



Fieldnotes

BLM - Glennallen Field Office
Spring 2008

Manager's Welcome

Welcome to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Glennallen Field Office's inaugural edition of "Fieldnotes." This newsletter will provide an update on public land managed by the BLM in Eastern Interior Alaska.

In this issue, you will find current information on the Land Transfer Acceleration Act as the BLM continues to prioritize land conveyances to Native villages, corporations and the State of Alaska. You will find resource and recreation news, planning efforts and helpful web addresses that will direct you to useful documents, brochures and maps.

I am currently serving as the Acting Manager for the Glennallen Field Office until the BLM selects a permanent manager. Former Manager, Ramone McCoy, is now the BLM-Alaska Wildlife Resource Lead.

As you read this newsletter and learn more about your public lands, I hope you will look for ways to stay involved. Feel free to come to the office and introduce yourself. My door is always open!



Sincerely,
Tim Hammond,
Acting Field Manager

Solid Waste on Public Lands = \$\$\$ Shelters, Vehicles, Caches: Posted for Removal



BLM-Alaska needs the help of people who may have left unauthorized property on public lands managed by the BLM. This property might include temporary or permanent shelters, pads, lean-tos, abandoned vehicles, and caches or stashed personal items. If you have left anything of that nature, the BLM asks that you remove the property or visit your nearest BLM office to work out a method or timeline for resolving the situation.

The BLM will continue to post notification signs on items considered unauthorized use and occupancy of public lands. The owner has one year from the date of posting to remove the property or work out a

—continued on page 6

.....

Subsistence Caribou Season Closes

The 2007/2008 Unit 13 and Unit 13b Federal Subsistence Caribou season ended March 31, 2008. All hunt reports are due back to the BLM Glennallen Field Office by close of business April 18th and can be mailed or hand-delivered. The office is located at mile 186.5 of the Glenn Highway. There is a drop box available after hours in the front entry for your convenience. If you have questions about your hunt reports, please call 907-822-3217.



Glennallen Field Office Planning Updates

East Alaska RMP

The Record of Decision (ROD) for the East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) was signed September 7, 2007, concluding a four-year planning process that will guide BLM-Alaska public managed lands in eastern interior Alaska for the next 15-20 years. The approved plan identifies special areas that require implementation level or “step-down” plans to guide more detailed federal management actions within a given area. These implementation level plans will provide additional opportunities for public participation and be accomplished over the next several years

Implementing the Plan: Gulkana River

The Gulkana National Wild River Plan, revised in August of 2006, was developed cooperatively with the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources as a Special Use Land Designation. The revisions provide special rules covering use of the river. These rules are posted at campgrounds and trail heads to the BLM-managed portions of the river and are available on the Gulkana

Wild and Scenic River web page: http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/gdo/gulkana_national_wild.html.

Pipeline Utility Corridor

Portions of the pipeline utility corridor reserved in federal management by Public Land Order 5150, have been modified by Public Land Order 7692 to allow State of Alaska land selections to be recognized for potential conveyance. The 82,608 acres revoked from PLO 5150 are in the “outer” corridor and lie outside of the area needed as a right-of-way for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System.

These lands include the Gunn Creek segment northeast of Paxson, and approximately 59,000 acres north of Paxson and west of the Delta River (see map in center spread).

While this area will no longer be available as a federal subsistence harvest area, it produces less than 5% of the annual harvest for caribou.

Remaining portions (84%) of the pipeline/utility corridor within the Glennallen Field Office management area will be retained in Federal ownership at this time. The BLM is committed to future

negotiations with the State of Alaska regarding the corridor. The BLM will consider and recommend further modification of PLO 5150 as long as the BLM is able to meet other management responsibilities, including management of the pipeline/utility corridor and subsistence resources and activities. Subsequent modifications would undergo required analysis, public participation and review, but a plan amendment would not be necessary.

