

BLM Alaska

Land Use Planning Updates

DATE: April 27, 2015

Completed Land Use Plans

Plan Name	Year ROD completed	Total Acres	Acres of BLM Managed Land
Bering Sea-Western Interior*	2017 (projected)	62.3 M**	13.4 M**
Central Yukon*	2018 (projected)	55.7 M**	13.1 M**
Eastern Interior*	2016 (projected)	31 M	6.5 M
Bay	2008	23 M	1.9 M
East Alaska	2007	30.9 M	7 M
Kobuk-Seward	2008	30.4 M	5.2 M
NPR-A	2013	22.7 M	22.7 M
Ring Of Fire	2008	61.5 M	1.3 M

*Land Use Plans that are in progress

**Transfer of 2.8M acres from CY to BSWI per boundary change to support landscape scale planning

DISCUSSION

Eastern Interior RMP:

- The planning area includes four National Landscape Conservation System units: 1) Steese National Conservation Area, and the 2) Fortymile, 3) Birch Creek and 4) Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic Rivers.
- The White Mountains National Recreation Area is also in the planning area, as well as public lands surrounding the Upper Black River.
- BLM Alaska released the Eastern Interior Draft RMP/EIS in February 2012.
- The BLM is developing the Proposed RMP/Final EIS which is expected to be released in fiscal year 2016.

Central Yukon RMP:

- The planning area includes the Dalton Highway Corridor, the Central Arctic Management Area Wilderness Study Area (CAMA), the central Yukon River, and scattered parcels west of Fairbanks.

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- This planning effort will revise the Utility Corridor RMP (1991) and the original Central Yukon RMP (1986), as well as replace portions of the Southwest Management Framework Plan (1981) and provide planning for lands west of Fairbanks not currently covered by a plan.
- A Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* on June 14, 2013 initiated the scoping period, which ended on January 17, 2014.
- Currently alternatives development is underway.

Bering Sea/Western Interior RMP:

- The planning area includes four National Landscape Conservation System units: 1) Unalakleet Wild River, and 2) portions of the Iditarod National Historic Trail.
- A Notice of Intent published in the *Federal Register* on July 18, 2013 initiated the scoping period, which ended on January 17, 2014. A Public Comment and Scoping Summary Report was published in May 2014.
- From October 2014 to January 2015, the RMP Team and Cooperating Agencies participated in Alternatives Development Workshops drafting preliminary alternative concepts for the eventual Draft RMP. BLM shared the concepts, as well as 5 resource inventory reports, during *Preliminary Alternatives Outreach Public Meetings* held from February to April 2015. These meetings gave local communities a voice in helping the BLM craft management alternatives that reflect local needs and concerns. This public comment period ends May 31 and a Preliminary Alternatives Outreach Public Comment Summary Report will be published this Summer 2015.
- A Statement of Work to contract all remaining RMP tasks is underway with the goal to advertise and award this FY15. With future contract funding, a Notice of Availability for the Draft RMP/DEIS is projected to be released in FY 2017.

Key issues in all of BLM-Alaska's planning efforts:

- Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act withdrawals
- travel management
- locatable and leasable minerals
- subsistence use and access
- wildlife habitat management
- wilderness characteristics
- wild and scenic rivers and special management area designations (such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern).

Other key issues specific to each of the ongoing BLM-Alaska planning areas that must be considered include:

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Eastern Interior Planning Issues

- Management of the White Mountains National Recreation Area
- Management of the Steese National Conservation Area

Central Yukon Planning Issues

- Mineral material sales (gravel pits) on Dalton Highway
- Dalton Highway Corridor egress
- Potential modification of PLO 5150 (Utility Corridor) to allow conveyance to the State of Alaska
- Invasive species

Bering Sea/Western Interior Planning Issues

- Competition for and access to subsistence resources
- Recreation and visitor services, including commercial hunting and guiding and off-highway vehicle access
- Mining development and associated ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals.

ATTACHMENT

BLM Alaska RMP Planning Area Map