

# Appendix B: Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and Research Natural Area (RNA) Comparison Tables

Table 48. Delta Bison Calving ACEC - Alternative Comparison Table .....	B-3
Table 49. Nelchina Caribou Calving ACEC - Alternative Comparison.....	B-6
Table 50. West Fork ACEC - Alternative Comparison.....	B-10
Table 51. Bering Glacier RNA - Alternative Comparison.....	B-15



Table 48. Delta Bison Calving ACEC - Alternative Comparison Table

Management Actions	Alternative			
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP
Decision	No ACEC designation.	No ACEC designation.	Designate calving area of the Delta bison herd as an ACEC (19,000 acres). See Map 10 on page 89.	No ACEC would be designated. Area described would be managed under measures described below. In addition, a cooperative Habitat Management Plan with ADF&G would be developed.
OHV use	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	OHVs restricted to designated trails 4/15 to 10/15.	OHVs restricted to designated trails during snow-free months. Goal to minimize disturbance to calving bison.
New road construction	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Allowed for resource extraction.	No new road construction.	Road construction allowed but limited to those necessary for resource development or extraction. Closed seasonally (5/1 to 6/15) except for emergency purposes.
New airstrip construction	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	No new airstrip construction.	No new airstrip construction unless to support resource development or extraction. Such airstrips would be closed (except for emergency purposes) 5/1 to 6/15.
<b>Minerals:</b> Locatable minerals	Under PLO 5150, open to locatable mineral entry in outer corridor, closed in inner corridor.	Revoke withdrawals to open to locatable mineral entry.	Maintain existing PLO 5150 withdrawals and recommend withdrawal from locatable mineral entry.	Maintain existing withdrawals. Mining operations subject to seasonal restrictions 5/1 to 6/15.
<b>Minerals:</b> Oil and gas leasing	Under PLO 5150, closed to mineral leasing.	Revoke withdrawal and open.	Maintain existing closure.	Maintain existing closure.
<b>Minerals:</b> Mineral materials	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Make available.	Do not permit.	Open with stipulations for no activity during bison calving from 5/1 to 6/15.

Management Actions	Alternative			
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP
Public use cabins	None currently authorized.	Consider.	Do not permit.	Any new public use cabins should be located along designated trails, closed 5/1 to 6/15.
Special Recreation Permits (SRP)	No current limits.	No limits.	Limit number issued in area and include stipulations to seasonally limit use.	SRP permits would adhere to general guidelines listed above.
Recreation facilities	None currently in the area.	Work with ADOT to develop a wayside/interpretive sign to highlight bison.	No new facilities.	No new BLM campgrounds. Other recreation facilities (such as outhouses) would be associated with public use cabins.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA and R&PP leases	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	None considered.	FLPMA and R&PP leases would be considered on a case-by-case basis.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA 302 permits	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	None considered.	Occupancy type permits, such as commercial use cabins, would be authorized under the following conditions: 1) no new structures within the area; 2) Existing structures would be authorized only if they can clearly be tied to a commercial enterprise, such as guiding or trapping. Other occupancy permits (non-cabin) would be allowed if consistent with protection of values identified.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> Rights-of-Way (ROW)	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	Avoid.	ROWs would be permitted, with mitigation to minimize impacts to bison (utilize underground powerlines or pipelines whenever possible).

Management Actions	Alternative			
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP
Military permits, activities.	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	None considered.	Recommend overflights limited to greater than 1500 feet 5/1 to 6/30. Ground-based activities not permitted 5/1 to 6/15.
Fire	Area is currently managed under a limited suppression class.	Same as Alternative A.	No change in suppression class. Prescribed burning activities not permitted 5/1 to 6/15. Primary objective for prescribed or wildland fire will be improvement of forage production and palatability.	Same as Alternative C.

**Table 49. Nelchina Caribou Calving ACEC - Alternative Comparison**

Note: Within this table, “interim” refers to management of State- or Native-selected lands until conveyed; “long-term” refers to management of lands if they are retained in Federal ownership.

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP Interim Management	D: Proposed RMP Long-Term Management
Decision	No ACEC designation.	No ACEC designation. Area is already covered by Nelchina Public Use Area.	Designate calving habitat for the Nelchina caribou herd as an ACEC (389,000 acres) See Map 11 on page 90. Includes State and Native-selected lands.	No ACEC designation. Area identified under Alternative C would be managed under measures described below.	If sizeable contiguous blocks of land are left in Federal ownership after conveyance, consider for ACEC designation with measures described below.
OHV use	No restrictions.	No restrictions.	OHVs restricted to designated trails 5/1 to 6/15. Purpose of designation to minimize impact to calving caribou.	OHVs limited consistent with State’s Generally Allowed Uses, which requires OHVs to use existing trails whenever possible.	Same as Alternative C. Work with State of Alaska to designate trails with goal to minimize impacts to calving caribou.
New road construction	Considered case-by-case.	Allowed.	No new construction.	Road construction limited to those necessary for resource development or extraction. Closed seasonally (5/1 to 6/15) except for emergency purposes.	Same as Alternative D - Interim Management.

