

# Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)



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June 13, 2015



# BLM Land Use Planning Process

BLM Mission: “Sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

- Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA)
- Land Use Plans or Resource Management Plans (RMP)
- ACECs designated through land use plan process



# What is an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)?

- Special Management Attention
- Protect and Prevent



*Mosquito Flats Proposed ACEC*

- *To protect moose calving, trumpeter swan nesting, floating bog wetlands*
- *To protect a natural system: low-relief wetland with sand beds (low in organics)*



# Who designates an ACEC and Why?

- Administrative designation
- Unique and significant values
- Unique to BLM
- Private Lands not subject

*The proposed Fortymile ACEC includes high, tundra covered ridges around 5,915-foot Glacier Mountain. This area includes postcalving habitat for the Fortymile caribou herd, one of the most important subsistence game populations in Interior Alaska, as well as Dall sheep habitat.*



# Toolnik Lake Research Natural Area



# What's the difference between ACECs and other designations?

- No automatic restrictions
- Resource or natural hazard concern
- Vary from area to area



*Kanuti Hot Springs is a small (40 acres) ACEC in the Dalton corridor. Unlike most hot springs in the Interior, has not been commercially developed. About eight miles from the Dalton Highway.*

*The Kanuti Hot Springs earned ACEC status for the value of the hot spring system.*

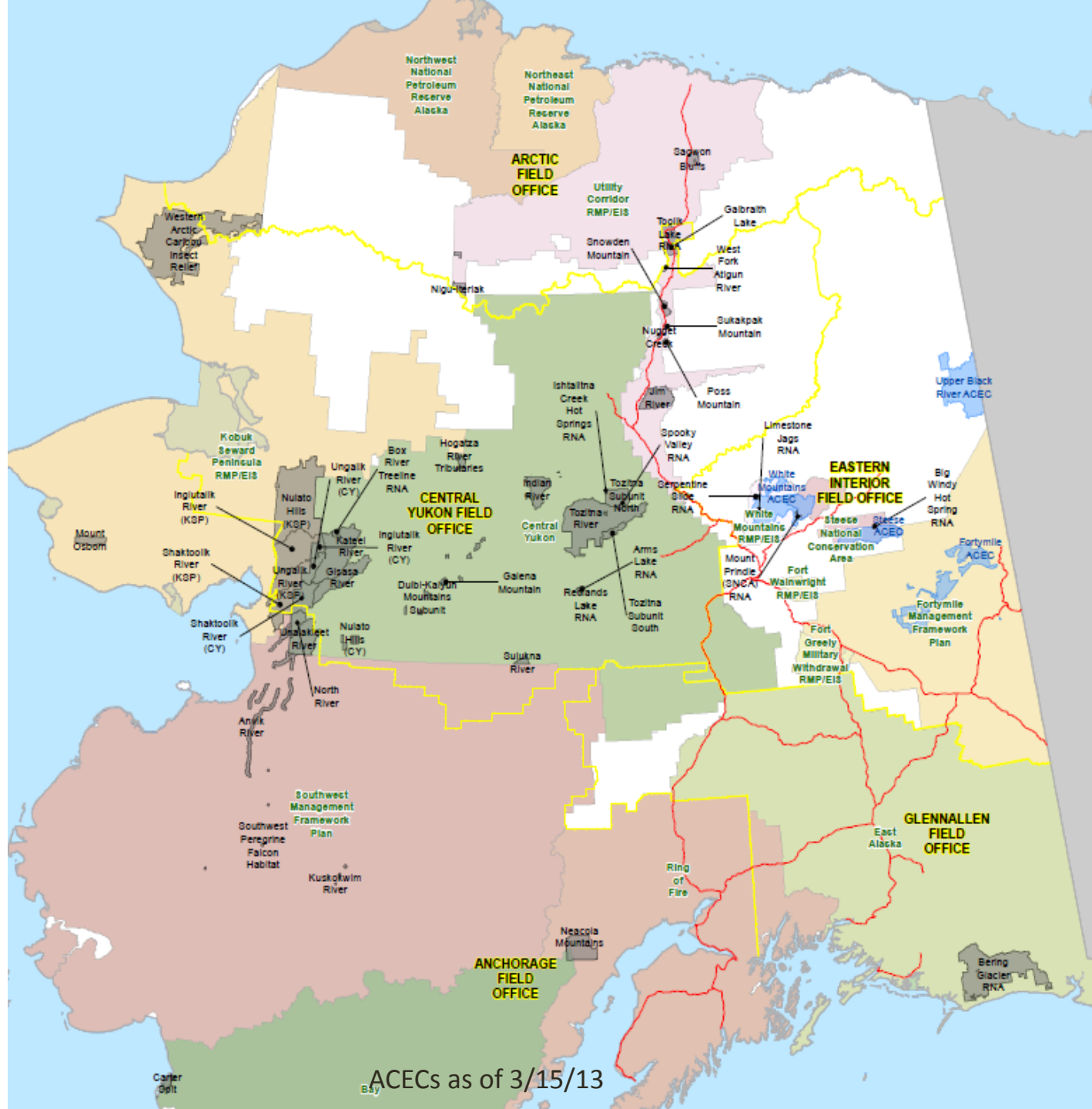
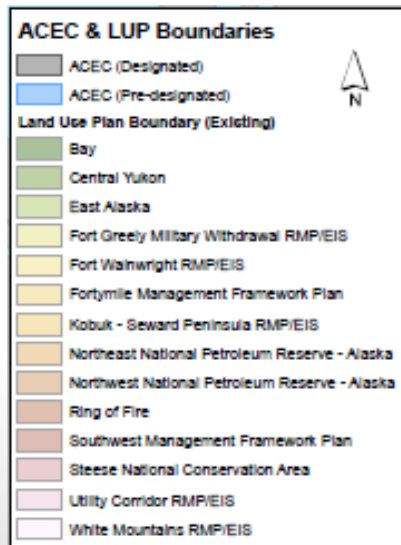


# Sukakpak Mountain



# What can or cannot occur in an ACEC?

Since the BLM prescribes special management measures that are specific to the values for which the ACEC is designated, what can and cannot occur in different ACECs may vary dramatically.



# Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Relevance Criteria

Must meet one or more of the four criteria (43 CFR 1610.7-2):

- Significant historical, cultural or scenic value
- Fish and wildlife resource
- Natural process or system
- Natural hazards



# Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Importance Criteria

Must have substantial significance and values to meet importance criteria (43 CFR 1610.7-2). Generally means the relevance is characterized by one or more of the following:

- Locally significant qualities
  - Special worth, Consequence, Meaning, Distinctiveness, Cause for concern
- Qualities or circumstances
  - Fragile, Sensitive, Rare, Irreplaceable, Exemplary, Unique, Endangered, Threatened, Vulnerable
- Recognized or Warranted
- Public/management concerns
- Threat



# Status Update

## ● Eastern Interior RMP

- ACECs are being considered in development of Final EIS/RMP
- [http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east\\_int\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east_int_rmp.html)

## ● Bering Sea – Western Interior RMP

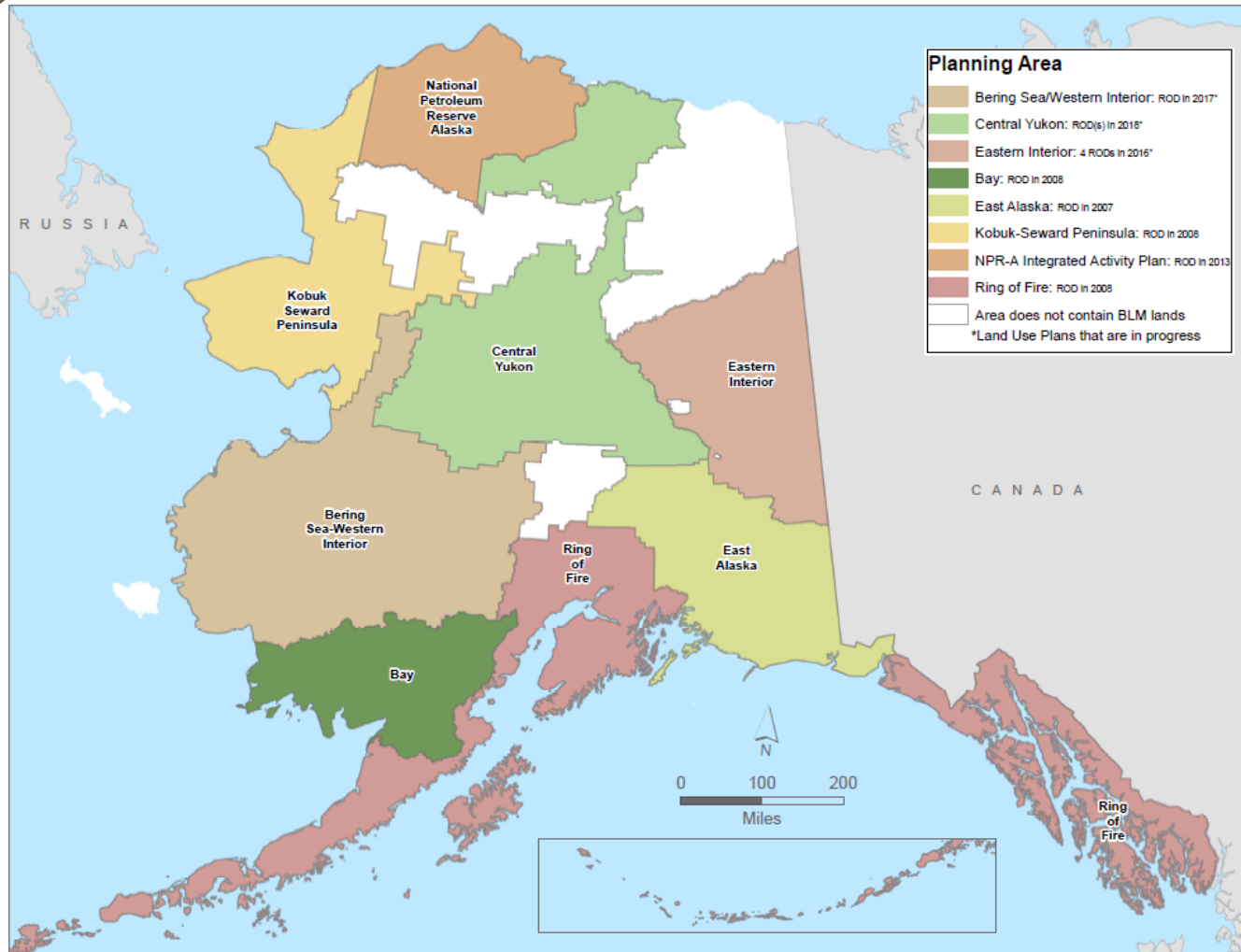
- April 2015: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern Report on the Application of the Relevance and Importance Criteria
- [http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/bering\\_sea\\_western.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/bering_sea_western.html)

## ● Central Yukon RMP

- ACEC nominations are under consideration
- [http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/Central Yukon Planning Area.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/Central_Yukon_Planning_Area.html)



# Questions?



BLM Alaska Planning Homepage: [www.blm.gov/ak/planning](http://www.blm.gov/ak/planning)

