: Disposal***

#### ***H-3-a: Management Actions (Disposal)***

##### **1. FLPMA Sales**

Public lands meeting one of more of the following criteria could be disposed of through FLPMA sales:

- a. A tract that was acquired for a specific purpose and that is no longer required for that or any other Federal purpose.

- b. A tract whose disposal would serve important public objectives. This could include, but is not limited to, expansion of communities and economic development. Disposal would proceed only when such objectives could not be achieved prudently or feasibly on other than public lands and when such objectives outweighed other public objectives and values (e.g., recreation and scenic values) that might justify maintaining such a tract in Federal ownership.
- c. A tract that, because of its location or other characteristics, is difficult and costly to manage and is not suitable for management by another Federal agency. Note: Lands identified for disposal under this authority that are selected by either the State or a Native corporation will have to be adjudicated before the BLM entertains a sale. By identifying these lands for disposal, the BLM is determining that if these lands become unencumbered by selections within the life of the plan, they would then become suitable for disposal under this authority, having been properly identified through the planning process.
- d. Lands not to be disposed of include:
  - 1. Lands withdrawn from the public land laws or segregated by State or Native selection.
  - 2. Land within mining claims of record under Section 314 of FLPMA.
  - 3. Land specifically identified for retention.

## **2. Recreation and Public Purposes Act**

- a. Selected lands identified for disposal under this authority will have to be fully adjudicated before BLM entertains a sale. By identifying these lands for disposal, the BLM is determining that if these lands become unencumbered within the life of the plan, they would be suitable for disposal under this authority.
- b. In most instances, BLM would first lease lands under this act and would only convey the lands after the project was constructed in compliance with an approved development and management plan. One important exception to this are tracts for proposed sanitary landfills, which will always be sold; not leased.
- c. Application for tracts to be used as sanitary landfills will only be conveyed with a clause that would prohibit reversion to the Federal government.
- d. Existing leases will be converted to patents if the lands are used for sanitary landfills.

## **3. Airport and Airway Improvement Act of September 3, 1982**

Process Airport conveyances as requested by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Each conveyance will contain appropriate covenants and reservation requested by FAA. As a condition to each conveyance, the property interest conveyed would revert to the Federal government in the event the lands were not developed for airport or airway purposes or were used in a manner inconsistent with the terms of the conveyance.

## **4. Exchanges**

BLM will strive to process mutually benefiting public interest land exchanges. When considering public interest, full consideration will be given to efficient management of public lands and to important objectives including: protection of fish and wildlife, cultural resources, 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 will not be actively sought until State and Native entitlements are fulfilled.

### ***H-3-b: Allocations (Disposals)***

1. Specific tracts meeting the criteria outlined in H-3-a-1 (FLPMA Sales) would be available for disposal under FLPMA sale or other FLPMA authorities except where prohibited by Public Land Order or where lands are identified for retention as shown on Map 9.
2. Any tracts remaining in BLM ownership within the following townships around Nome and Kotzebue would be available under FLPMA sale: Kateel, T17N, R18W; T17N R17W; T18N R17W; T11S, R33W; T11S, R34W.
3. Lands shown on Map 9 are identified for retention, including lands within designated ACECs, special recreation management areas, and the Iditarod National Historic Trail (NHT).

### ***H-4: Acquisitions***

#### ***H-4-a: Management Actions (Acquisitions)***

Acquire private lands through purchase or exchange with willing owners. Acquisition will be pursued within areas identified for long-term Federal management and retention when such acquisition advanced the programs of the Secretary, including access. Consider acquisition of parcels along the Iditarod NHT through purchase or exchange with willing owners. When feasible, BLM would acquire less than fee title to property if management goals could be achieved. BLM would acquire access for discontinuous 17(b) easements as the need and opportunity arose.

#### ***H-4-b: Allocations (Acquisitions)***

The following are identified as emphasis areas for acquisitions: Iditarod NHT and access for discontinuous 17(b) easements.

### ***H-5: Withdrawal Review***

#### ***H-5-a: Management Actions***

1. Revoke all remaining (d)(1) withdrawals and make the lands available to the full spectrum of the land laws.
2. Modify PLO 6477 to remove restrictions identified in paragraph 6 of the order (300 foot no surface occupancy under mineral leasing laws along selected rivers). Refer to Section J-1-b-4 for mineral leasing setback requirements established by the plan.
3. Open lands in the Squirrel River to mineral entry and leasing (PLO 5179).

Tables 4 and 5 display existing withdrawals, segregative effect, and BLM's recommendation for each.

**Table 4. Withdrawals on BLM-Managed Public Lands in the Planning Area**

<b>Withdrawal</b>	<b>Authority</b>	<b>Serial #</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
(d)(1)	PLO 5169	FF-086061	Revoke
(d)(1)	PLO 5170*	FF-016298	Revoke
(d)(1)	PLO 5171	FF-016299	Revoke
(d)(1)	PLO 5179*	AA 061299	Revoke
(d)(1)	PLO 5180*	FF 016304	Revoke
(d)(1)	PLO 5184*	FF 085667	Revoke
(d)(1)	PLO 5186	AA 061005	Revoke
(d)(1)	PLO 5187	FF 086064	Revoke

Withdrawal	Authority	Serial #	Recommendation
(d)(1)	PLO 5353	AA 066614	Revoke
Hot Springs	PLO 399*	AA 064725	Maintain
Squirrel River	ANILCA 604(a)	FF 085186	Expired
Pass Creek PSR	PSR 726	FF 085798	Maintain
Salmon Lake PSC	PSC 403	AA 006202	Maintain

\*Partially modified by PLO 6477

**Table 5. Withdrawals for Other Agencies and Recommendations**

Serial Number	Agency	PLO Number	Type	Acres	Segregative Effect	Recommendation
F 022956	DOD <sup>1</sup>	PLO 2020	Kivalina National Guard (NG)	0.54	Closed to all forms of appropriation except mineral leasing and mineral materials disposal	Maintain unless relinquished by holding agency
F 022958	DOD	PLO 2020	Koyuk NG	0.58	Closed to all forms of appropriation except mineral leasing and mineral materials disposal	Maintain unless relinquished
F 022963	DOD	PLO 2020	Noatak NG	0.50	Closed to all forms of appropriation except mineral leasing and mineral materials disposal	Maintain unless relinquished
F 031044	DOD	EO 1036	Nome Army Site	3.51	Closed to all-reserved for US Army Telegraph site	Maintain unless relinquished
F 022965	DOD	PLO 2020	Shishmaref NG	0.55	Closed to all forms of appropriation except mineral leasing and mineral materials disposal	Maintain unless relinquished
F 031968	FAA <sup>2</sup>	PLO 3830	Kotzebue Airport	140.0	Closed to all forms of appropriation except mineral leasing	Maintain unless relinquished
FF 000480	FAA	ANS 197	Kotzebue Airport	34.16	Closed to all forms of appropriation except mineral leasing and mineral disposal	Maintain unless relinquished
F 024760	FAA	PLO 2642	Nome ANS	1.38	Closed to all-air navigation site	Maintain unless relinquished
F 027227	FAA	PLO 2854	Nome VORTAC	64.92	Closed to all-air navigation site	Maintain unless relinquished

<sup>1</sup> Department of Defense (DOD)

<sup>2</sup> Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

Serial Number	Agency	PLO Number	Type	Acres	Segregative Effect	Recommendation
F 022957	DOD	PLO 2020	Kotzebue NG	0.35	Closed to all forms of appropriation except mineral leasing and mineral materials disposal	Reported to GSA
F 031049	GSA <sup>3</sup>	EO 4/16/03	Nome Customs	1.13	Closed to all-reserved for U.S. Customs Site	Maintain unless relinquished
FF 082011	U.S. Air Force	PLO 1876	Tin City Navy	6.31	Closed to all forms of appropriation except mineral material disposal	Reported to GSA
FF 000384	PHS <sup>4</sup>	PLO 4497	Kotzebue Hospital	14.10	Closed to all forms of appropriation except mineral leasing	Maintain unless relinquished
F 013247	U.S. Air Force	PLO 1534	Anvil Mountain USAF	11.74	Closed to all-reserved for military purposes	Pending Revocation
F 011996	U.S. Air Force	PLO 2034	Cape Lisburne	1,091	Closed to all-reserved for military purposes	Maintain unless relinquished
F 014487	U.S. Air Force	PLO 1664	Granite Mountain USAF	223.59	Closed to all-reserved for military purposes	Pending Revocation
F 010085	U.S. Air Force	PLO 883	Kotzebue USAF	508.29	Closed to all-reserved for military purposes	Maintain unless relinquished
F 012723	U.S. Air Force	PLO 1571	Point Lay	1,432.46	Closed to all-reserved for military purposes	Maintain unless relinquished
F 010087	U.S. Air Force	PLO 1672	Tin City USAF	6.31	Closed to all-reserved for military purposes	Maintain unless relinquished
AA066625	U.S. Coast Guard	EO 4257 #16	Grantley Harbor	70	Closed to all-reserved for lighthouse purposes	Maintain unless relinquished
F 027632	U.S. Coast Guard	PLO 2650	Pt Spencer Light	2,482.54	Closed to all-reserved for lighthouse purposes	Maintain unless relinquished
F 031043	U.S. Coast Guard	EO 4257 #42	Sledge Island	700	Closed to all-reserved for lighthouse purposes	Pending Revocation
F 012716	U.S. Navy	PLO 1571	Cape Sabine	454.42	Closed to all-reserved for military purposes	Maintain unless relinquished
F 012722	U.S. Navy	PLO 1571	Icy Cape	156.06	Closed to all-reserved for military purposes	Maintain unless relinquished

<sup>3</sup> General Services Administration (GSA)

<sup>4</sup> Public Health Service (PHS)



## **I. Livestock Grazing**

### ***I-1: Goals***

1. Resolve conflicts between livestock grazing, wildlife, and subsistence.
2. Maintain and improve the quality of the range conditions.
3. Manage for a sustainable level of livestock grazing with deference given to maintaining habitat needed to support desired populations of wildlife.
4. Determine appropriateness of grazing of livestock for species other than reindeer.

### ***I-2: Allocations***

1. Allow reindeer grazing only in the following allotments: Sheldon, Karmun, Goodhope, Buckland River, Mt. Wick, Weyiouanna, Davis, Kakaruk, Kougarok, Koyuk, Ongtawasruk, Olanna, Shaktoolik, Baldwin Peninsula, and Mt. Bend (Map 10).
2. The remainder of the planning area, including McCarthy's Marsh and the upper Kuzitrin River will be closed to grazing.
3. The type of livestock permitted will be limited to reindeer, except incidental grazing by pack animals that are associated with an SRP.

### ***I-3: Management Decisions***

1. Consider applications for grazing permits on a case-by-case basis, considering conflicts with wildlife and subsistence.
2. Limit the type of livestock permitted under a grazing permit to reindeer only.
3. Screen new livestock grazing permit applications for potential conflicts with existing reindeer allotments, wildlife and subsistence uses. Reject applications where significant conflicts are likely to occur.
4. Decisions identifying lands available, or not available, for livestock grazing may be revisited through a plan amendment or revision if the grazing preference or permit on those lands has been voluntarily relinquished, or if there are outstanding requests to voluntarily relinquish the grazing preference.
5. If an evaluation of the Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards identifies an allotment or group of allotments where Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards cannot be achieved under any level or management of livestock use, then decisions identifying those areas as available for livestock grazing need to be revisited.
6. Develop allotment management plans for open and actively used allotments that include grazing systems and fire management.
7. Allow incidental grazing of pack animals associated with SRPs on a case-by-case basis consistent with the permitting process for special recreation use permits, Required Operating Procedures in Appendix A, and the Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards (Appendix D).
8. Grazing permits will be subject to Required Operating Procedures listed in Appendix A.
9. Allow grazing within portions of designated ACECs that fall within grazing allotments that are open to use (Map 10).

## J. Minerals

### ***J-1: FLUID LEASABLE MINERALS***

#### ***J-1-a: Goals***

1. The public lands and Federal mineral estate will be made available for orderly and efficient exploration, development, and production of fluid leasable mineral resources (includes oil, natural gas, tar sands, coal bed methane, and geothermal steam), unless withdrawal or other administrative action is justified in the national interest.
2. All fluid leasable minerals actions will comply with goals, objectives, and resource restrictions (mitigations) to protect other resource values in the planning area.

#### ***J-1-b: Allocations***

1. Make approximately 11.9 million acres of BLM-managed lands as well as the Federal mineral estate in the planning area available for leasing as described below. 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. This is explained under Section H-2-a-7. These selected lands comprise approximately 6.7 million acres out of the 11.9 million acres currently managed by BLM. Therefore decisions made within this land use plan to “open” areas for mineral leasing by revoking withdrawals will not go into effect unless lands are retained long-term in Federal ownership. The RMP recommends revocation of these withdrawals, but until that process is actually carried out, most of these lands will not be immediately available for leasing. Map 11 shows BLM-managed lands that will be available for leasing, pending State and Native selections and withdrawal revocation. Split estate with Federal mineral estate has not been mapped.
2. Areas **open to leasing subject to the terms and conditions of the standard lease form** and the stipulations and ROPs in Appendix A: 6,441,000 acres, 4,242,000 acres of which are State-selected or Native-selected.
3. Areas **open to leasing, subject to special stipulations**: 5,420,000 acres, 2,350,000 acres of which are State-selected or Native-selected. These lands include: a) Squirrel River SRMA; b) caribou, waterfowl, and moose habitat in McCarthy’s Marsh, upper Kuzitrin River; c) winter habitat for WACH in the Nulato Hills, and d) calving and insect relief habitat for WACH.
4. Areas **open to leasing, subject to No Surface Occupancy**: 52,000 acres, 18,000 acres of which are State-selected or Native-selected. These lands include a 300-foot setback from the banks of active stream channels on the following rivers: the Kivalina River, Ungalik River, Shaktoolik River, Inglutalik River, Koyuk River including the East Fork, Tubutulik River, Kuzitrin River, Agiapuk River, Pah River, and Noatak River.
5. No areas are closed to fluid mineral leasing.

#### ***J-1-c: Management Actions***

1. Leasing will be subject to BLM standard lease terms and leasing stipulations and Required Operating Procedures (Appendix A).
2. Stipulations prescribed for Federal mineral development, in split-estate situations, apply only to the development of the Federal subsurface minerals. These stipulations do not dictate surface management.
3. Consider all geothermal leasing, Plan of Operations for exploration, or applications for development on a case-by-case basis.

4. In areas open to leasing subject to NSO, allow geophysical, exploration, and other temporary activities subject to the applicable stipulations and ROPs in Appendix A.
5. Coalbed natural gas development will be authorized by the same process as oil and gas.
6. Geothermal resources will be available for leasing in areas open to oil and gas leasing. Areas closed to oil and gas leasing are also closed to geothermal leasing.
7. All areas closed to fluid mineral leasing will be closed to geophysical exploration.
8. As described in BLM Manual 1624, Federal oil and gas resources (including coalbed natural gas) fall into one of four categories that become increasingly restrictive:
  - **Open Subject to Standard Lease Terms and Conditions:** These are areas where it has been determined through the planning process that the standard terms and conditions of the lease form are sufficient to protect other land uses or resource values. In these areas, the Stipulations and Required Operating Procedures (Appendix A) also apply.
  - **Open Subject to Special Stipulations:** These are areas where it has been determined that moderately restrictive lease stipulations may be required to mitigate impacts to other land uses or resource values. These leases frequently involve timing limitations such as restricting construction activities in designated big game habitats, or controlled surface use stipulations such as creating a buffer zone around a critical resource.
  - **Open Subject to No Surface Occupancy:** These are areas where it has been determined through the planning process that highly restrictive lease stipulations are necessary to protect resources. These leases may prohibit the construction of well production and support facilities. These areas can be subject to directional drilling, if technologically and economically feasible.
  - **Closed to Leasing:** These are areas where it has been determined that other land uses or resource values cannot be adequately protected, and appropriate protection can be ensured only by closing the land to leasing through either statutory or administrative requirements.
9. BLM will not permit seismic surveys south of Point Hope until such activities are authorized under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), which will require a concurrent Section 7 analysis to ensure survey actions do not violate Section 7(a)(2) of the ESA.

## ***J-2: SOLID LEASABLE MINERALS***

### ***J-2-a: Goals***

1. The public lands and Federal mineral estate will be made available for orderly and efficient exploration, development, and production of solid leasable mineral resources (includes coal and oil shale), and non-energy leasable minerals (potassium, sodium, phosphate, and gilsonite), unless withdrawal is justified in the national interest.
2. All solid leasable minerals actions will comply with goals, objectives, and resource restrictions (mitigations) to protect other resource values in the planning area.

### ***J-2-b: Objective (Coal)***

The objective for management of the Federal coal resources in the KSP planning area is to provide opportunity for development of Federal coal consistent with the policies of the Federal coal management program, environmental integrity, national energy needs, and related demands. With appropriate limitations and mitigation requirements for the protection of other resource values, all BLM-managed public lands and Federal coal lands in the KSP planning

area will be open to coal resource inventory and exploration to help identify coal resources and their development potential.

**J-2-c: Allocations**

Unless specifically closed to coal exploration, all unleased BLM-managed public lands within the planning area subject to leasing under 43 CFR 3400.2 will be open for coal exploration through the issuance of an exploration license. Coal exploration will be subject to the Required Operating Procedures (Appendix A).

Unless specifically closed to non-energy, all unleased BLM-managed public lands within the planning area subject to leasing under 43 CFR 3503 will be open for prospecting and exploration. Non-energy leasable minerals prospecting and exploration will be subject to the Required Operating Procedures (Appendix A).

All BLM-managed lands in the planning area will be open to coal exploration and non-energy leasable mineral prospecting subject to Required Operating Procedures (Map 13). About 8% of the BLM-managed land in the planning area will be subject to additional area specific special conditions in the Nulato Hills ACEC, Kigluaik Mountains, and on ten rivers: ROP SS 4-a through 4-d, FW 3-e, and FW 7-a.

- Areas open to coal exploration and non-energy leasable mineral prospecting: 10,813,000 acres, of which approximately 6,392,000 acres are State-selected or Native-selected.
- Areas subject to special conditions for conducting exploration of coal and other solid leasables: Approximately 1.1 million acres, of which approximately 250,000 acres are State-selected or Native-selected. These lands include: a) northern Nulato Hills (ROP FW 3-e); b) the following rivers: the Kivalina River, Ungalik River, Shaktoolik River, Inglutalik River, Koyuk River including the East Fork River, Tubutulik River, Kuzitrin River, Agiapuk River, Pah River, and Noatak River (Map 7, Appendix E).
- No areas closed to coal exploration and non-energy leasable mineral prospecting.

**Table 6. Allocations for Solid Leasable Minerals**

<b>Solid Leasables</b>	<b>Alternative D</b>
Available to coal exploration and non-energy leasable minerals prospecting	11,913,000 acres open (100%). Of this, 6,642,000 acres are State-selected or Native-selected. The following rivers are open but subject to special conditions outlined in ROP FW-7a: Kivalina, Ungalik, Shaktoolik, Inglutalik, Koyuk including the East Fork, Tubutulik, Kuzitrin, Agiapuk, Pah, and Noatak River. The Nulato Hills is open but subject to special conditions outlined in ROP FW-3e.
Coal Leasing	The planning area is currently deferred from leasing due to selections, remaining ANILCA 17(d)(1) withdrawals, and the fact that the coal screening process has not been completed.

**J-2-d: Management Actions**

All BLM-managed lands within the planning area subject to leasing under 43 CFR 3400.2 will be 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; therefore leasing is deferred. Interest in exploration or leasing of Federal coal will 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, will be conducted to determine whether or not the coal areas are acceptable for further consideration for leasing and development under 43 CFR 3420.1-4. The Kobuk-Seward RMP would be amended as necessary before coal leasing could occur.

1. The leasing of coal and oil shale will be subject to the Required Operating Procedures (Appendix A).
2. Coal and oil shale exploration and leasing will comply with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, the Federal Coal Leasing Amendments Act of 1976, the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Land of 1947, as amended, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), coal regulations, and coal planning criteria.
3. Only those BLM-managed public lands that have development potential may be identified as acceptable for further consideration for coal leasing.
4. Should coal operations be developed on Federal lands, an agreement will likely be developed between the State and the Office of Surface Mining defining the regulatory role of the State in these mining operations (30 CFR 745).
5. Oil shale will be leased on a case-by-case basis. Currently regulations for a commercial oil shale and tar sands leasing program do not exist. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 directs the Secretary to promulgate regulations for a commercial oil shale leasing program and authorizes the Secretary to conduct lease sales in states that show an interest.
6. Non-energy leasable minerals exploration and leasing will comply with the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Land of 1947, as amended, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946, non-energy leasable minerals regulations and planning criteria.
7. Non-energy leasable minerals will be leased on a case-by-case basis and subject to 43 CFR 3500.
8. Lands under selection by the State and Native corporations will be segregated from mineral leasing. The categories and constraints identified in this section will only apply on lands retained in long-term Federal ownership.
9. Requirements prescribed for Federal mineral development in split-estate situations will only apply to the development of the Federal minerals. These requirements will not dictate surface management.
10. Identify special conditions, if any, which must be met during subsequent more detailed planning, lease sale, or post-lease activities, including measures required to protect other resource values.

### ***J-3: LOCATABLE MINERALS***

#### ***J-3-a: Goal***

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

### ***J-3-b: Allocations***

Make approximately 11,913,000 acres of Federal mineral estate in the planning area available for mineral entry and location as described below. Much of this land is currently State- or Native-selected so will not be immediately available for entry or location, as explained under Section H-2-a-7. Additionally some of this land is currently withdrawn from mineral entry. The RMP recommends revocation of these withdrawals, but until that process is actually carried out withdrawn lands will not be available for entry.

All BLM-managed lands within the planning area will be open to mineral entry and location. Several additional ROPs to reduce the potential for impacts to important fish habitats will apply: ROP SS 4-a through 4-d, and FW 7-a.

- Areas open to mineral entry and location: 11,913,000 acres, of which 6,642,000 acres are State-selected or Native-selected.
- No areas will be closed to mineral entry and location.
- Areas subject to area specific ROPs: a) lakes in the Kigluaik Mountains supporting Kigluaik Arctic char; b) 300-foot setback on the following rivers: Kivalina River, Ungalik River, Shaktoolik River, Inglutalik River, Koyuk River including the East Fork, Tubutulik River, Kuzitrin River, Agiapuk River, Pah River, and Noatak River.

Map 12 shows areas open to locatable mineral entry and location, pending State and Native selections and withdrawal revocation.

### ***J-3-c: Management Actions***

1. Mining of locatable minerals will be subject to the surface management regulations found in 43 CFR 3809. Surface occupancy under the mining laws will be subject to regulations contained in 43 CFR 3715. Bonding will be required in accordance with BLM policy.
2. Mining related disturbances would be rehabilitated, on active and inactive workings, as required by 43 CFR 3809 and in accordance with BLM policy.
3. All operations will require filing a Plan of Operations or Notice of Operations with the BLM. Plans of Operation have to be approved prior to commencement of on-the-ground activities. Consult 43 CFR 3809.11 for specific guidance on when a Plan of Operation is required. Specific measures that will 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.
4. Mining activities within withdrawn areas in which valid existing rights are being exercised, including ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals, will require proof of a valid discovery for surface-disturbing activities (including occupancy) to occur. Before BLM can approve a Plan or Notice of Operations, a mineral examination report must be completed to ensure the mining claim was valid prior to the withdrawal.

### ***J-3-d: Monitoring***

Monitor mined areas for water quality and proper functioning condition.

## ***J-4: SALABLE MINERALS (MINERAL MATERIALS)***

### ***J-4-a: Goal***

Make lands, including federally-managed surface/minerals and split estate, available for mineral material disposal.



#### ***J-4-b: Allocations***

All BLM-managed lands (11,913,000 acres) within the planning area are available for mineral material disposal subject to the ROPs in Appendix A.

#### ***J-4-c: Management Actions***

1. Mining of salable material will be subject to the Mineral Materials Disposal regulations found in 43 CFR 3600. Bonding will be required in accordance with BLM contract regulations.
2. All operations are required to file a Plan of Operations with BLM. The Plan has to be approved prior to commencement of on-the-ground activities. Such plans will consider the location of special status species, essential fish habitat and other sensitive resources in relation to the proposed mineral material operation. Refer to Mineral Material ROPs in Appendix A.
3. Plans of Operations will incorporate the appropriate guidelines listed in the Required Operating Procedures (ROPs).
4. Mineral material sales on selected lands will require concurrence of the potential, future landowner and proceeds from the sale placed into escrow.
5. Free use permits will not be issued for resources on selected lands.
6. Material sales on certificated Native allotments are the purview of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and its contract service providers.
7. Material sales on un-certificated Native allotments will not be permitted (43 CFR 3601.12(b)).
8. Material sales on split estate will require concurrence of the surface owner.
9. Mineral materials sales are not permitted on pre-1955 mining claims (Public Law-167) and subject to non-interference with the mining operation on post-1955 mining claims.

#### ***J-4-d: Monitoring***

Monitor mined areas for water quality and proper functioning condition.

## **K. Noxious and Invasive Weeds**

#### ***K-1: Goal***

Prevent the introduction and spread of noxious and invasive plants on BLM-managed land.

#### ***K-2: Management Actions***

1. Work with others to implement the BLM's Partners Against Weeds Plan and the Strategic Plan for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management in Alaska.
2. Work with the Committee for Invasive and Noxious Plant Management to develop appropriate educational materials on noxious and invasive species.
3. Use integrated pest management (IPM) practices to control or eradicate noxious and invasive species. (IPM incorporates the best-suited cultural, biological, and chemical controls that will result in the least impact on the environment).

#### ***K-3: Monitoring***

Inventory and monitor BLM-managed lands within the planning area to document the presence of noxious and invasive plant species and prevent their spread.



## **L. Paleontological Resources**

### ***L-1: Goals***

1. Preserve and protect significant paleontological resources and ensure that they are available for appropriate uses by present and future generations.
2. Ensure that proposed land uses initiated or authorized by BLM avoid inadvertent damage to significant Federal and non-Federal paleontological resources.
3. Promote stewardship, conservation, and appreciation of significant paleontological resources through educational and outreach programs.

### ***L-2: Actions***

1. Require permits for individuals or institutions conducting paleontological investigations for vertebrate fossils on BLM-managed lands and insure that significant fossils remain in Federal ownership.
2. Prior to projects that may result in surface or sub-surface disturbance, conduct an inventory for vertebrate paleontological resources, if needed, in conjunction with the inventory for cultural resources.
3. Comply with Federal regulations for the protection of significant paleontological remains by avoiding impacts through project redesign, project abandonment, and/or mitigation of adverse impacts through scientific recovery and analysis.
4. Prepare paleontological resource awareness programs designed to enhance public appreciation of paleontological resource values.
5. Encourage scientific use of paleontological resources by university field schools and scientists.

### ***L-3: Monitoring***

Maintain an inventory of paleontological sites and localities.

## **M. Recreation**

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

### ***M-1: Goal***

On BLM-managed lands, improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities, ensure a quality outdoor experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources, and provide for and receive fair value in recreation.

### ***M-2: Allocations***

Identify the following Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA) and manage them according to the specified recreational emphasis outlined below (Map 17). Allowable uses or limitations not described below (such as those for Lands and Realty) can be found in the tables in Appendix C of the PRMP/FEIS or in the Lands and Realty section of this Approved Plan.

#### **1. Squirrel River SRMA:**

- a. The Squirrel River (726,000 acres of which 300,000 acres or 41% are selected lands) will be managed as semi-primitive motorized under the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) system (Appendix B).

- b. A Recreation Area Management Plan (RAMP) will be developed within 3 years of a Record of Decision, depending upon funding and staff levels, to address recreational use. The RAMP will take into consideration current use levels, safety, resource impacts, user tolerance, and quality of recreational experience. Using a public process, BLM will develop management objectives and strategies for the Squirrel River, such as: limitations on total number of visitor use days and number of commercial operators; limiting number of camps per river mile or per upland area; instituting additional permitting requirements; instituting seasonal closures or limitations on OHV use; and determining the appropriate level of facility development (Table 7- Market Analysis table).
- c. Interim Management
  - During the interim between approval of this RMP and the development of the RAMP, outfitters and guides will be managed at the 2004/2005 use level (10 guides). Commercial transporters and air taxis will be required to obtain an SRP but no limits on individuals transported will be in place during the interim period.
  - The general public will have no set limits on use during this interim period.

## **2. Salmon Lake-Kigluaik SRMA:**

- a. The Kigluaik Mountains and Salmon Lake area will be identified as a SRMA (290,000 acres; 281,000 acres selected lands), which consists of two Recreation Management Zones (RMZ): Salmon Lake and the Kigluaik Mountains (Tables 8 and 9 below).

### **Salmon Lake RMZ:**

- Manage as roaded natural under ROS (Appendix B).
- Existing facilities will be maintained, and may be enhanced to provide for increased visitor use.

### **Kigluaik Mountains RMZ:**

- Manage as semi-primitive motorized and roaded natural under ROS (Appendix B).
- Permit facilities to enhance visitor use and safety. In portions of the SRMA, facilities will be limited to foot and pack animal trails, cross-country ski trails, and interpretative signs.
- Helicopter and fixed wing aircraft use will be allowed to provide for recreation use until user conflicts require mitigation.
- No limits on visitor use days.
- Transporters will not be required to obtain a permit if requirements under 43 CFR 2932.12(a) are met. BLM may waive the permitting requirement if the use or event begins and ends on non-public land or related waters, traverses less than one mile of public lands or one shoreline mile, and poses no threat of appreciable damage to public land or water resource values (43 CFR 2932.12(a)).

**Table 7. Squirrel River SRMA Market Analysis Table**

Primary Market Strategy		Market
Undeveloped – remote block of BLM land with affordable access		Primarily non-local commercial and sport hunters from urban Alaska and out-of-state/country. Also local transporters, guides, and subsistence users
NICHE		
The Squirrel River SRMA provides wide range of primitive recreation experiences in a remote setting. It has easy and affordable to access from nearby communities. Increased hunting and harvest opportunities. The area is surrounded by privately owned Native Corporation, National Park Service (NPS), and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) land. Private lands may be closed to use by non-share holders. BLM's multiple-use mandate provides increased recreational opportunities compared NPS and FWS land.		
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES		
Provide for a wide variety of dispersed recreational opportunities in a "Semi-primitive Motorized" setting. Improve diversity of the local economy and promote greater stewardship of public lands. Slightly reduce commercial recreational use levels and better manage commercial use. Develop Recreation Area Management Plan to reduce conflicts.		
Activities	Experiences	Benefits
Undeveloped dispersed recreation for casual and commercial activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River floating</li> <li>• Camping</li> <li>• Hunting</li> <li>• Fishing</li> <li>• OHV use</li> <li>• Snowmobile use</li> <li>• Hiking</li> <li>• Bird watching</li> <li>• Wildlife viewing</li> <li>• Scenery viewing</li> <li>• Trapping</li> <li>• Subsistence</li> </ul>	<b>Visitor:</b> Develop skills and abilities; talking to others about equipment; experience and access natural landscapes; enjoy challenges with reduced risk. <b>Community (residents):</b> Sense of place; avoiding having outsiders make me feel alienated from my own community; observing visitors treating our community with respect; knowing that things are not going to change too much.	<b>Personal:</b> Improved mental well-being, stress relief, improved outdoors skills, stronger ties to family/friends, personal challenges, and risk reduction (provided by guides and outfitters). <b>Community/Social:</b> Greater family bonding, enhanced lifestyle, greater community involvement in recreation and other land use decisions. <b>Environmental:</b> Promotes greater community ownership/stewardship of public lands, increase awareness of natural landscapes, greater retention of distinctive natural landscape features, greater protection of fish and wildlife habitat, sustainability of community's cultural heritage, and improved respect for privately owned lands. <b>Economic:</b> Improves local economy, tax revenue, and local tourism.
PRESCRIBED SETTING CHARACTER		
Physical	Social	Administrative
<b>Remoteness:</b> Area is located approximately 20 miles from Kiana (the nearest community) and does not have amenities such as power, communications, and stores nearby. There is no road access. <b>Naturalness:</b> Naturally appearing landscape and features. <b>Facilities:</b> No facilities are present other than primitive campsites and unimproved airstrips.	<b>Contacts:</b> Users can expect some occasional social contacts with other area users. <b>Group Size:</b> Small group sizes of 7-10 persons <b>Evidence of Use:</b> Visitors may notice evidence of aircraft over flights and landings, user made trails near the river and campsites, use of OHV, possible conflicting activities (subsistence vs. commercial use).	<b>Mechanized Use:</b> Aircraft will be used to monitor visitor use and access the area. <b>Management Controls:</b> Information will be provided to commercial air taxis and guides to educate users; BLM field presence will be used to promote user compliance. <b>Visitor Services:</b> No on-site visitor services will be provided by BLM. Distribute brochures locally.
IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK / ACTIONS		
<b>Administrative</b>	Develop special recreation area management plan.	
<b>Management</b>	<b>Interim:</b> Limit number of guiding permits issued to 2004 level; require air taxis and transporters to obtain permits. <b>Long-Term:</b> Develop appropriate controls of both commercial and casual recreational use through Recreation Area Management Plan developed with substantial public involvement.	
<b>Marketing</b>	Provide educational information to community, visitors, and commercial operators. Develop brochures. Further marketing strategies developed through Recreation Area Management Plan.	
<b>Monitoring</b>	Collect use data from air taxi operators, guides, and other permitted users. BLM field presence and law enforcement increased during sport hunting season. Develop additional needed monitoring through Recreation Area Management Plan.	