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP Interim Management	D: Proposed RMP Long-Term Management
New airstrip construction	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Allowed.	No new construction.	Airstrips and appropriate landing patterns shall be established in consultation with DNR and ADF&G to minimize effects on caribou. Such airstrips would be closed (except for emergency purposes) 5/1 to 6/15.	Same as Alternative D – Interim Management.
<b>Minerals:</b> Locatable minerals	Currently closed based on ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals.	Revoke ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals to open.	Maintain ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals.	Closed to mineral entry based on State or Native selection.	Open to mineral entry. Mining operations would be restricted seasonally 5/1 to 6/15.
<b>Minerals:</b> Oil and gas leasing	Currently closed based on ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals.	Revoke existing ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals to open.	Maintain ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals.	Closed to mineral leasing based on State or Native selection.	Open for leasing with seasonal or minor constraints. See stipulations under <i>Oil and Gas Stipulations</i> .
<b>Minerals:</b> Mineral materials	Permitted on a case-by-case basis.	Permit, consistent with protection of values identified.	Do not permit.	Open with stipulations for no activity during caribou calving from 5/1 to 6/15.	Same as Alternative D – Interim Management.
Public use cabins	Nothing currently authorized.	Develop public use cabins.	No public use cabins.	Not in interim management.	Would consider public use cabins, located to minimize impacts on calving caribou.
Special Recreation Permit (SRP)	No limits.	Same as Alternative A.	Limit number of SRPs issued in the area, based on management objectives and protection of habitat.	SRP permits would aim to protect calving caribou, no surface disturbing activities or activities exceeding fourteen days would be permitted from 5/1 to 6/15.	Same as Alternative D – Interim Management.
Recreation facilities	Nothing currently in area.	Okay to consider if needed in future.	None considered.	None considered.	No new campgrounds. Consider interpretive signs at trailheads regarding calving area.

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP Interim Management	D: Proposed RMP Long-Term Management
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> Emphasis area for acquisition?	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA, R&PP leases	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	None considered.	FLPMA leases would be considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative D – Interim Management, consistent with protection of values identified.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA 302 permits	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	None considered.	Occupancy type permits, such as commercial use cabins and subsistence cabins, would be authorized under the following conditions: 1) no new structures within the area; 2) existing structures would be authorized only if they can clearly be tied to a commercial enterprise, such as guiding or trapping. Other (non-cabin) permits would be considered if consistent with protection of identified values.	Same as Alternative D – Interim Management.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> Rights-of-Way (ROW)	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	ROW avoidance area.	ROWS would be permitted, with mitigation to minimize impacts to caribou (no activity during 5/1 to 6/15, utilize underground powerlines or pipelines whenever possible).	Same as Alternative D – Interim Management.

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP Interim Management	D: Proposed RMP Long-Term Management
Military permits, activities	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	None considered.	Ground-based activities not permitted 5/1 to 6/15.	Ground-based activities not permitted 5/1 to 6/15. Recommend overflights should be greater than 1,500 feet 5/1 to 6/15.
Fire	Limited suppression class.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	No change in suppression class. Prescribed burning activities not permitted 5/1 to 6/15. Primary objective for prescribed or wildland fire will be improvement of caribou habitat. If large-scale wildland fires occur in area, consider changing suppression class in order to maintain long-term mosaic.	Same as Alternative D - Interim Management.

**Table 50. West Fork ACEC - Alternative Comparison**

Note: Within this table, “interim” refers to management of State- or Native-selected lands until conveyed; “long-term” refers to management of lands if they are retained in Federal ownership.