Future Implementation:

Planning efforts for Special Recreation Management Areas identified in the EARMP will take place over the next several years as budget and staffing allows. The tentative planning schedule is: Delta River SRMA- 2008; Slana disposal-2009; Tiekel SRMA-2010; Bering RNA-2010; Delta Range- 2011.

Other plans will occur if lands are retained under federal management.

BLM-Glennallen planning documents are available on the web at:

www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east_alaska_plan.html



Flagged areas demonstrate the density of cultural sites in the TLAD

Tangle Lakes Archaeological District

Planning for the BLM managed portions of the Tangle Lakes Archaeological District (TLAD - pronounced “T - Lad”), outside of the Delta Wild and Scenic River Corridor is on hold until the BLM determines if those lands will remain under federal management. In the interim, the BLM will continue to manage and protect cultural resources in the district according to guidelines established with the State of Alaska’s State Historic Preservation Officer in the 1980s. Travel in the BLM managed TLAD is limited to four designated trails between May 16–October 15, or unless adequate snow cover or ground frost is present. Find more information on the web at www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/gdo.html

Changing Hands of Public Lands

Alaska Land Conveyance Update

BLM-Alaska is responsible for transferring title from federal public lands to individual Alaska Natives, Native corporations, and the State of Alaska. The BLM must adjudicate conflicting applications, issue administrative decisions, complete cadastral surveys, and convey land titles. Filing deadlines for final land selection titles are June 2008 for Native regional corporations and December 2008 for the State of Alaska. Native village corporations submitted their selections to the BLM by December 10, 2007. The 2004 Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act helps facilitate land transfers, but does not relieve the BLM of required surveys. BLM-Alaska's goal is to convey 94% of the corporation land entitlements and 96% of the State of Alaska land entitlements by Dec. 2009.

Native corporations are entitled to 45.8 million acres and the State of Alaska to 104.5 million acres of federal public land. As of February 2008, the corporations have received title to 38.5 million acres; the State has received title to 96.2 million acres; and less than 1,000 Native allotments filed under the 1906 Native Allotment Act or under the 1998 Native Veteran Allotment Act are still pending.

In the Greater Copper River Basin, Native village corporations have already submitted their final priorities. Native regional corporations will have their final priorities submitted to the BLM by June. Interim conveyance documents issued by the BLM will provide clear title to the land holder until official surveys can be completed. Along the Denali Highway, much of the public land managed in the interim by the Glennallen Field Office and solely selected by the State of Alaska, has begun to be conveyed to the State of Alaska.

For an updated view of land status within the BLM Glennallen Field Office management area, refer to the map in the center of this newsletter. Lands will continue to be conveyed. The information displayed on the map is a graphic representation only of the overall land status and should not be used as a reference for hunting or hiking or other access. For more detailed answers to access questions or official land status, refer to legal case files and plats.

GFO NEPA Register on Web

The BLM's actions in Alaska are governed by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other laws, including the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA). When an activity or action is proposed on BLM-administered lands, the BLM must analyze the proposed action to assess how it may affect the quality of the human environment.

The BLM maintains registers of environmental documents. The registers of these documents can be found at:

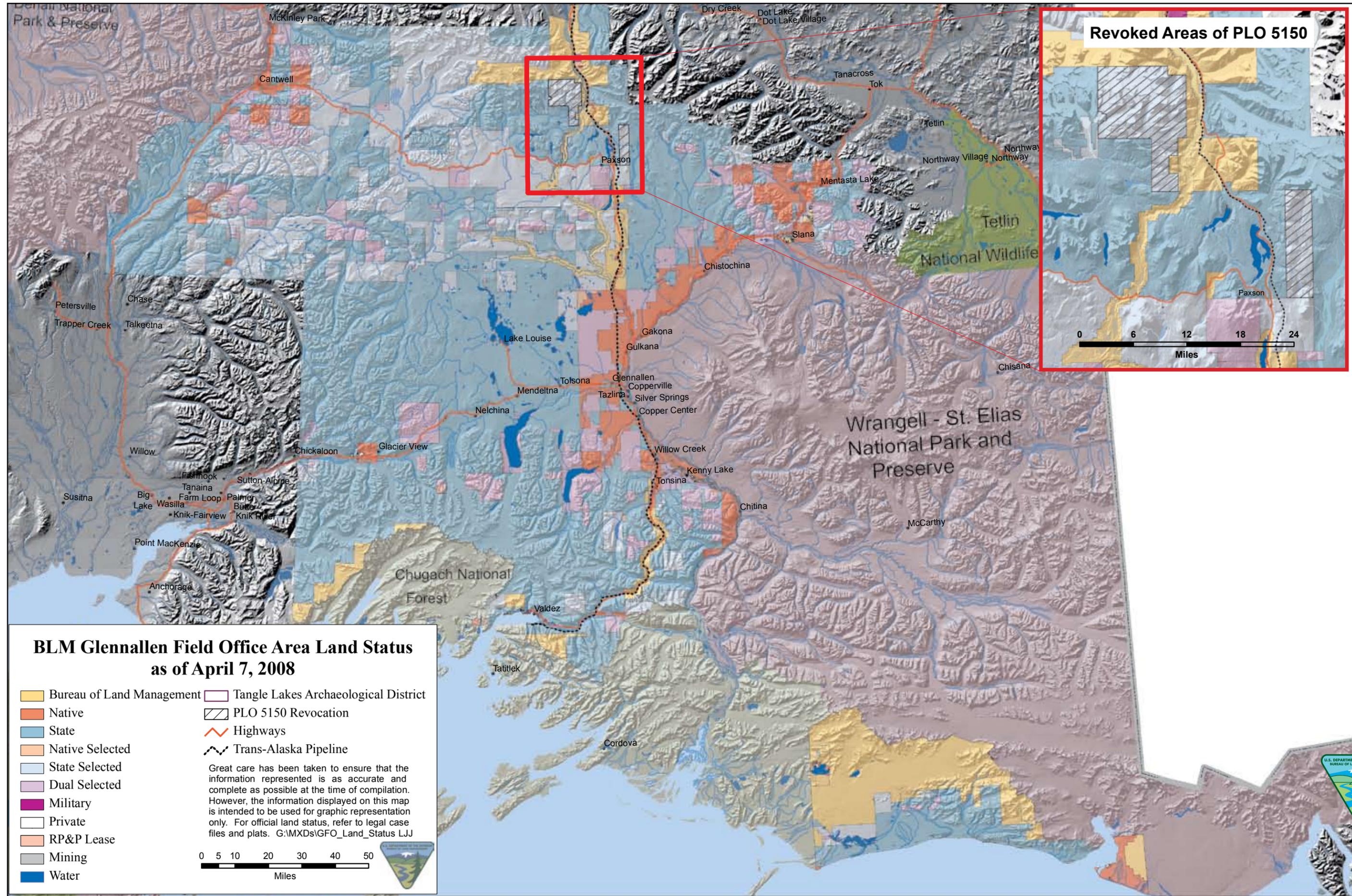
www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/info/nepa.html

BLM-Glennallen NEPA documents are available for public review at the Glennallen Field Office during normal office hours.

There are four possible levels of analysis:

- Categorical Exclusion (CX): actions that do not individually or cumulatively have significant effects on the human environment.
- Documentation of NEPA Adequacy (DNA): previously analyzed actions that require no further analysis.
- Environmental Assessment (EA): a concise analysis of an action's effects to determine whether they are significant.
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS): where an action may have a significant effect on the human environment, a detailed written analysis is required.

FLPMA requires that the BLM prevent unnecessary or undue degradation of the land. Thus, whether an action is analyzed by CX, DNA, EA, or EIS, adverse environmental effects are mitigated.