**Table 8. Salmon Lake Campground Recreation Management Zone (8 acres)  
Market Analysis Table**

Primary Market Strategy		Market
Community Based		Residents of Nome and visitors to the area
NICHE		
The Salmon Lake Campground is the only developed campground with road access in the planning area. Primarily used by local residences, although there is increasing interest by non-resident visitors.		
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE		
Provide developed recreation opportunities for "Roaded Natural" areas, primarily for family oriented activities. Improve diversity of the local economy and promote greater stewardship of public lands.		
Activities	Experiences	Benefits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developed camping</li> <li>• Fishing</li> <li>• Boating</li> <li>• Hiking</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Family and social gatherings</li> <li>• Enjoy nature</li> <li>• Physical rest</li> <li>• Escape pressures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Personal:</b> Improved mental well-being, stress relief, improved outdoor skills, and stronger ties to family and friends</p> <p><b>Community/Social:</b> Greater family bonding</p> <p><b>Environmental:</b> Promotes greater community ownership/stewardship of land and increase awareness of natural landscapes</p> <p><b>Economic:</b> Improves local economy/tax revenue/local tourism</p>
PRESCRIBED SETTING CHARACTER		
Physical	Social	Administrative
<p><b>Remoteness:</b> Campground is located about 40 miles from the nearest community and does not have amenities such as power, communications, and stores nearby.</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> Naturally appearing landscape except for existing gravel roads and campground facilities.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> designated camping units with table, fire ring, tent pad; primitive sanitation (outhouse), trash containers, site markers/signs, information and interpretation displays, boat ramp, primitive road access</p>	<p><b>Contacts:</b> visitors should expect casual social contacts between other campers and area users of 0-12 persons per day.</p> <p><b>Group Size:</b> family groups or maximum group sizes of 8 persons per campsite. Note: On a seasonal basis it is possible for multiple campsites to be occupied. The number of visitors on site at one time may range from 11-20 persons.</p> <p><b>Evidence of Use:</b> Visitors will notice user made trails to the lake, use of highway vehicles, and possible conflicting activities (motorized vs. non-motorized uses).</p>	<p><b>Mechanized Use:</b> Mechanized equipment will be used to maintain the campground and roads</p> <p><b>Management Controls:</b> Informational signing and BLM field presence will be used to promote user compliance.</p> <p><b>Visitor Services:</b> Minimal on-site visitor services will be provided by BLM. Brochures will be distributed locally.</p>
IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK / ACTIONS		
<b>Administrative</b>	Develop supplemental guidance (Rules and Regulations)	
<b>Management</b>	Develop on-site information displays. Develop limits of acceptable change.	
<b>Marketing</b>	Local marketing to community and visitors. Develop brochure.	
<b>Monitoring</b>	Develop self-registration station to collect use data, traffic counters, BLM field presence. Campground hosts may be considered.	

**Table 9. Kigluaik Recreation Management Zone Market Analysis Table**

Primary Market Strategy		Market
Community Based		Residents of Nome and Visitors to the area
NICHE		
Provides dispersed recreation opportunities in a remote setting. Area is accessible by road to local community and road travelers for recreational and traditional activities such as subsistence. It offers a broad spectrum of recreation opportunities and has the highest mountains in the planning area.		
MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES		
Provide for a wide variety of dispersed recreation opportunities for “Semi-primitive Motorized” activities in a remote setting, while protecting primitive characteristics and values. Improve the diversity of the local economy and promote greater stewardship of public lands.		
Activities	Experiences	Benefits
undeveloped dispersed recreation: • Camping • Hunting • Fishing • OHV use • Hiking • Bird watching • Subsistence activities • Wildlife viewing • Scenery viewing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Experience natural landscape</li> <li>• Enjoy risk-taking adventures</li> <li>• Develop skills and abilities</li> <li>• Solitude and remote independence</li> </ul>	<p><b>Personal:</b> Improved mental well-being, stress relieve, improved outdoors skills, stronger ties to family/friends, personal challenges</p> <p><b>Community/Social:</b> Greater family bonding, enhanced lifestyle</p> <p><b>Environmental:</b> Promote greater community ownership/stewardship of land, increase awareness of natural landscapes, greater retention of distinctive natural landscape features</p> <p><b>Economic:</b> Improves local economy/tax revenue/local tourism</p>
PRESCRIBED SETTING CHARACTER		
Physical	Social	Administrative
<p><b>Remoteness:</b> Area is located about 40 miles from the nearest community and does not have amenities such as power, communications, and stores nearby.</p> <p><b>Naturalness:</b> Naturally appearing landscape except for existing gravel roads and features.</p> <p><b>Facilities:</b> Gravel road access along eastern and western boundaries</p>	<p><b>Contacts:</b> Visitors will have rare encounters with other users once away from the road system.</p> <p><b>Group Size:</b> Usually small group sizes of 7-10 persons</p> <p><b>Evidence of Use:</b> Visitors will notice some user made trails into the area</p>	<p><b>Mechanized Use:</b> Mechanized equipment will be used to monitor visitor use and maintain trails.</p> <p><b>Management Controls:</b> Informational signing and BLM field presence will be used to promote user compliance. <b>Visitor Services:</b> Minimal on-site visitor services will be provided by BLM. Brochures will be distributed locally.</p>
IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK / ACTIONS		
<b>Administrative</b>	Develop supplemental guidance (trail or recreational maps).	
<b>Management</b>	Develop trailhead information, displays and kiosks.	
<b>Marketing</b>	Local marketing to community and visitors. Develop area brochure.	
<b>Monitoring</b>	Develop trailhead self-registration station to collect use data, trail encounters. BLM field presence.	

### **3. Extensive Recreation Management Area (ERMA):**

- a. The remainder of the planning area (Map 17) will be an ERMA classified as Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM) under the ROS system and managed for dispersed recreational use (Appendix B).
- b. Within the ERMA, management attention on commercial recreational use will be focused on areas that have or may have conflicting uses or issues that require decisions to be made on an individual basis. Areas of concern within the ERMA such as the Koyuk, Inglutalik, Ungalik, Agiapuk, Buckland and Kauk river drainages, Nulato Hills, Fish River/McCarthy's Marsh, and Bendeleben Mountains will be managed for use, based upon current use levels, safety, resource impacts, user tolerance, and quality of recreational experience within a range of commercial use permits identified within the ROS system (Table B-2 in Appendix B).
- c. Commercial user days will be based upon current use levels, safety, resource impacts, user tolerance, and quality of recreational experience based upon ROS classifications for the ERMA/Area of Concern and based on criteria in 43 CFR 2932.26.
- d. If necessary to achieve management objectives, Visitor Use Day limitations would be considered based on the expectations and perceptions of users recreating in the ERMA and through a public process.
- e. Management will focus commercial use levels according to the ROS Classification for the areas of concern.
- f. Other areas within the ERMA may require increased management focus depending on changing visitor use patterns, or user conflicts arising. Management actions in these areas may include limiting the number of visitor use days associated with SRPs, requiring transporters to obtain a permit, and limiting development of facilities to enhance visitor use.
- g. Future activity level plans may be needed if user conflicts arise that cannot be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
- h. Facilities may be developed or permitted on a case-by-case basis, should the need arise.

#### ***M-3: Management Actions***

1. Implement the Iditarod National Historic Trail (INHT) Management Plan.
2. Outside of SRMAs, applications for SRPs (for commercial use) will be handled on a case-by-case basis and within identified ROS guidelines in areas of concern (Table B-1 in Appendix B).
3. Public use shelters will be considered in SRMAs and the ERMA on a case-by-case basis. Existing structures will be evaluated and if determined suitable, considered for public use shelters. New structures may also be constructed. Authorities to consider public use cabins will be addressed as Land Use Permits (see lands Section H-2: Land Use Authorizations).

#### ***M-4: Implementation Planning***

1. Implementation plans for the Squirrel River SRMA and Salmon Lake-Kigluaik Mountains SRMA will be prepared within 3-5 years as described in Section M-2-1-b above and Table 10.

#### ***M-5: Monitoring***

1. Inventory lands for recreational opportunities and monitor changes in use patterns. Priority areas for monitoring will include Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMA), the INHT, and identified areas of concern within the Extensive Recreation Management



Area (ERMA). Some areas of concern that may warrant additional monitoring include: the Koyuk, Inglutalik, Ungalik, Agiapuk, Kauk and Buckland River drainages, Nulato Hills, Fish River/McCarthy's Marsh, and the Bendeleben Mountains.

2. Monitor SRP holders and sport uses affecting game resources for their effect on recreation and subsistence opportunities.
3. Monitor dispersed recreation within the planning area for any resource damage or user conflicts.
4. Conduct periodic visitor use and visitor satisfaction surveys.
5. As appropriate, conduct Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) studies at specific sites.

## **N. Renewable Energy**

### ***N-1: Goal***

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

### ***N-2: Management Actions***

Applications for permits or leases to develop renewable energy sources on BLM-managed lands will be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to permitting requirements described under Section H: Lands and Realty.

## **O. Subsistence**

### ***O-1: Goals***

1. Maintain and protect subsistence opportunities. Determine how the management actions, guidelines, and allowable uses prescribed in response to the other issues will affect both subsistence opportunities and resources and the social and economic environment.
2. Maintain sufficient quality and quantity of habitat to support healthy populations of important subsistence species of fish and wildlife.
3. Work with the Federal Subsistence Board and Office of Subsistence Management, and the State of Alaska to effectively manage subsistence harvests (by working with the local Regional Advisory Councils, Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game, and subsistence users), including a strategy to implement/enforce a "rural priority" should one be necessary.
4. Ensure that rural residents engaged in subsistence use have reasonable access to subsistence resources on public lands.
5. To the extent possible, minimize displacing resources from traditional harvest areas (displacement that occurs as a result of permitted activity, such as oil and gas exploration, commercial guides and extensive research projects, etc.).
6. Avoid and minimize user conflicts over multiple-use resources (i.e., sport, commercial, subsistence).

### ***O-2: Management Actions (Administrative Functions)***

Subsistence is a unique resource/program in that the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents on public lands in Alaska is assured by law [sec. 802(1) of ANILCA]. As a result, decisions made in this RMP will not affect the BLM's role in administration of subsistence on



Federal public lands. The BLM will continue to carry out or participate in the following administrative functions.

**Involve Subsistence Users in Issues Identification:** Ten Regional Advisory Councils were established in sec. 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.

**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.

**Monitor Resource Populations Use 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.

**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.

**Manage Subsistence Harvests:** Although regulatory authority for subsistence management rests with the Federal Subsistence Board, implementation and enforcement 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.

### ***O-3: Management Actions***

1. Through the Stipulations and Required Operating Procedures (ROPs), create mitigation measures for permitted activities that serve to minimize impacts to subsistence. Mitigation may include avoidance of specific areas or limitations on season of use.
2. Work with the State and other Federal agencies to obtain information from local residents on the cultural significance and relative importance of BLM lands for subsistence purposes.
3. Require infrastructure be constructed in such a way that it does not impede access (i.e., pipelines, roads, buildings, etc.).
4. Create mitigation measures and/or required operating procedures for permitted activities so as to minimize displacement of subsistence resources.
5. Set a limit on the number of hunting guide permits to be issued within the Squirrel River through an activity level plan.
6. Create “good neighbor” recreational guidelines.
7. Create non-extractive commercial use (i.e., Guides and outfitters) permit Stipulations and ROPs.
8. Through OHV designations, ensure reasonable access for subsistence use.

### ***O-4: Monitoring***

Work cooperatively with State and other Federal agencies to inventory and monitor habitats and populations of important subsistence species to provide the necessary information to develop subsistence regulations and bag limits on Federal lands, as required by the Federal Subsistence Board.

## **P. Travel Management (OHV Use and Access)**

### ***P-1: Access***

#### ***P-1-a: Goal***

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

#### ***P-1-b: Management Actions (Access)***

#### **ANCSA 17(b) Easements**

1. The BLM will continue to review and reserve Section 17(b) easements under the law and regulations to ensure legal access to publicly owned lands while the remainder of the ANCSA corporations' land entitlements are conveyed. On-the-ground management of easements is the responsibility of the public landowner the easement accesses; i.e. the BLM, National Park Service, or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Other Federal agencies, the State of Alaska, an Alaska borough or municipal government may assume administration of a specific easement, or easements. However, easement management has not been transferred to governmental entities outside of the Department of Interior in the planning area.
2. The BLM is committed to working with the landowner, State and other Federal agencies. Subject to availability of funds, personnel, and approval, the BLM will locate, mark, and monitor easements and help educate easement users to understand the rights reserved to the United States and the rights of the private landowner, with priority based on:
  - Easements accessing lands that will be permanently managed by the BLM or that are important to BLM programs.
  - Easements receiving high use.
  - Easements required to implement an activity or implementation plan.
  - Easements where landowners support the activity allowed by the easement.
  - Easements where maintenance or education will mitigate environmental damage to the easement or BLM-managed lands.

These criteria will be used to prioritize other discretionary actions, such as maintenance on 17(b) easements. Realignment of reserved 17(b) easements will be considered on a case-by-case basis to resolve on-the-ground issues.

3. Authorization from the BLM is not necessary prior to use of a 17(b) easement. However, it must be kept in mind that 17(b) easements are reserved on specific routes for specific kinds of vehicles, and sometimes are subject to seasonal restrictions. For example, summer use of a winter-use-only easement, driving off an easement, or using a vehicle not allowed on the easement is a trespass against the Native corporation, not against the BLM.
4. Some 17(b) easements are made discontinuous by private lands. Acquisition of easements across or around these lands will be from willing landowners on a case-by-case basis as the need or opportunity arose, subject to the availability of funds (see Section H-4-a: Lands and Realty: Management Actions (Acquisitions)).

### **R.S. 2477**

1. The State of Alaska has identified approximately 650 R.S. 2477 routes statewide. The assertion of these routes has not been recognized by the United States. Land use planning does not affect valid R.S. 2477 rights or future assertions.
2. R.S. 2477 ROWs that were determined valid by a court of competent jurisdiction, or recognized administratively by the Department of the Interior, will be noted to the Master Title Plats as appropriate.
3. All proposals for OHV management will be consistent with sec. 811(b) 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."

### ***P-2: Off-Highway Vehicles***

#### ***P-2-a: Goals***

1. Manage trails to provide access to public lands, recreation, and subsistence resources.
2. Manage the use of off-highway vehicles (OHVs) to minimize resource impacts and reduce user conflicts.

#### ***P-2: Allocations***

1. The planning area is designated as "limited." Outside of ACECs or SRMAs, cross-country use of OHVs having a GVWR 2,000 pounds or less will be allowed yearlong.
2. Use off of designated or existing trails will be allowed for subsistence harvests by qualified subsistence users.
3. Interim management will apply to selected lands as long as the lands are selected. Any lands selected by the State or Native Corporations will have an OHV designation of "limited" that is consistent with the State's current Generally Allowed Uses regulations (11 AAC 96.020 and 96.025), which limit OHVs weight to 1,500 lbs "curb weight" and direct OHV users to stay on existing trails whenever possible and to minimize surface damage and disturbance of vegetation and soils (Appendix C). Note: 2,000 pound GVWR is comparable to 1,500 pound curb weight.
4. Within ACECs and SRMAs, additional OHV limits may be developed in area-specific plans based upon resource values and management objectives for each unit. Limitations may include limiting use to designated or existing trails, seasonal restrictions or closures, and weight limits.
5. Travel Management Areas are identified in Table 10. Polygons for travel management areas correspond to polygons for the Squirrel River SRMA, Salmon Lake-Kigluaik SRMA, and ERMA (Map 17).

**Table 10. Travel Management Areas and OHV Designations**

Travel Management Area	OHV Designation	Management Actions
Squirrel River SRMA	Limited OHV designation	Develop a travel management plan that includes appropriate limitations on OHV use in the Squirrel River. These may include limiting use to designated or existing trails, seasonal restrictions or closures, and weight limits. State- and Native-selected lands will be managed consistent with the State's Generally Allowed Uses. Inventory trails and assess conditions. Develop desired future conditions.
Salmon Lake-Kigluaik SRMA	Limited OHV designation	Initially under interim management for selected lands, OHV use will be consistent with the State's current Generally Allowed Uses regulations. If substantial lands remain in BLM management after conveyances, develop a travel management plan within five years of the ROD. Limitations on OHVs may include limiting use to designated or existing trails, seasonal restrictions, seasonal closures, and weight limits. Inventory trails and assess conditions. Develop desired future conditions.
Remainder of BLM lands (ERMA)	Limited OHV designation	Cross-country use of OHVs having a GVWR of 2,000 lbs or less will be allowed yearlong. Lands selected by the State or Native corporations will be managed as "limited" to OHV use consistent with the State's current Generally Allowed Uses regulations (11 AAC 96.020 and 96.025). Additional OHV limits may be developed in area-specific plans based upon resource values and management objectives for each unit. Limitations may include limiting use to designated or existing trails, seasonal restrictions or closures, and weight limits.

### ***P-3: Implementation-level Planning***

Implementation level plans will be completed for areas identified as SRMAs (Table 10 above) and designated as ACECs (Section C and Table 1). These plans will include an inventory of trails in the area, and describe specific resource concerns or conflicts, as well as specific trail designations and limitations. The process used to develop these plans will include public participation and coordination with the State, Boroughs, Native corporations, and other Federal agencies.

### ***P-4: Management Actions***

1. Manage OHVs consistent with 43 CFR subpart 8341.1 Conditions of Use.
2. Develop informational brochures on OHV restrictions and designations.
3. Permitted activities and uses that involve cross-country use of vehicles exceeding the maximum GVWR, or in areas limited to existing or designated trails, will include stipulations that minimize impacts to resources. Specific operating procedures related to OHVs can be found in Required Operating Procedures in Appendix A.

### ***P-5: Inventory and Monitoring***

1. Inventory trails and conduct condition assessments on BLM-managed lands to identify existing trails and assess resource impacts. This information will be used in implementation-level designation of specific trails and to prioritize trail maintenance needs.

2. Monitor use to ensure OHV designations and regulations under 43 CFR 8341.1 are adhered to.
3. Priority areas for inventory and monitoring will include SRMAs and ACECs.

## **Q. Vegetation Including Special Status Species**

### **Q-1: *Special Status Species***

#### **Q-1-a: *Goals***

1. Identify, conserve, and monitor rare and vulnerable habitats and plant communities to ensure a self-sustaining persistence of Special Status Species plants within the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP area.
2. Ensure that proposed land uses initiated or authorized by BLM avoid inadvertent damage to habitats supporting Special Status Species plants and plant communities.
3. Manage habitats consistent with the conservation needs of Special Status Species to avoid the listing of any species under the Endangered Species Act and ensuring progress toward recovery of listed species.

#### **Q-1-b: *Management Actions***

1. Ensure OHV use on designated trails and OHV designations result in avoidance of locations with known populations of Special Status Species plants.
2. Protect habitats of Special Status plant species from disturbance and mitigate impacts to Special Status plants from permitted activities.
3. Avoid authorizing mineral material sales in habitats containing known populations of Special Status Species plants.
4. As needed, site-specific actions necessary to manage habitat for Special Status Species plants will be made through activity-level planning, such as ACEC or SRMA management plans, or as mitigation/stipulations on proposed activities.

#### **Q-1-c: *Monitoring***

1. Identify botanically unexplored regions within the planning area and prioritize for floristic inventory.
2. Inventory project sites for Special Status Species plants on an as-needed basis.
3. Monitor Special Status Species plant populations and associated habitats for population trends and threats.
4. Contribute data on Special Status Species plant locations, population numbers, and trends (and voucher specimens as needed) to the Northern Plant Documentation Center (University of Alaska Fairbanks Museum Herbarium) and Alaska Natural Heritage Program in a cooperative effort to build a statewide rare plant database.

## **Q-2 Vegetation**

### **Q -2-a: Goals**

1. Maintain the current, largely pristine nature of the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula landscape. Plant communities within the plan area generally exist in a natural mix of seral stages and species diversity, undisturbed except by natural forces generated by climate, weather, terrain, and wildlife.

### **Q-2-b: Management Actions**

1. Recognize and manage lichen-rich plant communities (lichen tussock tundra, white spruce-lichen woodland, etc.) as unique habitats due to the slow growth potential of lichen and its great importance to caribou and reindeer.
2. As needed, plan and implement site-specific actions necessary to protect and manage habitat through activity-level planning and/or mitigation and stipulation guidelines.
3. On a landscape scale, and in cooperation with other State, Federal, Native and private land managers, use wildland fire to protect, maintain, and enhance vegetative resources, and as nearly as possible, allow fire to function in its natural ecological role.
4. Use wildland fire, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatment as appropriate to manage for a natural fire regime to support a diverse mix of habitats.
5. As needed, consider managing fire to protect old growth lichen stands in caribou winter range on the Seward Peninsula and Nulato Hills through the appropriate fire management option.
6. Manage for multi-aged lichen stands, which provide diversity and ecological stability, while recognizing that caribou make substantial use of old growth lichen range.
7. Protect vegetation on lands underlain by continuous or discontinuous permafrost from physical damage and thermokarst erosion from uncontrolled OHV use.

### **Q-2-c: Monitoring**

1. Complete land cover classification by extending project work to cover Point Hope, De Long Mountains, and Point Lay U.S. Geologic Survey topographic map quadrangles.
2. Continue to monitor permanent vegetation and fire effects transects established in the Buckland River valley, northern Nulato Hills, Selawik Hills, McCarthy's Marsh, and Death Valley to evaluate changes in vegetation in general, and specific plant communities such as lichen-rich and lichen-dominated habitats.

## **R. Visual Resources**

### **R-1: Goals**

1. Maintain the scenic qualities of the planning area.
2. Manage scenic values in accordance with the objectives established for Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes.



**Table 11. Visual Resource Management Class Objectives**

<p><b>Class I</b></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><b>Class II</b></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><b>Class III</b></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><b>Class IV</b></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>

**R-2: Allocations**

No land will be managed as VRM Class I. Manage approximately 800,000 acres as VRM Class II, 5 million acres as Class III, and 6 million acres as Class IV. Map 20 depicts the location and approximate acreage of the established VRM classes across the planning area.

**R-3: Management Actions**

1. Identify mitigation measures to reduce visual contrasts, and prepare rehabilitation plans to address landscape modifications on a case-by-case basis.
2. Manage visual resources according to established guidelines for VRM classes as described in Table 11 above. The visual resource contrast rating system will be used during project-level planning to determine whether or not proposed activities will meet VRM objectives.

**S. Wild and Scenic Rivers**

**S-1: Goal**

1. Identify and recommend for designation any rivers in the planning area that are suitable for designation as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**S-2: Allocations**

Through the land use planning process, it was determined that 11 rivers in the planning area are eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers system. These rivers are: 1) Kivalina River, 2) Fish River (McCarthy's Marsh), 3) Upper Buckland and Fish River (tributary of upper Buckland), 4) Ungalik, 5) Shaktoolik, 6) Inglutalik, 7) Koyuk/Peace/East Fork, 8) Tubutulik, 9) Agiapuk, 10) Kiliovilik, and 11) Nilik/Ipewik/Kukpuk.



Maps of the eligible segments, outstandingly remarkable values, and tentative classification for all listed eligible rivers are described in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula FEIS.

A suitability determination is made in the ROD. None of the rivers are found suitable.

## **T. Wildlife Including Special Status Species**

### ***T-1: Special Status Species***

#### ***T-1-a: Goal***

Manage habitats consistent with the conservation needs of Special Status Species to avoid the listing of any species under the Endangered Species Act and ensuring progress toward recovery of listed species.

#### ***T-1-b: Management Actions***

1. Cooperate with State and other Federal agencies in the development and implementation of recovery plans, management plans, conservation strategies, or assessments for Special Status Species that occur on BLM-managed lands.
2. Lands within the planning area will be managed to protect Federal and State listed, as well as candidate Threatened and Endangered species habitat, and to maintain public land health through avoidance of sensitive habitat.
3. Use will be redirected to protect Federal and State listed and candidate Threatened and Endangered species and habitats. Where practical, use will be redirected to enhance indigenous animal populations, and to otherwise maintain public land health through avoidance of sensitive habitat.

#### ***T-1-c: Inventory and Monitoring***

1. Identify specific areas and habitats of importance to Special Status Species, including, but not limited to: spectacled eider, Kittlitz's murrelet, yellow-billed loon, and shorebirds.
2. Cooperate with other State and Federal agencies to monitor Special Status landbird species.

### ***T-2: Wildlife***

#### ***T-2-a: Goals***

1. Maintain and protect subsistence opportunities.
2. Determine how the management actions, guidelines, and allowable uses prescribed in response to the other issues will affect subsistence opportunities and resources, as well as the social and economic environment.
3. Maintain sufficient quality and quantity of habitat to support healthy populations of wildlife.
4. To the extent practical, mitigate impacts to wildlife species and their habitats from authorized and unauthorized uses of BLM-managed lands.
5. In cooperation with ADF&G, ensure sustained populations and a natural abundance and diversity of wildlife resources.

***T-2-b: Management Decisions***

1. Work cooperatively with State and other Federal agencies to implement the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) Cooperative Management Plan, the Seward Peninsula Muskox Cooperators Plan, Boreal Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan for Alaska, and other cooperative management efforts.
2. Mitigate impacts from other uses to ensure that habitats are maintained in a condition that will support desired populations of wildlife species and to reduce direct impacts on wildlife from permitted activities.
3. Use wildland fire and prescribed fire to improve moose wintering habitat, but not to the detriment of caribou winter range.
4. Due to their value as wildlife habitat, protect riparian and tall shrub habitats through avoidance, rehabilitation of disturbed areas, or other measures.
5. Minimize, to the extent possible, the displacement of wildlife resources from traditional subsistence harvest areas.
6. Additional site-specific actions needed to manage wildlife habitat will be made through activity-level planning (see Section C: ACECs) or as mitigation on proposed activities.

***T-2-c: Inventory and Monitoring (Wildlife)***

1. Work cooperatively with State and other Federal agencies to inventory and monitor habitats and populations of important subsistence species to provide the necessary information to develop subsistence regulations and bag limits on Federal lands as required by the Federal Subsistence Board.
2. Cooperate with other State and Federal agencies to identify important habitats for Special Status Species and important subsistence species.

**Appendix A:**  
**Standard Oil and Gas Lease Terms, Oil and Gas**  
**Lease Stipulations, and Required Operating**  
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# Appendix A: Standard Oil and Gas Lease Terms, Oil and Gas Lease Stipulations, and Required Operating Procedures

## A. Introduction

The Alaska Statewide Land Health Standards (AK LHS) were developed by the BLM Resource Advisory Council and signed by the State Director on March 2, 2004 (I.M. AK 2004-023). These offer guidance in achieving plan objectives, meeting the standards, and fulfilling the fundamentals of land health. Guidelines are applied in accordance with the capabilities of the resource in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with permittees or lessees, public land users, and the interested public. Guidelines enable managers to adjust management on public lands to meet current and anticipated climatic and biological conditions, while considering cultural and local economic needs. The general guidelines under the AK LHS were used to develop the objectives in the following sections.

There are many Federal, State, and local laws, regulations and permitting requirements that must be met before activities may occur. Some requirements would be placed directly on the applicant. Others would be required of Federal agencies prior to granting authorizations. In developing these stipulations and required operating procedures (ROP), BLM has tried not to include requirements that already exist in the form of regulation or law. Laws or regulations may require other Federal, State, and local permits (e.g., Clean Water Act Section 404) for a project to proceed. Specific State permits are required when the State has primary authority, under Federal or State law or regulation, to enforce the provision in question. Specific permits issued by Federal agencies other than BLM could include permit conditions that are more stringent than those presented below.

An oil and gas lease does not in itself authorize any on-the-ground activity. Seismic operations, drilling, ice road construction, pipeline construction, etc. require additional land use authorizations. Any applicant requesting such authorization will have to address the required operating procedures either before submitting the application or as part of the application proposal. Requirements that are met prior to submission of the application, as well as procedures, practices, and design features that are an integral part of a proposal, do not need to be stipulated in a permit or lease. Because ROPs will be identified in the Record of Decision (ROD) as operational requirements, not as lease stipulations, their applicability goes beyond the oil and gas lease to any permitted activity where the requirement is relevant.

### ***1. Standard Oil and Gas Lease Terms***

\*This section was moved from section 3 to section 1 with minor wording changes in the first paragraph and deletion of the second original paragraph.

The Standard Lease Terms are contained in Form 3100-11, Offer to Lease and Lease for Oil and Gas, U.S. Department of the Interior, BLM, October 1992 or later addition (BLM 1992). Form 3100-11 is standard nationwide and is applied to every lease issued under the Mineral Leasing Act by the BLM. 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. The Standard Lease Terms also require that operations 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.

## ***2. Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations***

Stipulations are specific to oil and gas exploration, development, and production and are included in a lease offer in addition to the standard lease terms. 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 lease. All oil and gas activity permits subsequently issued to a lessee would include, as a condition of approval, lease stipulations appropriate to the activity under review.

The following stipulations were adapted from oil and gas leasing stipulations developed for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). For example, a NPR-A stipulation designed to protect caribou from the Teshekpuk Lake Herd was modified to fit the parameters of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd within the planning area. Additional stipulations were developed by an interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists. Some stipulations were changed based on public or internal comment on the Draft RMP/EIS.

The Authorized Officer (AO) may add additional conditions of approval to a specific proposal if 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 the provisions 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 their 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 it is not corrected, the AO has the discretion on penalties, dependant upon the nature of the problem. Non-compliance can result in monetary fines or operation shut-down.



Surface stipulations could be excepted, modified, or waived by the AO (refer to 43 CFR 3101.1-4). 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. A stipulation included in an oil and gas lease shall be subject to modification or waiver only if the AO determines that the factors leading to its inclusion in the lease have changed sufficiently to make the protection provided by the stipulation no longer justified or if proposed operations would not cause unacceptable impacts. If the AO has determined, prior to lease issuance, that the stipulation involves an issue of major concern to the public, modification or waiver shall be subject to public review for at least a 30-day period. In such cases, the stipulation shall indicate that public review is required before modification or waiver. If subsequent to lease issuance the AO determines that a modification or waiver of a lease stipulation is substantial, the modification or waiver shall be subject to public review for at least a 30-day period.

The environmental analysis document prepared for oil and gas development (e.g., Applications for Permit to Drill [APDs] or sundry notices) would 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; or 2) less restrictive requirements could be developed to protect the resource of concern; or 3) operations could be conducted without causing unacceptable impacts; or 4) the resource value of concern does not occur within the lease area.

### **3. Required Operating Procedures**

\*This section is moved from Section 1 to Section 3 and reworded, has additional text added, and deletes several blocks of text.

Required operating procedures (ROP) are requirements that BLM will impose as necessary, to achieve stated resource management objectives. ROPs are common to all action alternatives and will be considered for all permitted activities including FLPMA leases and permits, Special Recreation Permits, oil and gas operations, coal exploration, mining Plans of Operation, and Right-of-Way authorizations. ROPs are considered during the site-specific analysis that occurs during activity level planning and if adopted, will be applied as conditions of approval to land use authorizations and permits. ROPs are not selected as a condition of the permitted activities if the applicant has included them as part of the proposal or has identified an alternative, such as adoption of best management practice (BMP) to meet stated resource management objectives. Applicants are encouraged to consider alternative methods, best management practices, and/or design features that BLM can consider during the permitting process. If an applicant does not include alternatives for agency consideration, the ROPs identified below will be used when considering approval of a proposed activity.

