

mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112 and e-mails to [Brenda\\_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov](mailto:Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov). Please direct the follow-up letter to the appropriate address provided below. To be considered complete, your protest must contain (at a minimum) the following information:

(1) Name, mailing address, telephone number and the affected interest of the person filing the protest(s);

(2) A statement of the issue or issues being protested;

(3) A statement of the part or parts of the proposed plan being protested. To the extent possible, reference specific pages, paragraphs, and sections of the document;

(4) A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed with the BLM for the record;

(5) A concise statement explaining why the proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Document all relevant facts, as much as possible. A protest merely expressing disagreement with the State Director's proposed decision without providing any supporting data will not be considered a valid protest. All protests must be in writing and mailed to the following address: Regular Mail: Director (210), Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Brenda Williams, P.O. Box 66538, Washington DC, 20035. Overnight Mail: Director (210), Bureau of Land Management, Attn: Brenda Williams, 1620 L Street, NW., Suite 1075, Washington, DC 20036. To be considered timely, your protest must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. The date ending the protest period will be announced through public notices, media news releases, newsletter mailings, and on the Dillon RMP Web site at <http://www.mt.blm.gov/dfo/rmp> after publication of the Notice of Availability by the Environmental Protection Agency. No extensions will be granted. Though not a requirement, we suggest you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested.

The Director will promptly render a decision on the protest. This decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior. An Approved Plan/Record of Decision will

be made available to the public following the resolution of any protests. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the PRMP/FEIS under protest until final action has been completed on such protest.

Please note that protests and comments, including names and street addresses, are available for public review and/or release under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individual respondents may request confidentiality. Respondents who wish to withhold name and/or street address from public review or from disclosure under FOIA must state this prominently at the beginning of the written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or official organizations or business, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Dated: January 21, 2005.

**Martin C. Ott,**

*State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310--SS-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AK-910-02-1410-PG]

#### Notice of Availability of the Draft East Alaska Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management policies, a Draft East Alaska Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EARMP/EIS) has been prepared for public lands and resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management's Glennallen Field Office. The public is invited to review and comment on the range and adequacy of the draft alternatives and associated environmental effects. For comments to be most helpful, they should relate to specific concerns or conflicts that are within the legal responsibilities of the BLM and can be resolved in this planning process. The Draft EARMP/EIS will provide the management guidance for resource decisions on 7.1 million

acres of BLM-administered lands in East Alaska. The EARMP/EIS will replace the Southcentral Management Framework Plan approved in 1980.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed or hand delivered to the BLM Glennallen Field Office, EARMP, P.O. Box 147, Mile 186.5 Glenn Highway, Glennallen, AK 99588. Comments can also be sent via e-mail to [ak\\_earmp@ak.blm.gov](mailto:ak_earmp@ak.blm.gov) or can be submitted at the project Web site: <http://www.glennallen.ak.blm.gov/landplan/index.html>. The Draft EARMP/EIS is also available for download on the project Web site. To request a CD or hard copy of the document or to be included on the mailing list, contact Tammy Larzelere, [tammy\\_larzelere@ak.blm.gov](mailto:tammy_larzelere@ak.blm.gov), or via mail/phone at the above address. Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available to the Glennallen Field Office during regular business hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, and may be published as part of the Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comments. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by the law. All submissions from organizations and business, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials or organizations or businesses, will be available for public inspection in their entirety. Section 810 of the Alaska National Lands Conservation Act requires the BLM to evaluate the effects of the alternative plans presented in this RMP/EIS on subsistence activities in the planning area, and to hold public hearings if it finds that any alternative might significantly restrict subsistence activities. Appendix V of the document indicates that Alternative B may significantly restrict subsistence; therefore, the BLM is holding a public hearing in conjunction with the public meetings discussed below.