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP Interim Management	D: Proposed RMP Long-Term Management
Decision	No ACEC Designation	No ACEC designation.	In cooperation with State of Alaska, designate wetland area around the West Fork of the Gulkana River as an ACEC (490,000 acres). See Map 12 on page 91.	No ACEC designation. Area identified under Alternative C would be managed under measures described below.	If sizeable contiguous blocks of land are left in Federal ownership after conveyance, consider for ACEC designation with measures described below.
OHV use	Currently no restrictions.	No restrictions.	OHVs limited to designated trails 5/1 to 8/31. Designated trails should avoid nesting or staging areas. Stream crossings will be coordinated with ADF&G and permitted by DNR. Cooperate with State of Alaska on restricting aircraft landings on critical staging areas. No snowmachine restrictions.	Designated as “limited” to OHVs, consistent with State’s Generally allowed Uses, which requires OHVs to utilize existing trails whenever possible.	Same as Alternative C. BLM would work with State of Alaska to identify trails network for designation with designation goal of minimizing impact to swans and swan habitat.
Construction of new airstrips	Construction of new airstrips considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	No new construction of airstrips.	Same as Alternative A.	No new construction within primary trumpeter swan breeding habitat.

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP Interim Management	D: Proposed RMP Long-Term Management
New road construction	Construction of new roads and trails considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	No new road construction.	Considered if necessary for resource development. Seasonal restrictions would be applied (5/1 to 8/31).	Considered if necessary for resource development, with seasonal restrictions. Temporary and winter roads utilized whenever possible. Roads in this area will not be retained long term.
<b>Minerals:</b> Locatable minerals	Currently closed under a ANCSA (d)(1) withdrawals. PLO 6329 specifically did not open this area to locatable minerals because of resource values and lack of mineral potential.	Revoke withdrawals and open.	Maintain PLO 6329. Closed to entry under the mining laws.	Closed to mineral entry by State or Native selection.	Modify PLO 6329 to allow for mineral entry.
<b>Minerals:</b> Oil and gas leasing	Open to mineral leasing, based on PLO 6329, with exception of Gulkana WSR corridor.	Keep open, with seasonal stipulations to protect trumpeter swan nesting and staging areas.	Recommend closure to mineral leasing.	Closed to mineral leasing by State or Native selection.	Open to mineral leasing, with seasonal stipulations as described in <i>Oil and Gas Stipulations</i> to protect swan and moose habitat.
<b>Minerals:</b> Mineral material	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	No mineral material development.	Consider on a case-by-case basis, with seasonal restrictions (5/1 to 8/31).	No mineral material development.
Public use cabins	No public use cabins currently in area.	Develop public use cabin system for winter use. Close seasonally as needed for protection of values.	No public use cabins.	No public use cabins.	May be considered for winter use.

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP Interim Management	D: Proposed RMP Long-Term Management
Special Recreation Permits (SRP)	Currently no limits.	Same as Alternative A.	Determine appropriate limits for SRP permits within the area, based on management objectives.	SRP permits would adhere to <i>Required Operating Procedures</i> . No limits developed for SRPs.	Same as Alternative C.
Recreation facilities	No facilities currently exist within the area.	No new recreational facilities.	No new recreational facilities.	No new facilities would be considered on selected lands.	No new recreational facilities.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> Emphasis area for acquisition?	No, except within Gulkana WSR corridor.	No.	Yes, for entire ACEC.	No.	No, except within Gulkana WSR corridor.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA and R&PP leases	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	None considered.	FLPMA and R&PP leases would be granted on a case-by-case basis, only if consistent with protection of values identified.	Same as Alternative D - Interim Management .

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP Interim Management	D: Proposed RMP Long-Term Management
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA 302 permits	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A. New occupancy permits (for cabins) should be allowed if justified for legitimate commercial (trapping) use.	No cabins. Consider other permits only if proposal is consistent with protection of values identified.	New occupancy permits considered if justified for legitimate commercial use, such as trapping. Other permits considered, with seasonal (5/1 to 8/31) restrictions.	Occupancy type permits, such as commercial use cabins, would be authorized under the following conditions: 1) no new structures within the area; 2) Existing structures would be authorized only if they can be clearly tied to a commercial enterprise, such as guiding or trapping. Permits other than cabins would be considered if consistent with protection of values identified.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> Rights-of-Way (ROW)	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	Avoid.	ROW avoidance area. Overhead powerlines will be avoided.	ROW avoidance area. Overhead powerlines will be avoided and not permitted in primary trumpeter swan habitat.
Military permits, activities	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	None considered.	Recommend overflights limited to above 1,500 feet from 5/1 to 8/31.	Recommend overflights limited to above 1,500 feet from 5/1 to 8/31. Ground-based activities should be seasonally restricted (5/1 to 8/31).