ROPs have been developed to ensure that the AK LHS are met in carrying out permitted activities and management practices. These ROPs were based on the best information available during development of the RMP/EIS. As the interdisciplinary team of BLM resource specialists evaluated potential required operating procedures, they reviewed guidelines developed by the USFWS or other Federal agencies. They also considered ROPs from the

Northwest National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/EIS. ROPs were adapted and modified to fit the situation in the planning area. Finally, some of the ROPs were modified based on public and internal comment on the Draft RMP/EIS. ROPs will continue to evolve as better resource information is gained and/or changes in technology become available. ROPs may be modified as appropriate during the NEPA and permitting process to fit site specific conditions.

The AO or his/her representative is responsible for seeing that the permittee complies with the conditions of the permit. Non-compliance will be documented and a notice will be sent to the permittee, along with corrective actions and a time frame in which the actions are to be completed.

## B. Required Operating Procedures

### 1. Soils

#### a) Objective Soils-1

Minimize soil erosion by stabilizing disturbed areas as soon as possible. Where permitted operations result in surface disturbance, return land to its pre-disturbance condition to the extent possible.

##### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Soils-1a** All topsoil will be saved in a separate area from overburden for future use.

**ROP Soils-1b** All overburden will be stockpiled and saved for resspreading over tailings.

**ROP Soils-1c** All overburden piles will be shaped and stabilized to prevent erosion.

**ROP Soils-1d** Final shape of resspread tailing and overburden will approximate the shape of the surrounding terrain.

**ROP Soils-1e** Disturbed stream banks will be recontoured, revegetated, or other protective measures will be taken to prevent soil erosion into adjacent waters.

**ROP Soils 1-f** Roads, well pads, and other disturbed areas will be recontoured and revegetated 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 re-vegetate naturally, whichever provides the most effective means of reestablishing ground cover and minimizing erosion. The final land surface will be scarified to provide seed traps and erosion control.

**ROP Soils 1-g** Surface disturbing proposals involving construction on slopes greater than 25% will include an approved erosion control strategy, topsoil segregation/restoration plan, be properly surveyed and designed by a certified engineer and approved by the BLM prior to construction and maintenance.

*\*This was previously oil and gas leasing stip 8.*

#### b) Objective Soils-2

Engineer, construct, and maintain roads and trails in a manner that minimizes the effect on landscape hydrology; concentration of overland water flow, subsurface water flows; minimizes erosion, and minimizes sediment transport.

## ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Soils-2a** Roadways will be ditched on uphill side and culverts or low water crossings installed at suitable intervals. Spacing of drainage devices and water bars will be dependent on road gradient and soil erodibility.

**ROP Soils-2b** Roads will be designed for minimal disruption of natural drainage patterns.

**ROP Soils-2c** Roads will be designed to avoid areas with unstable or fragile soils.

**ROP Soils-2d** Water bars will be placed across reclaimed roads. Spacing will be dependent on road gradient and soil erodibility as shown in the following table.

**Table A-1. Recommended Water Bar Spacing**

<b>Water Bar Spacing (in feet)</b>			
<b>Gradients (%)</b>	<b>Erosion Class</b>		
	<b>High</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Low</b>
3-5	200	300	400
6-10	150	200	300
11-15	100	150	200
16-20	75	100	150
21-35	50	75	100
36+	50	50	50

Spacing is determined by slope distance and is the maximum allowed for the grade.

## ***2. Vegetation***

### ***a) Objective Veg-1***

Treatments to alter the vegetative composition of a site, such as prescribed burning, seeding, or planting will be based on the potential of the site and will: retain or promote infiltration, permeability, and soil moisture storage; contribute to nutrient cycling and energy flow; protect water quality; help prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds; contribute to the diversity of plant communities, and plant community composition and structure; and support the conservation of threatened and endangered species, other special status species, and species of local importance.

## ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Veg-1a** Vegetation treatments will be designed to achieve desired conditions clearly described in individual burn, project, or activity plans. 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-1b** Vegetation treatments will be designed to prevent introduction of noxious and invasive weeds. Project, burn, or activity plans will contain a segment on known occurrence of noxious weeds within planned treatment area and strategy for post-burn monitoring or treatment.

**ROP Veg-1c** Seeding and planting non-native vegetation may be used in those cases where native species are not available in sufficient quantities; where native species are incapable of maintaining or achieving the objective; or where non-native species are essential to the functional integrity of the site, with specific approval from the AO.

**ROP Veg-1d** In order to eliminate, minimize, or limit the spread of noxious and invasive weeds, only certified feed and mulch (hay cubes, hay pellets, straw, etc.) will be permitted on BLM lands.

**ROP Veg-1e** Operators must prevent and control noxious and invasive weed infestations. Noxious weeds in Alaska are listed under Alaska Statute 11 AAC 34.020 or other statewide lists that may be developed in the future.

## **b) Objective Veg-2**

Minimize disturbance to vegetative resources from permitted activities.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Veg-2a** Where feasible, existing roads and trails will be utilized.

**ROP Veg-2b** Bull-dozing of tundra mat and vegetation is prohibited unless there is no feasible alternative (e.g. lode mining), as approved by the AO. If trenching is required, use equipment that minimizes trench width. Clearing of drifted snow is allowed to the extent that the tundra mat is not disturbed.

**ROP Veg-2c** Location of winter trails will be designed to minimize breakage or compaction of vegetation.

**ROP Veg-2d** The location of winter ice roads will be designed and located to minimize compaction of soils and the breakage, abrasion, compaction, or displacement of vegetation. Offsets may be required to avoid using the same route or track in the subsequent year.

**ROP Veg-2e** Whenever possible, overland moves that are a part of permitted operations will occur when frost and snow cover is sufficient to minimize soil disturbance and compaction. The exact dates will be determined by the AO.

**ROP Veg-2f** When ground operations are required in snow-free months, routes that utilize naturally hardened sites will be selected to avoid the need for trail braiding. The 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 Veg-2g** Permanent oil and gas facilities will be designed and located to minimize the development footprint.

**ROP Veg-2h** Off-highway Vehicle use associated with permitted activities will comply with OHV designations in the area. The use of OHVs associated with permitted activities will be allowed under appropriate stipulations as approved by the AO.

**ROP Veg-2i** 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-2j** Require Special Recreation Permit holders, reindeer herders, dog mushers, and other BLM permit holders to use certified weed-free products on BLM lands.

### **3. *Water, Riparian, and Wetlands***

#### **a) Objective Water-1**

Manage human use to achieve and maintain water quality standards and avoid waste management problems and water quality impacts.

##### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Water-1a** Projects will be designed to protect water quality and comply with Federal and State water quality standards.

**ROP Water-1b** Management practices will include public education and construction of toilet facilities where appropriate.

#### **b) Objective Water-2**

Land management practices will be directed to avoid or minimize adverse impacts upon the hydrological, habitat, subsistence, and recreational values of public wetlands.

##### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Water-2a** Activities in wetlands will comply with Federal and State permit requirements for alteration of wetlands.

**ROP Water-2b** Utilize winter access whenever possible and avoid road or trail construction in wetlands.

**ROP Water-2c** In snow-free months, if wetlands cannot be avoided, low ground pressure vehicles will be used wherever possible.



### c) Objective Water-3

Minimize disturbance to riparian areas and facilitate rehabilitation of riparian areas.

#### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Water-3a** Streams must be diverted around mining operations using an appropriately sized bypass channel.

**ROP Water-3b** All process water and ground water seeping into the operating area must be diverted into the settling pond system for treatment prior to re-entering the natural water system.

**ROP Water-3c** Settling ponds will be cleaned out and maintained at appropriate intervals to comply with water quality standards. Fine sediment captured in the settling ponds will be protected from washout and left in a stable condition at the end of each mining season to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation to the environment during periods of non-operation.

**ROP Water-3d** Riparian areas between the mined ore deposit and the watercourse will be maintained in order to serve as a buffer strip between mining operations and watercourses: to protect integrity of stream banks, provide water temperature control, and for filtration of sediment from surface run-off. All roads, bunkhouses, offices, equipment storage, and maintenance facilities should be sited in upland areas. Overburden should be placed on the uplands or on the upland side of the mine pit. This is not intended to preclude activities which by nature must occur within riparian areas, such as placer mining.

**ROP Water-3e** Streams that have been altered by channeling, diversion, or damming will be restored to a condition that will allow for proper functioning of the riparian zone and stream channels. 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-3f** Riparian vegetation, if removed during operations, will be re-established.

**ROP Water-3g** The value of prime riparian habitat will be considered for protection and mitigation during development of any mineral resources that may impact riparian resources.

### d) Objective Water-4

To the extent feasible and prudent, channeling, diversion, or damming that will alter the natural hydrological conditions and have a significant adverse impact upon riparian habitat will be avoided.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Water-4a** All permitted operations will be conducted in such a manner as not to block any stream, or drainage system and to comply with State (Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation) and Federal (Environmental Protection Agency) water quality standards. This is not intended to preclude activities which by nature must occur within riparian areas, such as hydropower dams or placer mining.

**ROP Water-4b** New road construction within floodplains will be avoided. Where necessary, roads will cross riparian areas perpendicular to the main channel.

### **e) Objective Water-5**

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.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Water-5a** Structural and vegetative treatment in riparian and wetland areas will be compatible with the capability of the site, including the system's hydrologic regime, and will contribute to maintenance or restoration of proper functioning condition.

**ROP Water-5b** 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. Spill cleanup equipment will be available at all permitted sites.

**ROP Water-5c** Crossing of waterway courses will be made using a low-angle (perpendicular) 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.

**ROP Water-5d** New structures will be located away from riparian or wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian or wetland function. Existing structures will be used in a way that does not conflict with riparian or wetland functions or be relocated or modified when incompatible.

**ROP Water-5e** 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.

*\*This was previously oil and gas leasing stip 2.*

### **e) Objective Water-6**

Preserve sufficient water quantity to support beneficial uses.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Water-6a** Projects requiring withdrawal of water will be designed to maintain sufficient quantities of surface water, and contributing groundwater, to support fish and wildlife and other beneficial uses.

## **4. Special Status Species**

### **a) Objective Special Status Species-1**

Fish, wildlife, sensitive plants, and habitat will be managed to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to ensure progress towards recovery of listed threatened or endangered species.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP SS-1a** The planning area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened, endangered, or other special status. BLM may recommend modifications to proposals to further its policy of avoiding BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species. BLM may either require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is likely to result in jeopardy to the continued existence of a proposed, threatened, or endangered species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of a designated or proposed critical habitat. BLM will not approve any ground-disturbing activity that may affect any such species or critical habitat until it completes its obligations under applicable requirements of the ESA as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq., including completion of any required procedure for conference or consultation.

**ROP SS-1b** Within the breeding range of Spectacled eiders, habitat in the project area will be assessed to determine if eiders are likely to use the area for nesting or brood rearing. The following activities will be prohibited within 650 feet (200 meters) of spectacled eider nest sites. 1) Ground level activity (by foot or vehicle) from May 20 through August 1, 2) Construction of permanent facilities, placement of fill, or alteration of habitat, and 3) Introduction of high noise levels within 200 meters of nest sites (from activities at potentially greater distances), May 20 through August 1. These may include but are not limited to: airports, blasting, and compressor stations.

**ROP SS-1c** Within the breeding range of Kittlitz's murrelet, habitat in the project area will be assessed to determine if murrelet's are likely to use the area for nesting. If nests are found, minimize ground-level disturbance and activity within identified areas of suitable habitat during June–August.

**ROP SS-1d** Where practical, use will be redirected, as necessary, to protect Federal and State listed and candidate Threatened and Endangered species habitat, to enhance indigenous animal population, and to otherwise maintain public land health through avoidance of sensitive habitat.

**ROP SS-1e** Where populations or individual sensitive status plant species are located, take measures to protect these populations or individuals through site-specific buffers or management prescriptions.

## **b) Objective Special Status Species-2**

Minimize the take of species listed under the ESA and minimize the disturbance of other species of interest from direct or indirect interaction with large mining facilities or oil and gas development.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP SS-2a** In accordance with the guidance below, before the approval of facility construction, aerial surveys of breeding pairs of the following species shall be conducted within any area proposed for development within the breeding range of these species.

#### **Spectacled and/or Steller's Eiders**

(a) Surveys will be conducted by the lessee for at least three years before authorization of construction, if such construction is within the FWS North Slope Eider survey area, and at least one year outside that area. Results of aerial surveys and habitat mapping may require additional ground nest surveys. Spectacled and/or Steller's eider surveys will be conducted following accepted BLM-protocol during the second week of June.

b) If spectacled and/or Steller's eiders are determined to be present within the proposed development area, the applicant will consult with the FWS and BLM in the design and placement of roads and facilities in order to minimize impacts to nesting and brood-rearing eiders and their preferred habitats. Such consultation will address timing restrictions and other temporary mitigating measures, construction of permanent facilities, placement of fill, alteration of eider habitat, aircraft operations, and introduction of high noise levels.

c) To reduce the possibility of spectacled and/or Steller's eiders from striking above-ground utility lines (power and communication), such lines will either be buried in access roads, or suspended on vertical support members, to the extent practical. Support wires associated with communication towers, radio antennas, and other similar facilities, will be clearly marked along their entire length to improve visibility for low flying birds. Such markings will be jointly developed through consultation with FWS.

#### **Yellow-billed Loon**

a) Aerial surveys will be conducted by before authorization of construction of facilities proposed for development that are within 1 mile of a lake 25 acres or larger in size. These surveys along shorelines of large lakes will be conducted following accepted BLM protocol during nesting in late June and during brood rearing in late August.

b) Should yellow-billed loons be present, the design and location of facilities must be such that disturbance is minimized. The default, standard mitigation is a 1-mile buffer around all recorded nest sites and a minimum 1,625-foot buffer around the remainder of the shoreline. Development would be prohibited within buffers.

### c) Objective Special Status Species-3

Use ecological mapping as a tool to assess wildlife habitat before development of permanent facilities associated with oil and gas, coal, coal-bed methane or other large mineral developments, to conserve important habitat types, including wetlands, during development.

#### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP SS-3a** An ecological land classification map of the development area will be developed before approval of facility construction. The map will integrate geomorphology, surface form, and vegetation at a scale, level of resolution, and level of positional accuracy adequate for detailed analyses of development alternatives. The map will be prepared in time to plan one season of ground-based wildlife surveys, if deemed necessary by the AO, before approval of exact facility location and facility construction.

### d) Objective Special Status Species-4

Protect, maintain, and preserve aquatic ecosystems within lakes with known resident and genetically isolated Arctic char in the Kigluaik Mountains (Map 3-14). This ROP would apply under Alternative D only.

#### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP SS-4a** All ore processing (mill sites, tailings piles, containment ponds, etc.) must occur outside of watersheds that drain into these lakes.

**ROP SS-4b** All surface water discharge and drainage from mining operations must be re-directed outside of watersheds that drain into these lakes.

**ROP SS-4c** All chemicals including fuels will be stored outside of watersheds that drain into these lakes.

**ROP SS-4d** A person, claimant, operator, applicant or other proponent proposing to use or develop the lands, waters or resources within watersheds that drain into these lakes must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the AO that such use or development will not modify the lakes or their watersheds in such a way that it results in adversely: altering the hydrological, chemical, physical or biological integrity of the lakes; or impacting or diminishing the habitat quantity and quality of the aquatic and riparian ecosystems and watershed functions so that fish populations of the lakes are reduced below their natural potential.

## **5. Fish and Wildlife**

### **a) Objective Fish and Wildlife-1**

Avoid human-caused increases in populations of predators of ground nesting birds.

#### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP FW-1a** The best available technology will be used to prevent permanent facilities from providing nesting, denning, or shelter sites for ravens, raptors, and foxes in areas where ground nesting populations are sensitive to increased predation.

### **b) Objective Fish and Wildlife-2**

Maintain and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public lands and provide for the habitat needs of fish and wildlife resources necessary to maintain or enhance such populations.

#### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP FW-2a** No road crossings will be permitted in crucial spawning habitat, unless no feasible alternative exists and it can be demonstrated that no adverse effects will occur. State designated stream crossings will be used whenever possible.

**ROP FW-2b** Vehicular travel up and down streambeds, except by boat, is prohibited during the open water season (May-September).

**ROP FW-2c** Rivers and streams will be crossed at shallow riffles from point bar to point bar whenever possible.

**ROP FW-2d** Avoid stream crossings. When a stream must be crossed, the crossing will be as close to possible to a 90-degree angle to the stream. Stream crossings will be made at stable sections in the stream channel.

**ROP FW-2e** Stream and marsh crossings will be designed and constructed to ensure free passage of fish, maintain natural drainage, and minimal adverse effects to natural stream flow. Note: Bridges, rather than culverts, are the preferred method for crossing rivers. When necessary, culverts can be constructed on smaller streams, if they are large enough to avoid restricting fish passage or adversely affecting natural stream flow.

**ROP FW-2f** All water intakes will be screened and designed to prevent fish intake.

**ROP FW-2g** Drilling is prohibited in fish-bearing rivers and streams, as determined by the active floodplain, and fish-bearing lakes, except where the lessee can demonstrate on a site-specific basis that impacts would be minimal or it is determined that there is no feasible or prudent alternative.



### c) Objective Fish and Wildlife-3

Avoid heavy concentration of activities in sensitive fish, wildlife, and plant habitats.

#### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP FW-3a** Within the WAH caribou calving and insect relief areas (Map 3-12), mineral exploration activities will not be authorized from May 20-August 15 unless the AO determines that caribou no longer occupy the specific area of the proposed operations. This seasonal restriction can also be modified based on actual caribou occupancy of area.

**ROP FW-3b** Whenever possible, operations that require vegetation removal will avoid the migratory bird-nesting period of May 1 to July 15 (Area specific dates: May 20-July 20 for Seward Pen; June 1-July 31 for Northern region; and May 1-July 15 for interior). If no feasible alternatives exist, assessment will be conducted to determine bird species present, significance of potential impacts, and possible mitigation measures (FWS Advisory: Recommended Time Periods for Avoiding Vegetation Clearing in Alaska to Protect Migratory Birds. September 2005).

**ROP FW-3c** Within defined WAH caribou calving areas, the following uses will not be permitted during peak calving (May 20-June 20): 1) surface disturbing activities; 2) FLPMA leases or permits that exceed 14 days of activity; and 3) mining exploration. Aircraft associated with permitted activities will maintain an altitude of at least 2,000 feet above ground level (AGL) (except for takeoffs and landings), unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices. This ROP would not apply to Alternative B.

**ROP FW-3d** Within defined WAH insect relief areas, aircraft associated with permitted activities will maintain an altitude of at least 2,000 feet AGL (except for takeoffs and landings) from June 20-August 15, unless doing so would endanger human life or violate safe flying practices.

**ROP FW-3e** Exploration and prospecting activities for solid leasable minerals, locatable minerals, and salable minerals will be prohibited between October 31 and April 1 in caribou wintering habitat in the Nulato Hills ACEC unless the operator, applicant, or permittee can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the AO that the activity can be conducted in a manner that will not result in undue disturbance to wintering caribou. This ROP would apply under Alternative D only.

### d) Objective Fish and Wildlife-4

Minimize disruption of wildlife movement and subsistence use.

#### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP FW-4a** Bridges and culverts will be designed to avoid altering the direction and velocity of stream flow or interfering with migrating, rearing, or spawning activities of fish and wildlife. Bridges and culverts should span the entire non-vegetated stream channel.



**ROP FW-4b** Pipelines and roads will be designed to allow the free movement of wildlife and the safe, unimpeded passage of the public while participating in traditional subsistence activities. Listed below are the currently accepted design practices: 1) Above ground pipelines will be elevated a minimum of seven feet as measured from the ground to the bottom of the pipeline at vertical support members; 2) In areas where facilities or terrain may funnel caribou movement, ramps over pipelines, buried pipelines, or pipelines buried under roads may be required by the AO after conferring with Federal, State, and local government regulatory and resource agencies as appropriate, based on agency legal authority and jurisdictional responsibility; and 3) A minimum distance of 500 feet between pipelines and roads will be maintained when feasible.

## **e) Objective Fish and Wildlife-5**

Minimize the potential for disease transmission from livestock to wildlife.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP FW-5a** The use of domestic goats, alpacas, llamas, and other similar species as pack animals in conjunction with permitted activities will not be allowed.

## **f) Objective Fish and Wildlife-6**

Minimize the potential for electrocution of raptors.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP FW-6a** Power lines will be constructed in accordance with standards outlined in "Suggested Practices for Avian Protection on Power Lines: the State of the Art in 2006" (APLIC 2006). The holder will assume the burden and expense of proving that pole designs not shown in the above publication are "raptor safe." Such proof will be provided by a raptor expert approved by the AO. BLM reserves the right to require modifications or additions to all power line structures, should they be necessary to ensure the safety of large perching birds. Such modifications and/or additions will be made by the holder without liability or expense to the United States.

## **g) Objective Fish and Wildlife-7**

Protect, maintain, and preserve the condition and ecological function of the aquatic and riparian zones of streams that determine the ability of these habitats to:

1. provide clean water for community use;
2. produce fish and wildlife on a sustained basis to support cultural, economic, subsistence, and recreational needs; and
3. maintain the hydrological and morphological stability of streams to prevent unnatural flooding, habitat degradation, and water quality impairment.

## ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP FW-7a** This ROP applies to the Kivalina River, Ungalik River, Shaktoolik River, Inglutalik River, Koyuk River including the East Fork, Tubutulik River, Kuzitrin River, Agiapuk River, Pah River, and Noatak River. This ROP would apply under Alternative D only.

Any proposal to use or develop the lands, waters, or resources within 300 feet of the banks of active stream channels must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the AO that such use or development:

1. will not adversely alter the condition and ecological function of aquatic and riparian systems by impacting water quality, stream flow, velocity, ground water hydrology, channel connectivity, channel form, material recruitment, substrate composition, energy (food) flow, and riparian function;
2. will not diminish the quality and diversity of habitats needed to sustain the production of fish and wildlife populations at their natural potential; or
3. is outside the flood-prone width of these rivers.

## **6. Subsistence**

### **a) Objective Subsistence-1**

Prevent unreasonable conflicts between subsistence use and permitted activities on BLM managed lands.

## ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Sub-1a** BLM will consider using the following actions to eliminate, minimize, or limit the effects of permitted activities on subsistence use; 1) BLM may recommend modifications to proposed activity to further its policy of effective subsistence management, 2) Permittees will be required to provide information to potentially affected subsistence communities regarding the timing, siting, and scope of the proposed activity, and 3) Permittees will be required to consult with potentially affected subsistence communities to receive input regarding way to minimize impacts to subsistence, and the permittee will be required to provide documentation of their consultation efforts to the BLM.

Also see *FW-4b*.

## **7. Cultural and Paleontological**

### **a) Objective Cultural and Paleontological-1**

Management practices will consider protection and conservation of known cultural resources, including historical sites and prehistoric sites.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP C-1a** For permitted activities, cultural resource protection and conservation will be consistent with 1) Sections 106, 110, and 101d of the Historic Preservation Act, 2) procedures under BLM's 1997 Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 compliance, and 3) the BLM's 1998 implementing Protocol in Alaska between BLM and the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer.

**ROP C-1b** If necessary, mitigation measures will be implemented according to a mitigation plan approved by the AO. 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 must be cost effective and realistic.

### **b) Objective Cultural and Paleontological-2**

Avoid damage to significant paleontological resources where possible, and mitigate unavoidable damage.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP C-2a** For all actions, the BLM will evaluate the impacts of proposed actions to known resources and avoid damage to already-identified significant paleontological resources by avoidance.

**ROP C-2b** If avoidance is not possible, the applicant will perform scientific examination of the to-be-impacted significant resources followed by appropriate mitigation. This may include the professional collection and analysis of significant specimens by scientists.

## **8. Visual Resource Management**

### **a) Objective Visual Resource Management-1**

Manage permitted activities to meet Visual Resource Management Class Objectives described below.

**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.

**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.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP VRM-1a** 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-1b** 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-1c** Permanent facilities will be designed to be screened behind trees or landforms if feasible so they will blend with the natural surroundings.

**ROP VRM-1d** The modification or disturbance of landforms and vegetative cover will be minimized.

**ROP VRM-1e** Permanent facilities will be designed so their shapes, sizes, and colors harmonize with the scale and character of the surrounding landscape.

**ROP VRM-1f** In open, exposed landscapes, development will be located in the opposite direction from the primary scenic views, if feasible.

## ***9. Fire Management***

### ***a) Objective Fire Management-1***

Reduce impacts to water quality, riparian habitat, vegetation, soils, and fish habitat from fire suppression activities.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP FM-1a** Permittees and casual users will be held financially responsible for any actions or activity that results in a wildland fire. Costs associated with wildland fires include but are not limited to damage to natural or cultural resources and costs associated with any suppression action taken on the fire.

**ROP FM-1b** The Federal government will not be held responsible for protection of permittees' structures or their personal property. It is the responsibility of permittees and leasees to mitigate and minimize risk to their personal property and structures from wildland fire, if allowed by their permit.

**ROP FM-1c** Gas powered equipment will be equipped with manufacturer approved and functional spark arrestors.

**ROP FM-1d** To avoid the potential impacts to aquatic life the use of fire retardant is prohibited except when necessary to protect:

Human life

Permanent year-around residences

National Historic land marks

Structures on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

Government Facilities, and

Other designated sites or structures or if necessary to protect high value resources on adjacent lands under other than BLM administration or ownership

Even if one of the above listed resources is being threatened, water will be used instead of fire retardant whenever possible or appropriate. The use of fire suppressant foams is prohibited.

**ROP FM-1e** Use of tracked or off-road 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 FM-1f** Use of heavy equipment and other motorized vehicles off road requires approval of AO or designee.

**ROP FM-1g** Rehabilitate areas burned by fires as needed, guided by the fire specific rehabilitation plan provided by the Field Office to the suppression agency.

**ROP FM-1h** Helicopters used for any activity during snow free conditions, which requires landing in wildland fuels, should have the exhaust/cooling system located high on the fuselage. Helicopters, which have exhaust/cooling systems that are located low on the fuselage and expels the exhaust straight back or downward, should only be landed in areas with no fuel such as areas of bare soil, gravel bars, or other areas of low combustability.

## **10. Forestry**

### **a) Objective Forest-1**

Forest resources will be managed to ensure biodiversity, long-term productivity, and a wide spectrum of multiple uses, including scenic values, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and where feasible, harvest of forest products.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Forest-1a** Timber sales will rely to the extent possible, on natural regeneration through proper site preparation.

**ROP Forest-1b** Timber sales will include buffers to prevent disturbance of fish habitat and possible sedimentation into streams. Buffer widths will be dependant 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.

## **11. Mineral Materials**

### **a) Objective Mineral Materials-1**

Minimize the impact of mineral materials mining activities on air, land, water, fish, and wildlife resources.

### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP MM-1a** When responding to a request for a material sale or identifying a source for materials on public lands, the highest priority will be given to using existing upland material sources that meet suitability and economic needs. Using material from wetlands, lakes, and active or inactive floodplains will be avoided unless no feasible public upland alternative exists. Sales or permits for in-stream gravel extraction will not be permitted in known fish spawning reaches of the active river or stream channel.

**ROP MM-1b** Avoid habitats critical to local fish or wildlife populations (i.e. Fish spawning and over wintering, calving areas, raptor nesting sites).

**ROP MM-1c** Avoid key geomorphic features such as the beach barrier dune, river cut banks and associated riparian zones, root zones of spits, tombolos and barrier islands, springs, active channels of small, single channel rivers, and wetlands.

**ROP MM-1d** When possible, avoid vegetated habitats. 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 will be piled or broadcast so that it will not be washed away.

**ROP MM-1e** When scraping gravel in active or inactive floodplains, maintain buffers that will constrain active channels to their original locations and configurations.

### **b) Objective Mineral Materials-2**

Consider the technical character of the preferred site and available alternate site(s).

**ROP MM-2a** The site can provide mineral material meeting the technical and volumetric requirements of the project and still maintain space for any required buffers.

**ROP MM-2b** Amount of site preparation and rehabilitation required will be considered to minimize the following: haul distance, vegetation and overburden removal, river training structures bank and other erosion protection devices, length of access route, crossing of active drainage or channels and wet working conditions in the pit.

## ***12. Mining Law Administration***

BLM is to manage public lands consistent with the intent of the mining laws, primarily the Mining Law of 1872 as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

### **a) Objective Mining Law Administration-1**

Prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the environment and its natural resources from mining operations and prevent unauthorized occupancy on mining claims. To accomplish this, BLM relies on its authorities under 43 CFR 3809 (Surface Management) and 43 CFR 3715 (Use and Occupancy under the Mining Laws). Consistent with the intent of these regulations, the following Required Operating Procedures provide additional guidance on the management of activities related to mining on BLM administered public lands.

#### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP MLA-1a** Existing access routes will be used where possible. Alternatives to and/or upgrading of existing access will be planned in consultation with the AO.

**ROP MLA-1b** All tailings, dumps, mining improvements, deleterious materials and substances, solid waste including scrap steel derelict mining machinery and parts will be disposed of to prevent unnecessary or undue degradation in accordance with applicable Federal and State Laws and in consultation with the AO.

**ROP MLA-1c** Hazardous substances used for exploration or mining will be contained and backhauled for disposal at a proper facility for that material. Used petroleum products may be converted onsite or contained and backhauled for proper disposal. The storage of fuels and petroleum products will be in a location approved by the AO in accordance with permit requirements of the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

**ROP MLA-1d** Sanitation efforts including the disposal of gray water and kitchen wastes will be approved by the AO in accordance with the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation General Mine Permit or plan specifically developed in consultation with that Agency.

**ROP MLA-1e** Water quality of both surface and underground waters will be regulated by terms and conditions of The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES). Note that in the future, implementation of the NPDES program regulating water quality of both surface and ground waters may



be regulated by 18 AAC, Chapter 70 (Alaska Water Quality Standards) and 18 AAC, Chapter 83 for surface waters.

### **13. Hazardous Materials and Waste Management**

#### **a) Objective Hazardous Materials and Waste Management-1**

Protect the health and safety of permittees, lessees, and the general public by avoiding the disposal of solid waste and garbage near areas of human activity.

##### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Hazmat-1a** Areas of operation will be left clean of all debris.

#### **b) Objective Hazardous Materials and Waste Management-2**

Minimize impacts on the environment from non-hazardous waste generation.

##### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Hazmat-2a** All feasible precautions will be taken to avoid attracting wildlife to food and garbage.

**ROP Hazmat-2b** Current requirements prohibit the burial of garbage. All putrescible waste will be incinerated, backhauled, or composted in a manner approved by the AO. All unburnable solid waste will be backhauled and 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 Hazmat-2c** 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.

**ROP Hazmat-2d** Wastewater must be managed in accordance with Title 18 Alaska Administrative Code, Chapter 72, (18 AAC 72) Wastewater Disposal. Wastewater is defined as Human Waste (sewage), and Gray Water (water which has been used for personal hygiene, washing clothing or equipment, or sanitizing cooking and eating materials). If the standards for Pit Privies found at 18 AAC 72.030 cannot be met, all wastewater must be collected and transported to a state approved disposal facility. Upon closure of the campsite the Pit Privy must be completely back-filled with the surface area covered and re-graded to approximate original appearance.

**ROP Hazmat-2e** Pit privies will be located a minimum of at least 100 feet from the high-water mark of streams, rivers, or lakes. Pit privies will be sprinkled with lime and

then backfilled with a minimum of two feet of over-material when the pit has reached capacity or the operation is terminated. All Pit privies must comply with ADEC Standards.

**ROP Hazmat-2f** 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 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 Hazmat-2g** For oil and gas operations, produced water will be disposed of into injection wells as approved by the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (AOGCC) under EPA regulations and the Underground Injection Control (UIC) 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.

### **c) Objective Hazardous Materials and Waste Management-3**

Minimize the impacts to fish, wildlife, and the environment, from hazardous materials, oil spills, and other chemical spills.

#### ***Required Operating Procedures***

**ROP Hazmat-3a** 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 Hazmat-3b** The applicant will provide BLM 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 Hazmat-3c** 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 Hazmat-3d** Before initiating any oil and gas or related activity or operation, including field research/surveys and/or seismic operations, lessees/permittees will develop a comprehensive spill prevention and response contingency plan per 40 CFR 112 .

**ROP Hazmat-3e** 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 Hazmat-3f** 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 Hazmat-3g** Fuel storage will not occur closer than 100 feet from any river, lake, stream, or wetland unless approved by the AO.