**DATES:** Comments on the Draft EARMP/EIS will be accepted for 90 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes this Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Comments on the Draft EARMP/EIS must be received on or before the end of the comment period at one of the addresses listed above. Public meetings will be held at Fairbanks, Glennallen,

Anchorage, Delta Junction, and Chistochina. Hearings will be held in Glennallen, Delta Junction, and Chistochina in conjunction with the public meeting. Meetings, hearings, and any other public involvement activities will be announced at least 15 days in advance through public notices, media news releases, and/or mailings.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Bruce Rogers ([bruce\\_rogers@ak.blm.gov](mailto:bruce_rogers@ak.blm.gov)) or Tammy Larzelere ([tammy\\_larzelere@ak.blm.gov](mailto:tammy_larzelere@ak.blm.gov)) at (907) 822-3217.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The East Alaska RMP planning area covers 7.1 million acres of BLM-administered lands. The Draft EARMP/EIS focuses on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as prescribed by Section 202 of the FLPMA. The Draft EARMP/EIS considers and analyzes four alternatives, including a No Action and a Preferred Alternative. The alternatives provide for an array of variable levels of commodity production and resource protection and restoration. The alternatives were developed based on extensive public scoping and involvement.

There are seven main issues addressed through this planning process. Issue 1, Travel Management, addresses management of access, roads, and the use of off-highway vehicles for various purposes, including recreation, commercial uses, subsistence activities, and the general enjoyment of public lands while protecting natural and cultural resources. Issue 2, Recreation, examines how recreation should be managed to provide a diversity of experiences on BLM-managed lands. The document analyzes what measures are necessary to ensure that a diversity of recreational opportunities is maintained and what level of commercial recreational use is appropriate to maintain a diversity of recreational opportunities. Issue 3, Special Resource Values, focuses on those unique, special values located within the planning area that were identified by resource specialists and the public, and includes discussions on wildlife, fisheries, soil, water, air, and vegetation. Issue 4, Lands and Realty, addresses the need to determine the appropriate mix of lands and realty actions needed to provide a balance between land use and resource protection. Special attention is paid to the Slana Settlement area, and the establishment of conditions that would make the area available for disposal while considering the effects of disposal on the social and environmental conditions of the area. Issue 5,

Vegetation Management, examines management to provide for forest health, personal and commercial wood products, and fish and wildlife habitat. The role of fire is also explored. Issue 6, Leasable and Locatable Minerals, addresses the need to determine which areas should be made available for mineral exploration and development. Issue 7, Subsistence/Social and Economic Conditions, examines the need to maintain and protect subsistence opportunities and resources, as well as how the management actions, guidelines, and allowable uses described under the other issues will affect subsistence opportunities and resources. Social and economic effects are also addressed as part of this discussion.

The public involvement and collaboration process implemented for this effort included 30 public scoping meetings, 17 alternative development meetings, and meetings with Native and Village Corporations. The State of Alaska is participating in the planning effort as an informal cooperator.

After comments on the Draft EARMP/EIS are reviewed and any adjustments to the document are made, a Proposed RMP and Final Environmental Impact Statement are expected to be available in the fall of 2005.

**Henri R. Bisson,**

*State Director.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-JA-P**

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-05-1310-DB]

#### Notice of Meeting of the Pinedale Anticline Working Group's Socioeconomic Task Group

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (1972), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) Socioeconomic Task Group (subcommittee) will meet in Pinedale, Wyoming, for a business meeting. Task Group meetings are open to the public.

**DATES:** The PAWG Socioeconomic Task Group will meet May 26, 2005, June 28, 2005 and July 28, 2005. All meetings are from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The May 26 and June 28 meetings of the PAWG Socioeconomic Task Group will be held in the Lovatt room of the Pinedale Library at 155 S. Tyler Ave., Pinedale, WY. The July 28 meeting will be held at the BLM Pinedale Field Office at 432 E. Mill St.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roy Allen, BLM/Socioeconomic TG Liaison, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Rd., Cheyenne, WY, 82009 or P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003; 307-775-6031.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) was authorized and established with release of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Pinedale Anticline Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Project on July 27, 2000. The PAWG's charter is to advise the BLM on development and implementation of monitoring plans and adaptive management decisions for the life of the Pinedale Anticline natural gas field. The PAWG subsequently established seven resource- or activity-specific Task Groups, including one for Socioeconomics.

The agenda for these meetings will include information gathering and discussion related to implementation and funding of the socioeconomic monitoring plan to assess impacts of development in the Pinedale Anticline gas field. At a minimum, public comments will be heard just prior to adjournment of the meeting.

Dated: April 19, 2005.

**Priscilla E. Mecham,**

*Field Manager.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[WY-100-05-1310-DB]

#### Notice of Meeting of the Pinedale Anticline Working Group's Air Quality Task Group

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (1972), the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Pinedale Anticline Working Group (PAWG) Air Quality Task Group (subcommittee) will meet in Pinedale, Wyoming, for a