BLM Glennallen Field Office Area Land Status as of April 7, 2008

- Bureau of Land Management
- Native
- State
- Native Selected
- State Selected
- Dual Selected
- Military
- Private
- RP&P Lease
- Mining
- Water
- Tangle Lakes Archaeological District
- PLO 5150 Revocation
- Highways
- Trans-Alaska Pipeline

Great care has been taken to ensure that the information represented is as accurate and complete as possible at the time of compilation. However, the information displayed on this map is intended to be used for graphic representation only. For official land status, refer to legal case files and plats. G:\MXDs\GFO_Land_Status LJJ

0 5 10 20 30 40 50 Miles

—continued from front page

resolution of the unauthorized use with the BLM. If the property is still on public land at the end of one year and the owner hasn't contacted the agency, the BLM may remove it. If you have any questions about property on public lands or about this process, or are unsure about land status, please contact your local BLM office for more information. Each case will be evaluated independently and within current BLM plan provisions, policies and regulations.



Costly Clean-Ups

Discarded barrels, batteries, cars, and refrigerators littering public lands require federal managers to conduct costly clean-ups using public funds. These items can contain hazardous materials. Often barrels are found rusted out and littered with bullet holes, allowing the contents to leach into the ground. Last summer, over 100 drums and car batteries were removed from public lands near the old Susitna Lodge along the Denali Highway. Soils tested positive for hydrocarbon contamination and the BLM will return to the site this summer to excavate contaminated soils and remove additional solid waste. Fifty-one drums were also removed from an illegal dump site near Eureka. Fortunately, soils from this site tested negative for hydrocarbon contamination, requiring no further excavation. All of these sites require removal of solid waste to avoid or repair contamination of soils and water. Proper disposal of solid waste can prevent personal harm and contamination, removing the need for federal managers to conduct costly clean-ups.

Safety First - avoid discarded barrels and debris on public lands. These items may contain hazardous materials. Note the location of the debris, remove yourself from the area, and report the location to the BLM or the appropriate authority immediately.

BLM Reorganizes

The BLM's Glennallen and Anchorage field offices are now under the umbrella of the Anchorage District Office, with Gary Reimer as the new District Manager (pictured right). While these changes may not affect how you do business with us, moving from a two-tier (field office reports to state office) to three-tier (field office reports to district office which reports to state office) organization promotes the sharing of scarce resources, and makes Alaska more consistent with BLM offices in other states. District managers help with external relations for the field offices under their management, while the State Director focuses on statewide BLM issues.



Heading to Arctic Man?

If you will be joining Arctic Man 2008 this spring, you are entering



moose winter range. In late winter, moose are in a weakened and starving condition, having already used the majority of their stored energy reserves for survival. Exposure to excessive unnatural stresses can lead to a significant decline in their overall health or may eventually result in their premature death. Avoid moose by at least 1/2 mile to help them survive their toughest challenge of the year.



BLM Web Site Makover Complete

You may notice that the BLM-Alaska Web sites look much different from a year ago. The Glennallen Field Office homepage Web address has changed to: www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/gdo.html. Take time to explore the new Web site and redo your bookmarks and favorite pages. Nationally, the BLM is striving for a more consistent look, standardizing online information for all its Web sites. If you're having a hard time finding your favorite

page about recreation, rivers, or BLM programs, just search our site or click on the Site Map link found in the footer of every Web page. Please notify us of any errors you experience.



Comings and Goings:

After 7 years as the BLM Glennallen Field Office Manager, **Ramone Baccus McCoy** (shown left) is now serving as the BLM-Alaska Statewide Wildlife Resource Lead at BLM's State Office in Anchorage. At a going away

ceremony held in her honor, Ramone offered, "I have loved living and working in the Copper River Valley. Getting to know the people of this region has been a great pleasure. I will carry my experiences and love for this area with me throughout the future." Under McCoy, the East Alaska RMP (Resource Management Plan) was completed and nine Memorandums of Understanding were formed with federally-recognized tribes and Native corporations within the planning area. Ramone was very involved in the community, serving on the Chamber of Commerce Board, WISE (Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment) Advisory Board and the Local Area Planning Committee.