**ROP Hazmat-3h** Liner material will be compatible with the stored product and capable of remaining impermeable during typical weather extremes expected throughout the storage period.

**ROP Hazmat-3i** Fuel and other petroleum products and hazardous materials will be stored in containers designed to hold that product. All fuel containers, including barrels and propane tanks, shall be marked with the responsible party's name, product type, and year filled and purchased.

**ROP Hazmat-3j** Hazardous materials/toxic substances, as defined by EPA (i.e., used oils/petroleum products, batteries), will be handled and disposed of in accordance with EPA and ADEC guidelines.

**ROP Hazmat-3k** All fuel spills will be cleaned up immediately, taking precedence over all other matters, except the health and safety of personnel. Spills will be cleaned up utilizing absorbent pads or other ADEC approved methods.

**ROP Hazmat-3l** Notice of any reportable spill (as required by 40 CFR 300.125 and 18 AAC 75.300) will be given to the AO as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours after occurrence and such other Federal and State officials as are required by law to be given such notice including ADEC at (907) 478-9300.

**ROP Hazmat-3m** Surface discharge of reserve-pit fluids and produced water is prohibited unless authorized by applicable NPDES, ADEC, and Borough permits and is approved by the AO.

## C. Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations

Table A-2. Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations

Objective	Stipulation	Areas Where Stipulations Apply	Exception, Modification, Waiver
Protect fish-bearing rivers, streams and lakes from blowouts, and minimize alteration of riparian habitat.	<b>Stip-1:</b> Drilling is prohibited in rivers and streams, as determined by the active floodplain, and fish-bearing lakes.	Fish bearing rivers, streams, and lakes	<b>Exception:</b> AO may grant exception if lessee can demonstrate that impacts would be minimal or there is no feasible or prudent alternative Modification: None Waiver: None
Protect, maintain, and preserve the condition and ecological function of the aquatic and riparian zones	<b>Stip-2:</b> The design and location of temporary or permanent oil and gas facilities within 300 feet of the following rivers will be prohibited: Kivalina, Ungalik, Shaktoolik, Inglutalik, Koyuk including the East Fork, Tubutulik, Kuzitrin, Agiapuk, Pah, and Noatak River.	Areas open to oil and gas leasing	<b>Exception:</b> The AO may grant an exception on a case-by-case basis if the lessee can demonstrate that impacts to fish, water quality, and aquatic and riparian habitats are minimal, or there is no feasible or prudent alternative. Modification: None Waiver: None.

Objective	Stipulation	Areas Where Stipulations Apply	Exception, Modification, Waiver
Protect threatened, endangered, or other special status species and their habitats.	<b>Stip-3:</b> The lease area may now or hereafter contain plants, animals, or their habitats determined to be threatened or endangered species. BLM may recommend modifications to exploration and development proposals to further its conservation and management objective to avoid BLM-approved activity that will contribute to a need to list such a species or their habitat. BLM may require modifications to or disapprove proposed activity that is 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.
Ensure the final disposition of the land meets the current and future needs of the public.	<b>Stip 4:</b> Upon abandonment or expiration of the lease, all oil- and gas-related facilities will be removed and sites rehabilitated to as near the original condition as practicable, subject to the review of the AO.	Areas open to oil and gas leasing	<b>Exception:</b> The AO determines that it is in the best interest of the public to retain some or all facilities. Modification: None. Waiver: None

Objective	Stipulation	Areas Where Stipulations Apply	Exception, Modification, Waiver
Minimize surface impacts from exploratory drilling.	<b>Stip 5:</b> Exploratory drilling will be limited to temporary facilities such as ice pads, ice roads, ice airstrips, temporary platforms, etc.	Areas open to oil and gas leasing	<b>Exception:</b> The lessee demonstrates that construction of permanent facilities such as gravel airstrips, storage pads, and connecting roads is environmentally preferable or that exploring from temporary facilities is not practical or economically feasible. <b>Modification:</b> None. <b>Waiver:</b> None
Minimize disturbance to calving caribou.	<b>Stip-6:</b> No exploration or development activities May 20-June 20. Production activities may occur (no workover rigs). This stipulation would not apply under Alternative B.	Western Arctic caribou calving area (Map 3-12)	<b>Exception:</b> AO may grant exception if review indicates that calving caribou no longer occupy site-specific area. <b>Modification:</b> Season may be extended based on actual occupancy of the area. Monitoring provided by ADF&G aerial counts. <b>Waiver:</b> This stipulation may be waived if caribou migratory patterns change and the areas are no longer used for calving.

Objective	Stipulation	Areas Where Stipulations Apply	Exception, Modification, Waiver
Minimize disturbance to caribou during the insect season.	<b>Stip-7:</b> No exploration activities May 20-August 15. Construction of production facilities and production activities may occur (no workover rigs). This stipulation would not apply under Alternative B.	Western Arctic caribou crucial insect relief area (Map 3-12)	<b>Exception:</b> AO may grant exception if review indicates that caribou no longer occupy site-specific area. Exceptions may be granted for work-over rigs on a case-by-case basis depending on duration of activity and actual caribou occupancy of area. <b>Modification:</b> Season may be shortened or extended based on actual occupancy of the area. Monitoring provided by ADF&G aerial counts. <b>Waiver:</b> This stipulation may be waived if caribou migratory patterns change and the areas are no longer used for insect relief. Exceptions may be granted for work-over rigs on a case-by-case basis depending on duration of activity and actual caribou occupancy of area.
Minimize impact on the human environment.	<b>Stip-8:</b> The operator will construct drill pads at least 500 feet and compressor stations at least 1,500 feet from occupied structures.	Areas open to oil and gas leasing	<b>Exception:</b> The AO may grant an exception if the operator obtains the consent of the owner of the structure. <b>Modification:</b> None. <b>Waivers:</b> None.



## **D. Standard Lease Terms for Oil and Gas (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 ½ percent;
- (b) Competitive lease, 12 ½ percent;
- (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 six 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 FOGRMA (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.

**Table B-1. ROS Classifications for SRMAs**

NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION SETTINGS										
Criteria for Classification and Prescriptions										
PHYSICAL – LAND & FACILITIES:			Character of the natural landscape							
Primitive			Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized			Semi-Primitive Motorized		Roaded Natural	Rural	Urban
Pristine			Transition							
a. Remoteness:	More than 100 mi. from any road and 20 miles from any community	More than 75 mi. from any road	More than 50 miles from any kind of road and no road is in sight			Area is generally not accessible except by boat, ATV, and fixed wing/helicopter. Major hub communities are essential in providing logistical assistance (fuel, provisions, safety)		On or near improved country roads, but at least 20 miles from all highways	On or near primary highways, but still within a rural area	On or near primary highways, municipal streets, and roads within towns or cities
b. Naturalness:	Undisturbed natural landscape		Naturally-appearing landscape having modifications not readily noticeable			Naturally-appearing landscape except for occasional ATV trails, unimproved air strips, and primitive campsites		Landscape partially modified by roads, utility lines, etc., but none overpower natural landscape features	Natural landscape substantially modified by agriculture or industrial development	Urbanized developments dominate landscape
c. Facilities:	None		None			None		Improved yet modest, rustic facilities such as campsites, restrooms, trails, and interpretive signs	Modern facilities such as campgrounds, group shelters, boat launches, and occasional exhibits	Elaborate full-service facilities such as laundry, groceries, and book sale
SOCIAL – VISITOR USE & USERS:			Character of recreation & tourism use							
Pristine			Primitive			Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized		Semi-Primitive Motorized	Roaded Natural	Rural
Transition										
d. Contacts (with other groups):	Fewer than 2 encounters/day at camp sites and fewer than 3 encounters/day on travel routes.	2-4 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., campsites) and 4-6 encounters/day on travel routes.			5-7 encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., staging areas) and fewer than 7-10 encounters/ day en route.		8-10 or more encounters/day off travel routes (e.g., campgrounds) and 11-15 or more encounters/day en route.	People seem to be generally everywhere.	Busy place with other people constantly in view.	

**Table B-2. ROS Classifications for the ERMA**

NATURAL RESOURCE RECREATION SETTINGS						
Criteria for Classification and Prescriptions						
PHYSICAL – LAND & FACILITIES:		Character of the natural landscape				
Primitive		Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized				
Pristine		Semi-Primitive Motorized				
Transition		Semi-Primitive Motorized				
Urban		Rural				
Rural		Rural				
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e. Group Size (other than your own):	Fewer than or equal to 3 people per group	4-6 people per group	7-10 people per group	11-25 people per group	26-50 people per group	Greater than 50 people per group
f. Evidence of Use:	Only footprints observed. No noise or litter.	Footprints and occasional snowmobile tracks observed. Noise and litter infrequent. Slight vegetation trampling at campsites and popular areas. Fire rings seen.	Vehicle tracks observed. Occasional noise and litter. Vegetation and soils becoming worn at campsites and at high-use areas.	Vehicle tracks common. Some noise and litter. Vegetation and soils commonly worn at campsites, along travel routes and at popular areas.	Frequent noise and litter. Large but localized areas with vegetation damage and soil compaction.	Unavoidable noise, music and litter. Widespread vegetation damage and soil compaction.
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE – ADMINISTRATION &amp; SERVICES:</b> How Public Land Managers, County Commissioners and Municipal Governments, and Local Businesses Care for the Area Primitive      Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized      Semi-Primitive Motorized      Roaded Natural      Rural      Urban						
Pristine      Transition						
g. Mechanized Use:	None whatsoever	Mountain bikes and perhaps other mechanized use, but all is nonmotorized	All-terrain vehicles or snowmobiles in addition to non-motorized, mechanized use	Two-wheel drive vehicles predominant, but also four wheel drives and non-motorized, mechanized use	Ordinary highway auto and truck traffic is characteristic	Wide variety of street vehicles and highway traffic is ever-present
h. Visitor Services:	None is available on-site	Basic maps, but area personnel seldom available to provide on-site assistance	Basic maps, but area personnel seldom available to provide on-site assistance.	Information materials describe recreation areas and activities. Area personnel are periodically available.	Information described to the left, plus experience and benefit descriptions. Area personnel do on-site education.	Information described to the left, plus regularly scheduled on-site outdoor skills demonstrations and clinics.
i. Management Controls:	No visitor controls apparent. No use limits. Enforcement presence very rare.	No visitor controls apparent. No use limits. Enforcement presence very rare.	No visitor controls apparent. Random enforcement presence during peak user dates. Commercial use limits may be implemented based on the criteria in 43 CFR 2932.26.	Rules clearly posted with some seasonal or day-of-week use restrictions. Periodic enforcement presence	Regulations prominent. Total use limited by permit, reservation, etc. Routine enforcement presence.	Continuous enforcement to redistribute use and reduce user conflicts, hazards, and resource damage



## Fact sheet:



Alaska Department of

# Natural Resources

Division of Mining, Land and Water • April 2004

## GENERALLY ALLOWED USES ON STATE LAND

As provided in 11 AAC 96.020, the following **uses and activities are generally allowed on state land** managed by the Alaska Division of Mining, Land and Water that is not in any special management category or status as listed in 11 AAC 96.014<sup>1</sup>. Uses listed as “Generally allowed” do not require a permit from the Division of Mining, Land and Water. Note that this list does not apply to state parks, nor to land owned or managed by other state agencies such as the University of Alaska, Alaska Mental Health Trust, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, or the Alaska Railroad. Before beginning an activity on state land, the user should check to be sure it is generally allowed in that particular area.

### TRAVEL ACROSS STATE LAND:

**Hiking, backpacking, skiing, climbing, and other foot travel; bicycling; traveling by horse or dogsled or with pack animals.**

**Using a highway vehicle** with a curb weight of up to 10,000 pounds, including a four-wheel-drive vehicle and a pickup truck, **or using a recreational-type vehicle** off-road or all-terrain vehicle with a curb weight of up to 1,500 pounds, including a snowmobile and four-wheeler, on or off an established road easement, if use off the road easement does not cause or contribute to water quality degradation, alteration of drainage systems, significant rutting, ground disturbance, or thermal erosion. An authorization is required from the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting for any motorized travel in fish bearing streams. (Curb weight means the weight of a vehicle with a full tank of fuel and all fluids topped off, but with no one sitting inside or on the vehicle and no cargo loaded. Most highway rated sport utility vehicles are within the weight limit as are most ATVs, including a basic Argo.)

**Landing an aircraft** (such as a single-engine airplane or a helicopter), or using watercraft (such as a boat, jet-ski, raft, or canoe), without damaging the land, including shoreland, tideland, and submerged land.

**Driving livestock**, including any number of reindeer or up to 100 horses<sup>1</sup>, cattle, or other domesticated animals.

### ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS ON STATE LAND:

Brushing or **cutting a trail** less than five feet wide using only hand-held tools such as a chainsaw (making a trail does not create a property right or interest in the trail).

**Anchoring a mooring buoy** in a lake, river, or marine waters, or placing a **float, dock, boat haulout, floating breakwater, or boathouse** in a lake, river, or in marine waters, for the personal, noncommercial use of the upland owner, if the use does not interfere with public access or another public use, and if the improvement is placed within the projected sidelines of the contiguous upland owner's parcel or otherwise has the consent of the affected upland owner. A float or dock means an open structure without walls or roof that is designed and used for access to and from the water rather than for storage, residential use, or other purposes. A boat haulout means either a rail system (at ground level or elevated with pilings) or a line attached from the uplands to an anchor or mooring buoy. A floating breakwater means a structure, such as a log bundle, designed to dissipate wave or swell action. A boathouse means a structure designed and used to protect a boat from the weather rather than for other storage, residential use or other purposes.

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<sup>1</sup> These special use areas are listed in 11 AAC 96.014 and on the last page of this fact sheet. Maps of the areas are available online at: [www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/sua/](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/sua/)

## REMOVING OR USING STATE RESOURCES:

**Hunting, fishing, or trapping**, or placement of a crab pot, shrimp pot, herring pound or fishwheel, that complies with applicable state and federal statutes and regulations on the taking of fish and game.

**Harvesting** a small number of **wild plants, mushrooms, berries, and other plant material** for personal, noncommercial use. The cutting of trees is not a generally allowed use except as it relates to brushing or cutting a trail as provided above.

**Using dead and down wood for a cooking or warming fire**, unless the department has closed the area to fires during the fire season.

**Grazing** no more than five domesticated animals.

**Recreational gold panning; hard-rock mineral prospecting or mining** using light portable field equipment, such as a hand-operated pick, shovel, pan, earth auger, or a backpack power drill or auger; or **suction dredging** using a suction dredge with a nozzle intake of six inches or less, powered by an engine of 18 horsepower or less, and pumping no more than 30,000 gallons of water per day. An authorization is required from the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting prior to dredging in fish bearing streams.

## OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AND STRUCTURES ON STATE LAND:

**Setting up and using a camp** for personal, noncommercial recreational purposes, or for any non-recreational purpose (such as a support camp during mineral exploration), for no more than 14 days at one site, using a tent platform or other temporary structure that can readily be dismantled and removed, or a floathouse that can readily be moved. Moving the entire camp at least two miles starts a new 14-day period. Cabins or other permanent improvements are not allowed, even if they are on skids or another non-permanent foundation. The camp must be removed immediately if the department determines that it interferes with public access or other public uses or interests.

**Brushing or cutting a survey line** less than five feet wide using only hand-held tools (such as a chainsaw), or **setting a survey marker** (setting a survey monument—a permanent, official marker—requires written survey instructions issued by the Division of Mining, Land and Water under 11 AAC 53).

Placing a residential **sewer outfall** into marine waters from a contiguous privately owned upland parcel, with the consent of the affected parcel owners, if the outfall is within the projected sidelines of the contiguous upland parcel and is buried to the extent possible or, where it crosses bedrock, is secured and covered with rocks to prevent damage. Any placement of a sewer outfall line must comply with state and federal statutes and regulations applicable to residential sewer outfalls.

**Placing riprap or other suitable bank stabilization material** to prevent erosion of a contiguous privately owned upland parcel if no more than one cubic yard of material per running foot is placed onto state shoreland and the project is otherwise within the scope of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nationwide permit on bank stabilization.

## MISCELLANEOUS USES OF STATE LAND:

**An event or assembly of 50 people or less**, including events sponsored by non-profit organizations or a commercial event.

Entry for **commercial recreation** purposes **on a day-use basis** with no overnight camps or unoccupied facilities that remain overnight, as long as the use has been registered as required by 11 AAC 96.018.

**Recreational or other use** not listed above may occur on state land as long as that use

- \* is not a commercial recreational camp or facility, (whether occupied or unoccupied) that remains overnight;
- \* does not involve explosives or explosive devices (except firearms);
- \* is not prospecting or mining using hydraulic equipment methods;

- \* does not include drilling in excess of 300 feet deep (including exploratory drilling or stratigraphic test wells on state land not under oil or gas lease);
- \* is not for geophysical exploration for minerals subject to lease or an oil and gas exploration license;
- \* does not cause or contribute to significant disturbance of vegetation, drainage, or soil stability;
- \* does not interfere with public access or other public uses or interests; and
- \* does not continue for more than 14 consecutive days at any site. Moving the use to another site at least two miles away starts a new 14-day period.

## Check for special conditions and exceptions!

All activities on state land must be conducted in a responsible manner that will minimize or prevent disturbance to land and water resources, and must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. **By acting under the authority of this list, the user agrees to the conditions set out in 11 AAC 96.025** (a copy of these conditions are attached to this fact sheet). A person who violates these conditions is subject to any action available to the department for enforcement and remedies, including civil action for forcible entry and detainer, ejectment, trespass, damages, and associated costs, or arrest and prosecution for criminal trespass in the second degree. The department may seek damages available under a civil action, including restoration damages, compensatory damages, and treble damages under AS 09.45.730 or AS 09.45.735 for violations involving injuring or removing trees or shrubs, gathering technical data, or taking mineral resources. (11 AAC 96.145)

Remember that this list does not apply to state parks or Alaska Mental Health Trust lands. In addition, some other areas managed by the Division of Mining, Land and Water are not subject to the full list of generally allowed uses. Exceptions may occur because of special conditions in a state land use plan or management plan for example, a management plan may reduce the number of days that people can camp at a specific site), or by a “special use land” designation (for instance, a special use land designation for the North Slope requires a permit for off-road vehicle use). Special Use Areas are listed in 11 AAC 96.014; more information is available on the department’s website at [www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/sua/](http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/sua/).

Also, be aware that this list does not exempt users from the permit requirements of other state, federal, or local agencies. For example, the Office of Habitat Management and Permitting may require a permit for a stream crossing or a permit might be required by the Department of Fish and Game if the use will take place in a state game refuge.

Finally, this list does not authorize a use if another person has already acquired an exclusive property right for that use. For instance, it does not give people permission to graze livestock on someone else’s state grazing lease, to build a trail on a private right-of-way that the Division of Mining, Land and Water has granted to another person, or to pan for gold on somebody else’s state mining location.

Department staff can help users determine the land status of state-owned land and whether it is subject to any special exceptions or to private property rights.

## For additional information, contact the Department of Natural Resources:

PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER 550 W. 7 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 1260 Anchorage, AK 99501-3557 (907) 269-8400 TDD: (907) 269-8411	DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE 400 Willoughby Ave., Suite 400 Juneau, AK 99801-1700(907) 465-3400 TDD: (907) 465-3888	PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTER 3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK 99709-4699 (907) 451-2705 TDD: (907) 451-2770
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**CONDITIONS FOR GENERALLY ALLOWED USES**  
**(11 AAC 96.025<sup>2</sup>)**

A generally allowed use listed in 11 AAC 96.020 is subject to the following conditions:

- (1) activities employing wheeled or tracked vehicles must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface damage;
- (2) vehicles must use existing roads and trails whenever possible;
- (3) activities must 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;
- (4) cuts, fills, and other activities causing a disturbance listed in (3)(A)–(C) must be repaired immediately, and corrective action must be undertaken as may be required by the department;
- (5) trails and campsites must be kept clean; garbage and foreign debris must be removed; combustibles may be burned on site unless the department has closed the area to fires during the fire season;
- (6) survey monuments, witness corners, reference monuments, mining location posts, homestead entry corner posts, and bearing trees must be protected against destruction, obliteration, and damage; any damaged or obliterated markers must be reestablished as required by the department under AS 34.65.020 and AS 34.65.040;
- (7) every reasonable effort must be made to prevent, control, and suppress any fire in the operating area; uncontrolled fires must be immediately reported;
- (8) holes, pits, and excavations must be repaired as soon as possible; holes, pits, and excavations necessary to verify discovery on prospecting sites, mining claims, or mining leasehold locations may be left open but must be maintained in a manner that protects public safety;
- (9) on lands subject to a mineral or land estate property interest, entry by a person other than the holder of a property interest, or the holder's authorized representative, must be made in a manner that prevents unnecessary or unreasonable interference with the rights of the holder of the property interest.

**List of Special Use Land Designations Excluded from Generally Allowed Uses**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • Alyeska Ski Resort                                     | • Lower Goodnews River                          |
| • Baranof Lake Trail                                     | • Lower Talarik Creek                           |
| • Caribou Hills  | • Marmot Island Special Use Area                |
| • Exit Glacier Road                                      | • Nenana River Gorge and McKinley Village Subd. |
| • Glacier/Winner Creek                                   | • North Slope Area                              |
| • Hatcher Pass Special Use Area                          | • Nushagak                                      |
| • Indian Cove  | • Poker Flat North                              |
| • Kamishak Special Use Area                              | • Poker Flat South                              |
| • Kenai Fjords Coastline                                 | • Resurrection Bay                              |
| • Kenai River Special Management Area Proposed Additions | • Thompson Pass                                 |
| • Lake Clark Coastline                                   | • Togiak National Wildlife Refuge               |

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<sup>2</sup> Register 164, January 2003



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Alaska State Office  
222 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599  
<http://www.ak.blm.gov>



1610 (931) P

March 2, 2004

Instruction Memorandum No. AK 2004-023

Expires: 09/30/2005

To: All Employees

From: State Director

Subject: Alaska Land Health Standards and Guidelines

**Program Area:** Planning

**Purpose:** This Instruction Memorandum (IM) provides Alaska Land Health Standards and Guidelines approved by the State Director under regulations contained in 43 CFR 1601.0-4(b).

**Policy/Action:** Standards and Guidelines will be implemented through the land use planning process following Alaska's ten-year planning schedule.

**Timeframe:** The Standards and Guidelines are effective immediately.

**Budget Impact:** N/A

**Background:** The BLM and the BLM Resource Advisory Council for Alaska cooperatively developed standards and guidelines for Alaska. The BLM is implementing Standards and Guidelines in the contiguous 48 States under regulations contained in 43 CFR 4180. The grazing program regulations do not apply to Alaska. Therefore, the Alaska State Director hereby issues Standards and Guidelines as planning guidance.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** None

**Contact:** If you have questions, or need further information, please call Mike Kasterin, Regional Economist, at (907) 271-3202.

Signed  
Peter J. Ditton  
State Director, Acting

Authenticated  
Rodney Harvey  
Records Manager

Attachment:

Alaska Land Health Standards and Guidelines (12 pp)

# **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT - ALASKA**

## **STATEWIDE LAND HEALTH STANDARDS**

### **Introduction**

This document sets forth land health standards that describe the desired ecological conditions and goals that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) intends to maintain, or attain, in managing lands throughout Alaska. Land health considers the needs and contributions of the affected ecosystem, including water, wetlands, riparian areas, soil, forest resources, taiga and tundra, mountains, coastal regions, glaciers, minerals, fish and wildlife species and habitat, heritage resources, and human uses.

The land health standards establish goals for BLM managed land and resource conditions in Alaska, and are criteria for land use planning decisions. The BLM intends that these standards promote healthy, sustainable ecosystems that support a wide range of public values and uses, reflective of the BLM multiple use land management mission. The BLM further intends to provide for a wide variety of public land uses without compromising the long-term health and diversity of the land and without sacrificing significant natural, cultural, and historical resource values. BLM will use the best available scientific and technical information as a basis for land and resource management decisions. These standards, in conjunction with factors such as economic, social, and cultural aspects, create a balanced approach to considering proposed activities on the public lands. Guidelines are also provided to outline practices and procedures that BLM may apply to achieve the standards.

### **Ecological Functions and the Fundamentals of Land Health**

Within each ecosystem there is a hierarchy of ecological functions and processes. An ecosystem consists of four primary, interactive functional components: (1) a physical component, (2) a biological component, (3) a social component, and (4) an economic component. The physical function of an ecosystem supports the biological component--its health, diversity, and productivity. In turn, the interaction of the physical and biological components of the ecosystem provides the resource needs of society and the economy.

A healthy ecosystem, or an ecosystem that is recovering its health, contains the following fundamental physical and biological attributes:

- Watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, properly functioning physical condition, including their upland, riparian, wetland, and aquatic components; soil and plant conditions support infiltration, soil moisture storage, and the release of water that are in balance with climate and landform and maintain or improve water quality, water quantity, and timing and duration of flow.
- Ecological processes, including the hydrologic cycle, nutrient cycle, and energy flow, are maintained or there is significant progress toward their attainment in order to support healthy biotic populations and communities.
- Water quality complies with State water quality standards and achieves, or is making significant progress toward achieving, established BLM management objectives, such as meeting wildlife needs.
- Habitats are, or are making significant progress toward, being restored or maintained, including Federal threatened and endangered, Federal proposed, and other special status species.



## **Standards and Guidelines and Resource Management Planning**

Future BLM land use plans and land management decisions will incorporate statewide standards. Social and economic needs expressed by local communities and individuals will also be considered in the goals of the plans and decisions. Specific terms and conditions/stipulations will be considered to ensure progress is achieved in a way, and at a rate, for the plan goals and objectives. In designing and implementing guidelines, the potential of the site must be identified. Any constraints must be recognized so plan goals and objectives are realistic and physically, economically achievable. The BLM will then use these standard statements to develop specific Resource Management Plan (RMP) objectives and indicators, addressed in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the RMP. The standards will be implemented with appropriate planning decisions after completion of the RMP. The authorized officer will coordinate, consult, and cooperate with interested parties including local, State and Federal agencies, Tribes, Native corporations, and interested publics during all phases of implementing standards and guidelines.

The BLM will strive to make use of collaborative approaches involving the various interested publics within an affected area. The Resource Advisory Council may be requested by any party to assist in reaching agreement in resolving disputes.

Some of the criteria the authorized officer will use to prioritize areas in the application of standards and guidelines are as follows:

- Are there situations where legal requirements must be met?
- Is there information to indicate resources are at risk of being lost or that the severity of resource damage demands immediate attention?
- Is use conflict present?
- Is there public concern or interest for possible resources at risk?
- What is scheduled for completion according to the Resource Management Plan implementation schedule?
- Where can efficiencies with limited resources be realized?
- Where are the best opportunities to effect positive change toward public land health?
- Are there permits or resource use authorizations that need action?

## **Standards**

There are five Standards by which the diversity and ecological health of BLM managed land will be measured:

**Watershed Function-Uplands**  
**Watershed Function-Riparian, wetland, aquatic areas**  
**Ecological processes**  
**Water quality and yield**  
**Threatened, endangered, native, and locally important species**

Standards are written in a two-part format. A standard is first described in a statement; then indicators that are related to the standard are identified. While statements of standards addressing the needs of healthy physical and biological ecosystem components may be similar across the Nation, the indicators that relate to the standard statements will be specific for each ecosystem. Variability among the indicators will depend on distinctive physical and biological elements of an ecosystem, not on the land use. The indicator should be based upon the potential (or upon the capability where potential cannot be achieved) of individual sites or landforms. Indicators may be qualitative and can be used to monitor whether management is achieving



maintenance of, or a trend toward, or away from the standard. In addition, traditional knowledge of an area can provide information on trends, both historic and current.

**Watershed Function-Uplands Standard:** When functioning properly within its capability, a watershed captures, stores, and safely releases the moisture from normal precipitation events (equal to or less than the 25-year, 5-hour event) that occur within its boundaries.

While all watersheds consist of similar components and processes, each is unique in its makeup. Each watershed displays its own pattern of landform and soil, unique climate and weather patterns, and its own history of use and current condition.

In directing management toward maintaining or achieving this watershed standard, treat each unit of the landscape (soil, ecological site, and watershed) according to its capability and relationship to smaller and larger units of the landscape.

**Goal:** To ensure that watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, a properly functioning physical condition that includes their upland, riparian, wetland, and aquatic areas. The infiltration and permeability rates, moisture storage, and stability of upland soils are appropriate to the watershed's soil, climate, and landform.

**Objective 1\*:** Protect the soil surface from erosion; avoid detention of overland flow; maintain infiltration and permeability that are consistent with the potential/capability of the site.

**Possible success indicators:**

- amount and distribution of plant cover (including forest canopy cover)
- amount and distribution of permafrost
- soil temperature/depth profile
- soil moisture
- amount and distribution of plant litter
- accumulation/incorporation of organic matter
- amount and distribution of bare ground
- amount and distribution of rock, stone, and gravel
- plant composition and community structure
- thickness and continuity of the first layer of soil containing organic matter
- character of micro-relief
- presence and integrity of biotic crusts
- root occupancy of the soil profile
- biological activity (plant, animal, and insect)
- absence of accelerated erosion and overland flow

**Objective 2:** Promote moisture storage by soil and plant conditions consistent with the potential/capability of the site.

**Possible success indicators:**

- amount and distribution of plant cover (including forest canopy cover)
- amount and distribution of plant litter
- accumulation/incorporation of organic matter
- plant composition and community structure
- snow depth/moisture content

**Watershed Function-Riparian, wetland, aquatic areas standard:** “Properly functioning” riparian, wetland, and aquatic areas maintain or enhance the timing and duration of stream flow in the watershed. They do this through dissipation of flood energy, improved bank storage, and groundwater recharge.

**Goal:** To ensure that watersheds are in, or are making significant progress toward, a properly functioning physical condition that applies to upland, riparian, wetland, and aquatic areas. The riparian, wetland, and aquatic areas are functioning properly at levels appropriate to the watershed’s soil, climate, and landform.

**Objective 1:** Hydrologic, vegetative, and erosion/depositional processes support physical functioning, consistent with the potential or capability of the site.

**Possible success indicators:**

- frequency of floodplain/wetland inundation
- amount and distribution of aufeis
- amount and distribution of permafrost
- hydrograph time/temperature graph
- plant composition, age class distribution, and community structure
- root mass
- point bars revegetating
- streambank/shoreline stability
- riparian area width
- sediment deposition
- active/stable beaver dams
- coarse/large woody debris
- watershed conditions of adjacent uplands
- frequency/duration of soil saturation
- water table fluctuation

**Objective 2:** Stream channel, lake bed, shoreline characteristics are appropriate for the landscape position.

**Possible success indicators:**

- channel width/depth ratio
- entrenchment benthic communities channel sinuosity
- gradient
- rocks and coarse and/or large woody debris
- overhanging banks
- pool/riffle ratio
- pool size and frequency
- stream embeddedness

**Ecological Processes Standard:** Plants play an important role in soil development and watershed functions. Plants also provide habitat for wildlife and human economic use. Nutrients necessary for plant growth come from the atmosphere, the weathering of rocks, and from insects, bacteria and fungi that metabolize organic matter. The soil transports nutrients through plant uptake, leaching, and rodent, insect, and microbial activity. Conveyance follows cyclical patterns as nutrients are used and reused by living organisms.

The ability of the land to supply resources and satisfy social and economic needs depends upon the buildup and cycling of nutrients over time. Interrupting or slowing nutrient cycling can lead to site degradation because the lands become deficient in the nutrients that plants require.

Consider the role of fire in natural ecosystems, whether it acts as a primary force or as only one of many factors. It may play a significant role in both nutrient cycling and energy flows.

**Goal:** To ensure that water and nutrient cycling and energy flow support healthy, productive, and diverse natural communities. Water and nutrient cycling and energy flow occur effectively to support healthy, productive, diverse communities at levels appropriate to the potential/capability of the site.

**Objective 1:** Photosynthesis is effectively occurring throughout the growing season, consistent with the potential/capability of the site.

**Possible success indicators:**

- plant composition and community structure

**Objective 2:** Nutrient cycling is occurring effectively, consistent with the potential/capability of the site.

**Possible success indicators:**

- plant composition and community structure
- fire history mapping
- fire return rate
- fire severity distribution
- animal migrations and other behavior patterns
- groundwater flow interruptions
- accumulation, distribution, incorporation of plant litter and organic matter into the soil
- animal community structure and composition
- root occupancy in the soil profile
- biological activity including plant growth, herbivory, and rodent, insect, and microbial activity

**Water Quality and Yield Standard:** States are legally required to establish water quality standards and federal land management agencies are required to comply with those standards. In mixed ownership watersheds, BLM — like any other landowner — has limited influence on the quality of the water yielded by the watershed.

