

Changes from Draft to Final

A. Introduction

This section summarizes changes that have occurred from the Draft RMP/EIS to the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Editorial changes will not be described here. It is assumed that all changes needed for accuracy, clarity, consistency, improved readability, and incorporation of improved GIS data have been made based on public comment and internal review.

For a more detailed description of the comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS, the content analysis process, and BLM's responses to those comments see Appendix I: Response to Comments in Volume II of this document.

Throughout the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, any change that has taken place between the Draft and the Final is highlighted in grey. Any new table has only the Table Title highlighted, not all of the information presented in the table. Any new section added (e.g. a new Appendix) has only the Appendix title highlighted, not all of the information in the Appendix. The Table of Contents at the beginning of each chapter highlights new sections added in grey. The master Table of Contents in each volume highlights any new map, table, figure, or section of the document in grey.

B. Summary of Changes from Draft to Final

1. Changes to the Draft's preferred alternative that are now a part of the Final's Proposed RMP (Alternative D)

NOTE: These changes required additional analysis in Chapter IV and changes to Chapter II narrative or comparison tables in the Appendices.

- **Carter Spit ACEC:** The overall size has been reduced (62,862 acres to 36,220 acres) to account for ANILCA 906(e) top-filed lands becoming State-selected upon revocation of ANSCA 17(d)(1) withdrawals. In addition, public comment suggested adjusting the eastern boundary of the ACEC for improved identification by visitors at ground level (Appendix B).
- **Carter Spit ACEC:** additional text has been added to clarify that ANSCA 17(d)(1) withdrawals would be revoked within the proposed Carter Spit ACEC and this area would be open to locatable and leasable mineral activities but closed to salable mineral activities. A comment was received requesting clarification of the mineral status of the Carter Spit ACEC (Chapter II, pgs. 3-5).
- **Step-down plans:** additional planning efforts (activity or step-down plans) in excess of the Bay RMP will not be performed for the proposed Carter Spit ACEC (as described in Fish, Soil, Water, and Air, Fire Management, Cultural and Paleontological Resource Management sections). Instead, data collection efforts and monitoring of resources will be a Field Office priority pursuant to available funding. Relevant and Important resources and protection and mitigation measures for the resources have been identified within the Bay RMP.

- **Lands and Realty:** ANILCA 906(e) Topfilings have been addressed within the Proposed RMP/Final EIS. 61,105 acres of unencumbered BLM lands would become State-selected upon lifting of ANSCA 17(d)(1) withdrawals. These topfiled lands include the high locatable mineral occurrence potential area of Goodnews Bay/Snow Gulch. New locatable mineral activities would not be authorized through Federal mining claims as a result. The RFD for Locatable Minerals has been revised to acknowledge this fact.
- **Fish Management:** a description of Essential Fish Habitat has been added to Chapter III section B.6.i, and Chapter IV, section C.4.f.
- **Fish Habitat:** A 300-foot setback for surface disturbing activities has been added to unencumbered BLM lands along Klutuk Creek based on determination of navigability and subsequent State of Alaska Mineral Order No. 393 closing this water body to new locatable mineral leasing.
- **Fire Management and Ecology:** Fire management for the Carter Spit ACEC will be consistent with the surrounding area rather than develop fire strategies specific to the ACEC.
- **Livestock Grazing:** Livestock grazing has been changed from prohibited within the Carter Spit ACEC to: Livestock grazing will be managed on a case-by-case basis (Common to All Alternatives) to unnecessarily prohibit livestock grazing in compatible areas.
- **Mineral Leasing:** acreage open/closed to leasable, locatable, and salable mineral activities have been adjusted to represent land status as of February 5, 2007.
- **Travel Management:** A text box was added, describing Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) vs. Curb Weight Rating
- **Travel Management:** Clarification was added to explain that BLM's "limited" designation is similar to the State's "Generally Allowed Uses on State Land," which requires OHVs to stay on existing trails whenever possible (Appendix F). Because of this similarity, BLM will apply the limited designation to State- and Native-selected lands until lands are conveyed from BLM management.
- **Recreation Management:** A comprehensive trails and travel management plan will be developed within five years of signing the ROD; this has been changed to: an activity plan will be developed to meet objectives of the Carter Spit ACEC. This is pursuant to LUP Handbook H-1601-1 Appendix C, Section II-D.
- **Lands and Realty:** Increased description of Rights-of-Way avoidance area for Carter Spit ACEC per LUP Handbook H-1601-1 Appendix C, Section II-E.
- **Required Operating Procedures and Stipulations (ROP/Stipulations)** are located in Appendix A and have been revised in the final document.

2. Other changes that required supplementary information added to the Final RMP/EIS, including additions to Chapter III or Chapter IV analysis

- **Assumptions for Analysis:** Based on public comment and clarifying statements added to Chapter II, a large portion of Chapter IV has been revised.
- **Designation of Subsistence Only Areas:** Several comments were received requesting that the BLM designate subsistence use only areas within the Bay RMP. Language has been added to the "Alternatives Considered But Not Carried Forward" section describing BLM's lack of authority to propose such a designation (Chapter II, section C).
- **Water:** Major watersheds which compose the planning area have been added, stating nine major watersheds makeup the planning area rather than six.
- **Water:** A description of general water resources has been revised, describing both the Goodnews and Bristol Bay regional water resources.

- **Water:** A reference to water quality studies has been added, indicating that buffering capacity of water filtered through sub-arctic vegetation into tundra lakes is variable.
- **Water:** Per public request, a website reference to the USGS has been added to show stream gage and ground water information in the planning area.
- **Fisheries:** Descriptions of Essential Fish Habitat in the Bay planning area have been added to Chapters II and III.
- **Fisheries:** Additional text has been added describing the fisheries resource of the South and Middle Fork and mainstem Goodnews River, South and East Fork Arolik River, Faro Creek, Jacksmith Creek, and Cripple Creek.
- **Special Status Species:** Based on consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, references to spectacled eiders using lands within the Bay planning area have been revised to explain that spectacled eiders breeding distribution is only on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.
- **Visual Resources Management (VRM):** a description of changes to current landscape condition that may be attributed to climate change has been added.
- **Geothermal Resources:** Due to public comment, a description of geothermal resources has been added to Chapter III.
- **Historical Locatable Mineral Development:** Due to public comments, the status of the proposed Pebble Mine on State of Alaska managed lands has been updated.
- **Recreation:** The amount of Special Recreation Permits issued by the BLM in the Bay planning area has been updated from six to four permits.
- **Recreation Opportunity Spectrum:** Tables 3.17 and 3.18 from the Draft RMP/EIS have been deleted and information from these deleted tables has been incorporated into Table 3.16.
- **Lands and Realty:** Based on public comment, a text box describing Conservation System Units (CSU) has been added.
- **Lands and Realty:** Additional text has been added to describe Discretionary Land Uses.
- **Lands and Realty:** Clarifying text has been added to Table 3.19 concerning the various ANCSA §17(d)(1) Withdrawals Public Land Orders.
- **Lands and Realty:** Withdrawals described as *other than ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals* in the Draft RMP/EIS are referred to as *Agency withdrawals* in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.
- **Lands and Realty:** A text box has been added to describe ANILCA 906(e) Topfilings.
- **Chapter IV** has been rewritten almost in entirety from that proposed in the DEIS. This is attributed to changes in Chapter II and response to public comments.

In addition to the above changes, several minor editorial changes have been made to the document, including spelling corrections and revised sentence structuring. Some tables, maps, photos, and appendices were re-numbered to maintain chronological order throughout the document, and to improve readability. This revised numbering is not highlighted in grey.

