



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>

MAY 01 2014

In Reply Refer To:
1610 (AKA010)

Dear Interested Party:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), as part of its Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan (RMP), is seeking nominations for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The BLM will accept nominations until August 29, 2014.

ACEC designations highlight areas of BLM-managed public land where special management attention is needed to protect important historical, cultural, and scenic values; fish or wildlife resources, or other natural systems or processes; or human life and safety from natural hazards.

Five designated ACECs currently exist within the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning area: Anvik River, North River, Unalakleet River, Peregrine Falcon Nesting Habitat, and Kuskokwim River Raptor Nesting Habitat. The BLM will review the existing ACECs to determine whether they should be maintained, modified, or dropped. The BLM will also consider new ACECs.

The BLM appreciates the active role that tribes, organizations, and individual members of the public play during land use planning. I invite you to consider whether you have information about existing ACECs that could help the BLM in our analysis. I also invite you to consider whether you wish to nominate new areas for ACEC designation. I have enclosed a scoping fact sheet about the process of designating ACECs as part of the planning effort.

If you wish to nominate ACECs in the Bering Sea-Western Interior planning area, we ask that you provide as much information as possible with your nomination. The following will help our interdisciplinary team evaluate nominations:

- Name and location of nominated area (legal land description, if possible)
- Map of nominated ACEC area with well-defined boundaries
- Reason or basis for nomination
- Reference material or online sources where BLM can obtain additional information or data about the area

The ACEC nomination form and additional information about how to prepare a nomination are enclosed. These documents are also available online at www.blm.gov/ak/planning/bswi. Submit nominations to BSWI_RMP_Comment@blm.gov or BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, AK 99507.

The Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP will guide management of BLM-administered public land for the next 15-20 years. For additional information, contact Project Manager Jorjena Daly at jdaly@blm.gov or (907) 267-1317.

Sincerely,



Alan Bittner
Field Manager

Enclosure