Many forces determine the quality of the water in a watershed: physical and chemical properties of the geology and soils unique to the watershed; prevailing climate and weather patterns; current resource conditions; and land use and land management decisions. Standards 1.1., 1.2., and 2.0 contribute to achieving this standard and the indicators are included here by reference.

**Goal:** To ensure that surface water and groundwater quality (to the extent that BLM actions can influence water quality in the area) complies with state water quality standards.

**Objective 1:** Water quality meets state water quality standards.

**Possible success indicators:**

- water temperature
- dissolved oxygen
- fecal coliform
- turbidity
- pH
- populations of aquatic organisms
- effects on beneficial uses (i.e., effects of management activities on beneficial uses as defined under the CWA and state regulations)
- specific conductivity
- water chemistry, including nutrients and metals
- total sediment yield including bed load
- levels of chemicals in bioassays
- change in trophic status

**Threatened and Endangered, Native, and Locally Important Species Standard:** This standard focuses on retaining natural populations and restoring to viability native plant and animal (including fish) species, populations and communities (including threatened, endangered, and other special status species of local importance).

**Goal:** To ensure that habitats support healthy, productive, and diverse populations and communities of native plants and animals (including special status species and species of local importance, e.g., those used for subsistence).

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

**Possible success indicators:**

- plant community composition, age class distribution, and productivity
- animal community composition and productivity
- habitat elements
- spatial distribution of habitat
- habitat connectivity
- population stability/resilience (within natural population cycles)
- fire history

## **Guidelines**

Guidelines for land management offer guidance in achieving plan objectives, meeting the standards, and fulfilling the fundamentals of land health. Guidelines are applied in accordance with the capabilities of the resource in consultation, cooperation, and coordination with permittees or lessees, public land users, and the interested public. Guidelines enable managers to adjust management on public lands to meet current and anticipated climatic and biological conditions, while considering cultural and local economic needs.

Assessment and monitoring are essential to the management of public lands, especially in areas where resource problems exist or issues arise. Monitoring should proceed using a qualitative method of assessment to identify critical, site-specific problems or issues. Monitoring will be done by interdisciplinary teams of specialists, managers, and knowledgeable land users. Once identified, critical, site-specific problems or issues will be targeted for more intensive quantitative

monitoring or investigation. Priority for monitoring and treatment will be given to those areas that are ecologically declining or at risk of being impacted. Benefits will be maximized within existing budgets and other limited resources.

### **General Guidelines**

1. Overland movement (where roads are not available) of equipment, materials, and supplies is allowed when soils are frozen and sufficient snow cover is available to prevent soil compaction and loss or damage to vegetation.
2. Roads and trails are engineered, constructed, and maintained in a manner that minimizes the effect on landscape hydrology; concentration of overland water flow, subsurface water flows; minimizes erosion, and minimizes sediment transport.
3. 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. support the conservation of threatened and endangered, other special status species, and species of local importance.
4. Seeding and planting non-native vegetation should only be used in those cases where native species are not available in sufficient quantities; where native species are incapable of maintaining or achieving the standards; or where non-native species are essential to the functional integrity of the site.
5. Structural and vegetative treatment and animal introduction in riparian and wetland areas will be compatible with the capability of the site, including the system's hydrologic regime, and maintenance or restoration of properly functioning condition.
6. New structures are located away from riparian or wetland areas if they conflict with achieving or maintaining riparian or wetland function. Existing structures are used in a way that does not conflict with riparian or wetland functions or are relocated or modified when incompatible. (NOTE: This is not intended to preclude activities which by nature must occur within riparian or wetland areas, such as placer mining.)
7. Projects affecting water, and associated resources, including development of springs and seeps, will be designed to protect ecological functions and processes.
8. Management practices will consider protection and conservation of known cultural resources, including historical sites, prehistoric sites, and plant and animal populations of significance.
9. In order to eliminate, minimize, or limit the spread of noxious weeds, only certified feed (hay cubes, hay pellets, etc.) will be permitted on BLM lands.
10. Heavy concentration of activities in sensitive wildlife and plant habitats will be avoided.
11. Where practical, use will be redirected, as necessary, to protect Federal and State listed and candidate Threatened and Endangered species habitat, to enhance indigenous animal population, and to otherwise maintain public land health through avoidance of sensitive habitat.

12. Human use will be managed to achieve and maintain water quality standards and avoid waste management problems and water quality impacts.
13. Fish and wildlife habitat on public lands will be maintained and protected, and the habitat needs of fish and wildlife resources necessary to maintain or enhance such populations will be provided.
14. Fish and wildlife resources and habitat will be managed to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and to ensure progress towards recovery of listed threatened or endangered species.
15. Forest resources will be managed to ensure biodiversity, long-term productivity, and a wide spectrum of multiple uses, including scenic values, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and timber harvest.
16. Vegetative resources will be managed to provide reasonable protection (particularly near developed areas) from destructive agents, such as fire, insects, and disease.
17. Soil erosion will be minimized by restricting the removal of vegetation adjacent to streams and by stabilizing disturbed soil as soon as possible. (NOTE: This is not intended to preclude activities which by nature must occur within riparian or wetland areas, such as placer mining.)
18. To the extent feasible and prudent, channeling, diversion, or damming that will alter the natural hydrological conditions and have a significant adverse impact upon riparian habitat will be avoided. (NOTE: This is not intended to preclude activities which by nature must occur within riparian or wetland areas, such as placer mining.)
19. Land management practices will be directed to avoid or minimize adverse impacts upon the hydrological, habitat, subsistence, and recreational values of public wetlands.
20. Activities in wetlands will comply with Federal permit requirements related to the fill, removal, and alteration of wetlands.
21. Management practices will consider protection and conservation of biodiversity.

### **Guidelines for Public or Agency Involvement and Coordination**

#### **Public Participation**

- Resolve problems and implement decisions in collaboration with other agencies, State, municipalities, Native corporations, and the public.
- Ensure the BLM land users and stakeholders have a meaningful voice in establishing policy and managing BLM land in Alaska.
- Provide the general public with meaningful opportunities to participate in and influence the process of decision making affecting BLM-managed land in Alaska.
- To the extent practical and warranted by local conditions, hold public meetings in the Alaskan community or communities most impacted by proposed decisions affecting BLM land.
- When setting deadlines for public participation, recognize and provide for the extra time it takes mail to reach people in rural Alaska. The seasonality of subsistence dependent communities and the land users will also be considered.

#### **Government, Organization, and Community Participation**

- Provide local governments, State and Federal agencies, Native corporations, and other private landowners and interest groups with meaningful opportunities to participate in and influence the process of decision making affecting BLM-managed land in Alaska.

- Consistent with the national policy regarding Government-to-Government consultation and relationships with Tribes, consult as early in the agency's decision making process as possible, to the greatest extent practicable and to the maximum extent permitted by law, with Federally Recognized Tribes in Alaska prior to taking action or undertaking activities that affect Federally Recognized Tribes, their assets, rights, services, or programs. The BLM actions shall favor maximum participation of Federally Recognized Tribes in Alaska with a goal of informed decision making through consultation and collaboration.
- To the extent practicable, ensure that any actions likely to affect any land or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone be consistent with the enforceable policies of the Alaska Coastal Management Program.
- Notify the manager of the appropriate Federal conservation system unit of any proposed activity or use that may affect the unit. An opportunity for comment will also be offered.



## Definitions

**Aquatic:** Relating to streams, rivers, springs, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and other water bodies; plants and animals that live within or are entirely dependent upon water to live.

**Assessment:** A form of evaluation based on the standards of land health, conducted by an interdisciplinary team at the appropriate landscape scale (project area, sub-watershed, watershed, etc.) to determine conditions relative to standards.

**Authorized Officer:** Any person authorized by the Secretary of the Interior to administer the laws and regulations pertaining to public lands.

**Biodiversity or Diversity:** the variety of plants and animals that occupy a landscape. Includes species diversity and genetic variations within species.

**Crust, Biotic:** (microbiotic or cryptogammic crust) a layer of living organisms (mosses, lichens, liverworts, algae, fungi, bacteria, and/or cyanobacteria) occurring on, or near, the soil surface.

**Ecosystem:** Organisms together with their abiotic environment forming an interacting system.

**Energy Flow:** the process in which solar energy is converted to chemical energy through photosynthesis and passed through the food chain until it is eventually dispersed through respiration and decomposition.

**Erosion:** The wearing away of land/soil by water, wind, gravitation, or other geologic agents. Often categorized into sheet erosion (even, overland flow), rill erosion (numerous but small channels), and gully erosion (less numerous, but more major channels). Natural erosion occurs under natural conditions (without the influence of man's activities).

**Floodplain:** the land area adjacent to a stream which is periodically flooded; an important component function of a riparian area.

**Functioning Physical Condition:** A characteristic of a component of an ecosystem, usually a portion of a landscape or watershed, that indicates the degree of sustainability of that component; a balance between ecosystem components sought in order to assure continued production of desired resources.

**Goals:** A general description of a desired future condition (e.g., improve watershed conditions, achieve a desired plant community).

**Groundwater:** Water in the ground in the zone of saturation; water in the ground at or below the water table.

**Guideline:** Practices, methods, techniques, and considerations used to ensure that progress is made in a way and at a rate that achieves the standard.

**Habitat:** The natural abode of a plant or animal that provides food, water, shelter, and other biotic, climatic, and soil factors necessary to support life.

**Indicators:** Parameters of ecosystem function that are observed assessed, measured, or monitored to directly or indirectly determine attainment of a standard(s).

**Infiltration:** The downward entry of water into the soil.

**Interdisciplinary Team:** A team of varied land use and resource specialists formed to provide a coordinated, integrated information base for overall land use planning and management.

**Interested Public:** An individual, group, or organization who submits a written request to the authorized officer requesting an opportunity to be involved in the decision making process.

**Landscape:** A defined area that forms a management unit or basis of analysis.

**Landform:** A discernible natural landscape that exists as the result of geological activity, such as a plateau, basin, or mountain. In general, the physical attributes of an area of land, such as slope, exposure, geological origin, soil type, etc.

**Litter:** Undecomposed or slightly decomposed plant material deposited on the soil surface; a major source of nutrients entering the soil.

**Native Species:** Any species of plant or animal naturally occurring within a given area of land or body of water; part of the original flora or fauna of the United States; indigenous.

**Noxious Weed:** An undesirable plant because it is of no forage value (or even toxic) or is capable of invading a community and replacing native species. Also referred to as invasive, non-native species.

**Nutrient Cycle:** The movement of essential elements and inorganic compounds between the reservoir pool (soil, for example) and the cycling pool (organisms) in the rapid exchange (i.e., moving back and forth) between organisms and their immediate environment.

**Organic Matter:** Plant and animal residues accumulated or deposited at the soil surface; the organic fraction of the soil that includes plant and animal residues at various stages of decomposition; cells and tissues of soil organisms and the substances synthesized by the soil population.

**Permeability:** The ease with which gases, liquids, or plant roots penetrate or pass through a bulk mass of soil or layer of soil.

**Planning Criteria:** The standards, rules, and other factors developed by managers, the public, and interdisciplinary teams for their use in forming judgments about decision making, analysis, and data collection during planning. Planning criteria streamline and simplify the resource management planning actions.

**Potential:** The ecological condition of an area that is reasonably possible given the physical, biological, social, and economic factors.

**Properly Functioning Condition:** An attribute of a landform that indicates its ability to produce desired natural resources in a sustained way. When used to refer to a riparian area, expresses the ability of the ecosystem to dissipate energy, filter sediment, transfer nutrients, develop ponds, and channel characteristics to benefit fish production, waterfowl, and other uses, improve water retention and groundwater recharge, develop root masses that improve streambank stability, and support greater biodiversity. In upland landforms, it is an indication of the ecosystem's ability to sustain the natural communities.

**Public Lands:** Land or interest in land owned by the United States and administered by the Secretary of the Interior through BLM.

**Resource Advisory Council:** A group of citizens representing a diversity of interests concerned with management of public lands. In Alaska, a statewide body advising the BLM State Director on public land issues and solutions.

**Riparian:** An area of land directly influenced by permanent water. It has visible vegetation or physical characteristics reflective of permanent water influence. Lake shores and streambanks

are typical riparian areas. Excluded are such sites as ephemeral streams or washes that do not have vegetation dependent on free water in the soil.

**Sediment:** Soil transported from its point of origin into drainages and streams by water, or relocated from point of origin to other sites by wind.

**Sensitive Species:** All species that are under status review, have small or declining populations, or live in unique habitats. May also be any species requiring special management. Sensitive species include threatened, endangered, or proposed species as classified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or species designated by a State wildlife agency as needing special management.

**Significant Progress:** When used in reference to achieving a standard: (actions), the necessary land treatments, practices, and/or changes to management have been applied or are in effect; (rate), a rate of progress consistent with the anticipated recovery rate described in plan objectives with due recognition of the effects of climatic extremes (drought, flooding, etc.) fire, and other unforeseen natural occurring events or disturbances.

**Soil Moisture:** Water contained in the soil; commonly used to describe water in the soil above that water table.

**Special Status Species:** Species proposed for listing, officially listed, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of the ESA; those listed or proposed for listing by the State in a category implying possibly endangerment or extinction; those designated by each BLM State Director as sensitive.

**Species of Local Importance:** Species of significant importance to Native American populations (e.g., medicinal and subsistence plant and animals).

**Standard:** an expression of the physical and biological condition or degree of function necessary to sustain healthy ecosystems.

**Threatened and Endangered Species:** Plant or animal species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) pursuant to the ESA as either in danger of becoming extinct or threatened to the degree that their continued existence as a species is in question. **Proposed Species:** plant or animal species proposed by FWS for listing as Endangered; protected under the ESA. **Candidate Species:** plant or animal species considered as potentially Threatened but not yet proposed by FWS for listing; not protected by the ESA.

**Uplands:** Lands above the riparian/wetland area, or active floodplains of rivers and streams; those lands not influenced by the water table or by free or unbound water; commonly represented by tow slopes, alluvial fans, and side slopes, shoulders and ridges of mountains and hills.

**Watershed:** Land base that contributes to the surface flow of water past a given point. The watershed dimensions are determined by the point past or by runoff flows.

**Watershed Function:** The principal functions of a watershed include the capture of moisture from precipitation; the storage of moisture within the soil profile; and the release of moisture through subsurface flow, deep percolation to groundwater, evaporation from the soil, and transpiration by live vegetation.

**Wetland:** Areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and which under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions.

**Woody:** Consisting of wood, such as trees or bushes.



# **Appendix E:**

## **Crucial Fish Habitats or Key Streams Within the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Planning Area**

### **A. Introduction**

Ten rivers within the planning area are subject to Required Operating Procedure FW-7a (Map H-1). The objective of this required operating procedure is to: Protect, maintain, and preserve the condition and ecological function of the aquatic and riparian zones of streams that determine the ability of these habitats to:

1. Provide clean water for community use;
2. Produce fish and wildlife on a sustained basis to support cultural, economic, subsistence, and recreational needs; and
3. Maintain the hydrological and morphological stability of streams to prevent un-natural flooding, habitat degradation, and water quality impairment.

This appendix provides the criteria and rationale for selecting the ten key rivers subject to Required Operating Procedure FW-7a.

### **B. Criteria for Defining Crucial Fish Habitat on or Adjacent to BLM-Managed Lands**

The following criteria were used to determine which rivers within the planning area should be considered crucial fish habitat subject to ROP FW-7a.

1. Essential Fish Habitat as defined by 50 CFR Part 600;
2. Waterbodies identified under Alaska Department of Natural Resources Anadromous Waters Catalog. Alaska Statute 41.14.870(a) requires the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) Office of Habitat Management & Permitting (OHMP) to "specify the various rivers, lakes and streams or parts of them" of the state that are important to the spawning, rearing or migration of anadromous fishes. The Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing or Migration of Anadromous Fishes and its associated atlas (the Catalog and Atlas or AWC, respectively) are the media used to accomplish this specification and are adopted as regulation under 11 AAC 195.010.
3. Habitat listed and/or recognized as a high priority by the BLM;
  - a. Habitat necessary to sustain a population deemed important for its role in providing subsistence, commercial, and recreation opportunities;

b. Habitat necessary to sustain a population deemed important to the economy of the region and local area in which the fishery is located;

4. Habitat necessary to sustain keystone species (see definition below);

Habitat necessary to prevent a species from declining to the level that it is under status review by the FWS/NMFS; or 2) whose numbers are declining so rapidly that Federal listing may become necessary; or 3) with typically small and widely dispersed populations; or 4) those inhabiting ecological refugia or other specialized or unique habitats. Significant production of anadromous and/or resident fish is present or has been documented.

### **Definitions**

**Bankfull Elevation:** This height (or stage) is delineated by the elevation of incipient flooding at the high annual flow achieved every year or other year, and, is indicated by deposits of sand or silt at the active scour mark, break in stream slope, perennial vegetation limit, rock discoloration, and root hair exposure.

**Active Stream Channel:** Bankfull elevation.

**Keystone species:** A Keystone species is one which has a disproportionate effect on its environment relative to its abundance. Such an organism plays a role in its ecosystem is analogous to the role of a keystone in an arch. While the keystone feels the least pressure of any of the stones in an arch, the arch still collapses without it. Similarly, an ecosystem may experience a dramatic shift if a keystone species is removed, even though that species was a small part of the ecosystem by measures of biomass or productivity.

**Maximum Bankfull Depth (Dbkf):** The maximum depth measured at bankfull discharge.

**Width Flood-prone area (Wfpa):** An area bordering a stream that will be covered by stream at a flood stage of twice the maximum bankfull depth ( $2 \times \text{Dbkf}$ ); flood-prone width equals twice the maximum bankfull depth.

## **C. Rivers**

Using the criteria listed in the previous section, the following ten rivers are considered crucial fish habitat subject to ROP FW-7a (Map H-1). There are at least 10 other rivers/streams within the planning area listed as Essential Fish Habitat that are not considered here. Dropped from consideration on this list are the: Buckland River, Pick River, Kukpowruk, River, Ipewik River, Nilik River, and Kiklovilik Creek (Upper Selawik River).

### **Kivalina River**

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) anadromous waters catalog #331-00-10044. The Kivalina River contains Chinook, coho, sockeye, chum, and pink salmon, and Dolly Varden. These are all

anadromous fish species which use the river for spawning, rearing, and migratory habitat; therefore this river is characterized as Essential Fish Habitat by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The river also contains broad whitefish, and possibly least ciscoes, which are harvested for subsistence by residents of the village of Kivaliana. Stream resident Arctic grayling occur in the river as well.

Dolly Varden are probably the most important fish resource for subsistence needs. There are two separate and distinct run of dollies in the river that range from 20,000 to 40,000 fish. The summer run peaks approximately August 1 and uses spawning habitat in the middle reaches of the river. The fall run peaks around September 10. Fall run fish spawn in the upper reaches of the river. The Dolly Varden stocks which inhabit the Kivalina River are considered "world class" with high catch rates and are capable of producing fish that exceed 25 pounds. The neighboring Wulik River holds the State Record for sport-caught Dolly Varden (27 lbs), and it is believed both drainages may hold larger fish.

In addition to its importance as fish habitat, and probably more importantly from the resource utilization perspective, the river is the source of fresh water for some residents of the village who feel their water supply in the village is tainted by toxic effluent produced naturally by the Wulik River, and as a result of surface disturbance produced by the Red Dog zinc mine.

### **Ungalik River, Shaktoolik River, Inglutalik River**

EFH anadromous waters catalog #333-40-10700, 333-50-10100, and 333-40-10350. These three rivers compose the bulk of the Nulato Hills drainage in eastern Norton Sound. They are listed in the State of Alaska's anadromous waters catalog as important for the spawning, rearing, and migration of Chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon, and therefore are considered Essential Fish Habitat. These rivers contribute salmon and other fish for subsistence harvest by the villages of Koyuk and Shaktoolik and contribute fish to the commercial fisheries in Shaktoolik and Elim. Of particular importance is the overwintering rearing habitat for Chinook and coho fry contained in the numerous ox-bow lakes, back-water sloughs, and beaver ponds interspersed throughout the floodplains.

In addition to the salmon present in these rivers, Dolly Varden, arctic char, and arctic grayling are present. Recreational fishing opportunities are "world class." These rivers are mostly undisturbed. One exception is the lower reach of the Ungalik River which has been historically mined off and on for decades. This previously mined area no longer includes any BLM-managed Public Lands.

### **Koyuk River, including the East Fork**

EFH anadromous waters catalog #333-40-10200. The Koyuk River contains Chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon, and is therefore listed by NMFS as Essential Fish Habitat. This river is the primary source of subsistence fisheries resources for the village of Koyuk. Besides the salmon, sheefish, Dolly Varden, and whitefish are utilized as subsistence resources, and provide for outstanding sportfishing opportunities. Uniquely, recent genetic analysis of chum salmon in this river has shown that they are more closely related to Kotzebue Sound fish than Norton Sound fish. At some point approximately 10,000 years ago, this river drained to the north, which means this drainage may act as an important genetic reservoir for the regionally important chum salmon stocks.



### **Tubutulik River**

EFH anadromous waters catalog #333-30-10650. This river is listed as Essential Fish Habitat and contains Chinook, coho, chum, and pink salmon, as well as Dolly Varden. Besides the anadromous fish, stream resident arctic char and arctic grayling contribute to the subsistence harvest for the nearby village of Moses Point. But with no village located at the mouth of this river, the stocks present have had the opportunity to thrive naturally, and provide 'world class' sport fishing. Hot springs in the upper watershed also make this drainage unique. Chinook produced in this watershed no doubt contribute to the commercial harvest that intermittently occurs at the village of Elim.

### **Kuzitrin River**

EFH anadromous waters catalog #332-00-10230. The Kuzitrin River drains into the eastern Imuruk Basin and is classified as Essential Fish Habitat because it produces Chinook, coho, chum, pink, and sockeye salmon, as well as Dolly varden. This river supports the subsistence harvest of fish for Teller, Brevig Mission, and Nome residents. The river is valued for it's large population of northern pike, and contains large Dolly Varden and arctic char. Recreational fishing is popular since this river is road accessible from Nome. The upper drainage has lakes that may contain genetically unique resident arctic char, similar to those found in the Kigluaik Mountains.

### **Agiapuk River**

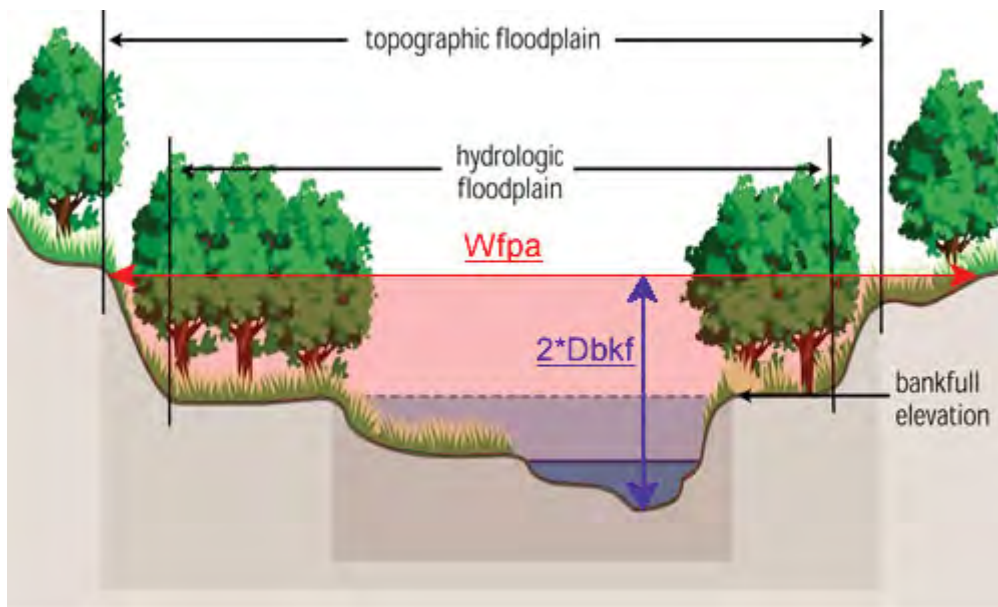
EFH anadromous waters catalog #332-00-10230. The Agiapuk River is classified as Essential Fish Habitat as it supports Chinook, chum, pink, and coho salmon. Dolly Varden, whitefish and arctic grayling are present also. A unique run of Fall chum spawns in a major tributary, the American River. These chum are very large compared to other Norton Sound stocks, and current genetic analysis is underway which it is believed will show these fish are more closely related to Kotzebue Sound fish. This would indicate that, similar to the Koyuk River, this drainage previously flowed north instead of south, and therefore the Fall chum are genetically distinct and act as a gene refugia for chum stocks in the area. The strength of the coho run has been subject to debate over the years, but both chum and coho are present in late August to early September, providing a last chance for subsistence fishers from Teller, Brevig Mission, and Nome to harvest salmon if nearby summer runs of salmon have been low.

### **Pah River**

EFH anadromous waters catalog #331-00-10490-2370. The Pah River, an upper Kobuk River tributary, is near the suspected limit of chum salmon habitat, and as such is Essential Fish Habitat. The extent of chum spawning on BLM-managed lands is unknown. The river also contains sheefish and northern pike. These fish are utilized as a subsistence resource by the villages of Kobuk and Shungnak, and the chum and sheefish contribute to commercial fisheries in Kotzebue Sound. The Pah River holds not only the state record for a sport-caught sheefish, but the world record as well, for a 53 pound sheefish caught in 1986. The Pah River flats also provide important habitat for waterfowl. The Pah River flats contain numerous Northern pike which thrive on the many waterfowl hatched and reared in this area during the spring and summer.

## Noatak River

EFH anadromous waters catalog #331-00-10290. The Noatak River is a major drainage in Northwestern Alaska. It has a vibrant population of chum salmon which contributes well over half of the commercial harvest in Kotzebue Sound. Sheefish produced in the Noatak River are also harvested in a Kotzebue Sound commercial fishery. The villages of Noatak and Kotzebue utilize the fish resources in subsistence fisheries. The Noatak supports lesser numbers of Chinook, sockeye, and pink salmon and therefore is considered Essential Fish Habitat by NMFS.



**Figure E-1. Flood-Prone Area** (Federal Interagency Stream Restoration Working Group. 1998. Stream Corridor Restoration: Principles, Processes, and Practices. By the Federal Interagency Stream Restoration Working Group (15 Federal agencies of the US gov't). GPO Item No. 0120-A; SuDocs No. A 57.6/2:EN 3/PT.653. ISBN-0-934213-59-3.)

## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

among

THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)- Alaska Region  
National Park Service (NPS) Alaska Region

and

THE STATE OF ALASKA  
Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

concerning

### **The Western Arctic Caribou Working Group and Western Arctic Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan**

---

Purpose. The purpose of this agreement is to provide inter-agency support for the cooperative management of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and its habitat by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Park Service (NPS), and the State of Alaska, Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). The signatory parties propose to work together within the scope of their respective authorities toward maintaining a sustainable, healthy ecosystem that supports a healthy and vibrant Western Arctic caribou herd throughout its range in northern and western Alaska.

- I. Objectives. This MOU sets forth general terms, conditions and criteria under which the four parties will cooperatively manage the Western Arctic Caribou herd and its habitat with the following objectives.
- A. Develop stable, long-term funding to support the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group (Working Group) and implement actions outlined in the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan (Cooperative Management Plan).
  - B. Work together to ensure the long-term conservation of the Western Arctic caribou herd and the ecosystem on which it depends.



## II. Authorities.

- A. BLM enters into this MOU under the authority provided in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 43, Chapter II.
- B. ADF&G enters into this MOU under the authority provided in Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, Section 16 of the Alaska Statutes, and Title 5 of the Alaska Administrative Code.
- C. NPS enters into this MOU under the authority provided in 16 USC Sections 1, 2, and 3.
- D. USFWS enters into this MOU under the authority provided in Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, 16 USC 661 to 666C.

## IV. Responsibilities and Procedures. According to both Federal statutory law and regulation, and State statutory law and regulation, the four parties signatory to this MOU are authorized to manage wildlife populations and/or manage wildlife habitat as outlined in the Cooperative Plan. The parties agree that the agencies signatory to this MOU shall support the continued maintenance of the Working Group and implementation of the Cooperative Management Plan. These actions will be advantageous to all parties involved in terms of improved coordination of management and research efforts, cost sharing, reduced duplication of effort, and increased opportunity for public involvement in managing the herd and its habitat.

- A. Each agency agrees to the following:
  - 1. Seek funding to support the Working Group consistent with the agency's authority. Any transfer or sharing of funds will be done through more specific Cooperative or Inter-Agency Agreements consistent with each party's respective authorities.
  - 2. Assist in implementing the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Cooperative Management Plan, focusing their individual efforts on management actions consistent with their respective mandates and authorities.
  - 3. Give other agencies opportunities to provide input on issues of mutual concern.
  - 4. Share information pertaining to habitat assessment, caribou population status, future and proposed development, and other relevant information with the other parties.
- B. The parties will meet annually to review information reflecting on herd and habitat status, plan and coordinate management activities, and prepare a brief annual status report, including recommendations, to the Working Group as described in the 2003 Western Arctic Herd Cooperative Management Plan.
- C. All parties understand that this agreement shall not create any contractual obligations, or impose any financial obligation by one upon the other.
  - 1. Each party accepts responsibility for its own costs resulting from participating in this agreement.



2. In accordance with Bureau policy, this instrument (MOU) excludes any obligations or exchange of Federal funds.

V. Administration.

- A. Nothing in this MOU will be construed as affecting the authorities of the participants. Nothing will be construed as binding beyond the participants respective authorities, or to require participants to obligate or expend funds in excess of available appropriations.
- B. This MOU in no way restricts the participants from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.
- C. Conflicts between participants that cannot be resolved at the operational level (as a result of covenants stated in *IV. Responsibilities and Procedures*) will be referred to successively higher levels for resolution.
- D. Participants will review this agreement at least every five years to determine its adequacy, effectiveness and continuing need.
- E. Terms of this MOU may be renegotiated at any time following at least 30 days notice to the other participants.
- F. This MOU shall become effective when signed by all parties. The MOU shall continue until written termination by mutual agreement, or by any party giving 30 days prior written notice to the other parties.
- G. The points of contact for the signatory Agencies will be as follows:

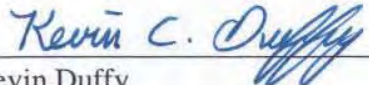
The point of contact for ADF&G will be John Trent in Region V, Division of Wildlife Conservation.

The point of contact for the FWS will be the Refuge Manager for the Selawik NWR.

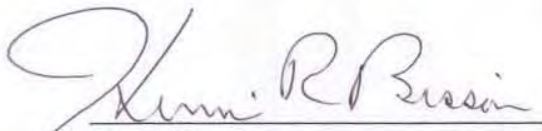
The point of contact for the NPS will be the Superintendent for the Western Arctic National Park Lands.

The point of contact for the BLM will be Robert Schneider, Northern Field Office Manager.

