

EAST ALASKA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT ALTERNATIVE SUMMARY

The Glennallen Field Office is currently in the process of developing a new Resource Management Plan. This plan will guide BLM management in the area for the next 10-15 years. At this point in the process, BLM has developed a range of alternatives to address issues that were identified during public scoping.

This is a summary of the alternatives presented in the Management Alternatives for Public Review packet available for public review. This summary briefly describes some of the proposals within the alternatives.

Alternatives considered at this point are:

Alternative A – No Action – describes current management

Alternative B – Describes actions with an emphasis on development of resources

Alternative C – Describes actions with emphasis on conservation or maintenance of the resource

Alternative D – Describes actions in a range between B and C.

Based on public comment and comments from the State of Alaska and Native Corporations, these alternatives could change or another one could be added. All the alternatives will be analyzed in an environmental impact statement, the draft of which will be done by the end of September 2004.

The alternatives describe actions and measures proposed on State and Native selected lands as well as unencumbered BLM lands. Proposed actions and measures would not affect conveyance of land and would not create encumbrances on State and Native selections. On State and Native selected lands, measures identified within the alternative tables would only apply until conveyance occurs. Adoption of identified measures after conveyance would be at the discretion of the State of Alaska or the Native corporation. All proposals are tentative and subject to change based on public, State, and Native involvement.

Where proposals occur on predominantly selected lands (such as the Nelchina Area of Critical Environmental Concern or the Denali Special Recreation Management Area), alternative D describes two sets of management actions: Interim and Long Term. Interim management would occur while lands are still selected, Long Term management would occur if lands are held in federal ownership long term.

Following is a summary of the major proposed actions or measures, grouped by resource:

1. RECREATION

The alternatives identify four different Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs). These are: Tiekel, Denali Highway, Gulkana River, and Delta River. Each SRMA's objectives and the measures to meet them are described in the individual SRMA

alternative tables. Generally, SRMAs are managed with an emphasis on recreation but do not preclude other resource use or development. Within each proposed SRMA, specific measures are identified with the purpose of maintaining certain recreation experiences.

Also included (in the general Recreation table under “resources”) is a description of specific areas that might be considered for public use cabins.

More detailed information can be found in the individual SRMA tables and the recreation description table.

2. TRAILS

BLM recognizes the need to manage trails within this highway-accessible planning area. Trail designation is proposed for specific Special Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs). Trail designation would be based on the objectives for each specific area. In general, the goal of trail designation would be to minimize un-managed proliferation of trails that is currently happening. Specific trail designation within each area would occur in future implementation-level plans for each specific area. For more detail, see the individual ACEC and SRMA tables and the trails description and table.

3. WILDLIFE

Proposes four Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect specific habitat features (Nelchina caribou calving area, trumpeter swan habitat and wetlands, bison calving, and the Bering Glacier.) These areas do not preclude other resource development but measures are proposed to protect the values identified. For more detail see the individual ACEC tables.

BLM also proposes to improve moose, caribou, bison, and dall sheep habitat in specific areas. See wildlife description and table.

Describes mitigation to protect wildlife habitat that will be applied to permitted activities. See Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing Activities.

4. FORESTRY

Proposes specific areas to emphasize for personal and commercial firewood gathering as well as commercial timber sales. See Forestry description and tables.

5. MINERALS

Locatable Minerals –Three alternatives propose to revoke most ANCSA d (1) withdrawals so that BLM-managed lands will be available for mineral entry once State and Native conveyances take place. Specific areas where withdrawals will be maintained

are described in the locatable minerals table. Also describes mitigation measures that will be used in surface mining activities. See locatable minerals tables and the Mitigation Guidelines for Surface Disturbing Activities.

Leasable Minerals (Oil&Gas) – Three alternatives propose to revoke most ANCSA d(1) withdrawals but classify lands as:

1. Open for leasing with standards stipulations.
2. Open for leasing with minor or seasonal stipulations.
3. No surface occupancy.
4. Closed to leasing.

For more details see Leasable (O&G) table.

Leasable Minerals (Coal) – Same as with Oil and Gas but classifies land specific to suitability for coal mining and lease. For more detail see Leasable (Coal) table.

6. LANDS AND REALTY

Describes criteria under which lands would be available for disposal. In two alternatives, proposes remaining lands in Slana settlement be available for disposal.

Describes conditions under which leases and permits will take place (use authorizations) and protocol for use authorization on Native and State-selected lands.

Describes criteria to be used in handling unauthorized occupancy cases.

Describes recommended revocation of ANCSA d(1) withdrawals.

For more detail, see Land and Realty Table.

7. SUBSISTENCE

There are no alternatives crafted around subsistence. This RMP will not effect administration of the federal subsistence hunting areas within this planning area. However, management actions or measures proposed within this planning process might directly or cumulatively effect subsistence resources or opportunities. There will be an ANILCA Sec 810 evaluation done as part of this planning process.

This Summary is not all-inclusive. There are also alternatives and management guidance described for Soil, Water, Air, Vegetation, Cultural Resources, and Fisheries. See individual tables for more information.