Management Actions	Alternative				
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP Interim Management	D: Proposed RMP Long-Term Management
Fire	Mostly limited suppression class.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative D.	No problem with current suppression classes. Prescribed burning and wildland fire may be used to improve moose habitat in the area and should consider buffer on anadromous streams to protect water quality.	Same as Alternative D - Interim Management.
Forestry	No guidelines. Some personal firewood gathering takes place, consistent with River Management Plan for the Gulkana National Wild River (BLM 1983b).	Allowed. Harvesting activities would take place in winter and any roads would be temporary (winter).	No commercial logging or firewood gathering should occur in the area.	Same as Alternative D - Long-term. Potential for commercial harvest poor due to low timber production and poor access (swamp).	Primary objective of any forestry practices in the area will be protection or enhancement of the values identified. Harvesting activities would take place in winter and any roads would be temporary (winter).

**Table 51. Bering Glacier RNA - Alternative Comparison**

Management Actions	Alternative			
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP
Decision	No RNA designation	Same as Alternative A.	Designate unencumbered BLM and State- and Native- selected lands in the Bering Glacier area as a RNA (940,000 acres). See Map 13 on page 92.	Designate RNA on only unencumbered BLM land in the Bering Glacier area (827,000 acres). See Map 13 on page 92. Interim management of State- and Native-selected lands within the area would follow guidelines and measures identified below. Selected lands retained in long-term Federal ownership would be included in RNA.
OHV use	No current restrictions on BLM-managed lands.	Same as Alternative A.	Trails designated year-long. Designate nunataks non-motorized, at least seasonally.	OHVs limited to designated trails during snow-free months. Goals of designation: 1) prevent un-managed proliferation of trails; 2) avoid waterfowl staging and nesting areas; and 3) protect nunataks.
Construction of new airstrips	Construction of new airstrips authorized by permit.	Same as Alternative A.	No new construction.	Consider only if consistent with protection of values identified.
New road construction	Construction of roads and trails would be allowed, considered on case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	No new construction.	Construction of roads and trails would be authorized by ROW only, consistent with protection of values identified.
<b>Minerals:</b> Locatable minerals	Bering sub-region currently closed to locatable entry under PLO 5179.	Open for locatable minerals.	Maintain withdrawal.	Maintain withdrawal identified under Alternative A on western two-thirds of area. In eastern one-third, revoke withdrawal to allow for mineral entry.

Management Actions	Alternative			
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP
<b>Minerals:</b> Oil and gas leasing	Bering sub-region currently closed to leasable entry under PLO 5179.	Open for leasable minerals, subject to seasonal stipulations to protect values identified.	Maintain withdrawal.	Maintain PLO 5179 in western 2/3 of area. Revoke PLO in 5179 in eastern one-third to allow for mineral leasing. Leases would be subject to stipulations identified in <i>Oil and Gas Leasing Stipulations</i> to protect resource values.
<b>Minerals:</b> Mineral materials	Location and operation of mineral material extraction would be according to an approved plan.	Same as Alternative A.	No new mineral material sites permitted.	Same as Alternative C.
Public use cabins	No current guidance. State currently has two public use cabins in the area.	Consider.	None considered.	Public use cabins may be considered, consistent with objectives of the RNA. None in moose winter range and none on nunataks.
Special Recreation Permits (SRP)	No limits currently identified for number of SRP permits. Current SRPs for the area contain stips for mitigation of impacts.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative D.	Appropriate visitor use limits will be developed for the area for SRPs, consistent with managing for a primitive recreation experience and protection of resource values identified. No heli-skiing or helicopter-supported heli-tours.
Recreation facilities	No facilities exist.	Considered if need was demonstrated in an increase of recreational use of the area.	No new facilities.	No new facilities.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> Emphasis area for acquisition?	No.	No.	Yes.	Non-Federal and private lands within the ACEC would be identified for possible future acquisition.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA and R&PP leases	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	No, only when associated with research activities.	R&PP and FLPMA leases considered on a case-by-case basis. Approval contingent on proposal being consistent with protection of values identified.

Management Actions	Alternative			
	A: No Action	B: Resource Development	C: Resource Conservation	D: Proposed RMP
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> FLPMA 302 permits	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Consider.	No, only when associated with research activities.	Occupancy type permits, such as commercial use cabins, would be authorized under the following conditions: 1) no new structures within RNA; 2) Existing structures would be authorized only if they can clearly be tied to a commercial enterprise, such as guiding or trapping. Other occupancy permits (non-cabin) considered case-by-case, if consistent with protection of values identified.
<b>Lands and Realty:</b> Rights of Way (ROW)	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	No, only if associated with research activities.	ROW avoidance area. If allowed, mitigate to protect identified values.
Military permits, activities	Considered on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Alternative A.	Do not permit.	Same as Alternative C.
Forestry	No current activities.	Consider.	No commercial timber or firewood sales permitted.	Forestry practices allowed if primary objective is enhancement of identified values (such as moose winter range). Contingent on utilizing existing or temporary roads.