Lori and Rohn Nelson are at the BLM State Office as well, Lori is now using her talents to help expedite conveyances and Rohn has become the Special Agent-in-charge for the State of Alaska.

Alysia White, has arrived from California as a new GFO Law Enforcement Ranger. Previously, Alysia worked on gang related crimes and border operations. Alysia and her husband, Tom, wanted a change. "We love the outdoors and wanted a chance to experience Alaska," explained Alysia. "The people here are so great and friendly! The community is the perfect size and there's no smog or traffic!"

With the BLM East Alaska Resource Management Plan signed, **Bruce and Kari Rogers** have left the BLM to focus their energies on raising a daughter. Bruce is now working with the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Service on other planning efforts.

Debbie Townsend is the owner of the new voice you hear when you call the BLM Glennallen Field Office. Debbie brings 30 years of experience living, working, and raising a family in the Glennallen community to this position. Debbie offers, "This position appealed to me, because I love the outdoors! Our family especially enjoys snow machining, riding ATVs, and spending time at our cabin."



Sheila Sine, BLM STEP Employee Receives "Spirit of Youth" Award

On March 29, 2008 Sheila Sine of Glennallen was awarded the 2008 Spirit of Youth Award in the Alyeska Pipeline's Overcoming Challenges award category.

Sheila, a teen with Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy, was recognized for helping other students and community members overcome their discomfort around people with disabilities, despite her own shrinking mobility.

Sheila was chosen from 135 nominations that were received this year by the Spirit of Youth Teen Action Council, a body of teenagers themselves. The Spirit of Youth is a non-profit organization that recognizes teenagers who are making positive contributions in their communities.

Sheila is friendly and open and strives for a normal school experience despite her limited mobility. She participates in school clubs and events and is currently employed with the BLM-Glennallen Field Office. Sheila has been accepted to the University of Alaska, Anchorage where she plans to continue her education with the goal of one day being a published author.

Welcome to BLM-Glennallen Fieldnotes!
Your suggestions are welcome. Please communicate your ideas for future stories in BLM-Glennallen Fieldnotes.

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: BLM-Alaska. This information is collected to update our existing mailing list. All information collected will only be used for that purpose and under existing Privacy Act of 1974 (U.S.C. §552 as amended) guidelines. Issues are available by e-news online for viewing or downloading. Printed copies will be mailed out to all Glennallen, Copper Center and Gakona boxholders or by request. Please mail, fax, or e-mail us for your FREE subscription.

BLM-Glennallen Fieldnotes
Managing editor, Marnie Graham,
(907) 822-3217, marnie_graham@blm.gov

Contributing writers:
Marnie Graham, Sheila Sine, Teresa McPherson,
Vanessa Rathbun

Text and photos may be reproduced in whole or in part. Photos may be available on request for re-publication. Please credit BLM-Glennallen Field Office.

BLM/AK/GI-08/004+1120+012

.....
Notify me when FIELDNOTES is online.
(Please fill out your e-mail address below print clearly)

Mail me the print version of FIELDNOTES

Name: _____

Street/Box: _____

City: _____ State/Zip: _____

Fill out if different from the address label on the back of this form and send by one of the methods below.

Mail or e-mail:
BLM-Glennallen Field Office
Public Affairs
P.O. Box 147
Glennallen, AK 99588
FAX: (907) 822-3120
E-MAIL: marnie_graham@blm.gov

More BLM Glennallen Field Office information is online at www.blm.gov/ak



Glennallen Field Office
P.O. Box 147
MP 186.5 Glenn Hwy
Glennallen, Alaska 99588
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
PERMIT NO. G-76