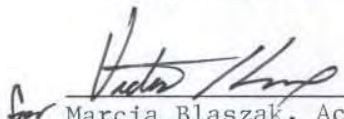
APPROVED:

  
Kevin Duffy  
Commissioner  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
State of Alaska

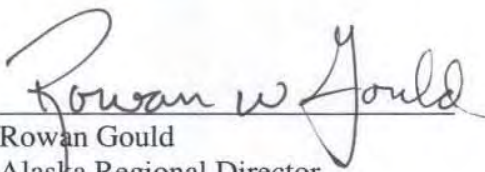
11/26/04  
Date

  
Henri Bisson  
Alaska State Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of Interior

11/10/03  
Date

  
for Marcia Blaszak, Acting  
Regional Director  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of Interior

11/20/03  
Date

  
Rowan Gould  
Alaska Regional Director  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Department of Interior

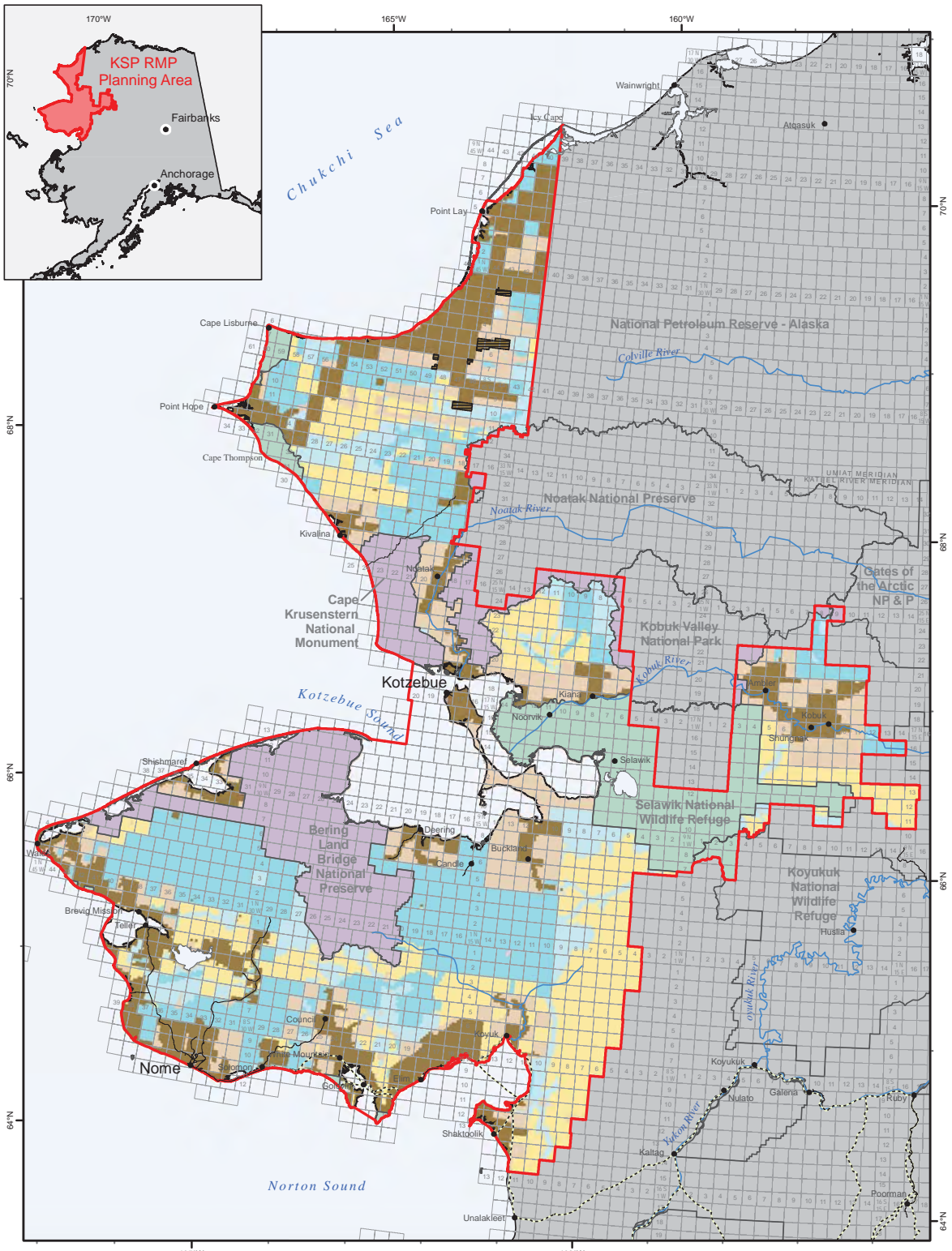
11/21/03  
Date

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AAC	Alaska Administrative Code
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
ADF&G	Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOD	Department of Defense
EA	Environmental Assessment
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERMA	Extensive Recreation Management Area
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FWS	[U.S.] Fish and Wildlife Service
GVWR	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating
INHT	Iditarod National Historic Trail
IM	Instruction Memorandum
MFP	Management Framework Plan
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NANA	Northwest Arctic Native Association
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
NPR-A	National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska
NPS	National Park Service
NSO	No Surface Occupancy
OHMP	Office of Habitat Management and Permitting
OHV	Off-highway Vehicle
PLO	Public Land Order
PRMP/FEIS	Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Proposed RMP/Final EIS (BLM, September 2007)
RFD	Reasonable Foreseeable Development
R&PP	Recreation and Public Purposes [Act]
RAC	Resource Advisory Council (BLM-Alaska)
RAC	Regional Advisory Council (Federal Subsistence Program)
RAMP	Recreation Area Management Plan
RMP	Resource Management Plan
RMZ	Recreation Management Zone
RNA	Research Natural Area
ROD	Record of Decision
ROP	Required Operating Procedure
ROW	Right-of-Way



Sec.	Section
SRMA	Special Recreation Management Area
SRP	Special Recreation Permit
SSS	Special Status Species
T&E	Threatened and Endangered [species]
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VRM	Visual Resource Management
WACH	Western Arctic Caribou Herd
WSR	Wild and Scenic River



**Generalized Land Status**  
(September 8, 2006)

<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: yellow; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Bureau of Land Management	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightblue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> State Patent or TA
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightgreen; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Fish and Wildlife Service	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: cyan; border: 1px solid black;"></span> State Selected
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black;"></span> National Park Service	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Major Military
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: brown; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Native Patent or IC	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: lightpink; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Private Lands
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: tan; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Native Selected	

	BLM Surface Management Only
	Road
	Iditarod Trail
	KSP RMP Planning Area

**Map 1 Land Status**

**Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP**  
**Bureau of Land Management - Alaska**

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI-BLM, 2006

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.



Road

Iditarod Trail

KSP RMP Planning Area

Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP

Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

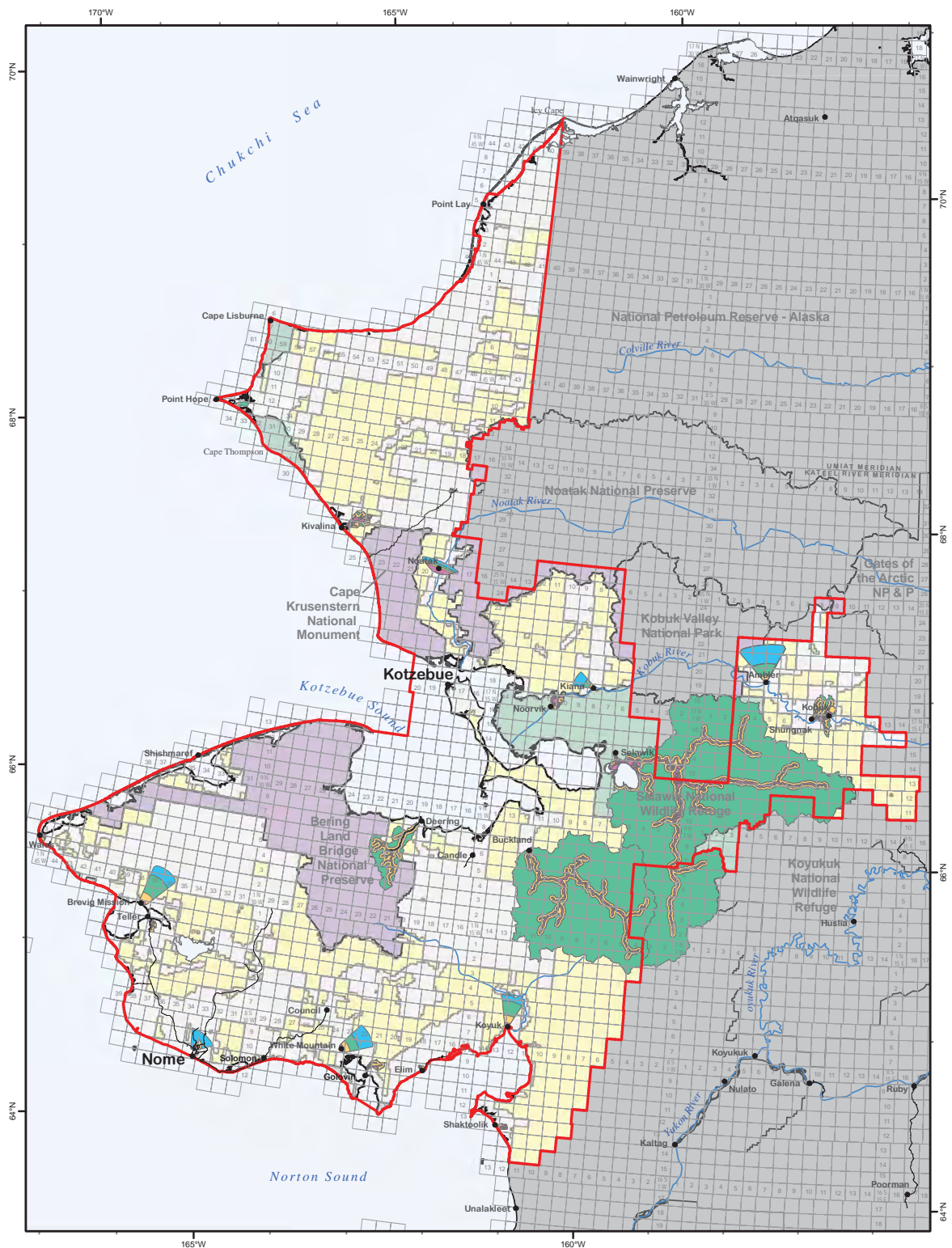
Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Map 2

General Relief and Geographic Features

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.





#### Municipal Water Sources Protection Zones

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFB6C1; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Zone A<br>Time of Travel: Several Months | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #90EE90; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Zone C<br>Time of Travel: 5 Years  |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFDAB9; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Zone B<br>Time of Travel: 2 Years        | <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #ADD8E6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Zone D<br>Time of Travel: 10 Years |

Protection zone data is based on a uniform flow model.

Public Water System information has been provided by the Drinking Water & Wastewater program of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. The information provided is a data snapshot as of October 24, 2003. There may be errors in well location information as well as owner contact information.

#### Generalized Land Status

- |  |
|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #FFFFE0; border: 1px solid black;"></span> BLM and Selected Land                |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #D8BFD8; border: 1px solid black;"></span> National Park, Preserve, or Monument |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #C8E6C9; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Wildlife Refuge                      |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: #F0F0F0; border: 1px solid black;"></span> State, Native, or Private Land       |

- |  |
|--|
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 1px; background-color: black; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Road                |
| <span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 1px; background-color: red; border: 1px solid black;"></span> KSP RMP Planning Area |



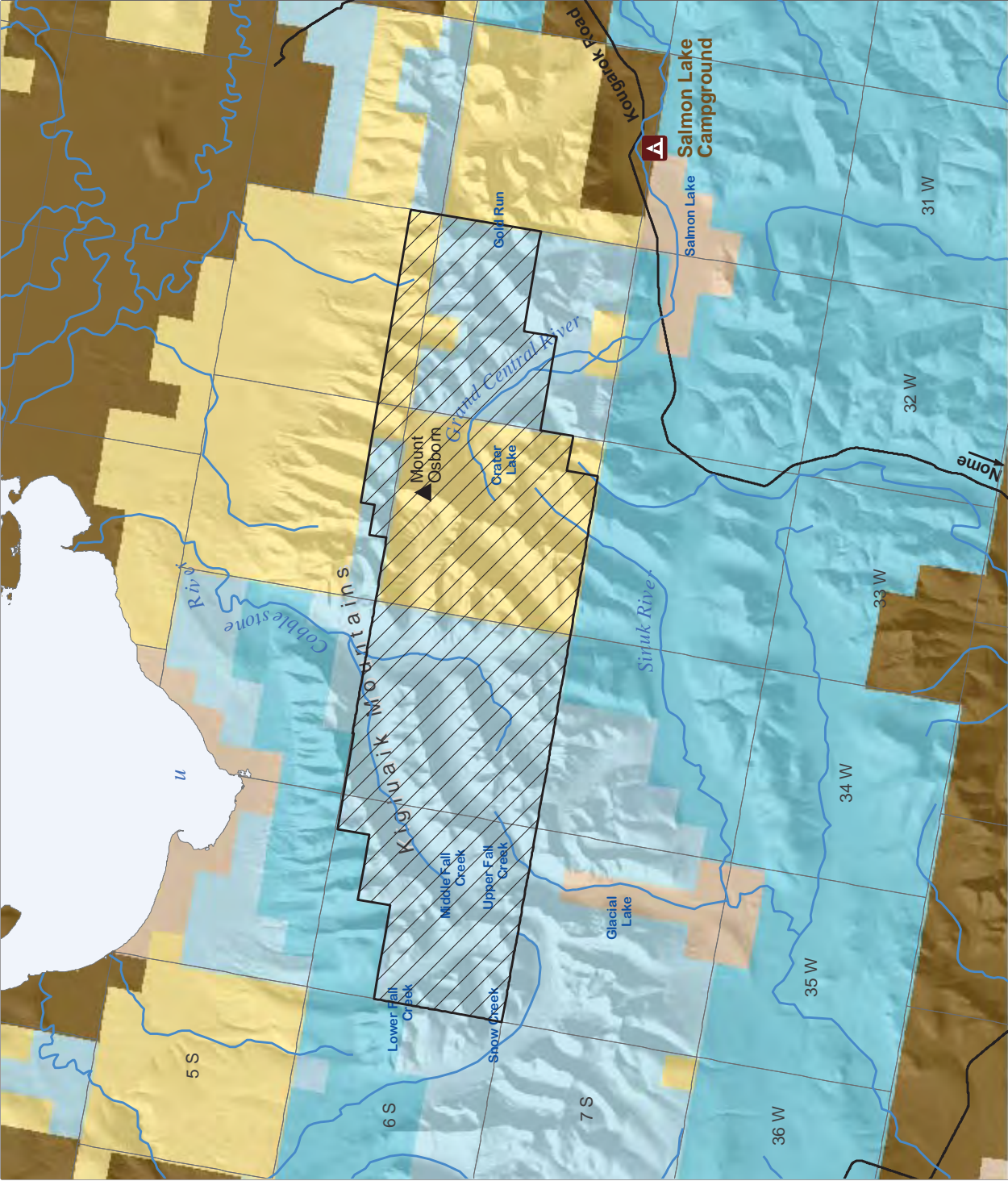
Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83


Source: State of Alaska - DEC 2003,  
USDOI - BLM 2004

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.









Map 4


# Mount Osborn ACEC

 Mount Osborn  
ACEC

## Generalized Land Status

	Bureau of Land Management
	Native Patent or IC
	Native Selected
	State Patent or TA
	State Selected





Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
**Bureau of Land Management - Alaska**

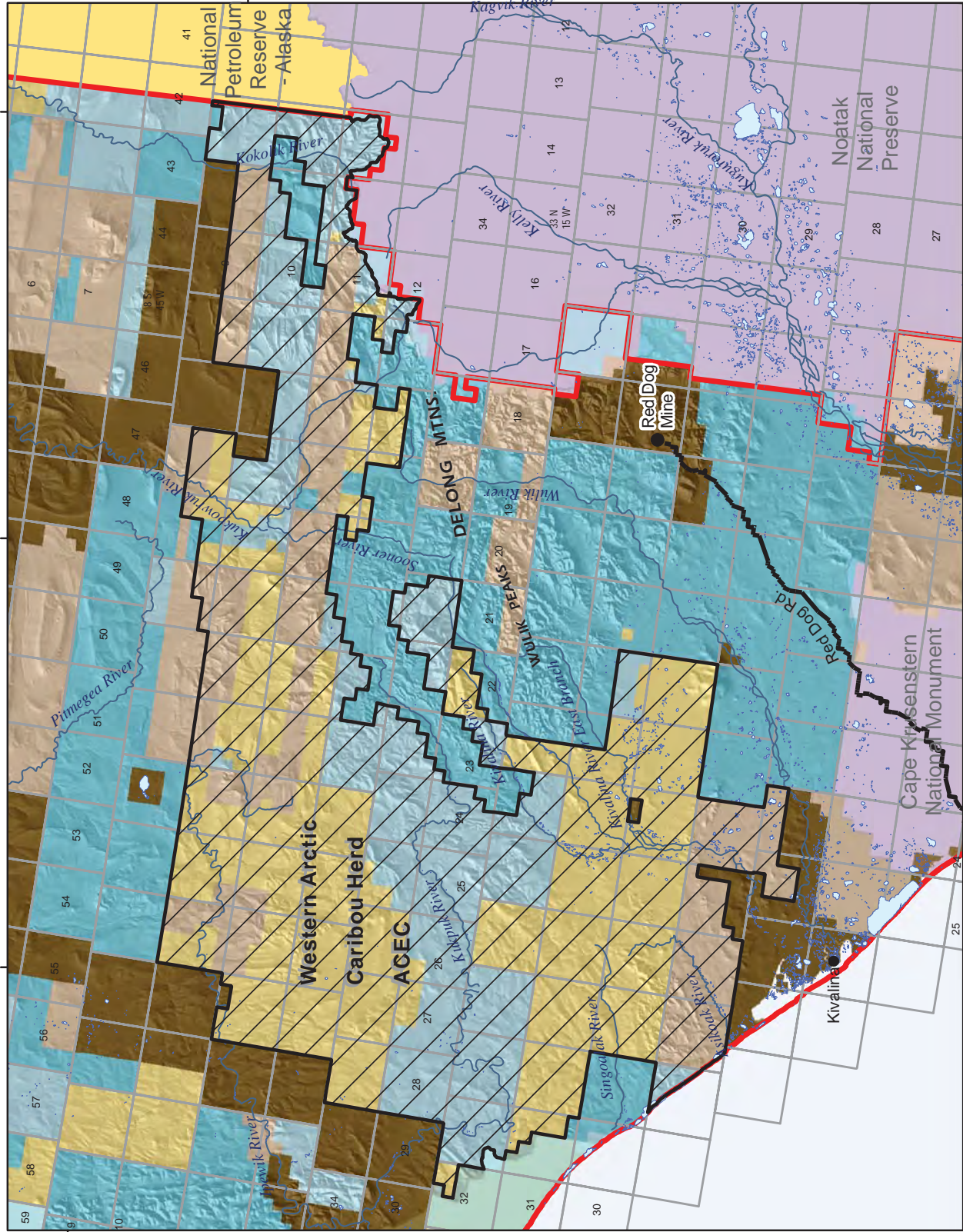
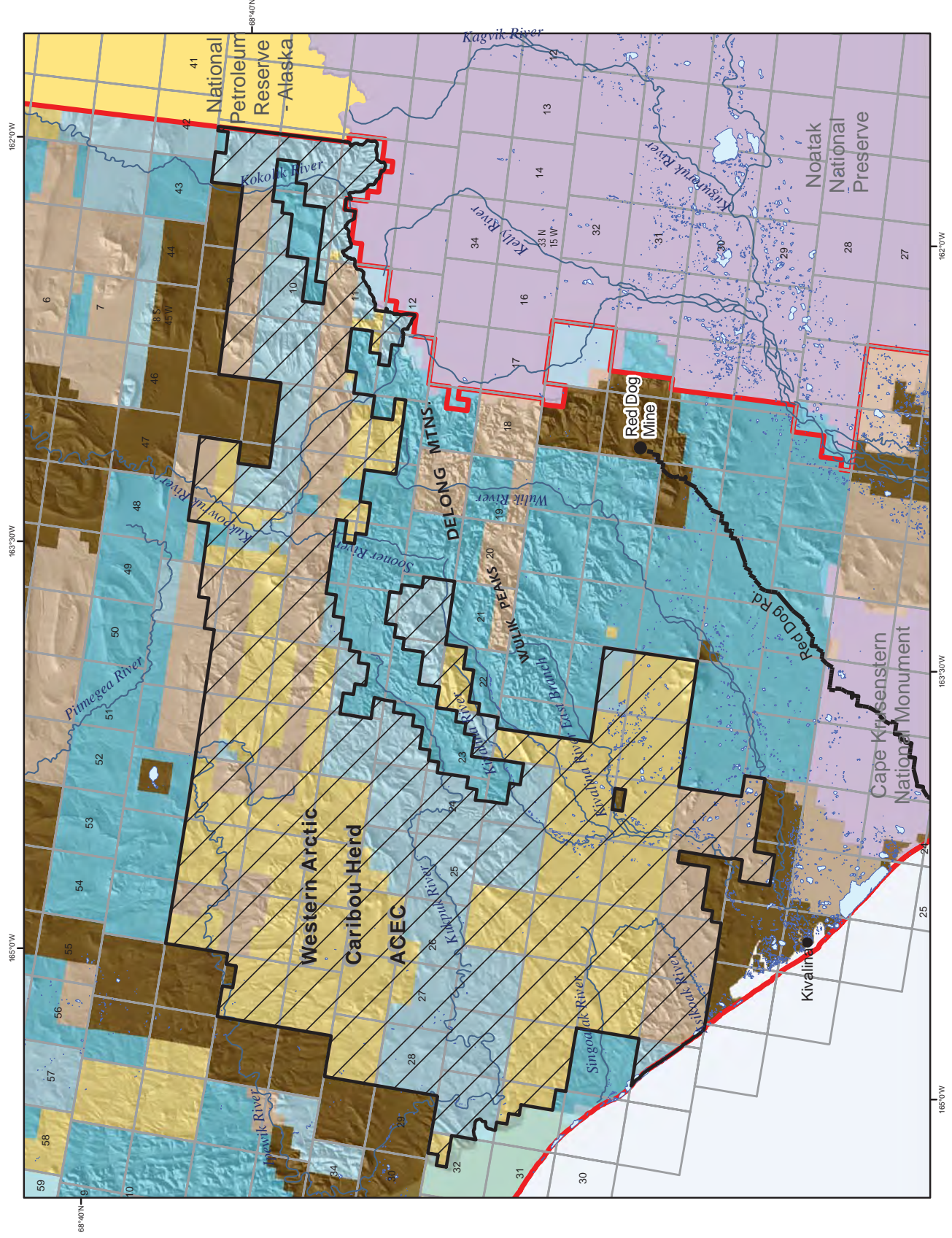
0 6 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

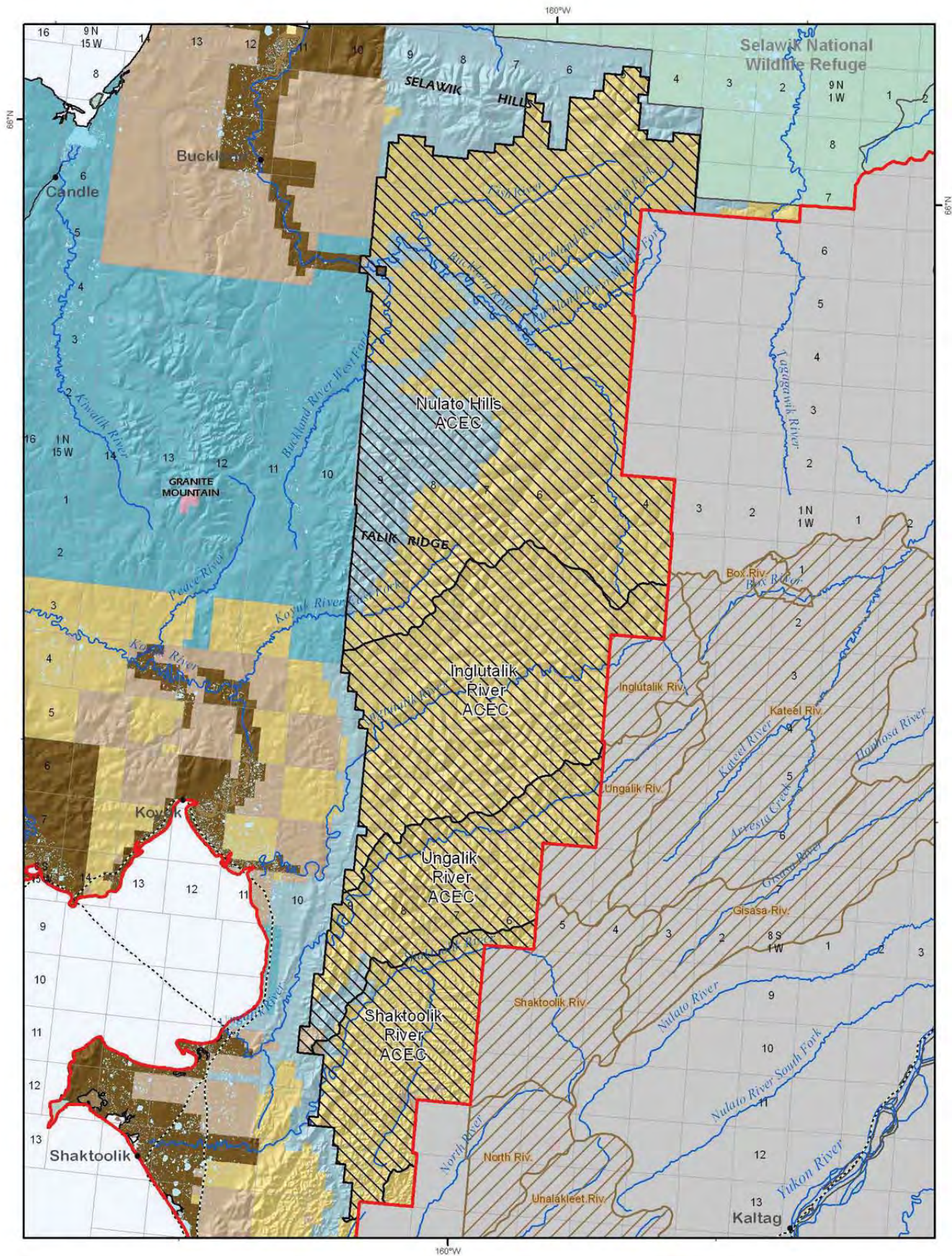
Source: USDOI - BLM, 2004

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, please refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.









#### ACEC


-  Designated as an ACEC
-  Existing ACEC in Central Yukon Resource Area

#### Generalized Land Status

-  Bureau of Land Management
-  National Park System
-  National Wildlife Refuge System
-  Native Patent or IC
-  Native Selected
-  State Patent or TA
-  State Selected
-  Major Military
-  Private Lands

— Road

----- Iditarod Trail

 KSP RMP Planning Area



Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 12 24 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

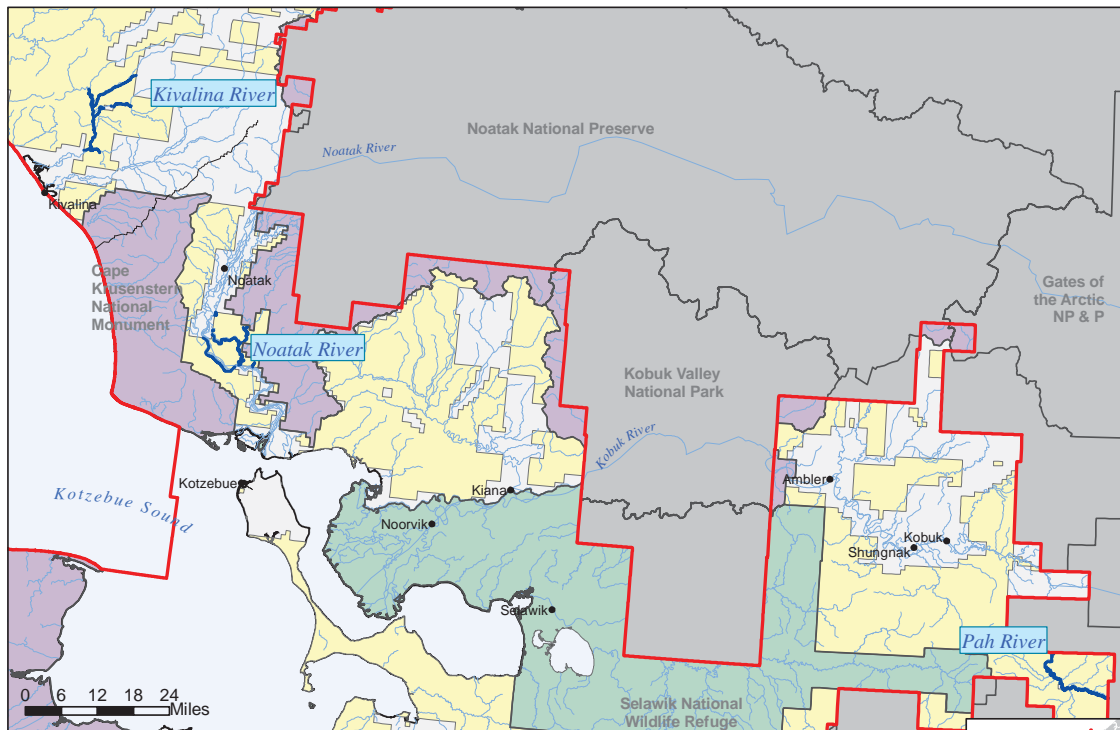
Source: USDOI-BLM, 2005

Map 6

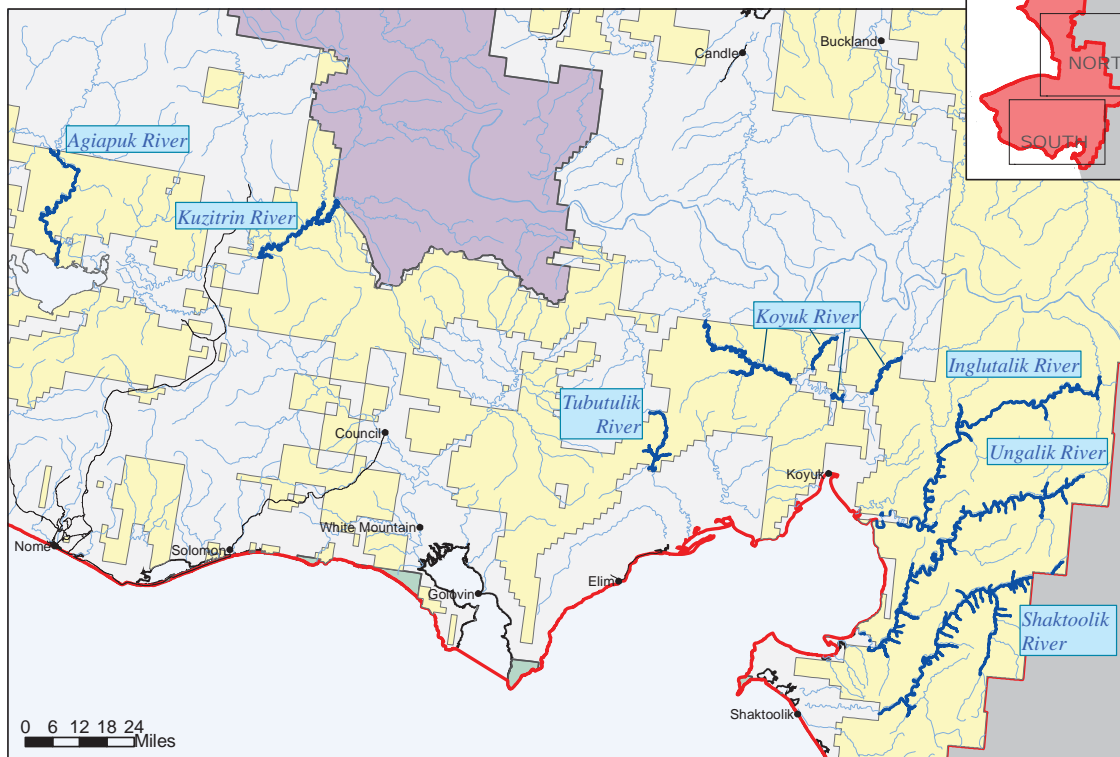
### Nulato, Shaktoolik, Ungalik and Inglutalik ACECs

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.

