



News

Bureau of Land Management, Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147, Glennallen, Alaska 99588
Tel: 907-822-3217; Fax: 907-822-3120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Contact: Marnie Graham (907) 822-3217
Gary Reimer (907) 267-1205**

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BLM Releases Record of Decision for East Alaska Resource Management Plan

GLENNALLEN – The Bureau of Land Management announces the availability of the Record of Decision for the East Alaska Resource Management Plan (RMP). The East Alaska planning area includes 7.1 million acres of BLM-administered public land in eastern Alaska and the Bering Glacier.

The East Alaska RMP designates one Research Natural Area (the Bering Glacier) and five Special Recreation Management Areas. The plan limits off-highway-vehicle (OHV) routes to existing or designated trails, depending on resource values present in a particular area. For example, specific OHV routes are designated within the Gulkana and Delta Wild and Scenic River corridors. The plan also recommends the revocation of most Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(d)(1) withdrawals in the planning area. These withdrawals have been in place since the passage of ANCSA in 1971 and were never intended as long-term protective measures. Where revocation of a withdrawal is recommended, the plan replaces it with site-specific required operating procedures or stipulations to protect resources.

The East Alaska RMP recommends modification of Public Land Order 5150 (the pipeline/utility corridor withdrawal) to allow eventual conveyance of 82,500 acres to the State of Alaska. However, BLM will maintain most of the pipeline/utility corridor to be managed for multiple use, including use as a critical component of the federal subsistence unit in Game Management Unit 13.

The Notice of Availability of the East Alaska Record of Decision was published today in the *Federal Register*. East Alaska planning documents are available on-line at

http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east_alaska_plan.html, and at the BLM Glennallen Field Office at Mile 186.5 Glenn Highway. For more information about the East Alaska Resource Management Plan, contact the BLM at (907) 822-3217.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages 258 million surface acres — more land than any other federal agency. Most of this public land is in 12 Western states, including 83.5 million surface acres in Alaska. The Bureau also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands.

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