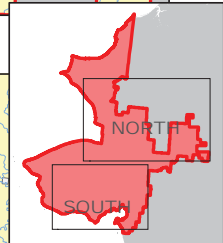




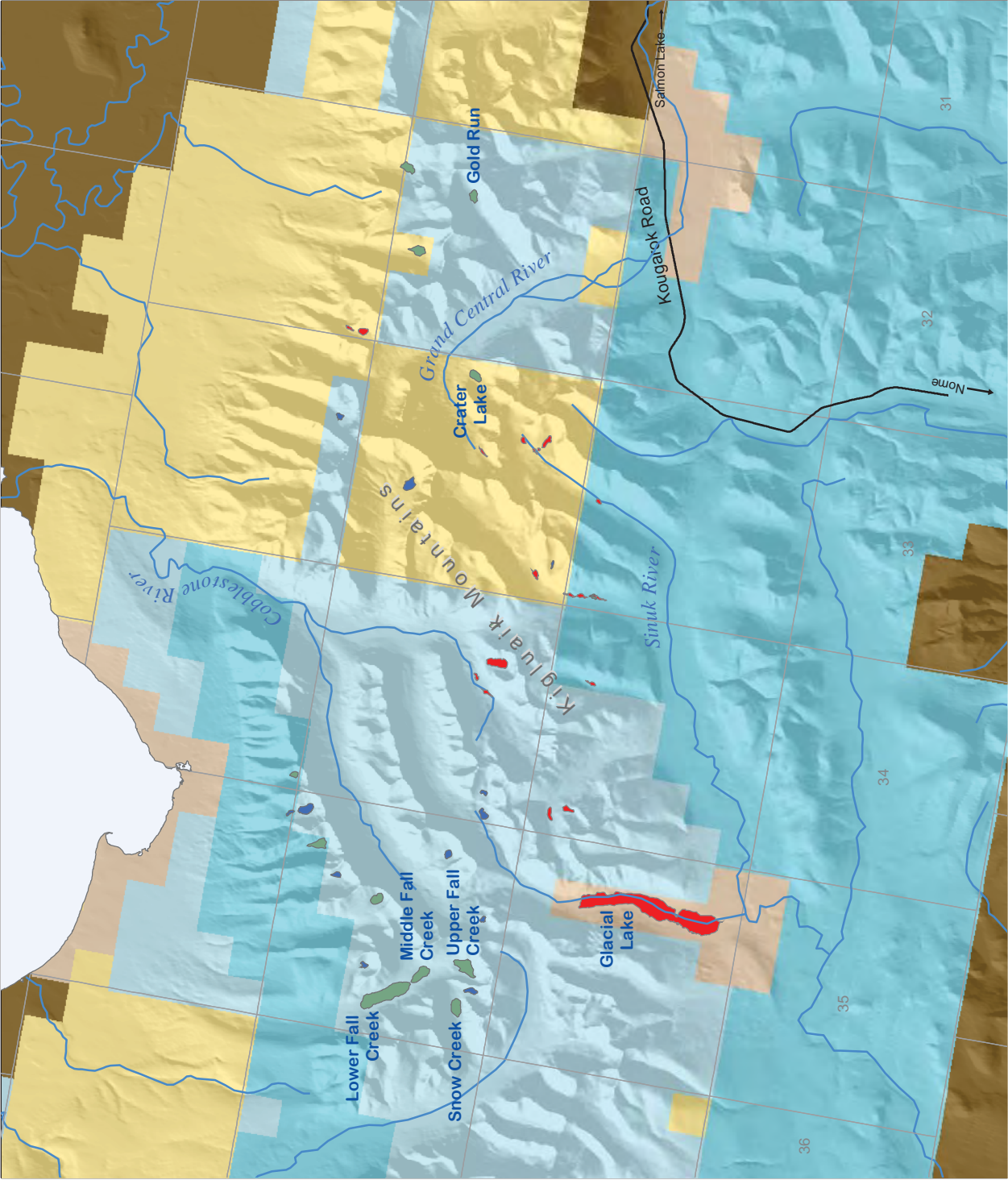
KSP Planning Area - North



KSP Planning Area - South



<b>Fish Habitat</b> Rivers: Subject to Required Operating Procedure FW-7A	<b>Generalized Land Status</b> BLM-Managed Lands National Park, Preserve, or Monument Wildlife Refuge State, Native, or Private Land	Road KSP RMP Planning Area	 Kuskokwim-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP <b>Bureau of Land Management - Alaska</b>  Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area referencing NAD83  Source: USDOI - BLM, 2005
Map 7 <b>Crucial Fish Habitat</b>			The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.



Map 8

Lakes Likely Containing Arctic Char

Status of Arctic Char in Lake

Likely

Unknown

Unlikely

Generalized Land Status


Bureau of Land Management

Native Patent or IC

Native Selected

State Patent or TA

State Selected



Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

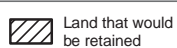
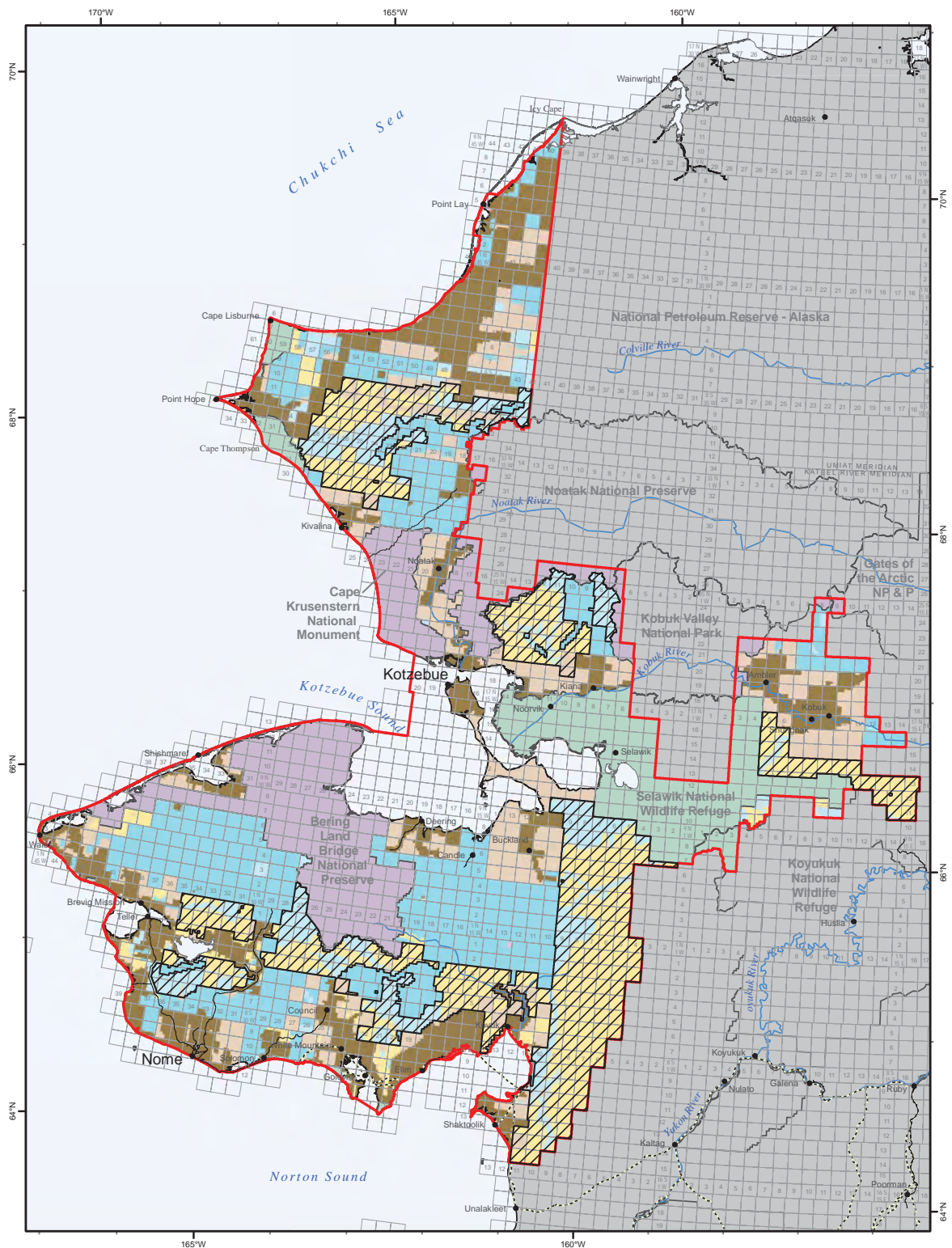
0

6 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI - BLM, 2004

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, please refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.



#### Generalized Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park System
- National Wildlife Refuge System
- Native Patent or IC
- Native Selected
- State Patent or TA
- State Selected
- Major Military
- Private Lands

— Road

--- Iditarod Trail

KSP RMP Planning Area



Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI-BLM, 2004



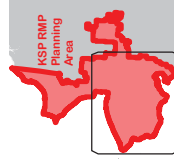
# Grazing Allotments

Map 10

## Reindeer Grazing on BLM Lands



Note: Under Alternative B all BLM lands in the planning area are open to all forms of livestock grazing.



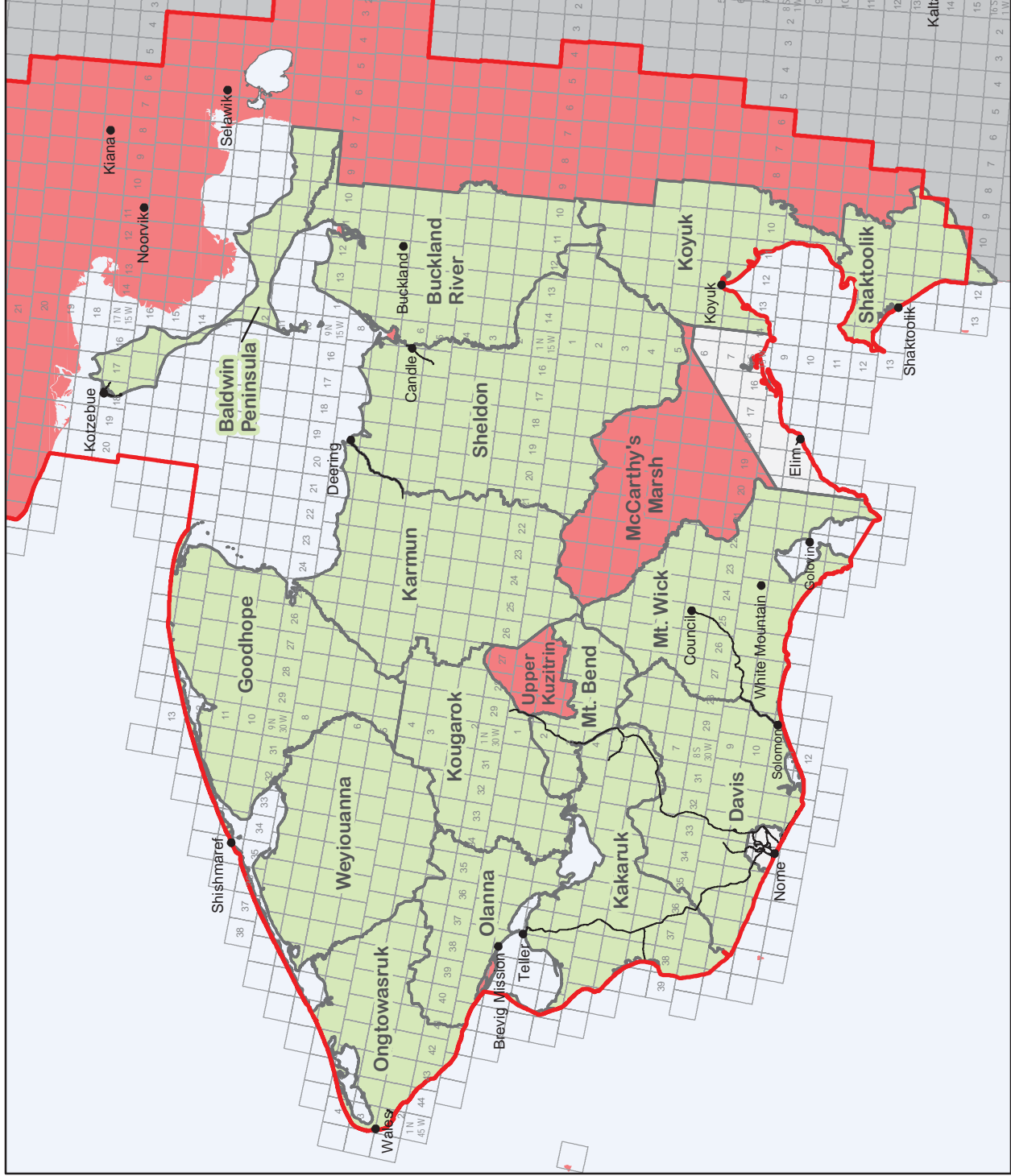
Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

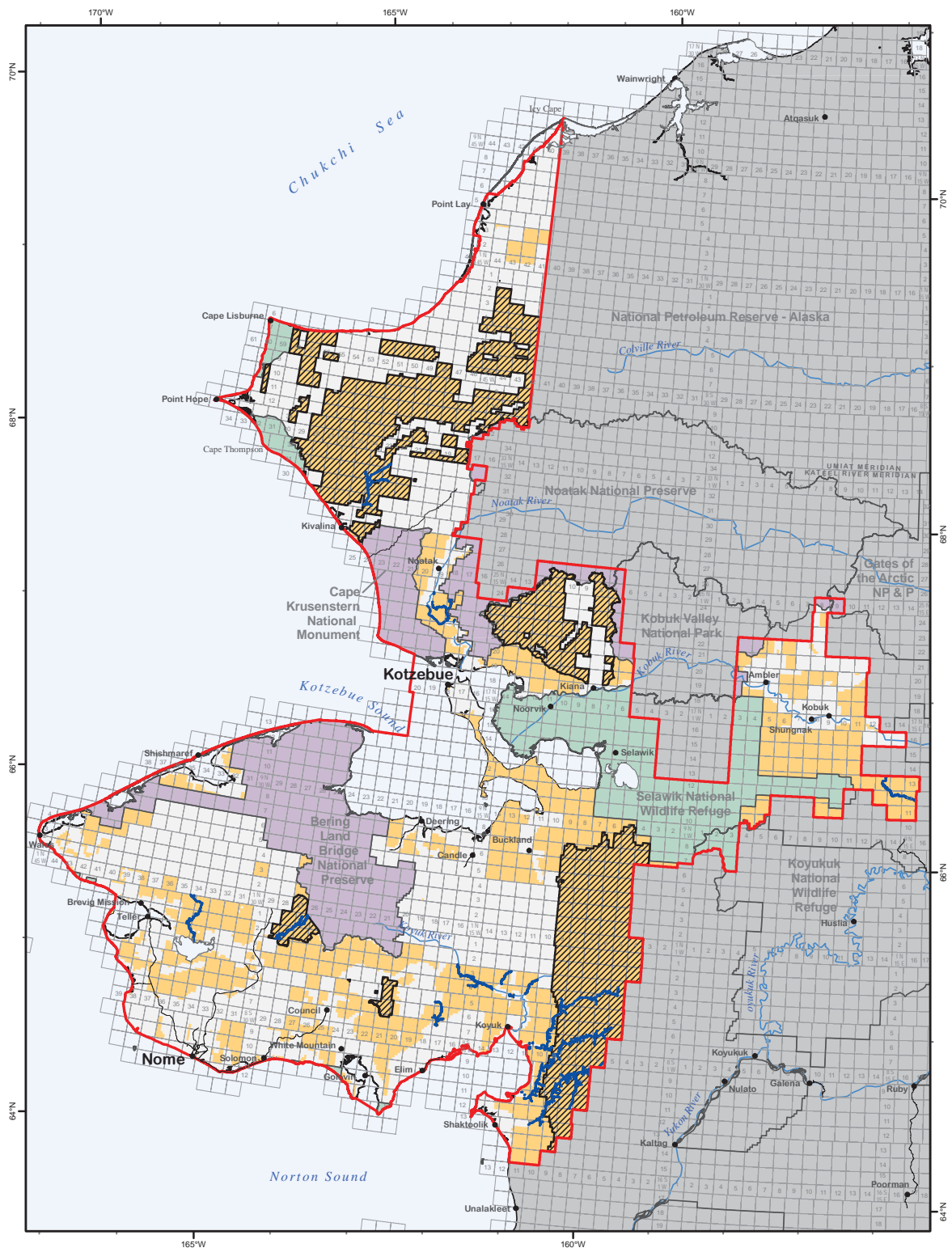
0 12 24 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI - BLM, 2004

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, please refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.





**Fluid Mineral Leasing**

Open with standard lease terms

Open with special stipulations

River: Open with no surface occupancy within 300 ft. of bankfull width

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

**Generalized Land Status**

National Park, Preserve, or Monument

Wildlife Refuge

State, Native, or Private Land

Road

KSP RMP Planning Area

**Map 11 Fluid Leasable Mineral Management**

**Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP**  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

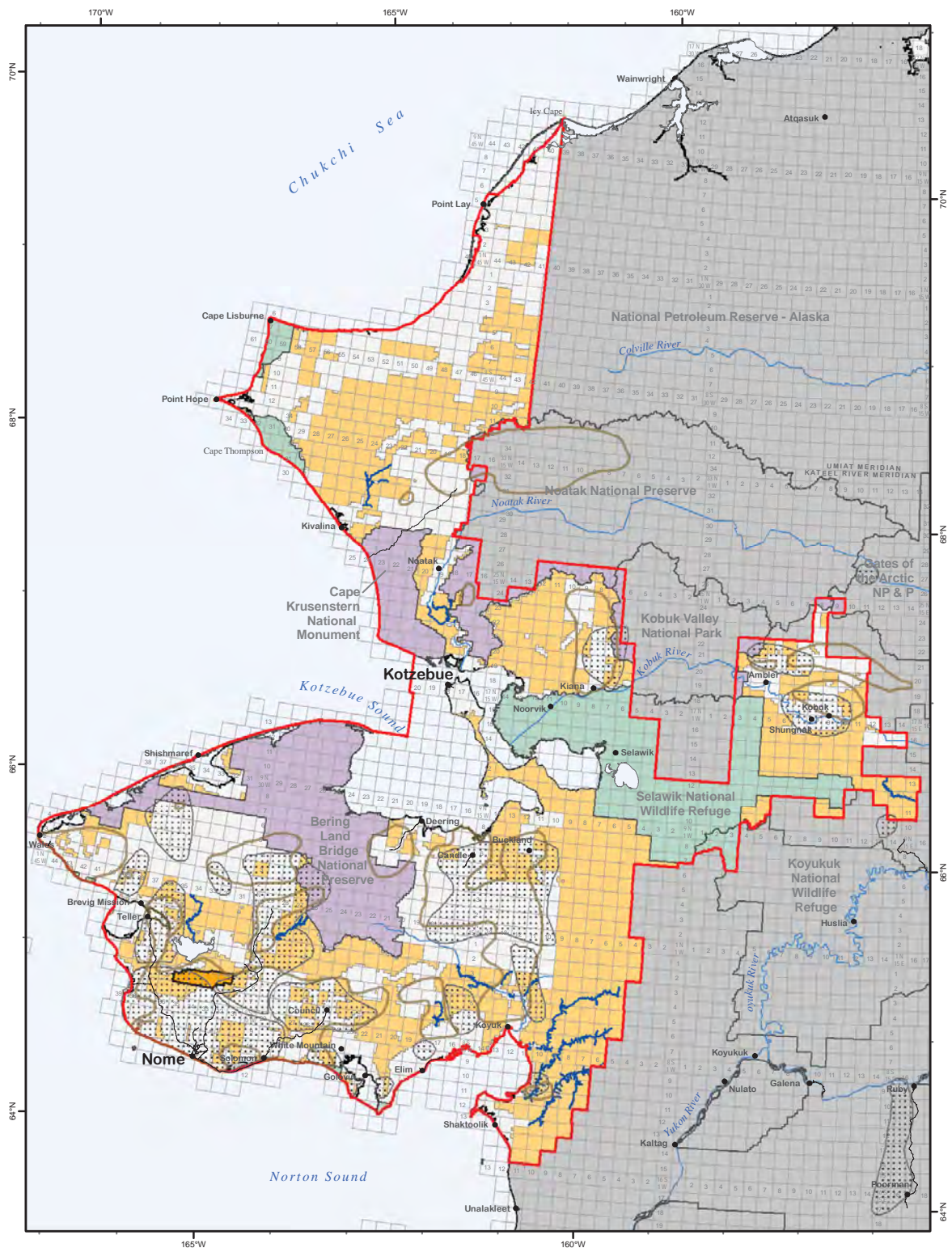
0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI - BLM, 2005

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.





#### Locatable Mineral Management

- Open
- Open subject to area specific Required Operating Procedures
- River: Open subject to Required Operating Procedure FW-7a

Note: Under Alternative B all BLM lands in the planning area are open to locatable minerals.

#### Known Mineral Areas

- Placer Producing Area
- Known Mineral Deposit Area

#### Generalized Land Status

- National Park, Preserve, or Monument
- Wildlife Refuge
- State, Native, or Private Land
- Road
- KSP RMP Planning Area

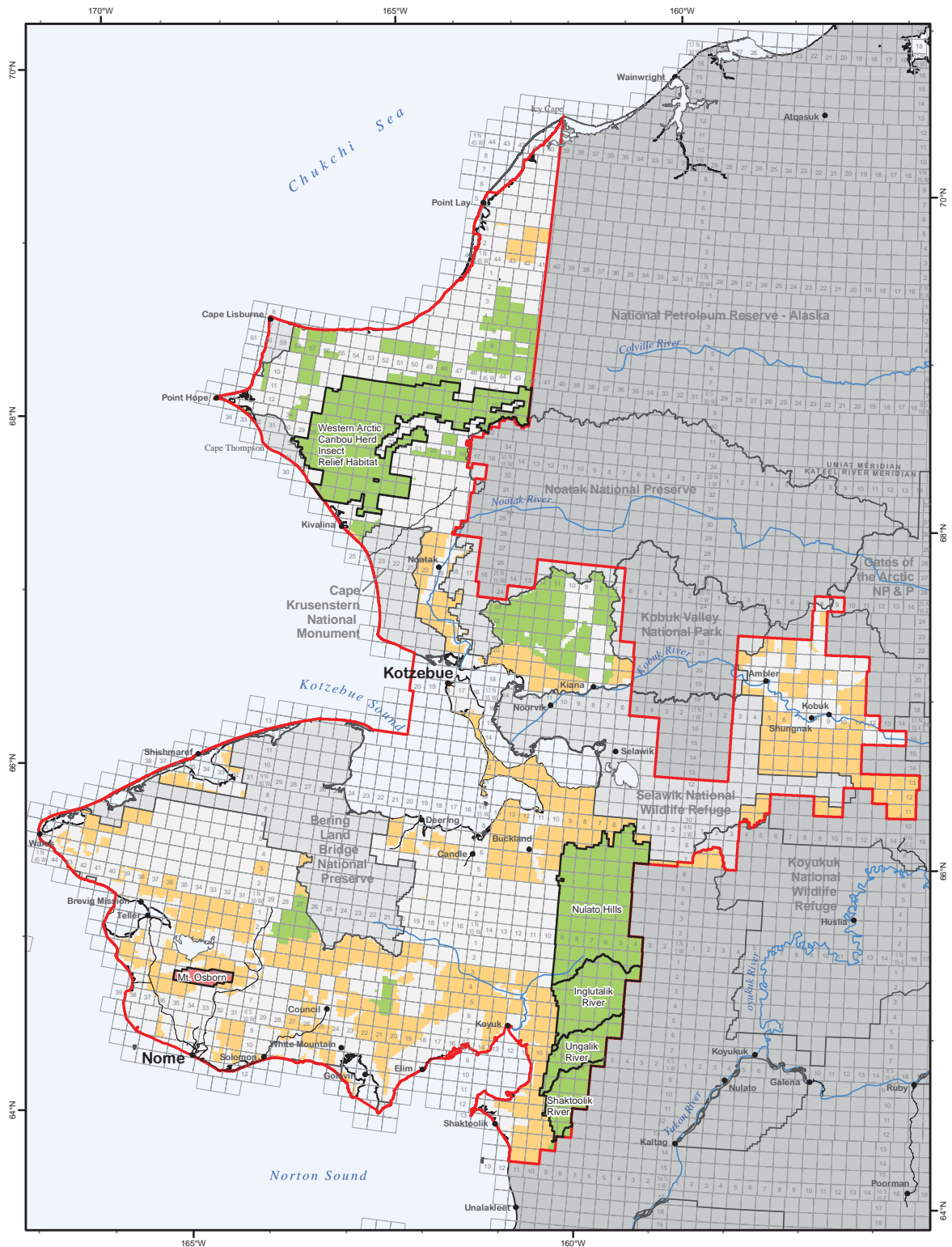


Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI - BLM, 2005



#### Mineral Management

Leasable		Locatable
Fluid	Solid	
Open with standard lease terms	Available for exploration and prospecting	Open
Open with special stipulations	Available for exploration and prospecting	Open
Open with standard lease terms	Available for exploration and prospecting	Open subject to area specific ROPs

It is not possible to clearly display a summary of the mineral management of rivers, please consult the Locatable and Fluid and Solid Leasable Mineral Management maps for this alternative.

ACEC or RNA Boundary  
Proposed in Alternative D

Road  
KSP RMP Planning Area

**Generalized Land Status**  
Wildlife Refuge or  
National Park, Preserve,  
or Monument  
State, Native, or  
Private Land

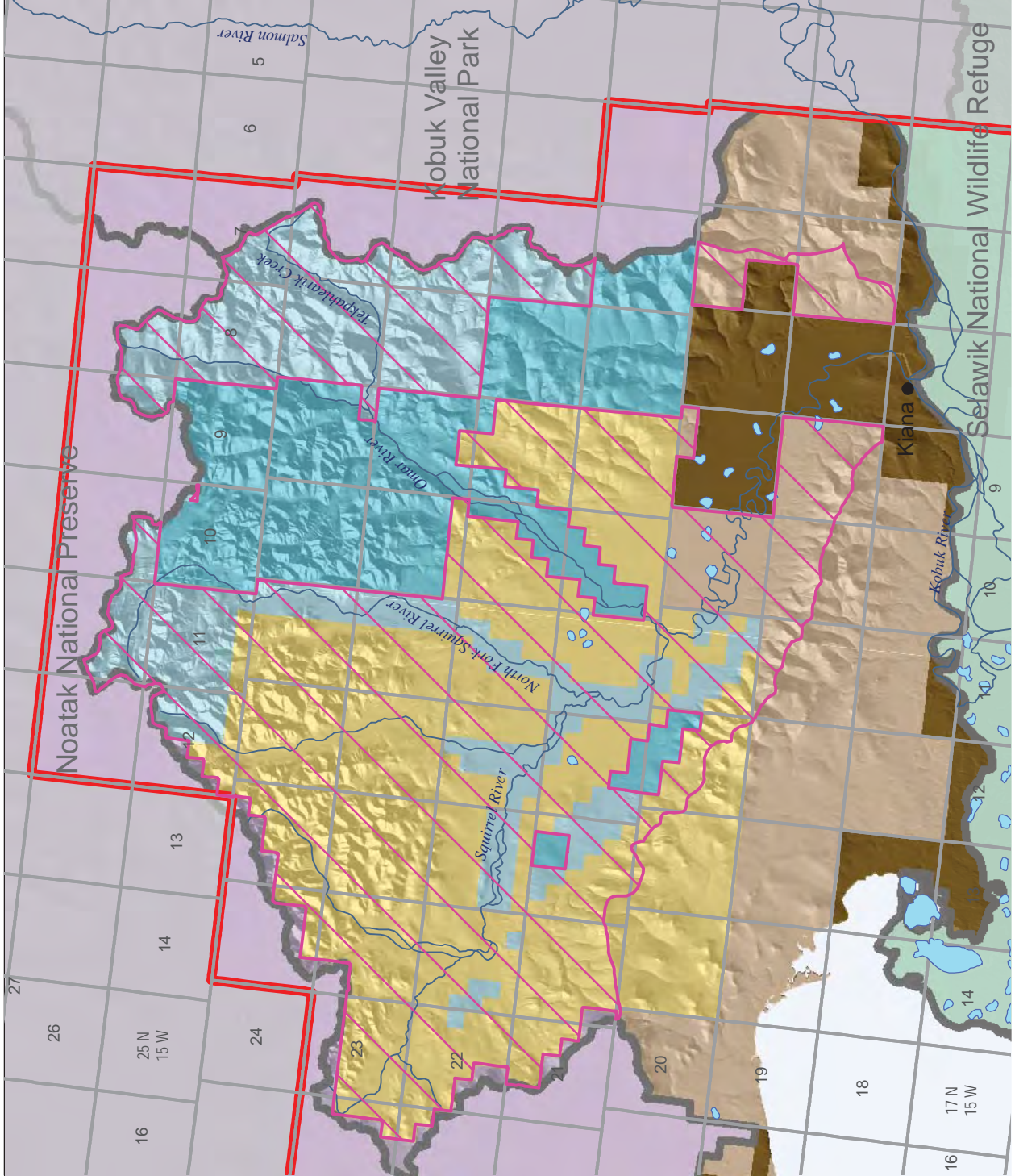
Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles  
Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI - BLM, 2005

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.





Map 14

# Squirrel River SRMA

Squirrel River SRMA

Road

Planning Area

## Generalized Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

National Park System

National Wildlife Refuge System

Native Patent or IC

Native Selected

State Patent or TA

State Selected

Major Military

Private Lands

KSP RMP Planning Area

Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

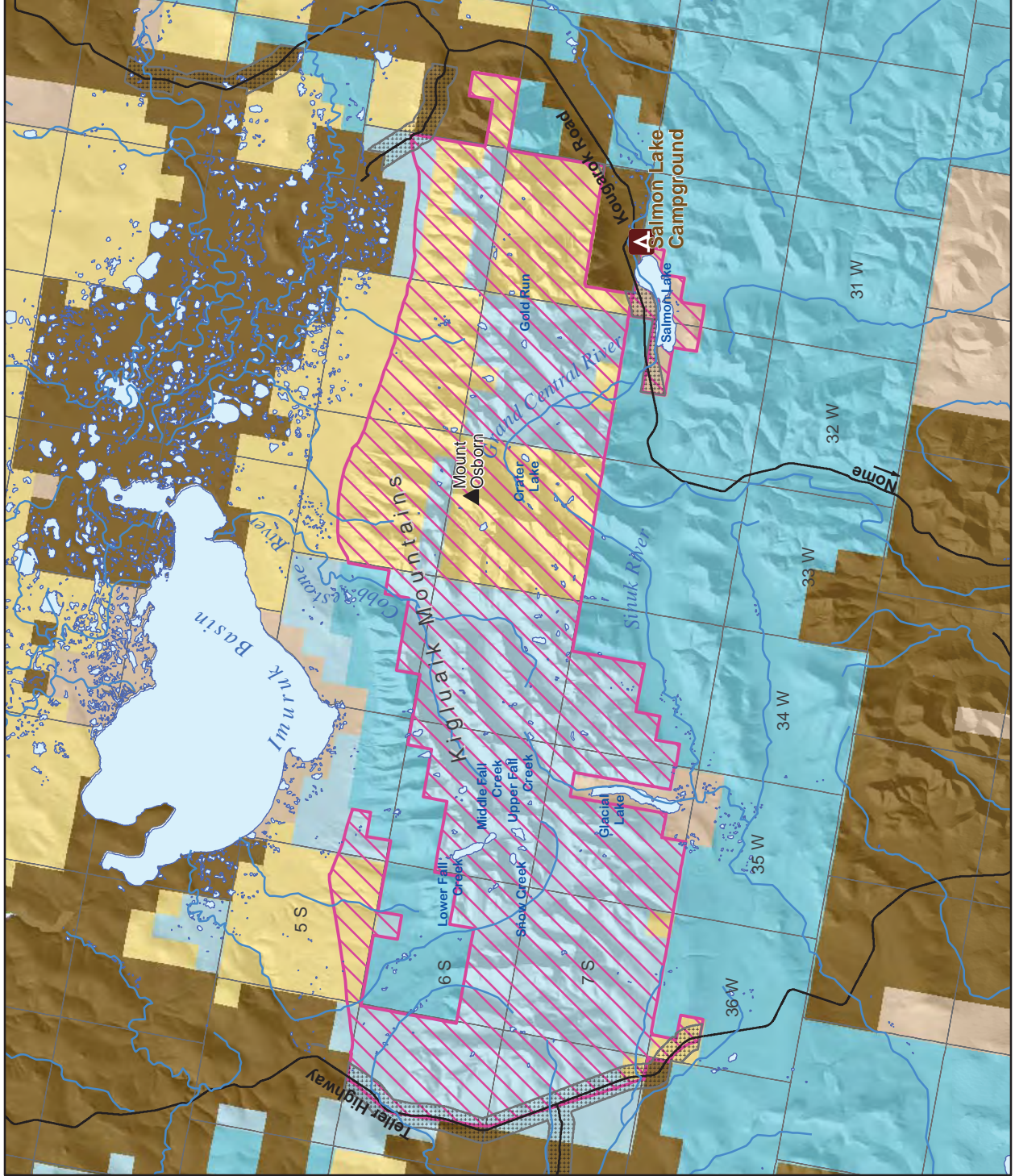
0 6 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI - BLM, 2004

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, please refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.





# Salmon Lake - Kigluaik SRMA

Map 15

Salmon Lake - Kigluaik SRMA

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Class

Roaded Natural

Remainder of area is Semi-Primitive Motorized

## Generalized Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

Native Patent or IC

Native Selected

State Patent or TA

State Selected



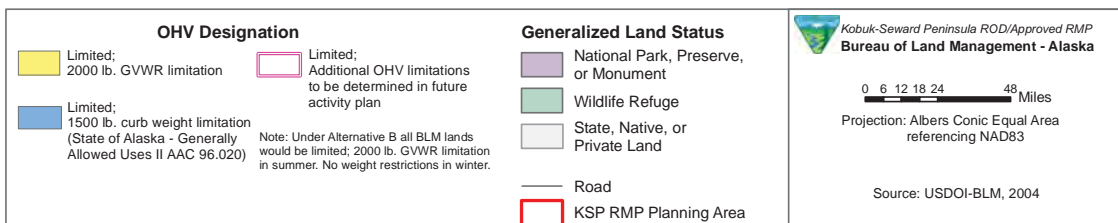
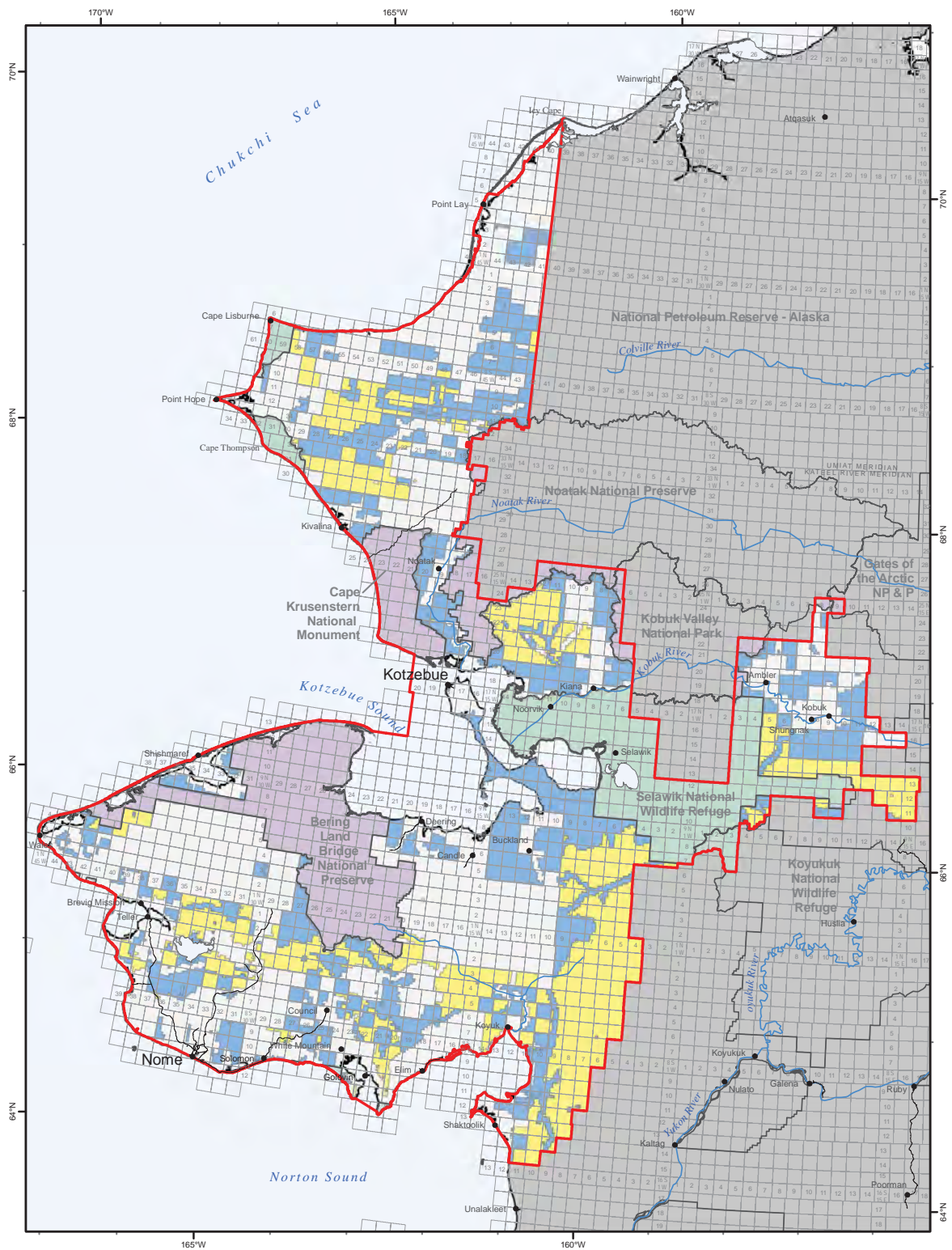
Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI - BLM, 2004

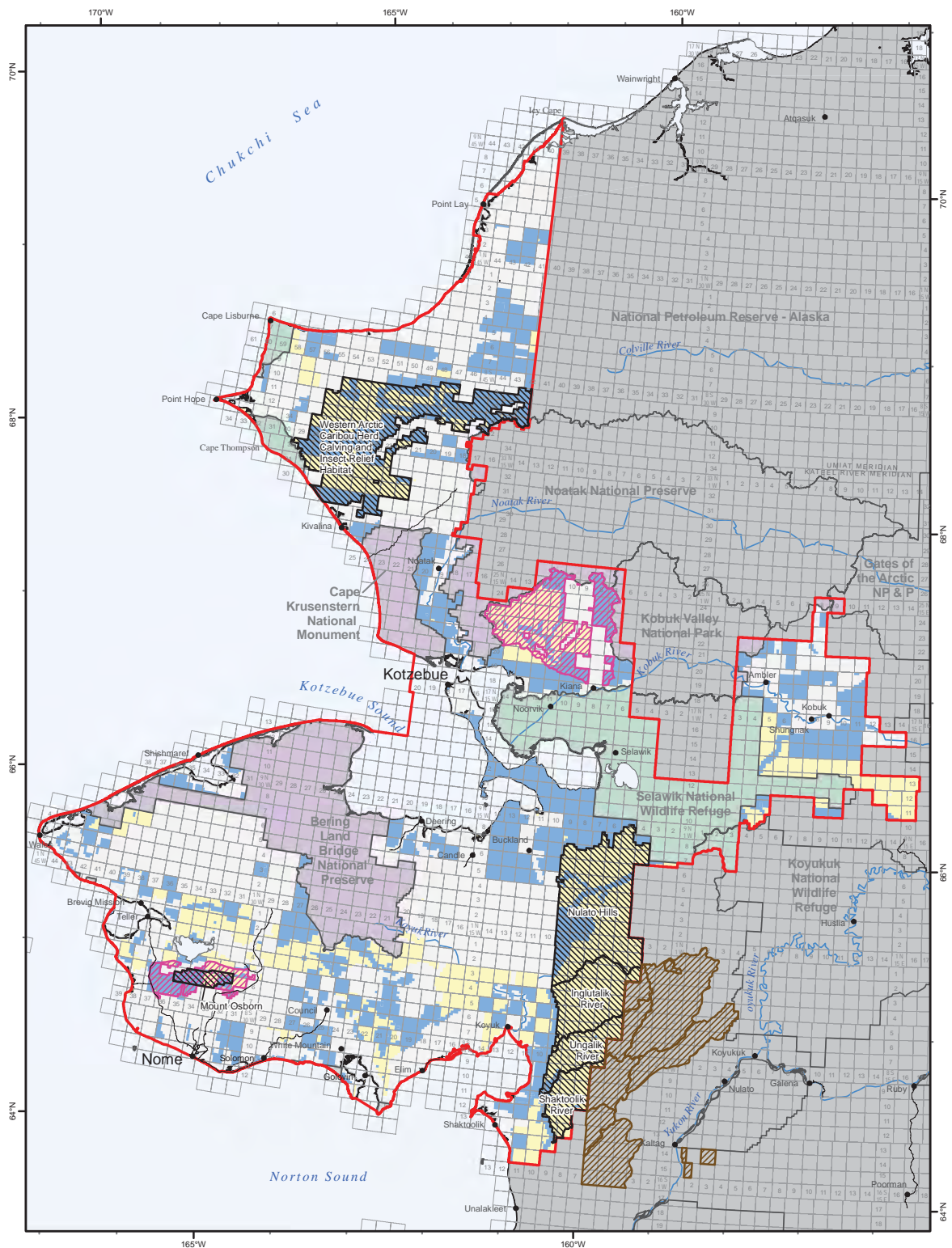
The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, please refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.



Map 16 **OHV Designations**

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.





**Management Designations: OHV, ACECs, SRMAs**

- Existing ACEC in Central Yukon Resource Area
- ACEC: Proposed for designation as an ACEC
- Travel Management Area/ Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA): Limited OHV Designation; additional OHV limitations to be determined in future activity plan
- OHV: Limited; 1500 lb. curb weight limitation
- SRMA: Proposed for designation as an Extensive Recreation Management Area
- OHV: Limited; 1500 lb. curb weight limitation
- SRMA: Proposed for designation as an Extensive Recreation Management Area

Road

KSP RMP Planning Area

Kuskokwim-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

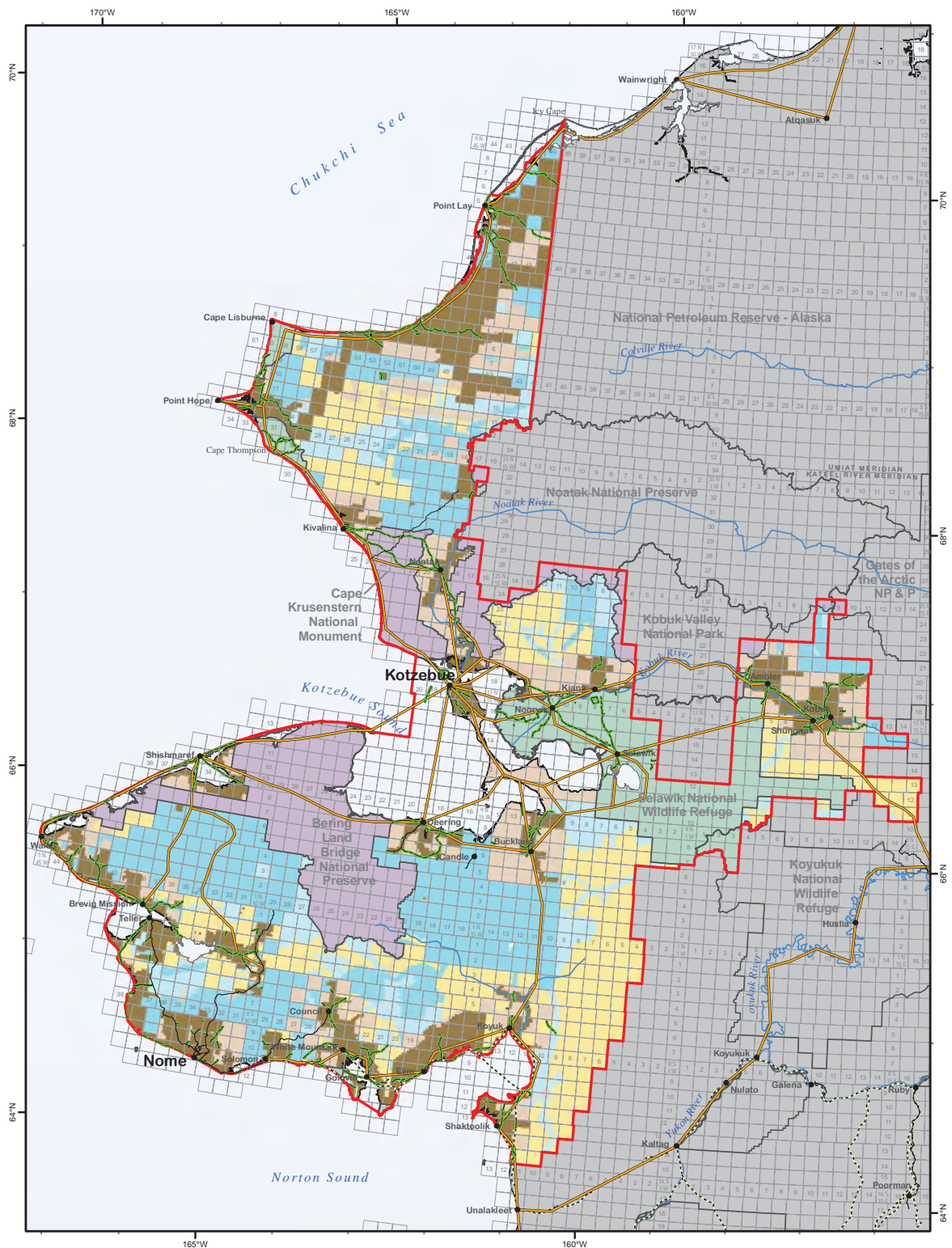
Source: USDOI-BLM, 2004

Map 17

## Summary of OHV Designations, SRMAs and ACECs

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.





17(b) Easement\*

Winter Routes

Winter trails are from the Northwest AK Transportation Plan (DOT) and are approximate locations.

Note: This map represents existing or potential trails for planning purposes; BLM does not necessarily endorse all trails displayed on this map or know that they actually exist on the ground.

Road

Iditarod Trail

KSP RMP Planning Area

#### Generalized Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park System
- National Wildlife Refuge System
- Native Patent or IC
- Native Selected
- State Patent or TA
- State Selected
- Major Military
- Private Lands



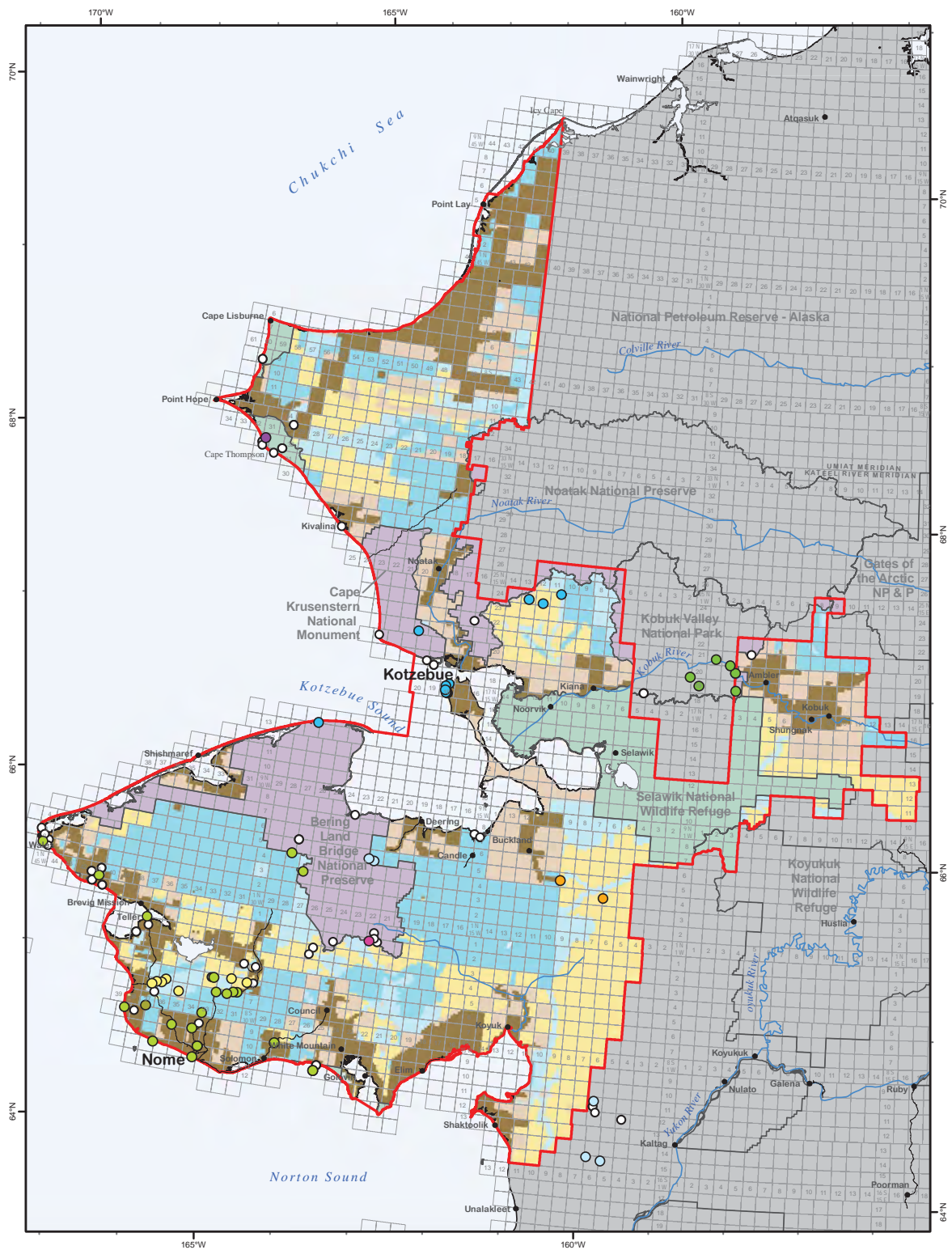
Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI - BLM 2005,  
State of Alaska - DOT 2004

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.



#### BLM - Alaska Sensitive Plant Species

- *Artemisia globularia* var. *lutea*
- *Artemisia senjavinensis*
- *Beckwithia glacialis* ssp. *alaskensis*
- *Douglasia beringensis*
- *Erigeron muirii*
- *Oxytropis arctica* var. *barnebyana*
- *Oxytropis kobukensis*
- *Pedicularis hirsuta*
- *Potentilla stipularis*

○ Rare Plant

Note: Tightly clustered plant locations have been moved slightly in order to be seen on this map

— Road  
 [Red Outline] KSP RMP Planning Area

#### Generalized Land Status

- [Yellow] Bureau of Land Management
- [Purple] National Park System
- [Green] National Wildlife Refuge System
- [Brown] Native Patent or IC
- [Orange] Native Selected
- [Blue] State Patent or TA
- [Light Blue] State Selected
- [Pink] Major Military
- [Red] Private Lands

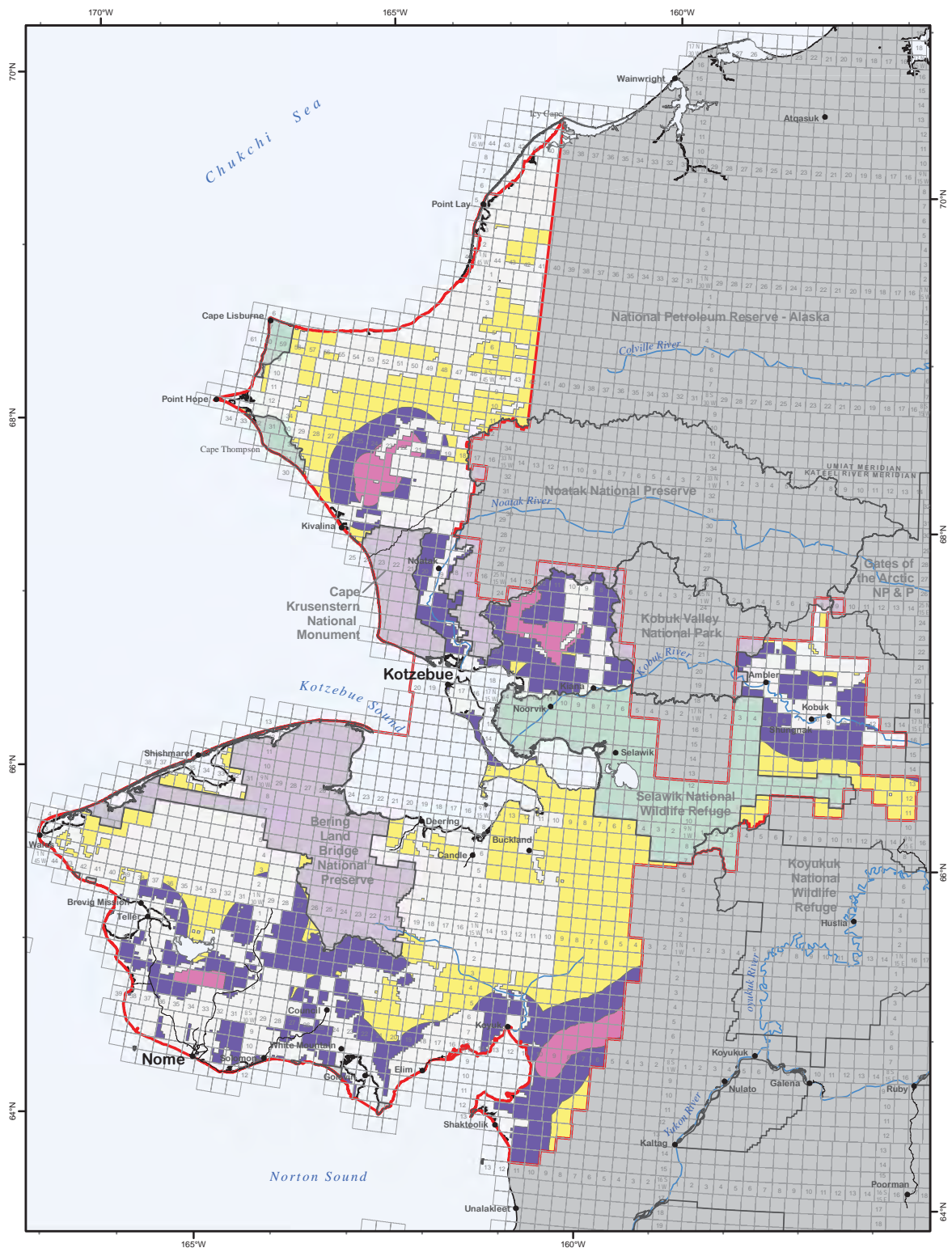


Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP  
 Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
 referencing NAD83

Source: AK Natural Heritage Program,  
 USDOI - BLM 2005



**Visual Resource Management Classes and Acreage within KSP RMP Planning Area**

- Class II - 803,000 ac.
- Class III - 5,004,000 ac.
- Class IV - 6,106,000 ac.

**Generalized Land Status**

- National Park, Preserve, or Monument
- Wildlife Refuge
- State, Native, or Private Land

- Road
- KSP RMP Planning Area

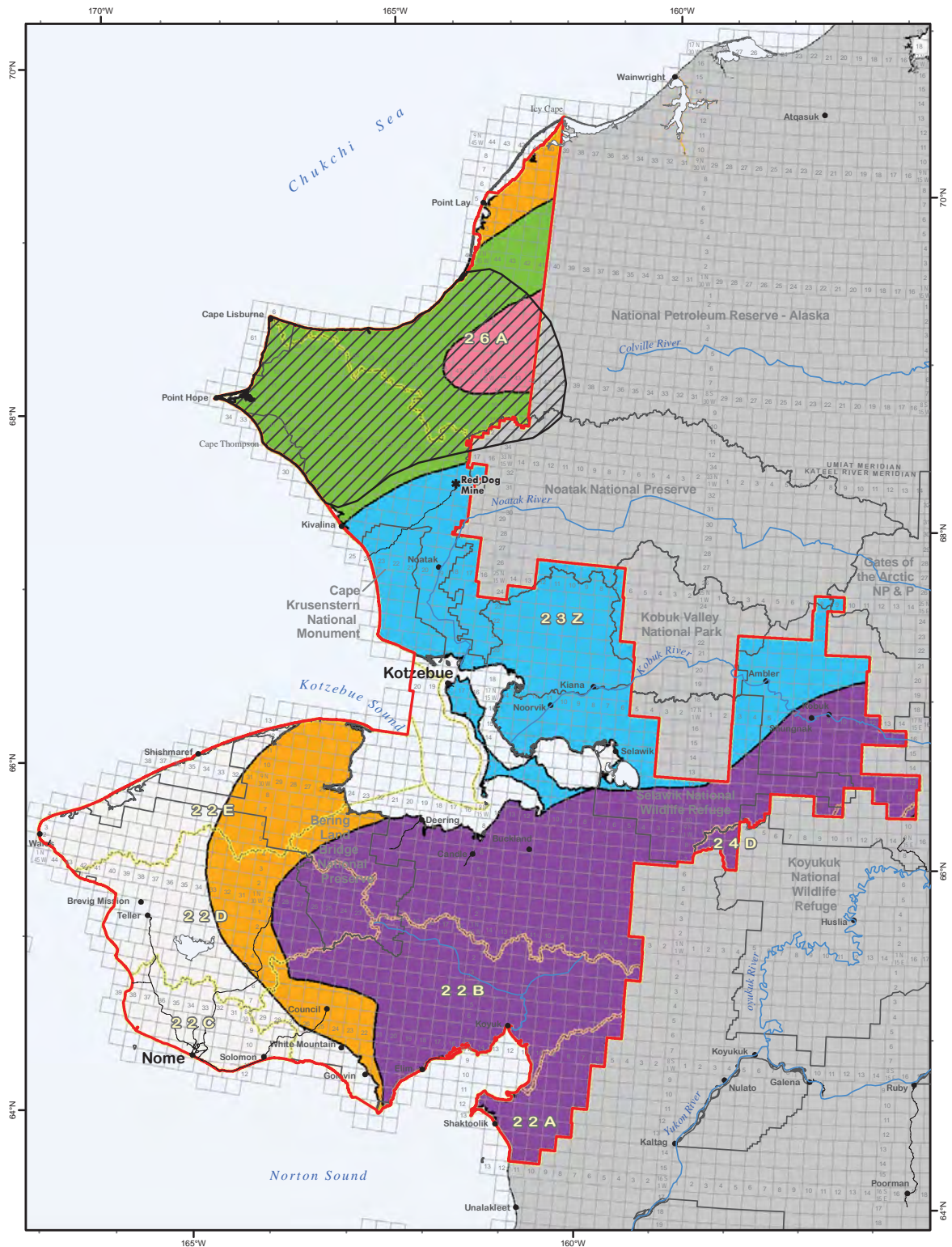
 **Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP**  
**Bureau of Land Management - Alaska**

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: USDOI-BLM, 2004





**Western Arctic Caribou Herd**

<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: pink; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Calving Grounds	<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; border: 1px solid black; background: repeating-linear-gradient(45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, black 2px, black 4px);"></span> Critical Caribou Insect Relief
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: purple; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Winter Range	
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: green; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Summer Range	
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: blue; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Migratory Area	
<span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 15px; background-color: orange; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Peripheral Range	

Game Management Unit

Road

KSP RMP Planning Area

**Map 21 Caribou Distribution**

**Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP**  
Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

0 6 12 18 24 48 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: State of Alaska - ADF&G 2005,  
AK Natural Heritage Program

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.

Map 22

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Migration Routes

Western Arctic Caribou Herd Migration Routes

— Fall Migration Routes

Caribou routes collected by ADF&G from satellite collars from 1987-2004. Data represents 251 caribou years.

— Road

Planning Area

Generalized Land Status

Bureau of Land Management

National Park System

National Wildlife Refuge System

Native Patent or IC

Native Selected

State Patent or TA

State Selected

Major Military

Private Lands

Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP

Bureau of Land Management - Alaska

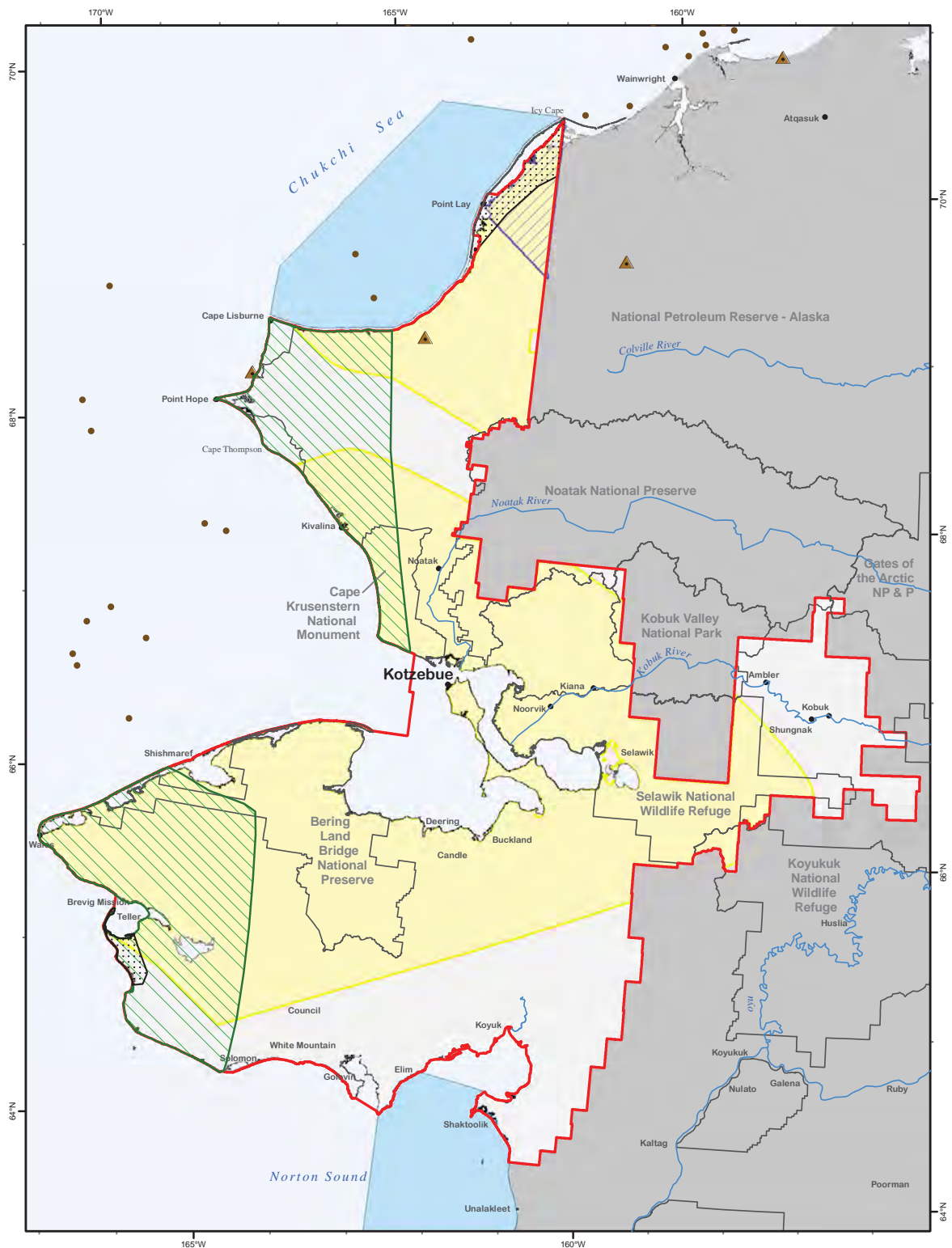
0 12 24 Miles

Projection: Albers Conic Equal Area  
referencing NAD83

Source: State of Alaska - ADF&G,  
USDOI - BLM 2004

The information displayed on this map should be used for graphic display only. For official land status information, please refer to Cadastral Survey Plats, Master Title Plats, and case files.





Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species		KSP RMP Planning Area	 Kobuk-Seward Peninsula ROD/Approved RMP Bureau of Land Management - Alaska
<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; background: repeating-linear-gradient(45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, black 2px, black 4px);"></span> Stellers eider - Threatened</div> <div><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; background: repeating-linear-gradient(-45deg, transparent, transparent 2px, black 2px, black 4px);"></span> Kittlitz's murrelet - Candidate</div> <div><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; border: 1px solid black; background: repeating-linear-gradient(0deg, transparent, transparent 2px, black 2px, black 4px);"></span> Spectacled eider - Threatened</div> <div><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #add8e6; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Spectacled Eider Critical Habitat</div> <div><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffff00; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Yellow-billed loon - Sensitive*</div> </div> <p>*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been petitioned to add Yellow-billed loons to the Threatened &amp; Endangered Species List</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 5px;"> <div><span style="display: inline-block; width: 15px; height: 10px; background-color: #d3d3d3; border: 1px solid black;"></span> Polar Bear - Threatened</div> <div><span style="display: inline-block; width: 0; height: 0; border-left: 5px solid transparent; border-right: 5px solid transparent; border-bottom: 8px solid black;"></span> Den</div> <div><span style="display: inline-block; width: 0; height: 0; border-left: 5px solid transparent; border-right: 5px solid transparent; border-bottom: 8px solid black;"></span> Sighting (1979-1991)</div> </div> <p>**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed adding polar bears as a threatened species to the Threatened &amp; Endangered Species List</p>		